



**Wine Industry-Forestry
Protocol Agreement
2010**

WINE TASMANIA



Forestry Tasmania

Wine Industry-Forestry Protocol Agreement 2010

Background

In May 2008 Forestry Tasmania and Wine Industry Tasmania agreed on a notification process to ensure open dialogue between the two industries when the grape harvesting and forestry burning seasons coincide (Memorandum of Understanding).

Both parties acknowledge the achievements of the Memorandum in opening up communications between the two industries but they are equally committed to ensuring ongoing relevance and refinement in response to current and future challenges.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd acknowledges that fire and therefore smoke are a part of the Australian natural ecology.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd acknowledges Forestry Tasmania's contribution to reducing fire risk to life and property through its fuel reduction program and its wildfire suppression capability.

Forestry Tasmania and Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd acknowledge that all Tasmanian primary industries share the Tasmanian landscape and that whilst some issues may arise the long term benefits will arise from communication, consultation and working together.

Forestry Tasmania acknowledges that Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd is concerned about planned burns during the berry development and ripening phases of winegrapes.

Forestry Tasmania acknowledges the presence of smoke around the vines at particular stages in the development of winegrapes can lead to a situation where the subsequent wine is unpalatable and ultimately unsaleable.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd acknowledges that many natural ecosystems in the Australian environment are adapted to fire ecology and that fire is essential for the successful regeneration of these ecosystems.

1. Parties to the Agreement

Forestry Tasmania – being a government business enterprise that manages 1.5 million hectares of state forests for multiple uses

Wine Industry Tasmania – being the peak body representing Tasmania's grape growers and winemakers - working together to promote the island state as a leading producer of premium cool-climate wines

2. Principles

The parties to this Agreement will be guided in their Actions by some key principles including that:

- This Agreement replaces the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding
- This Agreement will provide a framework and process for the wine and forestry industries to work together as major contributors to the Tasmanian economy.

Other key guiding principles are that the parties:

- Recognise that both industries are equally important for the sustainable growth of the Tasmanian economy
- Commit to close and ongoing communication
- Share the responsibility for making the Agreement work
- Recognise and respect that both industries can successfully coexist into the future
- Undertake to correct public perceptions concerning their own respective industries, where that perception is not consistent with scientific and factual information

3. Communication and consultation

3.1. Meetings

The parties agree to hold at least two meetings per year where general and specific issues related to the agreement can be discussed

3.2. Review

The parties agree to review and decide once a year (by 30 June) on a list of priorities for the coming year that will be attached to the Agreement as a schedule.

3.3. Communication with industry stakeholders

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd agrees to nominate a representative grower in nine winegrowing areas.

Forestry Tasmania will include the nominated Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd members in burn notification groups, so they are informed of burns in the vicinity of vineyards (Schedule 1)

The parties agree to provide access to their information distribution channels for relevant and appropriate information to be dispersed through the industry.

The parties agree to consult widely with their stakeholders and industry members to raise issues, propose actions and raise the profile of the Agreement.

The parties agree to provide appropriate and agreed content for publication of the Agreement on respective websites.

3.4. Issue resolution

The parties agree to provide an up to date list of key contact people within their organisation/industry as specific issues arise. In general in respect of issues:

- For planning and operational issues in respect of state forests, Forestry Tasmania Community Liaison Officers are the first point of contact
- Involving wine industry businesses (including wineries and vineyards), Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd representatives are the first point of contact
- Involving compliance with legislation or the Forestry Practices Code, Forest Practices Authority staff are the first point of contact

Where an issue cannot be resolved at the local level it will be elevated to the relevant EO/CEO/MD within the respective organisation in the next instance. This may involve the board of that organisation.

Where there are unresolved issues that any party has major concerns about there is the opportunity for these to be raised firstly at the next Agreement meeting. If it is still unresolved or urgent, the issue can be raised by any party with the relevant person within Forestry Tasmania or Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd.

3.5. Briefings and Education

The parties agree to conduct briefings or otherwise assist in the education of the respective industries as the need arises.

