

Minister for Energy and Resources

Level 1, Public Buildings  
Franklin Square,  
Hobart TAS 7000 Australia  
Ph: (03) 6233 6454 Fax: (03) 6233 2272



21 OCT 2009

Mr Clive M. Stott  
9 Alpine Crescent  
GRINDELWALD TAS 7277

Dear Mr Stott

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July 2009 to the federal member for Bass Jodie Campbell MP regarding smoke inhalation from planned burns. As the Minister for Forestry I am replying on her behalf.

As previously written to you fire is an essential tool in the management of forests. It is used in post-harvest regeneration of wet eucalypt forest; in the removal of forest residues and debris to reduce fire hazard; and in the protection of the public against wildfire.

Fire is also a fundamental component of the ecology of Tasmanian eucalypt forests. Forest managers seek to manage fire to achieve the best possible overall outcomes for the community. The use of fire cannot be considered unnecessary, and it cannot be avoided in our forests.

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) and the Environment Protection Authority are working with the various land management agencies and forest industry companies to reduce the risk of smoke pollution within populated centres through improvements in the planning and conduct of burns.

The FPA introduced its Coordinated Smoke Management Strategy on a trial basis this year and the outcomes were reviewed by an independent fire expert. The strategy will be used again in 2010. The strategy includes improved planning for smoke dispersal using data and models developed by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The strategy will be applied in Autumn 2010 to burns conducted as part of a forest harvesting or regeneration operation and to hazard reduction and ecological management burns conducted by the forest industry companies and Parks and Wildlife Service. The outcomes will be assessed and the results will be used to further refine the strategy.

Yours sincerely

David Llewellyn MP  
**MINISTER**