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**DEPARTMENT of PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS,
WATER and ENVIRONMENT**

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



POLICY – FIRE MANAGEMENT

1 Policy

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) has responsibility for the management of approximately 3.3 million hectares of parks and reserves across Tasmania. Bushfire is a significant factor influencing management and it can pose a threat to important physical and environmental assets in reserves, as well as adjoining public and private lands. Fire is a key natural process for maintaining biodiversity in the environment and is an important management tool to help maintain ecosystems.

The PWS has an obligation to actively, efficiently and effectively manage the risks associated with bushfire occurrence on the lands that it manages, and to assist wherever possible with the management of bushfires elsewhere in Tasmania.

Fire management is core business of the PWS. To deliver its responsibilities in fire management, the PWS will:

1. Treat as a priority bushfire suppression on parks and reserves and adjoining public and private land over all other activities. The protection of people is always the highest priority.
2. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that planned fire prevention and fire suppression activities take into account the needs of the environment, biosecurity, cultural heritage, and are conducted in a manner that minimises the impact on these values.
3. Based on the best available knowledge, develop and implement fire regimes that conserve biodiversity, while affording an acceptable level of protection to human life and property.
4. Work cooperatively and effectively with the community, the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and Forestry Tasmania (FT) to develop and implement fire prevention plans and programs on parks, reserves and adjoining lands.
5. Work cooperatively and effectively with the community, the TFS and FT in conducting bushfire suppression, fire prevention and planned burning operations and operate in accordance with the Inter–Agency Fire Management Protocol.
6. Take all reasonable steps to reduce the threat of bushfire on PWS estate through the establishment and maintenance of a strategic and operational level planning program that identifies areas at risk and priorities.

7. Reduce identified risks through well planned and implemented programs to reduce fuel loads by the most suitable method (e.g. fuel reduction burning, slashing, fire break construction and grazing), maintain effective access and develop education programs to raise community awareness of the role of fire in the landscape.
8. Conduct all bushfire suppression operations and planned burning in accordance with the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS).
9. Provide a safe working environment for staff and others working within PWS fire prevention and fire suppression programs.
10. Ensure that appropriate training is provided to staff, and that staff are competent and accredited to operate in defined roles during fire prevention and fire suppression operations.
11. Ensure that staff have available to them equipment and other resources, including computer-based fire management systems, that are suitable for the fire environment in which they are required to operate.
12. Establish and deliver a performance improvement program based upon rigorous debriefing of significant bushfire suppression and fuel reduction burning operations, as well as an annual audit of specific fire management issues.

2 References

- Inter-agency Fire Management Protocol (updated annually)
- *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*
- *Crown Lands Act 1976*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Environmental Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004*
- *Evidence Act 2001*
- *Fire Service Act 1979*
- *Fire Service (miscellaneous) Regulations 1996*
- *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*
- General Management Plan for Tasmania's Reserves 2013
- AFAC position paper "Bushfires and Community Safety", Version 4.1 8 September 2010
- Planned Burning in Tasmania - Operational Guidelines 2009
- Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice 2003
- *Forest Practices Code 2002*
- [Keeping it Clean](#) – A Tasmanian field hygiene manual (2010)
- The Parks and Wildlife Service Environmental Management Policy
- Southern, Northern and Northwest Region Strategic Fire Management Plans
- Bushfire Risk Assessment Model

This policy is the top level policy for PWS fire management, and all other PWS fire management policies are subordinate to it.

3 Policy Owner

State Fire Manager

4 Policy Document Approval

Approved by: Peter Mooney
General Manager, Parks and Wildlife Service

Date: 4 July 2011

5 Document History

Version No.	Date of Issue	Changes
1.0	21/07/2006	First issue
1.1	28/06/2011	Change Department name
1.2	13/11/2014	Update total PWS managed land Change word "wildfire" to "bushfire" as per AFAC Bushfire Glossary.

Subsidiary Documents

Documents serving to assist or supplement the implementation of this policy and procedures:

Doc. No.	Type	Title