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Dear stakeholder,

Sustainable Timber Tasmania is commencing its 2023 Planned Burning Program from mid-March this year.

This is an important aspect of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's role to regenerate Tasmania's public production forests and as one of Tasmania's key fire management organisations.

Information on what this means, what to expect and how to access additional information around planned burns is listed below.

What is a planned burn?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania conducts planned burns to regenerate harvested forests in a similar manner to natural regeneration following a bushfire; and to improve the safety of the community by reducing fuel loads across Tasmania's production forests and other surrounding areas.

How many are there?

As part of the 2023 Planned Burning Program, around 200 burns are planned across Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land. Some planned burns which were unable to be completed in 2022 due to weather and safety considerations have been included in the 2023 program.

When are they happening?

the fuels are dry which creates less smoke; the extreme conditions of summer have passed, increasing the chance of containing fire within its boundaries. It is also the ideal time for germination of eucalypt seedlings given warm temperatures and the onset of regular rainfall.

What happens during a planned burn?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania manages the Planned Burning Program with the aim to minimise impact on neighbours and local communities. Each burn is carefully planned for safety, smoke dispersal, protection of assets, infrastructure, local events and special values.

These factors are documented and reviewed, audited and approved along with a risk assessment.

Burns are only undertaken when weather conditions are suitable for managing and containing the fire to the prepared boundaries. Although smoke will be visible, it is managed not to impact populated areas, and on poor smoke dispersal days, burning is postponed until suitable conditions prevail.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania coordinate these burns with other agencies and forestry businesses with the aim to manage smoke levels in accordance with the Coordinated Smoke Management System, administered by the Forest Practices Authority.

How will I know when planned burns are happening?

Sustainable Timber Tasmania notify and engage with immediate neighbours throughout the Planned Burning Program planning stage, prior to any burning taking place.

This includes notifications to stakeholders who have registered their interest in particular planned burns and engagement with stakeholders such as the wine and tourism industries.

The public is advised through daily media and Facebook notifications.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania also publishes its Planned Burning Program and daily information 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

We welcome and encourage people to contact our stakeholder engagement team at stakeholder@sttas.com.au or (03) 6169 2800 with any questions.

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Kind regards,

Stakeholder Engagement Team



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Our mailing address is:
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