

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide background and supporting information for the vegetation associations and management recommendations provided (in excel format) to Tasmania Fire Service.

## 2. Fire frequency guidelines

Table 1 lists the treatable vegetation types and the fire frequency guidelines (for fuel management). These guidelines have been taken into consideration in the development of management recommendations for each threatened flora species. That is, many of the management recommendations may not be suitable if a planned burn is conducted at a shorter interval than recommended by the fire frequency guideline. If the planned burn is conducted at a shorter interval than the fire frequency guideline, it is recommended that additional advice is sought from DPIPWE for any threatened flora species within the burn unit on a case by case basis.

**Table 1: Fire frequency guidelines for planned burning (Marsden-Smedley 2009).**

Vegetation type	Fire frequency guidelines (for fuel management) and planned burning notes
Dry eucalypt forest	4 to 10 years. Planned burning in dry eucalypt forest is conducted for fuel and ecological management. In asset protection zones, surface, near-surface, elevated and bark fuel-hazard ratings must be reduced to low, requiring fires to be conducted with flame heights of two to four meters. In strategic management zones the aim will be to reduce overall fuel-hazards to low or moderate.
Heathland, dry scrub, wet scrub	5 to 10 years. A planned burn in heathlands, dry scrub and wet scrub is conducted for fuel management and ecological management. During heathland, dry scrub and wet scrub burning, minor increases in wind speed and/or slope, or minor decreases in fuel moisture can rapidly transform low intensity fires into high intensity fires. This narrow threshold highlights the difficulty between a successful fuel reduction burn, a fuel reduction burn that does not carry and fuel reduction burn that gets out of control.
Buttongrass moorland	5 to 10 years. Buttongrass moorland planned burning is conducted for fuel management and ecological management. The most important issue influencing buttongrass moorland burning is the balance between boundary security (what measures are required to minimise the risk of fire escaping the burn boundary) and fuel removal.
Native grassland	Not defined. Native grassland burns in Tasmania are mainly conducted for agricultural green pick and for ecological management to maintain species and structural diversity.