

From: Sustainable Timber Tasmania <stakeholder@sttas.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 13:34
Subject: Sustainable Timber Tasmania Planned Burning 2024

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Dear stakeholder,

Sustainable Timber Tasmania alongside Tasmania Fire Service and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service remains focused on controlling and extinguishing new and current bushfires as warm weather continues across Tasmania; however, as Autumn approaches and suitable weather conditions become available, Sustainable Timber Tasmania is also preparing for its upcoming 2024 Planned Burning Program.

When Autumn weather conditions become suitable, Sustainable Timber Tasmania will commence its 2024 Planned Burning Program to regenerate harvested forests in a similar manner to natural regeneration following a bushfire; and to improve the safety of local communities by reducing fuel loads across Tasmania's public production forests.

What is a planned burn?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania conducts planned burns each year to regenerate harvested forests in a similar manner to natural regeneration following a bushfire; and to improve the safety of local communities by reducing fuel loads across Tasmania's public production forests. Sustainable Timber Tasmania coordinates its planned burning program collaboratively with

other agencies and forestry businesses, with the aim to manage smoke in accordance with the Coordinated Smoke Management System, administered by the Forest Practices Authority.

How many burns are there?

As part of the Planned Burning Program 2024, around 180 burns are planned across Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land.

What happens during a planned burn?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania manages its Planned Burning Program with the aim to minimise impact to neighbours and local communities. Each individual burn is carefully planned for safety, smoke dispersal, protection of assets, infrastructure, special values, and consideration of known local events. These factors are documented, reviewed, audited, and approved along with individual risk assessments. Planned burns are only undertaken when weather conditions are suitable for managing and containing the fire to the prepared boundaries.

Why are planned burns undertaken in Autumn?

Planned burning is undertaken in Autumn because it is the safest time of the year to burn; the fuel loads in the forest are dry and the extreme weather conditions of summer have passed, reducing the chance of fire escaping its boundaries. It is also the ideal time for eucalypt seedlings to germinate given warm temperatures and the onset of regular rainfall.

How is smoke planned for?

Wherever possible, smoke dispersal is planned away from populated areas. Although smoke may be visible, it is usually travelling at height and impact to local communities is minimised. On days when poor smoke dispersal is anticipated, burning is postponed until suitable weather conditions prevail.

How will I know when planned burns are happening?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania notifies and engages with immediate neighbours throughout the Planned Burning Program planning stage, prior to any burning taking place. This includes notifying stakeholders who have registered their interest in particular planned burns and engaging with stakeholders from the wine and tourism industries. Advisories are shared with local media outlets and published to Sustainable Timber Tasmania's Facebook page twice daily to inform the public. Sustainable Timber Tasmania also publishes its Planned Burning Program and daily updates to the "What's Burning Now?" page at www.fire.tas.gov.au

How can I find out more?

You can find out more about the Planned Burning Program by visiting www.sttas.com.au

Sustainable Timber Tasmania welcomes and encourage stakeholders to contact its stakeholder engagement team at stakeholder@sttas.com.au or on (03) 6169 2800 with questions about its Planned Burning Program.

Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



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