

Locals get choked up about burn plan

By CHRIS CLARKE

A PLANNED fuel reduction burn in the Grindelwald area has been met with protest from residents.

Tasmania Fire Service will conduct a multi-day burn in the area this week, on a stretch of native forest west of Grindelwald.

The objective of the burn is to ensure the dense area does not become an out-of-control bush-fire this summer.

Despite this, Alpine Crescent resident and asthmatic Clive Stott believes the service has not done enough to protect the health of those with respiratory problems.

"I'm a serious asthmatic. We've been through all this before," he said.

Mr Stott believes there are alternative ways to reduce fire fuel, including the use of land-moving vehicles, like masticators and back-end loaders.

Tasmania Fire Service State Fire Management Council manager Sandra Whight said burning was cost-effective and was carried out in a manner that reduced smoke.

"We direct people to the Asthma Foundation for specific advice for conditions they may have," she said.

"We acknowledge (the presence of smoke) and we will try and manage that as best as possible. We don't ignore mechanics. What we are trying to do first is manage where the fires



Clive Stott, of Grindelwald, is concerned about the effect a proposed fuel reduction burn would have on air quality.

Picture: PHILLIP BIGGS

are first to reduce their likelihood."

The Grindelwald fuel reduction burn will take place throughout this week on a patch of forest that has not been

burnt in close to 20 years, TFS said.

Anyone seeking information of fuel reduction burns in Tasmania can visit www.fire.tas.gov.au.