Forestry Tasmania will work with Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd to provide regular briefings on forestry activities for local wine industry stakeholders.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd will provide an annual report to Forestry Tasmania on the status of the Tasmanian wine industry and the Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd Strategic Plan.

Forestry Tasmania will provide an annual report to Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd, and the national "State of the Forests" report.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd will provide updates to Forestry Tasmania on the research findings concerning smoke taint in wine.

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd will provide information to wine industry stakeholders regarding the development of vineyards in the vicinity of multiple use forests and plantations and the risk posed by smoke taint.

All parties will include the others on distribution lists for newsletters, updates and notices.

3.6. Media Comment

Each party will provide where possible prior notice of any media release or media statement relevant to any other party's interests. Forestry Tasmania will include Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd on its stakeholder list (refer schedule 2).

Each party will, wherever possible, check any factual issues with the relevant party prior to making any media comment.

Each party will provide notification of any media comments made that may be relevant to any other party's interests.

4. **Specific Issues**

A number of specific issues have been identified as requiring particular focus in the Agreement. These issues have either received significant feedback from the industries as issues of concern or they are areas with the greatest prospect for externalities (where the operations of one industry can impact adversely on the operations of the other).

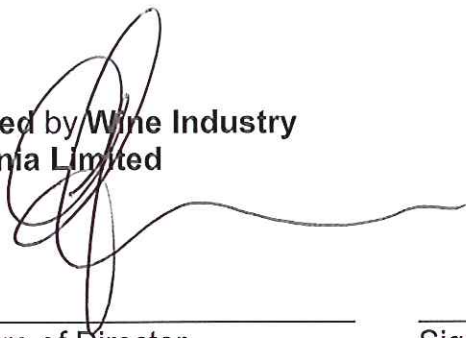
Each issue contains its own schedule which outlines:

- Background as to why the issue is included and the preamble about exactly what externalities are being managed through the agreement
- The relevant rules covering the specific area, including legislation, codes and policies that can be enforced
- Additional commitments being made by the parties under the terms of this agreement
- Any specific issue resolution procedures related to the issue
- Links to relevant documents and reports.

These schedules are:

1. Burns notification
2. Planned burns
3. Risk of smoke taint in wine
4. Vineyard development and “landscape sharing”
5. Continuous Improvement

**Executed by Wine Industry
Tasmania Limited**



Signature of Director



Signature of Director

GRAEME B. LYNE

Name of Director

Andrew Hood

Name of Director

Executed by Forestry Tasmania



Signature



Witness

Bob Gordon

Name of Authorised
Representative

Joanne Pangrazzi

Name of Witness

Schedule 1

Background

Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd is very concerned about the timing of burns during the berry development and ripening phases of winegrapes.

In May 2008 Forestry Tasmania and Wine Industry Tasmania agreed on a notification process to ensure open dialogue between the two industries when the grape harvesting and forestry burning seasons coincide (Memorandum of Understanding). This understanding detailed the nomination of Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd representatives to be included in burn notification groups by Forestry Tasmania. Forestry Tasmania will notify nominated members in the event that planned burns are to occur in the vicinity of vineyards.

Wines made from grapes exposed to smoke are at risk of exhibiting "burnt", "smoked meat", "leather", "disinfectant", "charred", "ashtray" and "salami" aromas. Smoke tainted wines are usually unpalatable and unfit for purpose therefore resulting in financial losses for the wine industry.

Reference list

<http://www.gwrdc.com.au/webdata/resources/factSheet/45ImpactOfBushfireSmoke.pdf>
<http://www.gwrdc.com.au/webdata/resources/factSheet/44impactsofsmokeongrapes1.pdf>
<http://www.gwrdc.com.au/webdata/resources/factSheet/42SmokeEffect1.pdf>
<http://www.gwrdc.com.au/webdata/resources/factSheet/42SmokeEffect.pdf>

Compliance

For Planned Burns, please refer to schedule 2.

No other compliance requirements noted.

