



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

PROPOSED FORESTS (FIRE PROTECTION) REGULATIONS

Notice of Preparation of a Regulatory Impact Statement

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2014.

The proposed Regulations are made under the **Forests Act 1958** and regulate or prohibit activities which may lead to the ignition of bushfire, in particular:

- lighting of fires, including campfires, in the open air
- use of smokers by apiarists
- use of engines, including chainsaws and generators
- some activities of sawmills and other operations.

They will replace the current Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2004.

The RIS discusses the costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations. Government objectives for the management of bushfire on public land are to:

- minimise the impact of major bushfires on human life, communities, essential and community infrastructure, industries, the economy and the environment.
- maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products.

Option 1 – Graduated penalties to reflect the seriousness of offence

This option weighs the costs and benefits of the current regulations against those of the proposed regulations. Under the proposed regulations, infringement penalties will be introduced for some regulations.

Option 2 – Measures aimed at park users

Under option 2, DEPI compares the costs and benefits of performance based regulations, best practice guidelines aimed at park users and of the proposed regulations.

Option 3 – Measures aimed at businesses/operations

This option weighs the merits of safety case regulations, best practice guidelines aimed at sawmills and other operations and of the proposed regulations.

The RIS finds that the proposed Regulations provide the best means of balancing fire prevention objectives with the interests of commercial and recreational users of Victoria's national parks, State forests and protected public land and the land surrounding these areas.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from www.depi.vic.gov.au or by calling the Department of Environment and Primary Industries' Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (between 8 am and 6 pm weekdays).

Members of the public are invited to provide comment on the RIS and the proposed Regulations.

All comments must be in writing and must be received at the following address or emailed to ffp.regulations@depi.vic.gov.au by 5 pm, Sunday 27 April 2014.

Policy and Legislation Unit
Fire and Emergency Management Division
Department of Environment and Primary Industries
PO Box 500 East Melbourne, Victoria 8002

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

Dated 25 March 2014

RYAN SMITH MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

SPECIAL

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