

# Tasmania Fire Service

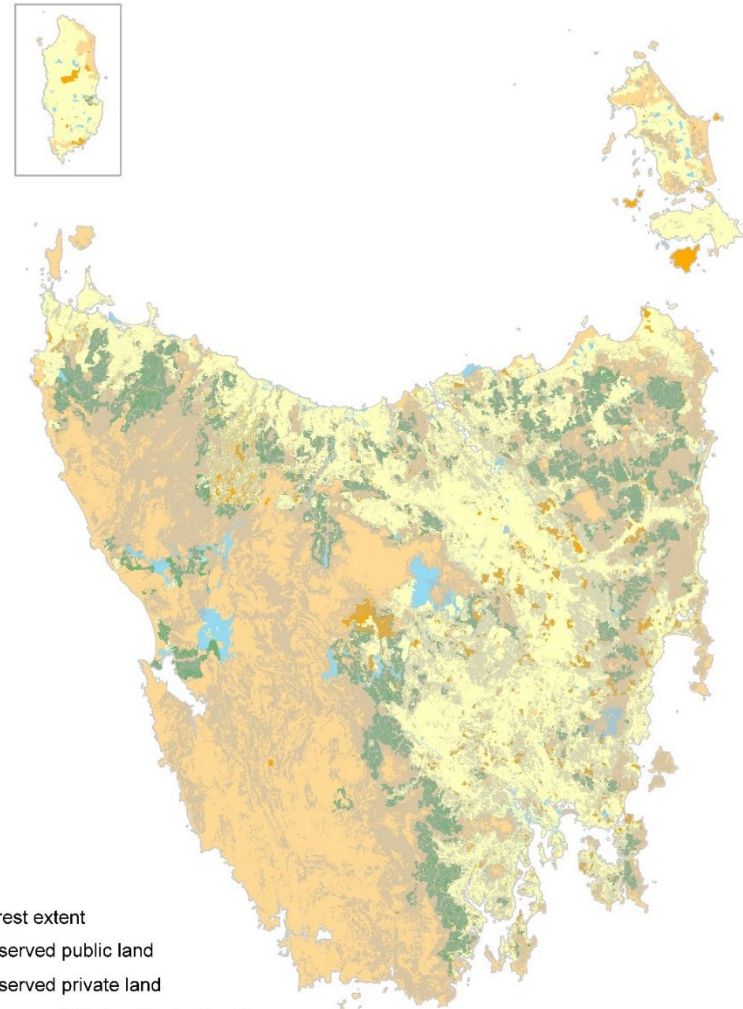
