



Media release

Friday 11 March 2016

## **Rowallan Road fire update**

The fire which broke out yesterday in the vicinity of Rowallan Road near Coalgate in the Malvern Hills was brought under control yesterday evening.

One house on Homebush Road was been destroyed in the fire, along with six outbuildings including a haybarn. Three other houses were threatened by the fire but were saved.

Several properties in the immediate area were evacuated. Families who were evacuated have now returned to their homes. The remaining roads closed in the area are expected to reopen this afternoon.

A fire appliance and crew will be patrolling the area overnight.

A full investigation into the fire is now being carried out by Selwyn District Rural Fire. Initial indications are that the fire originated from a permitted burnoff undertaken some weeks ago which reignited in the hot, windy conditions yesterday.

Selwyn Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall says that all property owners need to check carefully that all fires are fully extinguished and douse them with water or cover with soil if they are still showing signs of fire activity. "In the current weather conditions any old fires, including rubbish, vegetation and crop fires, can easily flare up again unless they have been fully extinguished."

Mr Marshall thanked local firefighters, those who supported the firefighters, and locals who supported families affected by the fire for their help yesterday.

Ends

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