

# Forestry begins its 150 fires

NICK CLARK  
March 13, 2010 12:01am

## FORESTRY Tasmania started a 4000ha program of burn-offs yesterday on the West Coast.

The program started with the first three of 150 fires planned from March to May.

Australian Greens leader Bob Brown said: "Burning forests increases air pollution, causing a serious health threat for asthmatics, the elderly and people with chronic allergies."

He said the logging burn-offs were cheap for Forestry Tasmania to do but were unnecessary and dangerous.

"Clear-fell logging should cease and future logging should depend on Tasmania's already huge plantation estate," he said.

"Burn-offs are a huge source of greenhouse pollution, more than all Tasmania's land, sea and air transport.

"Burn-offs also cause smoke taint problems for food producers and Tasmania's clean-green image is damaged by this pointless practice."

A smoke management system administered by the Forest Practices Authority began last year, aimed at ensuring forestry companies heeded factors that could influence the amount of smoke generated.

Operations general manager Paul Smith said it took account of location, weather, and fuel dryness and quantity.

The system resulted in the postponement of fires on unsuitable days, such as still conditions or inversion layers.

"The prevailing weather in autumn allows the wood remaining in harvested areas to dry in the sun and wind, while the surrounding forests remain damp," Mr Smith said.

Burn-off information is at [plannedburnstas.com.au](http://plannedburnstas.com.au).

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So much for the "Good neighbour Charter" and acceptable air quality!! Lets hope the Southwood proposal burns before proposal.

Posted by: **Caio of Judbury** 05:47am Monday 15th March

Burn forestry burn, hit the ground hard with intense fires that destroy the native seed banks and obliterates the browsing native animals. Expel hundreds of tonnes of smoke into the atmosphere for our children to breathe and release as much carbon as you can. Thats nature.....?

Posted by: **Unreal** 08:47pm Sunday 14th March

These are not burn-off to reduce risk of fires these are "regeneration burns" where the "waste wood" left after clear felling is burned to provide some ash fertilizer. ie the same stone age slash and burn agriculture. This regeneration burn practice has not been used in other states for years. Even Forest Tas own research unit say it is not necessary in Tasmania. Not doing results is somewhat slower regrowth. The skies are blackened, people suffer breathing problems because FT can't implement best practice.

Posted by: **TasinParis** 05:05pm Sunday 14th March

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Those who keep confusing the forestry industry waste minimising burn-offs with hazard reduction burns through standing forest are starting to look incredibly stupid. Offering up a choice between burning log heaps on cleared ground and raging forest fires in standing bush is the work of a complete twit, arguing out of their depth, without floaties on. Given the mass of fire weed that grows on burnt ground in my neck of the woods, it may well make matters a great deal worse. It is a lie, designed to justify a practice the industry would drop in an instant if they could work out how to transport all that waste material to a generator furnace cost effectively.

Posted by: **Simon Warriner of Yolla** 02:03pm Sunday 14th March

How can they start their burns when fire permits are still in for the whole state?

Posted by: **Concerned Citizen** 11:15am Sunday 14th March

Obviously there is no need to burn as Forestry Tas have said they would prefer to be sending all their rubbish (7.2 million tonnes in 2008) to a power boiler. All of a sudden this so called 'essential ash seed bed' required for seeds to germinate is not necessary and FT have admitted it. Lots of native flora and fauna are destroyed by fire all for the sake of plantations and producing smoke. As for claims that all natural fires are immediately extinguished, that just isn't true. 6453 Ha have been allowed to burn since 31/1/10 and 3400ha since the 25th January. Don't believe all the forestry spin, look at the facts.

Posted by: **Clive Stott** 11:03am Sunday 14th March

What a load of emotive 'claptrap'!! No one has ever come up with a sound scientific reason to stop the burning.....simply because all of the 'science' tells us that it is the right thing to do. All that forestry is doing is emulating what we as humans are not allowing to happen naturally. Whenever there is a natural fire in the bush we come along and put it out!! Many of our shrubs and trees need fire to propagate (a proven scientific fact).....deal with it morons!!

Posted by: **JR of somewhereintassie** 07:29am Sunday 14th March

Obviously Forestry Tas are more knowledgeable than the World Health Organisation. Either that or they just can't read. The WHO says there is no safe level of fine particle pollution. No safe level FT.

Posted by: **Clive Stott of Grindelwald** 12:02am Sunday 14th March

hmm although ugly forestry burns are necessary 270 deaths in Victoria last year Hobart 1967 should remind us what happens if you don't

Posted by: **ivan of hobart** 09:41pm Saturday 13th March

When will people learn. Burn offs do help to reduce the fuel load for when a bush fire strike's. Have a look at the past history of fires in Australia.

Posted by: **scott barry of vic** 08:48pm Saturday 13th March

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