

Air quality fails test

MICHELLE PAINE
 February 26, 2009 08:58am

AIR quality during last year's forestry burns was not satisfactory, says Tasmania's Environment Protection Agency.

EPA head Warren Jones was addressing about 200 people at a smoke-management forum organised by the forest industry at the University of Tasmania School of Art.

"The air quality in autumn 2008 was not, in my view, satisfactory," Mr Jones said.

Mr Jones and several scientists gave reports on how forestry burns this autumn should be less harmful than previous years, because of a new standard to keep them within new guidelines.

They said monitoring points would be put in some of the "airsheds" -- through which smoke is funnelled -- around the state.

Also, no-burning days might be set so smoke levels stay within prescribed limits.

A forestry consultant said 100 units of 50ha each would not have been burned this year if the new modelling had been in place.

Forestry Tasmania said wood-fired power stations would address the community concerns over burns, as well as create renewable energy.

Michael Wood, Forestry's assistant general manager for strategic business, said wood residue left after logging would be burnt in a closed station, rather than in the open, minimising toxic pollutants in the atmosphere.

Wilderness Society senior forest campaigner Vica Bayley said the greatest challenge to humanity -- climate change -- had not been addressed at the forum.

"It was a cynical use of a public smoke forum to push the divisive topic of burning Tasmania's native forests to generate electricity," Mr Bayley said.

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Ray Weston of Sandy Bay - Its in response to the intelligence a 12 year old might exhibit when throwing a tantrum. I used the word for a day cause Mr Paul Watson looks like a muppets character. The bill is only a mediocre TV show at best. Trev of Hobart - As far as i am aware one is done before a bush fire occurs and the other while a bush fire is happening. A fire break is a maintained space between two flammable areas that is usually kept clear through bull dozing as this has no risk of igniting the areas on either side of it. Is that correct? To the rest- im not an expert on the topic, are you? Smoke from here or there is going to happen at some point, seriously...

Posted by: **Gillsy of Hobart** 03:40pm Friday 27th February

Hey Gillsie, You're not confusing back burning with fuel reduction burning are you?

Posted by: **Trev of Hobart** 12:08pm Friday 27th February

On my contacting the relevent department, (Parks and Wildlife,) during this burning season of last year, I was told the smoke came in from the mainland. So much for the truth! Good stuff, Trev of Hobart, lay it on 'em.

Posted by: **William Boeder of Rosebery** 10:47am Friday 27th February

I hope those few who compared the regeneration burns burning the remains of clear felled forests to the

fires in Victoria actually had a think about it later and realised how stupid they sound. I always thought you needed at least half a brain to work a computer.

Posted by: **max castle of Hobart** 06:24pm Thursday 26th February

How much of Victoria's forests were under the control of Forestry Vic? Outside of any Green policy? Check it out. Forestry failed Victoria.

Posted by: **Tony Saadington of East Tamar** 05:51pm Thursday 26th February

For the benefit of Gillsie. First they say we need to drop napalm onto what is left of the forest after they have finished logging for "regeneration" but now they say that if we cart it all away we can burn it in a "wood fired power station"? I wonder why people don't believe anything the logging industry says anymore. Oh and Paul of Hobart, you aren't trying to confuse the issue of creating fire breaks/back burning with the massive forestry burn offs every year are you?

Posted by: **Just Me of Launceston** 05:10pm Thursday 26th February

What would you rather, a few days of 'un-satisfactory' air quality or a repeat of what happened in Victoria earlier this month? How about everyone try a pair of big-boy pants once in a while and take a look at the bigger picture?

Posted by: **Aaron** 04:49pm Thursday 26th February

back burning must be done. Simple. pick a day of the year when nothing else is on and just do it. if you don't it's only a matter of time before something similar to the recent vic bush fires happens again. I mean what would you rather, a few days of unpleasantness because of smoke, or a few days unpleasantness sitting in school gym with 100 other people wondering if your house has survived.

Posted by: **Peter** 04:06pm Thursday 26th February

Well in parts of Victoria the air quality was "not satisfactory on 7th February either. Bet they would rather have had a few smaller controlled burns.

Posted by: **Molly** 03:46pm Thursday 26th February

Just Me of Launceston - Your not confusing fire breaks with back burning are you?

Posted by: **Gillsy of Hobart** 03:30pm Thursday 26th February

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