

20th May 2008

Dr. Roscoe Taylor

Director of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
GPO Box 125
Hobart
Tasmania. 7001

Dear Sir,

Health of Tasmanian People

I notice in the past as Director of Public Health you have been actively associated with promoting an outdoor active, Tasmania, i.e. the 'National Obesity Taskforce' for adults and children, and 'Working Together for a Healthy Active Australia' to name but a couple good sites found on the web when I searched under your name, and I applaud you for this.

However, I recently received a letter from Dick Adams MP Federal Member for Lyons. Attached to it was a document which Mr. Adams claims was provided to him by Michelle O'Byrne's office (State minister for Environment). It evidently was produced by DHHS on the 1/5/2007 and is headed "Smoke from Bushfires and Planned Burning"
Can you please advise if this document did come from your DHHS Department and are you aware of it, because it does not have a letter head and it is unsigned?

The document outlines how bad wood smoke is and how the small particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs. It suggests Tasmanians remain indoors or go to a building that has air conditioning or stay at a friend's house.
Actually, I have been imprisoned in my home for the last month.

You would be aware of all the complaints about forestry smoke and how it is making Tasmanian people ill because it has been extensively covered in every form of media.

I forwarded an email to you on 1/5/2008 (to which I have not received a reply) that I wrote to Jodie Campbell MP on the 21/4/2008 explaining my health position as a result of forestry smoke inhalation. To bring you up to date I have had serious asthma for the full duration of the planned burns.

You would realize the seriousness of such a long exacerbation.

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What I would like to know is; as Director of Public Health you have been campaigning extensively on one hand the benefits of outdoor exercise for a healthy lifestyle, and on the other hand here in Tasmania it is now being advocated people remain in an undesirable and unhealthy environment indoors for the duration of Autumn while this serious public health disaster contaminates the very air we breathe.

Surely, as Director of Public Health your first and only concern must be to protect the public's health, and therefore to put out a document stating the reverse of what you have been advocating as Director of Public Health for years, is bewildering.

Which is it? Do you want us to breathe clean air and have a healthy outdoor lifestyle like you have promoted in the past, or do you want us to be sick and unhealthy confined to indoors right through Autumn like we are now being told in this (DHHS) document?

Sadly, it would appear you have been silent on this matter of deliberate air contamination which affects every Tasmanian.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott