



MEDIA RELEASE

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Air Curtain Burners can Reduce Environmental and Health Impacts of Forestry Burn-offs

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest has previously raised concerns regarding air quality in relation to forestry waste wood and regeneration burn offs and suggests that other options must be considered that have less adverse environmental and health impacts.

“Whilst bushfires do result in similar adverse impacts, these are generally not deliberately lit, unplanned and more difficult to control, whereas forestry waste wood open burn-offs are predictable and other more environmentally friendly options do exist” Ms Forrest stated.

“Air Curtain Burners and mulching both provide an environmentally friendly alternative to open burning, with air curtain burning being the most environmentally friendly way to dispose of wood waste” Ms Forrest stated.

“Forestry Tasmania and other private forestry operators should fully consider and evaluate these options in the interests of the environment and the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians” Ms Forrest said.

“Using Air Curtain Burners also addresses the issue of regeneration of new growth and it has the added benefit of reducing emissions by relying strictly on airflow to enhance the fire” Ms Forrest said.

“When compared to Air Curtain Burners, open burning is inefficient and results in high particulate and carbon dioxide release, thus reducing the adverse environmental and health impacts” Ms Forrest said.

“Air Curtain Burners also provide greater controls and safety, and generally burn ‘cleaner’ when compared to open burning. Investigation into the feasibility of their use by the State Government should be a matter of high priority, especially in light of the Premiers recent commitments to reduction of emissions across all government sectors” Ms Forrest stated.

Air Curtain Burners have been widely used in the United States of America and should be investigated and considered for use in Tasmania.

30th April 2008

For further information contact Ruth Forrest 0419 879 524