

# Retaining shacks on Crown land and in national parks

## Managing the risks natural hazards pose to your shack

Managing the risks natural hazards like flood and fire pose to your shack site can help avoid or limit damage.

Good planning and preparation can avoid the financial and emotional toll that inevitably follows the destruction caused by these events.

### Bushfire management

Preparing yourself and your property to survive a bushfire requires thought and planning.

All residents living in bushfire risk areas need to have a pre-prepared checklist and practiced Bushfire Survival Plan listing what their actions will be in the event of a bushfire.

Further information is available from the CFS website at: <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

In bushfire prone areas there are mandatory requirements for infrastructure when undertaking development. These requirements also apply to shack sites that are under freehold.

Even if you are not planning to develop your shack site, there is still a minimum level of compliance with bushfire protection required by lessees.

These requirements depend on the bushfire protection area which have been mapped and are described below.

### Bushfire protection areas

South Australia has been mapped for three categories of bushfire protection areas depending on the level of risk from bushfires:

- General Bushfire Risk
- Medium Bushfire Risk
- High Bushfire Risk.

Bushfire protection areas are subject to bushfire related planning and building requirements. These requirements depend on the bushfire risk determined for the site.

More information and a list of bushfire protection areas is available from: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/planning-and-property/land-and-property-development/building-rules-regulations-and-information/bushfire/about-bushfire-protection-areas>

### Flood management

In simple terms, a flood is when water is present where it is not wanted.

Flooding can come from a range of different sources including:

- natural and man-made watercourses including lakes, rivers and creeks
- storm events with high rainfall
- coastal storm surge or unusually high tides
- water transport or storage infrastructure including pipes, dams, reservoirs, canals and levees, due to structural failure, operations, malfunction, accident or other reasons.

To find out your shack site's risk of flood refer to the [Flood Awareness Map](#). The map also allows you to:

- access relevant flood information to inform you about flood risks
- easily search for existing flood risks in your area
- obtain more information about flood risks in your area.

Finding out about the flood risk at your shack site can help you to mitigate the impacts of a flood before it occurs.

It is important to know which sources of flooding your property may be at risk of (for example riverine, coastal and flash flood), whether floods have occurred at your property in the past and whether your property becomes inundated or isolated in a flood.

This information can be found in flood maps or by talking to neighbours, asking local council, through services such as the South Australian Emergency Services (SES) FloodSafe, the Bureau of Meteorology website and accessing historical flood records.

Further information about making a flood plan and preparing an emergency flood kit can be found on the SES FloodSafe website at:

<https://www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/flood.jsp>

### Stormwater management

The term 'stormwater' refers to rain that does not soak into the ground but runs off into drains.

Most stormwater will enter drains that flow into creeks and rivers and then out to sea.

Stormwater runoff is natural, but in urban areas the amount has increased by the presence of impervious surfaces.

In SA, stormwater management is a responsibility that is shared between the state government, local government and private landowners.

Reflecting this shared responsibility, the SA Government and the Local Government Association (LGA) of SA have partnered in the formation of the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA).

While local councils are generally responsible for street drainage (kerbs and gutter), the SMA, DEW, landscape boards, and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) all have a role to play in stormwater management.

Your local council will provide guidance on stormwater management policies or plan that may be relevant to your area or development.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.sma.sa.gov.au/>

### **Stormwater pollution**

The EPA is responsible for the control of stormwater pollution through the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

It provides the regulatory framework to protect our environment and is supported through a suite of subordinate legislation and regulatory tools including the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 (the Water Quality Policy).

Further information is available at:

[https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental\\_info/water\\_quality/programs/stormwater](https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/water_quality/programs/stormwater)

## **More information**

For further information about the Retaining Shacks commitment please visit the [DEW Retaining Shacks webpage](#) or contact the DEW Shacks Team on (08) 8204 1218 or at [DEWshacks@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWshacks@sa.gov.au). The DEW Shacks Team aims to respond to emailed questions within five working days.

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/crown-land/retaining-shacks-commitment>