

7th August 2014

Attn: Jan Davis
CEO
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.
PO Box 193
Launceston
Tasmania
Australia 7250
reception@tfga.com.au

Dear Ms Davis,

Open Burning of our Landscape.

I refer to your article on burning the landscape on Tasmanian Times at
<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php?/pr-article/jan-davis25/>

Much scientific health information has been produced in relation to the adverse effects of environmental smoke from such practices.
I feel you may not be aware of this current information, from as high up as the World Health Organisation, and you cannot get much higher than that after years of investigation.
Some information is set out below. More can be found at <http://www.cleanairtas.com>

**"Outdoor air pollution a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths." - IRAC
17/10/2013.**

The specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), announced today that it has classified outdoor air pollution as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).

After thoroughly reviewing the latest available scientific literature, world leading experts convened by the IARC Monographs Programme concluded that there is sufficient evidence that exposure to outdoor air pollution causes lung cancer (Group 1). They also noted a positive association with an increased risk of bladder cancer. Particulate matter, a major component of outdoor air pollution, was evaluated separately and was also classified as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).

"Tragically only half of all women diagnosed with lung cancer are alive one year after diagnosis." - American Lung Association

"Particulate pollution is the most important contaminant in our air...We know that when levels go up people die."

Joel Schwartz., Harvard School of Public Health, E Magazine, Sept./Oct. 2002.

"There has got to be an understanding that people who complain about smoke have a legitimate case, the medical science is on their side now." - Professor David Bowman, Tasmania. ABC News Feb. 20, 2012

You talk about 60,00Ha of burning. Do you know how many tonnes of harmful particulates will be released from that for susceptible people to suffer ill health from? These people are the young, the elderly, those with respiratory and cardiac disease, and those with diabetes in our community to name just a few. The particulates from this burning that you say we should get on with quickly have been determined to cause lung and liver cancer so this can effect everyone, even the healthy, even you.

For many years now in Tasmania we have had more deaths from environmental smoke than from people being burnt to death by bushfires.

It has been acknowledged that sheltering in our homes does not give us protection from particulate matter produced from such long and sustained periods of burning that you so eagerly advocate. Remember many of your members have wood fires already so any of this proposed burning is in addition to those cancer causing toxins. Is this what you want for your members?

We already have shocking figures in Tasmania for cancer and the other aforementioned diseases. What you are advocating is for these to get worse and our health system to become even more overloaded, and the suffering to expand?

How do you expect to do all this burning without producing smoke?

Your members really need to find smokeless ways to get rid of their residue and you should be in there helping them to do that. They do exist.

I do not want to see the TFGA promoting out-dated harmful practices; our air is not your sewer.

I look forward to hearing the Associations views.

Yours sincerely,

Clive M. Stott