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Where there's smoke ... there's an agenda

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ONE WOULD have to view UTAS's "Smoke Monitoring Methods Review, 08/2008" (which was recently adopted by our Environmental Protection Authority) with suspicion.

Suspicion that has led me to these conclusions:

- I believe there is an agenda to stall clean air technologies.
- I believe the government, FPA, EPA, etc., get the reports they need to justify planned burning.
- But most seriously, I believe there is a plan to destroy our native animals and plants with fire, so that fire tolerant plantation species can flourish at the expense of all other living things, and in doing so, change Tasmania's whole ecology, not just our plant ecology.

Everybody knows last year was the worst year on record for forestry smoke in Tasmania and yet there was supposedly only one exceedence of the national air quality standards. How come? Either the monitoring equipment was faulty, the results were misinterpreted, or the results were misquoted. There is every possibility this will happen again, right?.

And in relation to, "the public frequently expressing concerns about planned burning..." the report wants to, "... monitor the pollution so as to reassure the public of the benefits of prescribed burning." That says it all.

Forestry must really be worried about everyone kicking up a stink about their harmful stinky burning practices, and rightly so. Have a look at the free talks they are giving in 2008/09:-

Living in a Flammable Landscape- why Tasmania is the origin of a global theory of fire, How flora and Fauna survive fire, Why we use fire in forest management, & Why things go wrong WITHOUT fire.

Check them out at <http://www.forestrytas.com.au/science/forestry-talks/forestry-talks-2008-09>

Tasmania has the highest rate of asthma in Australia and yet we have to put up with this renewed Forestry propaganda campaign to push planned burning, to generate smoke and to cause serious ill health to all Tasmanians, even themselves.

The lifetime of PM2.5 particulate pollution which can cause asthma and ultimately lead to death, is from days to weeks and their travel distance ranges from 100 to greater than 1000 kilometres (NRDC, 2000).

Forestry smoke contains the same particle pollution and toxins as cigarette smoke. Cigarette smoke is being taken seriously, Why not forestry smoke? The Asthma Foundation of Tasmania refuses to lobby for its members to have this smoke stopped.

The World Health Organisation says "...there is no safe level of fine particle pollution." Forestry need to put that in their pipe and smoke it.

Clive Stott
<http://www.cleanairtas.com>

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