

Fuel Reduction Burns To Protect East Coast

The Tasmanian Government's \$600,000 fuel reduction burn program could start on the East Coast tomorrow.

Member for Lyons Heather Butler said burning program coordinators from the Tasmanian Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife were closely monitoring weather conditions to determine whether a planned burn proceeds.

"Provided weather conditions are suitable, the multi agency team plan to burn around 8000 hectares within a 10,000 hectare perimeter taking in the Douglas Apsley National Park, state forest and a small area of private land," Ms Butler said.

"A team has already been conducting burns around the perimeter in preparation for tomorrow's operation.

"The meticulous planning even took into account the need to delay burning until after completion of the grape harvest.

"There will be a public briefing at the Bicheno Community Hall at 8pm tonight where representatives of Forestry Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife and the Fire Service will be available to explain the process and answer any questions.

"The government's fuel reduction program has won almost universal support on the East Coast.

"The recent fires that caused so much heartache last year are still fresh in the memories of local residents and they are delighted efforts are being made to reduce the risk of another major fire.

"Tomorrow's planned burn will be a low intensity burn in what's described as dry sclerophyll forests."

For more information, contact Tony Blanks at Forestry Tasmania on 0417 551 308