Region	Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd Representative	Forestry Tasmania Community Liaison Officer
Derwent Valley	Gerald Ellis (Renew) 0419 583 661 geraldellis@renewland.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
Coal River	Jennifer Doyle (Frogmore Creek) 0400 488 323 jennifer@frogmorecreek.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
Huon Valley and surrounds	Robert Patterson 03 6295 1623 robpatterson@hartzview.com.au	Peter Pepper: 6295 7139 or 0438 373 718 Peter.pepper@forestrytas.com.au
Marion Bay and surrounds (SE)	Fred Peacock (Bream Creek Vineyard) 0419 363 714 fred@breamcreekvineyard.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
East Coast (NE)	Brian Franklin (Apsley Gorge) 0419 394 331 agv@tassie.net.au	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au
East Coast	Tim Lyne (Spring Vale) 0401 214 834 tim@springvalewines.com	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
East Tamar	Peter McIntosh- Brook Eden Vineyard- 0418 238 852 p- 03 63956244 mail@brookeden.com.au	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au
West Tamar	Marcus Maislinger (Goaty Hill & others) 0418 401 966 info@goatyhill.com	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au
North West	Phil Dolan (Lake Barrington & Whiterock) 0407 972 156 whiterockwine@gmail.com	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au

Region	Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd Representative	Forestry Tasmania Community Liaison Officer
Derwent Valley	Gerald Ellis (Meadowbank) 0419583661 geraldellis@meadowbankwines.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
Coal River	Jennifer Doyle (Frogmore Creek) 0400488323 jennifer@frogmorecreek.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
Huon Valley and surrounds	Robert Patterson 03 6295 1623 robpatterson@hartzview.com.au	Peter Pepper: 6295 7139 or 0438 373 718 Peter.pepper@forestrytas.com.au
Marion Bay and surrounds (SE)	Fred Peacock (Bream Creek Vineyard) 0419363714 fred@breamcreekvineyard.com.au	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
East Coast (NE)	Brian Franklin (Apsley Gorge) 0419394331 agv@tassie.net.au	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au
East Coast	Tim Lyne (Spring Vale) 0401214834 tim@springvalewines.com	Murray Kirkwood: 6235 8326 or 0427 362 432 Murray.kirkwood@forestrytas.com.au
East Tamar	Peter McIntosh (Brook Eden Vineyard) 0418238852 or 63956244 e-mail@brookeden.com.au	Jane Becker: 6420 6230 or 0407 863 297 Jane.becker@forestrytas.com.au
West Tamar	Marcus Maislinger (Goaty Hill & others) 0418401966 info@goatyhill.com	Tony Scott: 6350 6465 or 0428 393 792 Tony.scott@forestrytas.com.au
North West	Phil Dolan (Lake Barrington & Whiterock) 0407972156 whiterockwine@bigpond.com	Jane Becker: 6420 6230 or 0407 863 297 Jane.becker@forestrytas.com.au

Schedule 2

Planned Burns

Background

For the purposes of this agreement planned burns are a part of production forestry, land management and wildfire safety. Planned burns can be divided into two major categories:

- Regeneration burns
- Fuel reduction burns

Regeneration burns are conducted to stimulate the regeneration of eucalypt forests or to enable the establishment of plantations. Regeneration burning aims to clear away residual woody materials and provide an ash bed for new seedlings. They are also called high intensity burns, and are designed to generate high temperatures, creating intense convection currents. This ensures that the smoke forms a tall column or plume that travels into the upper atmosphere and disperses. They are usually conducted during autumn months, on days with little or no wind. As a result such events often have a high visual impact.

Fuel reduction burns and other vegetation management burns are used to improve public safety by reducing the risk and severity of bushfires. Fuel reduction burns also provide protection for native forests, tree plantations and private property. This type of burning is low intensity, with smoke typically remaining near the ground. The smoke can affect ground level air quality, depending on wind direction. Despite this potential public inconvenience and specific risk to winegrapes at particular times of year, fuel reduction burns reduce the likelihood and potential for large scale bushfires.

Planned burns do not include wildfires or "burn-offs" conducted for agricultural or domestic purposes. Wildfires by their very nature are unplanned and can cause significant damage to both life and property. Burn-offs are conducted by private and public landholders at various times of year to remove waste, assist in land clearing or for crop management purposes.

