

Smoke management failure

THE Forest Practices Authority's "Co-ordinated Smoke Management Strategy" for planned burning is a failure. Can you believe the aim of this CSMS trial is to try and maximise the amount of smoke pumped into the atmosphere which people breathe?

When nature has had enough of all the planned burn smoke like last week, it vomits it all over us.

The CSMS trial is a failure because it uses a primitive algorithm to predict weather conditions which are often wrong. The Bureau of Meteorology acknowledges "actual" smoke calculations have considerable uncertainty.

Also it is voluntary, many burners are not using it so it is flawed. Many existing burns are not taken into account so the modelling is wrong. Real-time results of the calculations are not being made public. All the burns and their details are not on one public accessible internet map.

It uses airsheds which do not relate to populated areas. It says it is safe to burn when wind direction is predicted towards populated areas.

It is secretive and pro burner, (not for the benefit of the greater population). Respiratory patients are suffering. Many people will have their lives shortened as a result of the raised smoke levels.

Health effects from particulate matter occur after exposures of two to four hours or less in duration of wood smoke at the 12-29ug/m³ range (Koenig et al. 1993) Readings have been up in the 100s of ug/m³ for hours in Tasmania. The burning of forest industries waste must stop and the FPA's CSMS trial must end.

**Clive Stott
Cleanairtas**

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