



Autumn burning program shifts to the north-east

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The Parks and Wildlife Service is conducting a cooperative fuel reduction burn in the State's North-East today, having completed 18 planned burns so far this autumn. Parks and Wildlife Service fire operations manager Adrian Pyrke said the autumn burns are part of reducing fuel loads around Tasmania. The 400 hectare burn west of Ansons Bay, will be undertaken by about 16 personnel from the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmania Fire Service as part of the statewide strategic fuel reduction burning program. A second burn of 1700 hectares will be undertaken in the Dazzler Range south-east of Port Sorrell. "Fuel reduction burning occurs each autumn and spring and burns are completed as fuel and weather conditions permit," Mr Pyrke said. The intent of this burn at Ansons Bay is to create a strategic area of low fuel loads to help prevent large bushfires." "We've had a successful autumn season so far with 18 planned burns completed, ranging in size from 1 to 1500 hectares. The majority of the burns are aimed at protecting neighbouring houses and other assets or at reducing fuel loads by creating corridors of low fuel loads to help prevent large bushfires. Others are undertaken for ecological reasons. The burn in at Ansons Bay area includes scrub and dry eucalypt forest. Mr Pyrke said fuel management is a fundamental responsibility of all land managers and assists in reducing the potential for damaging bushfires and making them easier and safer for fire fighters to control. "Fuel reduction burns improve public safety by reducing the risk and severity of bushfires. This type of burning is low-intensity, so the smoke can affect ground-level air quality, however efforts will be made to limit the impact of smoke on populated areas." Significant stakeholders such as the wine, tourism industries and neighbouring land owners are notified as standard procedure. Information on planned burns can be found on the Parks and Wildlife Service website at www.parks.tas.gov.au, on the Tasmania Fire Service website at www.fire.tas.gov.au and on the Forestry Tasmania website at www.plannedburnstas.com.au