



Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities on public and private land across Tasmania to achieve a range of community, cultural, agricultural, silvicultural and environmental objectives.



The Principles and Strategies by which vegetation fire management will occur in Tasmania:

Principles

All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:

- P-1** Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.
- P-2** Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.
- P-3** A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.
- P-4** The paramount priority is to protect human life.
- P-5** Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.
- P-6** Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.
- P-7** Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.

Strategies

All stakeholders agree that:

- S-1** Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.
- S-2** In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.

Vegetation fire management activities will:

- S-3** Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.
- S-4** Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.

Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:

- S-5** Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.
- S-6** Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.
- S-7** Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.

Decisions about vegetation fire management will:

- S-8** Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.
- S-9** Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with *AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines*, *National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)* and *Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG)*.
- S-10** Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.
- S-11** Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.

All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:

- S-12** Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.
- S-13** Act in good faith.

Responsibility

- R-1** The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.