



MEDIA RELEASE

The facts behind Regeneration Burns- 22nd April 2008

“It is wrong and mischievous to blame all smoke events only on forest regeneration burns.”

The community should become better educated in regards to smoke management as it comes from a range of sources and understand the effort that goes into regeneration burns planning.

Smoke in Tasmanian urban areas are caused from heating as well as agricultural and forestry burns. The Australian National University 2001 report into firewood use across Australia, estimates that over 60 percent of Tasmanian households burn wood for fuel and heating: burning an average of 5.8 tonnes per household per year, or over 650,000 tonnes per year across the State (<http://sres-associated.anu.edu.au/marketreport/report16.pdf>).

Unlike other land managers, regeneration burns are planned to minimize the risk of smoke traveling over major population centres. Planning involves using meteorological information, intimate geographical knowledge, and years of experience.

Regeneration burns provide invaluable training opportunities which ensure forest managers are able to respond to wildfire events. The high level of internationally recognized expertise within forestry sector is critical to combating wildfire in Tasmania, protecting people and property.

In Tasmania, an average of less than 16,000 hectares of planned burns are carried out on State forests. By comparison, between 2001-06, the 10 year RFA Sustainability Indicators report found that there was a long-term average of 28,300 hectares per year is burnt in wildfire.

(http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/rfa/documents/2007%20INDICATORS%20REPORT_FINAL%2024%20May%202007.pdf).

The IFA encourages the community to scientifically debate fire management policies so that appropriate and responsible smoke management policies are developed and implemented

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