

Media Release

Date: Sunday October 25

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Fuel reduction burn near Grindelwald planned

Weather permitting, a fuel reduction burn will be conducted on Monday, October 26 or Tuesday, October 27, to protect Grindelwald and nearby communities in Tasmania's north.

The burn, which is west of Grindelwald and about 67.2 hectares in size, will be conducted by a combined Tasmania Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania and Forico crew. The burn is aimed to protect the Grindelwald area and is expected to take up to two days.

State Fire Management Council chair Ian Sauer said fuel reduction burns are the most effective method for strategically reducing the risk of bushfires for Tasmanian communities.

"If a bushfire occurs in an area that has already had a fuel reduction burn, then the bushfire is smaller, slower, less intense and easier for fire-fighters to control," Mr Sauer said.

"You cannot stop a major bushfire, but you can, through fuel reduction and other mechanisms, reduce the impact a fire can have on our community."

The \$28.5 million Fuel Reduction Program, which was launched in March, is a cross-tenure program which conducts fuel reduction burns on both public and private land. The program conducts fuel reduction burns throughout the State in autumn and spring each year in identified areas of high bushfire risk.

The Program uses computer modelling and local knowledge to identify risk areas and then strategically plans burns to reduce the bushfire risk.



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The Program uses the resources of the Tasmanian Fire Service, the Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania, local councils and private landowners to mitigate bushfire risk in a strategic, systematic way in urban, semi-rural and wilderness areas.

“No amount of burning will ever end the threat of bushfires. We have to prepare ourselves and our communities as best we can, by making it easier and safer for our firefighters to control these events when they happen, as they inevitably will,” Mr Sauer said.

During burning operations **public access to this area will be restricted**. The public is asked to remain well out of the burn site while the burn is taking place and for the following few days. Please comply with directions from staff or any signs if you are in the area.

While the fire intensity will be low, it will generate flames, smoke and ash. People with medical conditions are advised to have a personal plan for avoiding smoke from the burn. Advice is available from the Department of Health and Human Services website www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/alerts/air/precautions or www.asthmatas.org.au

For further information, visit the Tasmania Fire Service website on www.fire.tas.gov.au

Ian Sauer is a cattle farmer from Pipers Brook and a long-time volunteer firefighter. He was President of Tamar Natural Resource Management from 2003 – 2013 and former chair of the National Gorse Taskforce. In October 2014, Ian was appointed chair of the State Fire Management Council by Minister for Police and Emergency Management Rene Hidding.

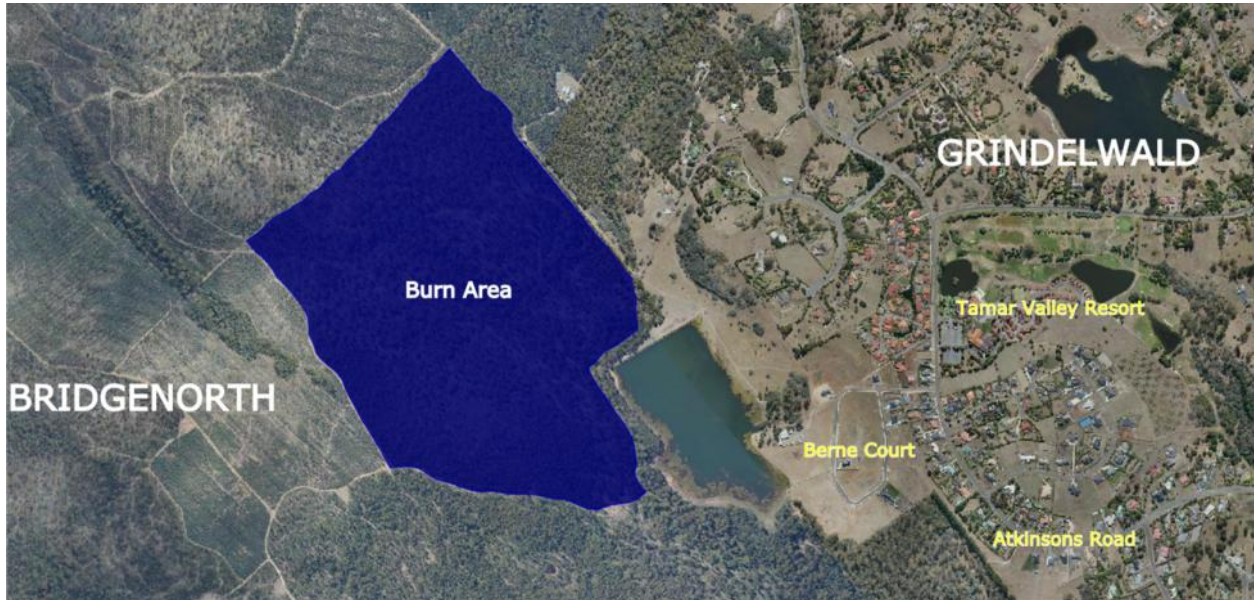


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