



## Forestry halts burnoffs

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Smoke obscures the setting sun last night. Picture: LEIGH WINBURN

SUE NEALES

April 19, 2010 10:30am

**FORESTRY Tasmania has issued an unprecedented immediate ban on regeneration and timber reduction burns.**

Forestry Tasmania today called on all private landowners and forestry companies across the state to immediately stop all regeneration and timber reduction burning operations.

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Much of Tasmania remains shrouded in dense smoke, with little wind forecast to shift the smoke clouds.

As Hobart, the Derwent estuary, Channel county and Huon Valley was blanketed by low-lying clouds of smoke combined with fog, Forestry Tasmania announced it had suspended all of its scheduled burning of logged timber coupes in the state's south for today.

Regeneration burns were conducted by Forestry Tasmania in the North West of the state and around the Huon region over the weekend in accordance with the Coordinated Smoke Management Strategy.

FT general manager of operations Paul Smith said smoke from weekend burns around Huon had failed to disperse overnight, and had then been prevented from clearing by foggy weather conditions.

He requested the support of other Tasmanian landowners to cease burning today to allow the smoke to clear.

"The smoke hovering over the Huon region is the result of many burns conducted by various land managers including the forest industry, parks and wildlife, farmers and private landowners over the past few days", Mr Smith said.

"The smoke from these burns has failed to disperse as a result of foggy weather conditions and as such Forestry Tasmania has suspended burns in the south of the state and requests all land managers to follow suit to allow the smoke to clear".

More information on the location of proposed burns can be found by visiting the [plannedburnstas.com.au](#) website.

The news comes as Huon Valley residents were furious that Forestry Tasmania burns sent thick smoke across the region yesterday.

The *Mercury* fielded numerous calls from residents from Huonville to Cygnet, who said the smoke was disrupting weekend activities and causing health problems.

The Forestry website said last night the state-owned company had nine fires alight south of Hobart. For details go to [www.forestrytas.com.au/planned-burns](#).

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At the very least, if you are going to support this practice please don't dress it up as something it simply is not. Back burning to reduce fire risk and napping a forest that has been harvested are very different things. If you can't distinguish these practices then you really shouldn't be in charge of a computer. And 'Amused of Hobart'; your post does not even make sense.

Posted by: **Brendan** 12:27pm Tuesday 20th April

Freddi Mazoudier of North/east 3:20pm. Freddi, you forgot to mention it was the Greens some years' past who demanded plantation forestry and it was the timber industry who co-operated by taking up the Greens' demands.

Posted by: **Lest we forget of Hobart** 09:29am Tuesday 20th April

You should all be thankful that you don't live in Iceland.If this was any company OTHER than FT responsible for the burns I bet this wouldn't even make the news. Move out of the sticks people - It was a beautiful day up in the real world yesterday!

Posted by: **Amused of Hobart** 06:50am Tuesday 20th April

i'd like to see how much people complain about their house being burnt down due to trees near their properties. not only do burnoffs disperse seed and allow plants to regenerate, they also reduce the amount of scrub that could cause a potential bushfire similar to the ones in victoria. so yeah people can continue to complain about these burnoffs but dont complain to me if your home gets burnt down due to excess vegetation that would of been burnt off if you got what you wanted.

Posted by: **v of hobart** 12:13am Tuesday 20th April

Well ross smith of kingston 12:26pm today, I live in Kingston and my neighbours and I are having no problem at all. Reading some of these posts makes me wonder how some of the contributors can bear to walk down a city street, where every puff of air you breathe in has passed through several if not many car engines! Just think, 1000 2-litre engines running at 1500 rpm have a total of 90,000 cubic metres of air passing through their cylinders every hour! And you'd never ever hae one of those nasty dioxin emitting wood fires would you?

Posted by: **peter of kingston** 11:17pm Monday 19th April

i got booked today for my truck was blowing to much smoke by a government employee and i said lokok at that forestry burn off and he just shrugged his shoulders.(I MIGHT CHANGE MY NAME TO MR FORESTRY ) SHAME ON THE GOVERNMENT.

Posted by: **kevin hodge of iachlan** 11:05pm Monday 19th April

Old Al of Hobart 1:49pm today, read the publicly available Pulp Mill Design Report and you will see that the residue produced by the harvesting of the plantation wood used as feed to the mill will also be collected and burnt as fuel in the biomass boiler. And this boiler, like the black liquor boiler, has 3 stage electrostatic precipitation on the stack so the "smoke" will be virtually invisible and well within extremely stringent environmental limits.

Posted by: **peter of kingston** 11:02pm Monday 19th April

I'm all for forestry practices in Tasmania. Don't get me wrong, I love Tasmania (I have travelled to The mainland only for work, I love Tasmania that much!). I take my hat off to FT for putting a stop to their Burns, and asking private citizens to follow suit. They saw a problem (no wind) and tried their hardest to fix. For all those people that are complaining about the poisons - the give off from the burns is no different to the give off from the fires cave men had back in their day and no larger! Naturally Started, Man controlled or Arson, They all give off the same pollutants and I'm sure it's a hell more cleaner than that black smog that comes from the s#!t-box cars with Greens stickers all over it. I should know, I cycle/commute 100km a day with these cars! Keep Re-Gen burns going, keep our community safe from fire threat, and Keep forestry in Tasmania alive!

Posted by: **hobartguy4forestry of Hobart** 10:55pm Monday 19th April

Those who are portraying forestry "regen burns" as relevant to reducing wildfires are either ignorant or Liars. They have about as much credibility as Bartlett's new government.

Posted by: **Simon Warriner of NW Tas** 10:46pm Monday 19th April

Not that long ago, the zinc works installed equipment to greatly reduce smoke coming from a chimney, no doubt at significant financial cost. Meanwhile numerous other industries have taken similar steps over several years to clear the air. Management and shareholders must be wondering why they bothered, their worthwhile efforts and financial expense being undone by Forestry in a matter of just hours.

Posted by: **Smoked Out of Hobart** 10:09pm Monday 19th April

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