

# Department of Health and Human Services

POPULATION HEALTH - OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001, Australia

Ph: (03) 6233 3185 Fax: (03) 6233 4021

Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact: Dr Martin Bicevskis  
Phone: (03) 6222 7719  
Facsimile: (03) 6222 7407  
E-mail: martin.bicevskis@dhhs.tas.gov.au  
File: H14311

Mr Clive M Stott

Dear Mr Stott

## Complaint- Forestry Planned Burns

Thank you for your letter of 21 June, which requests more details about wood smoke pollution from forestry planned burning and the role of the Department of Health and Human Services.

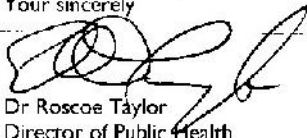
The issues you raise are numerous and complex. Rather than attempting to prepare another reply with the amount of detail you require, I suggest that a better approach may be for you to meet and discuss these issues with one of our Senior Medical Officers at a time and place convenient for you, including your home if that suits.

The contents of our fact sheet are based on current public health knowledge and practice across Australia, and it may be helpful to explore why you did not find the advice helpful in your circumstance. At the same time, there may be an opportunity for us to learn more details about how the smoke exposure affected your breathing, which you report included presentations to a hospital Accident and Emergency Department. With your permission, a de-identified description of your experiences may provide useful information for the Department of Health and Human Services to use in our discussions with other Agencies.

Could you contact Dr Martin Bicevskis, at the phone number listed above to discuss this further and arrange a mutually convenient time to meet? He will be in the Launceston area in the near future and I have requested that he make himself available to meet and discuss these issues with you. Dr Bicevskis is our Senior Medical Advisor, Occupational and Environmental Health, in our Public and Environmental Health Service, and is well qualified to assist in this matter.

Thank you for again raising some important health issues.

Your sincerely



Dr Roscoe Taylor  
Director of Public Health

1 July 2008