

20th August 2008

Hon David Llewellyn MP

Minister for Energy and Resources
Level 1 Public Buildings
Franklin Square
Hobart
Tasmania. 7000

Dear Sir,

Forestry Smoke Inhalation - Planned Burns.

I am in receipt of a copy of correspondence you emailed to a Mr. Garry Stannus dated the 4/8/2008.

There are some areas of your letter that are of serious concern to me and should be of serious concern to you.

Either purposely, or through lack of knowledge, you failed to mention the forestry industries residue or rubbish burns. They are not the regeneration burns you refer to in your correspondence and it would be good if you could be informed by your advisors as to the difference. Residue or rubbish burns give off huge amounts of smoke for Tasmanians to breathe, all because the industry will not use other smokeless methods to get rid of their waste.

These burns consist mainly of heaped piles of green forestry residue and are commonly referred to as 'smoke generators'.

Forestry Tasmania alone conducted hundreds of rubbish burns inside their total 450 burns for just part of this years burning season, i.e., between the period 28/3/2008 and 4/7/2008. (figures from FOI documents).

In addition to all the Forestry Tasmania smoke being generated, there were hundreds of private forest rubbish burns going on as well. A total 536 planned burns during the period 31/3/2008 and 20/6/2008 (FOI release).

Disgusting numbers I am sure you would agree?

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The real issue of stinking smoke emanating from planned burns and fouling the very air we breathe needs to be acknowledged by you and dealt with. The burning procedure has even been deemed by the Minister for Environment, Michelle O'Byrne as a failure. Perhaps you are a smoker, I am not and I do not wish to breathe forestry smoke. It has seriously affected my health and as a result I have ended up in accident and emergency four times this year. You can read the details at www.cleanairtas.com

Unfortunately, your correspondence to Mr. Stannus seems like hard sell forestry propaganda.

You mention, "...values that must be considered against the nuisance of smoke that is created by such burns."

Is that how you really see this smoke, just as a nuisance rather than an extremely serious health hazard to all Tasmanians, even your own?

You go on to state, "The Government of Tasmania has mandated that its agencies must apply the best available smoke-modeling technology when conducting burns to minimize the impact of smoke on people and communities."

Further, you claim, "During the planning stage of controlled burns a smoke dispersion model from the Bureau of Meteorology is used to predict the spread of smoke arising from burning." and,

"Burns are postponed if the model suggests that smoke from the burn will be directed at low altitude towards communities."

If you have a look at the attached planburntas daily map from your own Forestry Tasmania website (which you referred to in your letter), you must agree that none of the above facts stated by you are true. Many burns took place on one particular day west of communities when there were forecasted light Westerly, N/W winds. Common knowledge would tell us we do not light fires in those conditions. After you have looked at the map please explain to me how this was 'minimizing the impact of smoke on people and communities'?

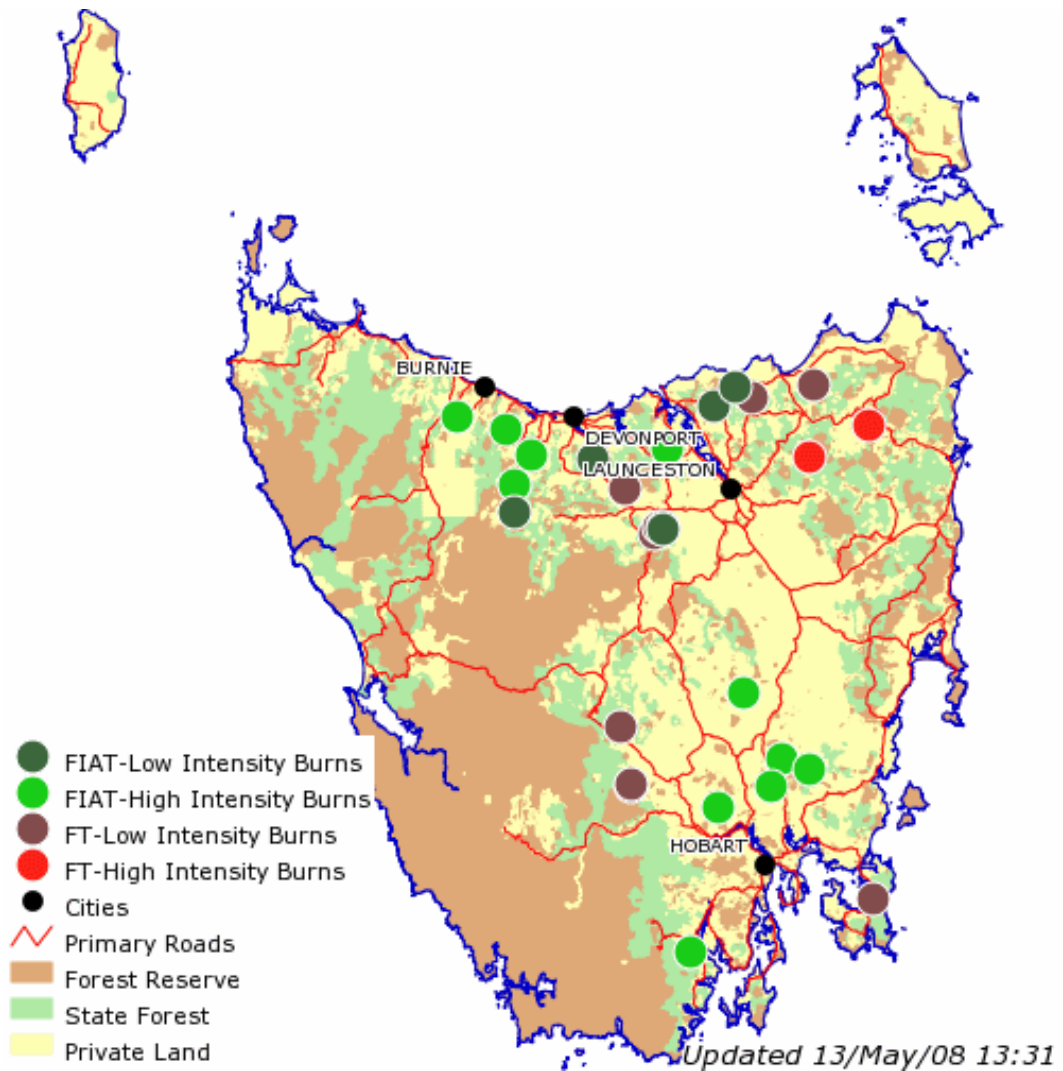
I look forward to hearing what you have to say about these matters and what you are going to do as the Minister responsible for people's health being ruined by forestry planned burn smoke. Your department has had years to fix this problem and you have, I believe, failed in your duty of care.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott

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Launceston Weather

[Extended Forecast](#) [Detailed Forecast](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#)

Tuesday		Wind	Rain	HumidTemp
Afternoon	Partly Cloudy. Cool.	11 km/h WNW	-	76% 17
Evening	Passing Clouds. Cool.	8 km/h W	-	87% 12
Overnight	Broken Clouds. Cool.	11 km/h NW	-	84% 12