The link between the wine industry and planned burns arises due to the impact of smoke from planned burns. This impact can occur as a result of both high and low intensity burns. The impacts of planned burns can happen at one or two levels:

- Some components in smoke can lead to a taint in wine that significantly reduces its palatability and value
- A reduced experience for the wine tourist

These impacts can result in financial loss and hardship for wine businesses due to:

- the expense in making a wine that is ultimately unsaleable
- the loss of annual income normally derived from the sale of wine or grapes
- the loss of a brands, growers market share/niche and in particular losses from disruption to consistency of supply
- serious long term damage to the reputation of labels and growers supplying the market
- reduced trade and reduced future visits from current tourists.

It should be noted that whilst there can be some impact when burns are planned and managed effectively, impacts are more likely when the burn is either not planned appropriately or any of the variable (such as weather or atmospheric conditions) change. These impacts mean that planned burns need to be managed carefully to reduce the scope for negative impacts on the wine industry.

Compliance

1. Environment Protection Policy

The Policy can be found on the internet at <http://www.environment.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=1700>.

The Air Quality Policy requires that persons undertaking planned burning should use best practice environmental to minimise the effects of smoke pollution on individuals and the community. The Air Quality Policy also states that:

Those "...agencies, companies or organisations undertaking burning on a regular basis or on a large scale should:

- (a) adopt efficient and effective air quality monitoring programmes;
- (b) adopt a uniform approach to recording and assessing complaints;
- (c) focus upon minimising the impact of smoke on the community in terms of health, amenity and safety;
- (d) encourage the planning and execution of planned burning in a way that minimises the generation of smoke and improves the management of the effects of smoke; and
- (e) require a responsible person involved in planned burning for land management to be competent in relevant burning procedures."

2. Forest Practices Code Smoke Management Guidelines –

Forestry Industry Standard for Prescribed Silvicultural Burning Practice 2009

http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/fileadmin/user_upload/PDFs/Admin/FPC2000_Complete.pdf)

The Prescribed Silvicultural Burning Practice 2009 includes standards relevant to:

- Planning
- Public notification
- Smoke management
- Risk management
- Standard of competency

Schedule 3

Vineyard development and “landscape sharing”

Background

The wine industry in Tasmania is small in comparison to the mainland yet it maintains a large and growing awareness among tourists and the international wine community for the quality of the products and the landscape in which it resides.

Whilst small, the industry is growing and site selection is important for vineyard sustainability (economic and environmental). Landholders are, however, not restricted as to where they may plant grapevines.

Issues may arise where landholders establish vineyards in areas of high risk of smoke activity and the consequent potential for smoke taint in wine.

Compliance

Additional Comments

Forestry Tasmania and Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd acknowledge that all Tasmanian primary industries share the Tasmanian landscape and that whilst some issues may arise the long term benefits will arise from communication, consultation and working together.

Forestry Tasmania and Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd agree on the need for a structured industry advisory package for new vineyard establishment, outlining issues pertinent to the shared landscape, including:

- The right of the Tasmanian forestry industry to carry out its business activities within the law
- The difference between planned burns and “burn-offs”
- Site selection and proximity to multiple use forests
- The issues surrounding smoke taint.

Schedule 4

Continuous Improvement

Continuous improvements in sustainability, efficiency and economy are sought by all parties.

The forest industry will embrace science, new technologies and modern practices to minimise the impact of smoke on people and industries.

Forestry Tasmania is a willing participant in the new Coordinated Smoke Management System, implemented by the Forest Practices Authority and the Environmental protection Authority.

The coordination of planned burns to minimise the risk of high concentrations of smoke within individual air sheds. This means that restrictions will be imposed as required to ban or limit the number of burns on days when weather forecasts predict poor smoke dispersal.

Alternatives to planned burns are limited. High technology incinerators such as air curtain burners may be appropriate in urban or industrial situations. However, cost and logistics preclude the use of such devices in agricultural and forestry situations, with at least a ten-fold increase in the costs of fuel management .

Wine Industry Tasmania acknowledges efforts to minimise impacts and encourages the forest industry to continue to seek new ways to reduce smoke emissions.