

12th June 2008

Mr. Peter Rowlands

District Forest Manager
PO Box 343
Devonport
Tasmania 7310

Dear Sir,

Planned Burn Smoke

This is to confirm yesterdays meeting at home with my wife Annette, and your Mr. Bob Knox (Coordinator Works) and Ms Jane Becker (Community Liaison Officer) of Forestry Tasmania, Mersey Division.

Whilst the two and a half hour meeting was mostly taken up promoting Forestry Tasmania's burning practices that create huge amounts of smoke for people to breathe, it was also acknowledged by Mr. Knox that seeds will germinate well without burning.

It was also acknowledged that smoke intensity across Tasmania had increased in the last couple of years.

I raised the point that lengthening the burn season will not lessen the health impact on people exposed to smoke. In actual fact they would end up inhaling more over the extended period because they would not be able to see it or smell it, but their lungs would still 'feel' it.

I made it clear that the effects of breathing this smoke do not just go away for most people when the smoke stops. It causes lasting damage that needs costly special treatment and can even result in death.

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However, not lessening the importance of the above points, what was of major concern to me was the fact that Forestry Tasmania admits to having to refer children affected by planned burn smoke to the Asthma Foundation for management of their condition. To put these children into deliberately induced asthma episodes and then to offer to “support” them with their “treatment” in conjunction with the Asthma Foundation, so Forestry can continue to create more damaging smoke is, I believe, simply unforgivable.

As promised, I look forward to Ms Becker’s response in relation to my situation.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott