



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Managing natural resources to reduce destructive wildfires**

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The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) welcomes Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife appointment of an experienced person to develop Strategic Fire Management Plan which aims to deliver a strategic approach to managing fire in National Parks in Tasmania.

"We call on the Tasmanian Government to allocate adequate and recurrent funding to extend the successful 2007 burning program" said IFA Tasmanian Chairman Mr Andrew Wye. "This program provided important ecological outcomes, reduced the risk of high-intensity wildfires within local areas, and provided important training opportunities for the Parks and Wildlife Service, the Fire Service and Forestry Tasmania," he said.

In a world where climate change is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of wildfires, the long term survival of Tasmania's unique and diverse forest flora and fauna requires a strategic approach to managing fire in National Parks.

"As Australia's only professional association of foresters, the IFA believes that all forest managers have a social responsibility to reduce the threat of wild fires in order to protect natural values and social assets" Mr Wye said. "The IFA is a strong advocate of active fire management programs," he said.

"The IFA support the use of annual mild intensity control burns as a management tool to maintain forest health and prevent landscape-level high intensity wildfires that have previously devastated Tasmanian communities" Mr Wye said. "IFA members have scientific, technical and professional experience in fire management within Tasmania's forests, and across all tenures" he said.

Mr Wye also said "The IFA recognises the need to develop strategic approaches to the management of forests and non-forests, as a wildfire respects no boundary and Tasmania's National Parks are not islands. Rather, they are an integral part of the landscape."



Andrew Wye

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