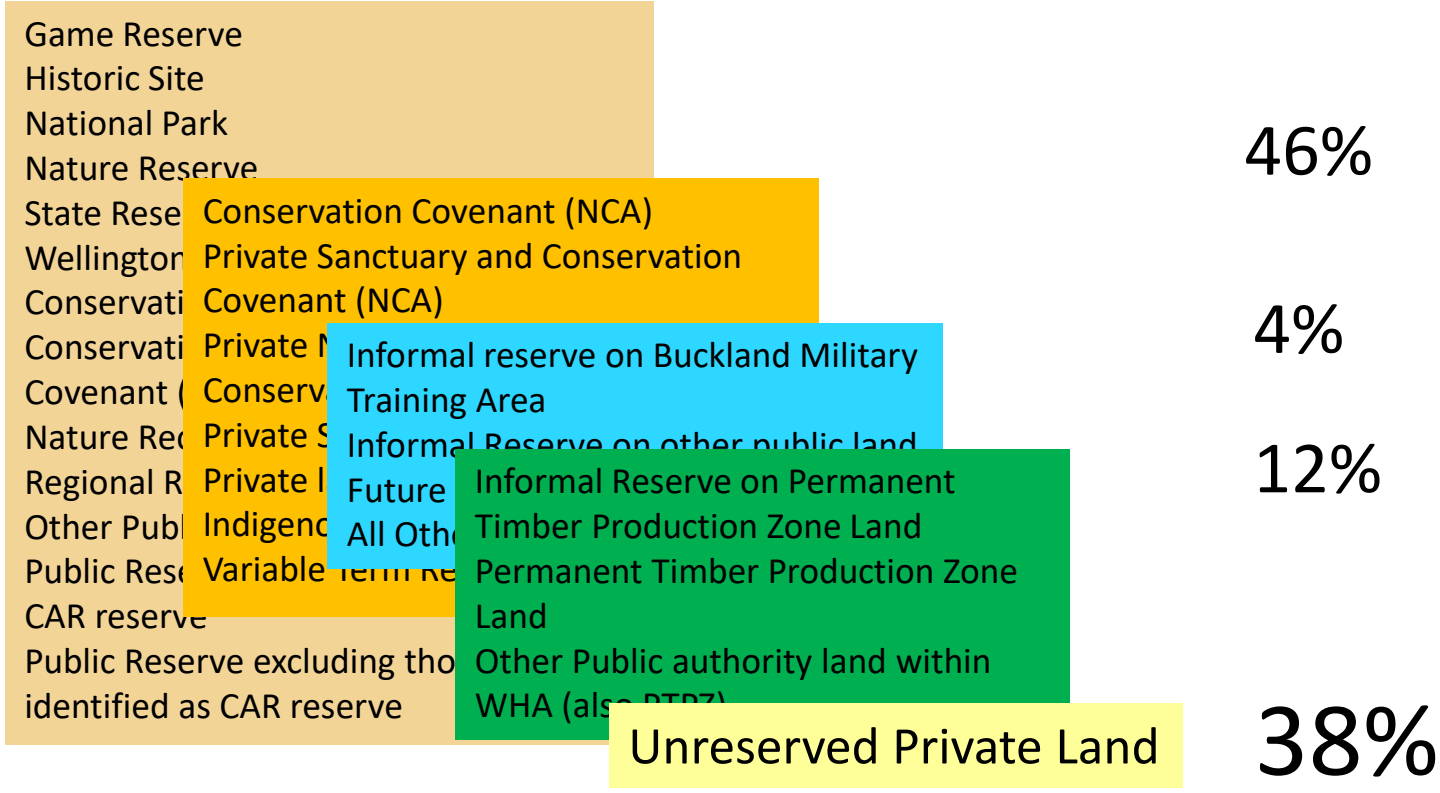
## Practical bushfire management on private land: Red Hot Tips

