



Forestry Tasmania

GROWING OUR FUTURE

Phone: (03) 6424 8388

Your Ref:

Our File: ME 1266-5

25 June 2008

Mr Clive Stott

Dear Clive

Thankyou for your letter received on June 13th concerning your meeting with Mersey District Staff at your home on the 11th of June.

There are several points of clarification that I would like to make in response to your assessment of that meeting. Firstly, Bob Knox's intentions were to explain to you in some detail why burning remains an important tool in forest management both in terms of successful regeneration and as a major safeguard against wildfire through fuel reduction on the forest floor. As I am sure you are aware, wildfire poses a serious threat to lives and property and Forestry Tasmania has a duty to mitigate this threat wherever possible.

Mr Knox's reference to germination of eucalypts without fire refers to certain instances in dry forests and is not a viable technique in wetter forests, and does not address the critical issue of fuel reduction.

At present we have no evidence to support the anecdotal observation that smoke has increased over the past two years. It is possible that plantation establishment by various forest companies has lead to a temporary increase in burning for site preparation. If this is the case, there should be a major decline in burning as more of these plantations become fully established.

Finally in your last paragraph you suggest that Forestry Tasmania has referred children to the Asthma Foundation for treatment as a result of smoke inhalation.

Your suggestion that children are put into "deliberately induced asthma episodes" is clearly ridiculous and would be a serious slur on the integrity of our employees, if the suggestion was not so far beyond the realms of believability.

As promised Mrs Becker is investigating any options that may assist you in your situation and mitigate the effects of smoke on your health.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rowlands
Forest Manager -Mersey District



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PO Box 343, Devonport TAS 7310
Phone (03) 6424 8388 Fax (03) 6424 2173