

# Deals on forestry burns

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TASMANIA'S forestry companies have started "horse-trading" for smoke allocations as part of new regulations for forest burns.

The controversial autumn burn-off season began on Wednesday and this year land managers face restrictions on the size and number of burns that can happen each day.

The Smoke Management Strategy is a two-year trial aimed at cutting smoke pollution.

## Limits on trial to reduce pollution

Forestry Tasmania's head of fire management Tony Blanks said the Forest Practices Authority analysed weather information and set a daily cap on smoke allocations.

Forestry companies and the Parks and Wildlife Service then

emailed through bids for the allocations.

"There's potential for horse-trading between all of the burners," Mr Blanks said.

He said it was hoped the trial would help prevent situations like last May when all

Protection Authority said the first of a new series of air-quality monitoring stations would operate next month.

Mr Blanks said Forestry Tasmania had about 400 burns on its schedule, starting in the Florentine Valley, Huon Valley and Murchison areas.

"Between 4000 and 5000ha will be burned," he said, although the new regulations could disrupt those plans.

"It may be that we don't get all of our burning program done this year," he said.

Mr Blanks said bushfire-prevention burns would happen later in the season and he expected the various stakeholders to give preference to those activities when it came to bidding for allocations.

"I would hope everyone will take a public spirit approach to it," he said.

Sparks from Forestry Tasmania's regeneration burn in the Florentine Valley on Wednesday caused the fire to spread beyond the intended boundary, he said.

burn-offs happened late in the season and caused a build-up of smoke in Hobart.

"We don't want a repeat of last autumn," Mr Blanks said.

The state's Environment