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Tasmania Fire Service

# Private land and fire management in Tasmania



- Forest extent
- Reserved public land
- Reserved private land
- Permanent Timber Production Zone
- Other Crown land
- Other private land

Distribution of forest by tenure as of June 2021. FPA 2022, *State of the forests Tasmania 2022*.

# Fire management responsibility in Tasmania

- Fire management is more than prescribed burning
- It is how land managers and fire authorities prepare, prevent and respond to wildfires, manage fuel, ecology and community values and expectations, and how recovery is facilitated after fire
- Three main fire management agencies in Tasmania
- Local government and private landholders are also responsible for managing fire hazards on their land

Fire Service Act 1979:

*All landowners/occupiers have a responsibility to maintain their properties to reduce fire hazard*



Tasmania Fire Service

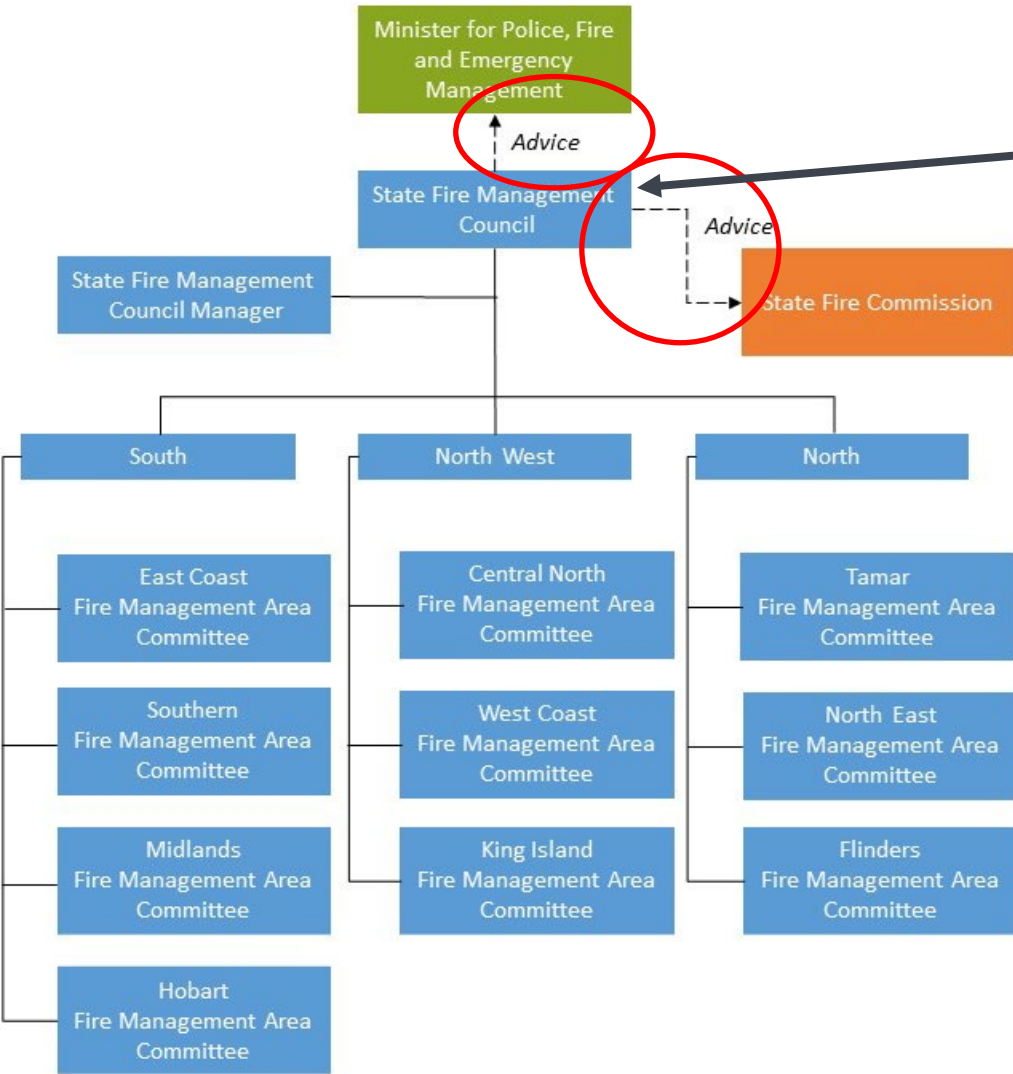


Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian Forest Products Association

