



# facts

about the forest industry's planned burning program during Autumn



## WHY BURN?

Fire is an important part of the life cycle of eucalypts. In nature most eucalypt species require the disturbance provided by fire to regenerate.

Eucalypt seeds and seedlings need a mineral soil seedbed, abundant sunlight and reduced competition from other plants to establish and grow. In nature this situation is provided by a major wildfire.

Tasmanian forest managers mimic nature by using fire in a planned and controlled way to re-establish healthy fast growing trees after harvesting.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF FOREST MANAGERS DON'T BURN?

In wet eucalypt forests, regeneration of harvested areas will not be successful. Harvested areas will be invaded and colonised by weeds and wet forest species and the eucalypt seedlings will not survive.

In drier eucalypt forests burning is undertaken to remove the residues remaining after harvesting so as to reduce the fuel load and fire hazard.

## PLANNED BURNING

Planned burning is undertaken throughout Tasmania on private land and State forest each autumn. Burning is dispersed and only a limited number of operations occur on any one day.

Achievement of the planned burning program depends upon suitable weather conditions. These occur following the first autumn rains.

The fuel remaining on harvested areas dries in the sun and wind, while the surrounding forests remain damp, allowing the burning to be done safely.

Each autumn, the forest industry plans to prepare about 30 000 hectares of land for planting or sowing in patches scattered across Tasmania.

The average size of these areas is about 45 hectares, although many will be much smaller and a few larger.



*The photograph at the bottom of this series is of an area of forest that was harvested and regenerated after a planned burn. Twenty years later eucalypts again flourish with a diverse understory.*

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED IN PLANNING AND PERFORMING A BURN?

Among the matters considered are:

- public and employee safety;
- the required weather conditions;
- moisture levels in the fuel and surrounding forest (important for fire intensity, safety and minimising smoke production);
- atmospheric stability (important for smoke dispersal); and
- towns and events downwind of the proposed burn.

All of these matters are covered in the burning plan prepared for each burn.

A planned burn can and will be deferred if the conditions set out in the burning plan cannot be met.

## SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Smoke is an inevitable product of the process of ensuring that new forests will regenerate after harvesting. Forest managers plan to minimise the effects on local communities. This is done by burning when conditions which will disperse smoke away from settled areas are forecast.

Those who suffer from respiratory conditions such as asthma, should prepare an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan ahead of time and avoid unnecessary exposure to smoke.

For further information contact the Asthma Foundation 1800 645 130 or your GP.

## LOCATION OF PLANNED BURNING OPERATIONS

For information about planned burning locations, please visit the Tasmanian forest industry planned burns website at: [www.plannedburnstas.com.au](http://www.plannedburnstas.com.au)

During the burning season this site is updated daily at 10am. Some of the burns shown may not take place due to weather conditions.

## MORE INFORMATION?

Information on planned burning and forest regeneration is also available from any of the following organisations:

### Statewide:

Forest Industries Association of Tasmania.....6224 1033  
 Forest Enterprises Australia .....6334 7811  
 Forestry Tasmania .....6233 8203  
 Gunns Ltd.....6235 4157

### Southern Tasmania:

Norske Skog.....6261 0155



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Forest Industries Association  
 of Tasmania

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