

# Minister for Energy and Resources

Level 1, Public Buildings  
Franklin Square,  
Hobart, TAS 7000 Australia  
Ph (03) 6233 6454 Fax (03) 6233 2272



20 OCT 2008

Mr Clive Stott

Dear Mr Stott

Thank you for your letter dated 20 August 2008 regarding regeneration burns. I apologise for the delay in responding.

It is important to note that fire is an essential tool in the management of forests. It is used in post-harvest regeneration of wet eucalypt forest; in the removal of forest residues and debris to reduce fire hazard; and in the protection of the public against wildfire.

Forestry Tasmania conducts two main types of planned burns:

- high intensity regeneration burns; and
- low intensity fuel reduction burns, which can be broad area fuel reduction burns, top disposal burning (heads of trees felled during selective harvesting), or heap burning (heaped residues from partial or selective harvesting).

Forestry Tasmania does not burn rubbish.

The Planned Burns website ([www.plannedburnstas.com.au](http://www.plannedburnstas.com.au)) shows only the proposed burns for a particular day. As detailed on the website, not all burns shown may take place on a particular day.

As noted in my letter to Mr Stannus, forest managers use a number of measures, including a smoke dispersion model from the Bureau of Meteorology when planning burns. Burns are postponed if the model suggests smoke will be directed at low altitude towards communities.

On 13 May 2008, only one Forestry Tasmania burn took place in the Mersey District west of the Tamar Valley. All other FT planned burns for that day were postponed due to unfavourable weather conditions on the ground, which were not as forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The burn that did take place was a 40-hectare top disposal burn at Cluan, north west of Deloraine. It is unlikely that the smoke from this particular burn would have dispersed to the Tamar Valley.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Llewellyn', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

David Llewellyn MP  
**MINISTER**