# State Fire Management Council



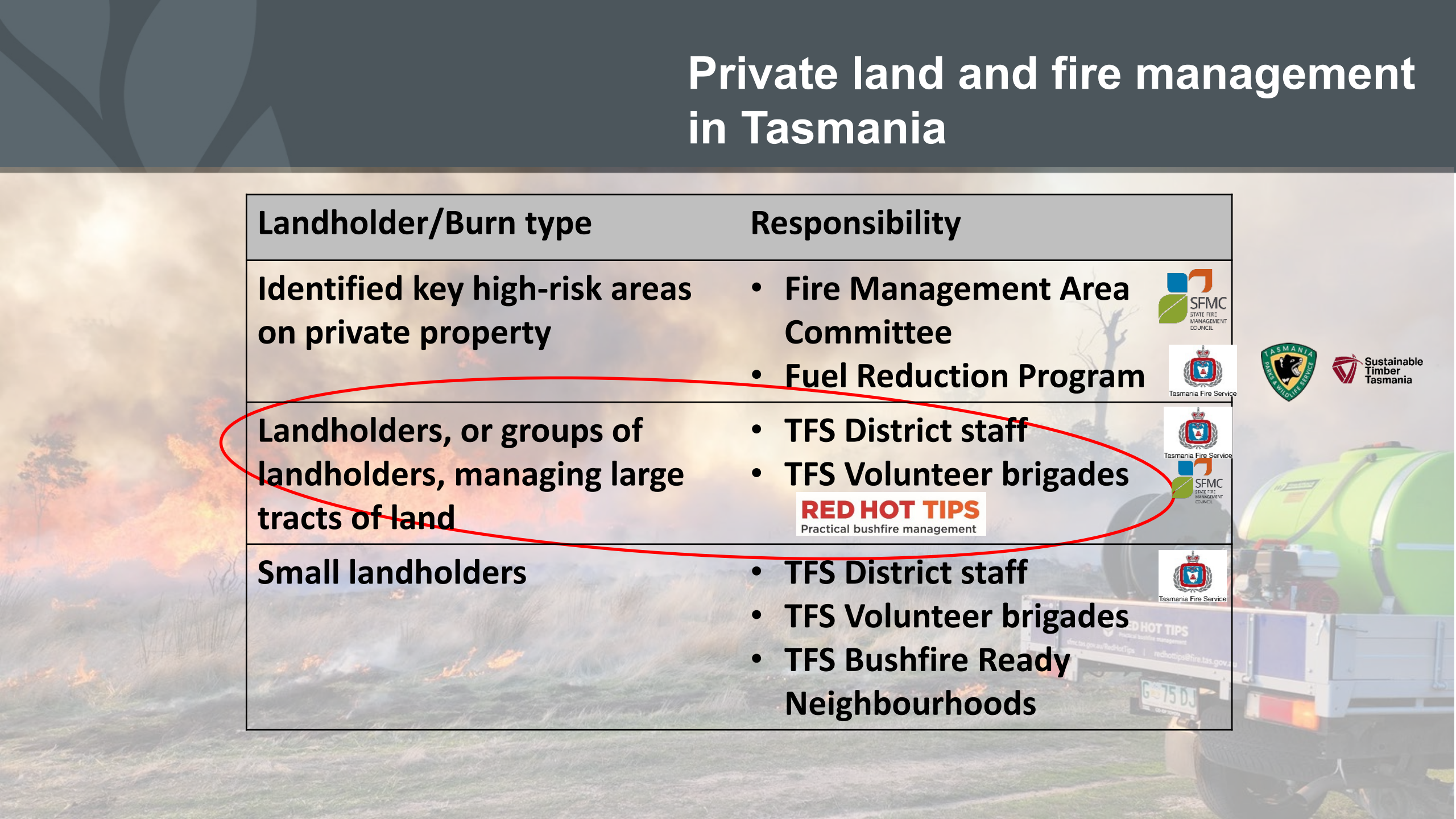
Independently chaired statutory body

*AIM: to enhance the efficient management of bushfire related risk in Tasmania in order to protect life, property, and significant community values.*



# Private land and fire management in Tasmania

Landholder/Burn type	Responsibility
Identified key high-risk areas on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Management Area Committee</li> <li>• Fuel Reduction Program</li> </ul>
Landholders, or groups of landholders, managing large tracts of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TFS District staff</li> <li>• TFS Volunteer brigades</li> </ul> <p><b>RED HOT TIPS</b> Practical bushfire management</p>
Small landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TFS District staff</li> <li>• TFS Volunteer brigades</li> <li>• TFS Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods</li> </ul>



# Red Hot Tips aims to:

- Encourage collaborative vegetation fire management and ecological sustainability across the landscape.
- Educate, engage and support landholders, or groups of landholders, responsible for large tracts of land to actively manage their bushfire risk.



# Objectives, Objectives. Did I mention Objectives?

- Red Hot Tips works with landowners to develop burn plans that identify management objectives.
- Landowners are supported with all planning stages, from the identification of objectives to ignition strategy.

*“Your burn objective should be developed in response to a fire management issue, these are usually either protection, risk mitigation, ecological or land management. The burn objective needs to be **clear** and **measurable**.”*

Sam Tacey, Red Hot Tips

Reduce overall fuel hazard to low over the majority of the planned area, to reduce bushfire risk and increase the ease of firefighting strategies for our farm and local area

To stimulate regrowth of grasses over 90% of the target area

To reduce logging slash by 90%



# Advice, permits, registration, values, planning, resources, fire behaviour, risk, safety...

- Context of planned burning in Australia
- Fire permits, registering burns, liability
- Understanding the factors that influence fire behaviour (fuel, structure, arrangement, conditions, topography, fuel hazard, controls)
- Ignition plan, ignition pattern
- Natural and cultural values
- Pre-burn preparation (breaks, smoke, assets, communications, permits)
- Resources
- Safety and risk assessment
- Weather forecasting and prescriptions
- Pre and post burn

