

Department of Health and Human Services

POPULATION HEALTH - PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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File:

Mr Clive M Stott
9 Alpine Crescent
Grindelwald TAS 7277

Dear Mr Stott,

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2008 regarding regulation of planned burning and health. I apologise again for the delay in replying to your previous letter. However I would like to observe that you should not draw the conclusion that a period of silence equates to inactivity on the issues you have raised.

In regard to overarching principles, there are many activities which can ultimately have some effect on public health but which are not regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Examples of these include consumer product safety and injury prevention measures, many aspects of water pollution and vehicle emission standards. However, DHHS does have a role in many of these by contributing to the development of various standards, codes, regulations and legislation that are administered by other agencies, and helping to ensure that public health interests are maintained.

This is in fact the situation with respect to smoke management, where DHHS is currently participating in a smoke management working group coordinated by the Forest Practices Authority. I would suggest that you contact the Forest Practices Authority for further details about this group, as the more appropriate mechanism to obtain the information you are seeking.

I also agree with you and the National Association of Forestry Industries that bioenergy from wood waste should be encouraged as a renewable energy source.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roscoe Taylor
Director of Public Health

28 November 2008