

9 Alpine Crescent
Grindelwald
Tasmania. 7277.

24th November 2008

Dr. Roscoe Taylor
Director of Public Health
GPO Box 125
Hobart
Tasmania 7001

Dear Sir,

Smoke Inhalation – Planned Burning

Thank you for your letter dated 19/11/2008.

I note it does appear to take you an unreasonable amount of time to reply to any correspondence on such an important issue as this affecting population health.

The issue I am concerned with is smoke inhalation from planned burning; nothing more nothing less.

I do not believe you should be answering or interpreting for Tas. Fire Service. They have made their position quite clear. Their responsibility is to prevent fire escapes and to protect assets; they are only concerned with the direct effect of fires. They are not concerned with smoke.

However, as provided to you, TFS goes so far as to state that smoke management and its associated health impacts are the responsibility of the public health authorities. I take it that is DHHS?

Let's cut to the chase. **a)** Would you kindly advise who actually is responsible for the public's health when it comes to environmental smoke inhalation from planned burning?

In your reply, could you also please provide me with, **b)** A comprehensive list of parties participating in the multi-agency Smoke Management Working Group which you refer to and, **c)** Who it was set up by, **d)** When is the SMWG report to be finalized, and **e)** What happens with regards to smoke inhalation from planned burns in the interim?

(2)

Further, I am attaching a letter I had published recently in the daily papers concerning the FPA's practice of planned burns and how they should not be happening for various good reasons. If the Tasmanian FPA followed its own National Association of Forestry Industries advice then planned burn smoke would not be a problem for all Tasmanians. As the Tasmanian body responsible for Public and Environmental Health, could you please advise, **f)** Will you follow NAFI's recommendations/advice in regard to planned burns and hence harmful planned burn smoke?

Thank you on this occasion for your timely response.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott