

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

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Mr Peter George MP
Member for Franklin
Via email: peter.george@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr George,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding cultural burning in Tasmania.

Aboriginal cultural burning, practiced for tens of thousands of years, has played a key role in shaping the Tasmanian landscape. While cultural burning can reduce bushfire fuel loads, this is not always the purpose.

Recognising this distinction, and that cultural burning in Tasmania is undertaken exclusively by Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the Government is committed to working in partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to explore opportunities for cultural burning within the state's national parks and reserves.

The Tasmanian Government has allocated funds to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife (PWS) to support Aboriginal cultural burning in Tasmania. This funding has enabled collaboration between the PWS and Aboriginal community organisations to undertake cultural burning on PWS-managed public land.

The PWS employs an Aboriginal Fire Coordinator and two Aboriginal Fire Officers to support and promote cultural burning. This includes engaging with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to identify suitable areas, facilitating the necessary approvals for Aboriginal organisations to undertake cultural burning, and supporting the involvement of Aboriginal people in the PWS planned burning program.

Once again, thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Felix Ellis".

Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

10/6/2026