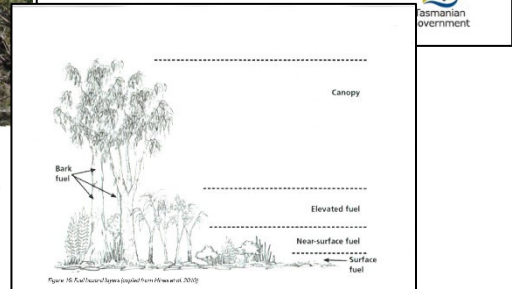
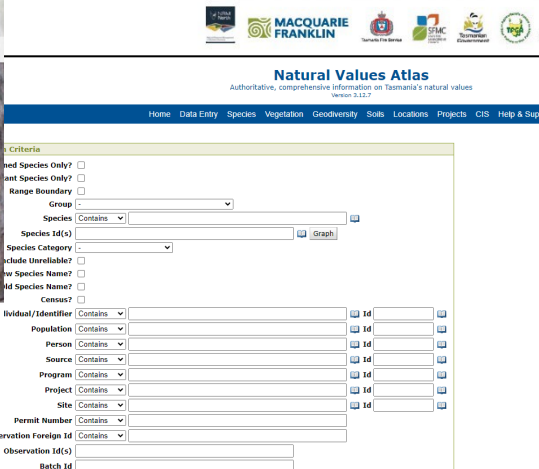
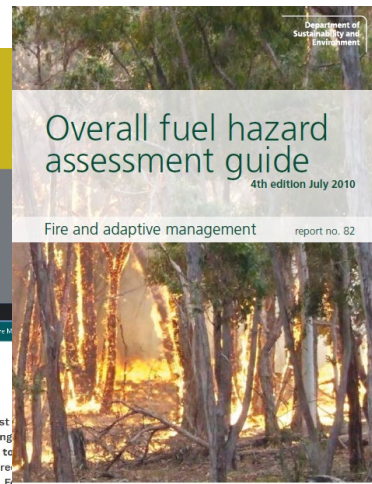
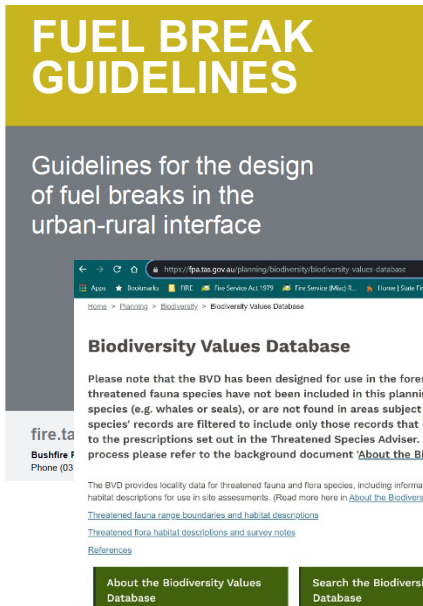
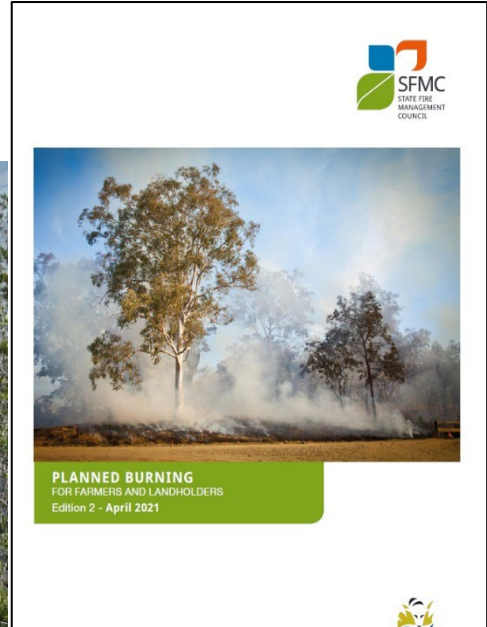
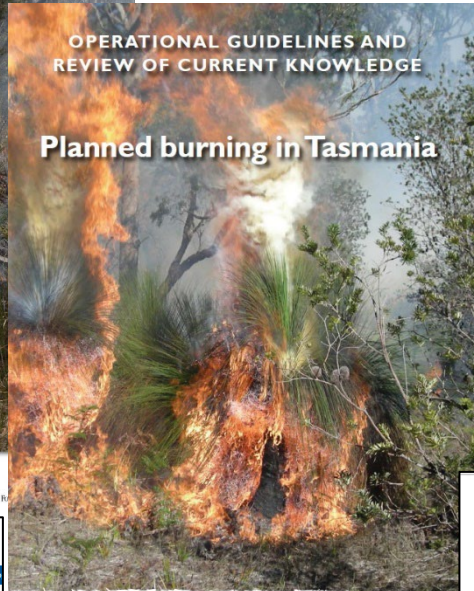
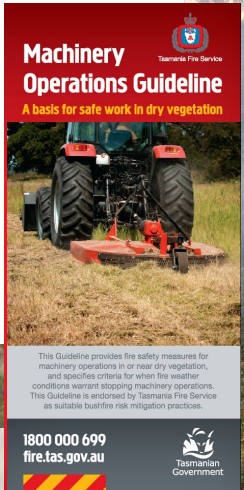
*Properly carried out, prescribed burning reduces the spread and severity of bushfire. It makes a valuable contribution to reducing the risks to communities and firefighters by complementing effective suppression and is one of the essential protective strategies associated with making it safer for people to live and work in bushfire-prone areas in the state (Teague et al. 2010).*





# Decision support tools (science to practice)

- Planned burning in Tasmania
- Planned burning for farmers and landholders
- Natural values
- Guidelines
- Legislation



# To burn, or not to burn, is **NOT** the question

- Prescribed burning reduces fuel, improves vegetation health, and maintains weeds.
- Prescribed burning frequency, fire intensity, smoke management, natural processes.
- **Prescribed burning is just one tool in the tool kit**

*In some cases, burning might not be the best outcome. You might have a damp forest or a rainforest that can't burn. So, we can also look at other treatments that are available like slashing or grazing.*

Andrew Cargill – Red Hot Tips



*Prescribed burning combined with other vegetation fire management tools can help solve a landholder's fire management problems*

Frank Bishop – Red Hot Tips



# Boundaries? What boundaries?

- Landholders, or groups of landholders, responsible for large tracts of land in rural Tasmania
- Government, (e.g. private land conservation)
- Tasmanian Aboriginal community
- Industry



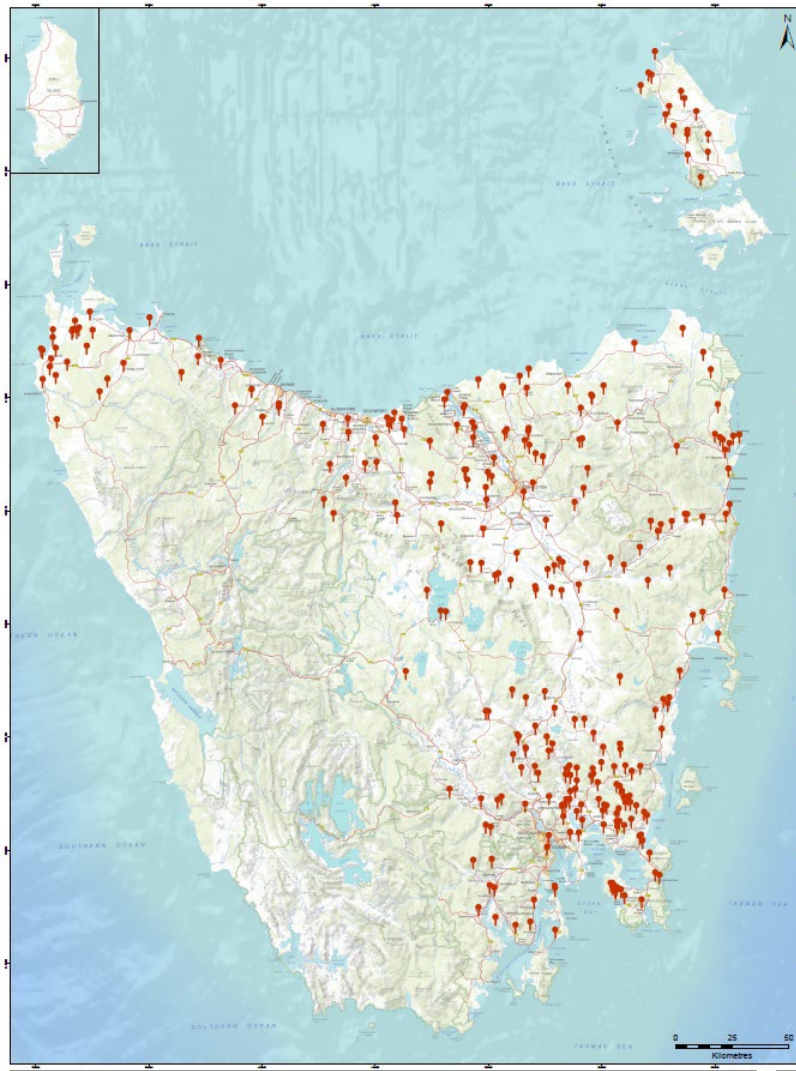
Photo: © Gill Basnett



*Fire, smoke, weeds, threatened species, threatened vegetation... these things all cross boundaries. So must we. Working across boundaries, we bring landholders and community groups together to work jointly to mitigate bushfire risk across properties.*

Sam Tacey – Red Hot Tips

# Red Hot Tips. Summary



- 3-4 full-time staff
- 306 registered properties across Tasmania
- Program registered landholders together manage an area of 394,426 ha of private land (15% of total private land in Tasmania)
- Completed 604 burns (12,374 ha)
- Mentored 32 burns
- Attended 167 events



# Questions? Thank you

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