



Media Release  
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## **Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife Service issue safety message ahead of long weekend**

Over the coming weeks, a number of roads inside of fire impacted areas will reopen. The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) would like to remind visitors about potential hazards when venturing into production forests, parks and reserves.

Visitors undertaking recreational and other activities are reminded of the increased risks in and around fire affected areas. This risk results from fire damaged trees as well as a number of other post fire dangers including unstable burnt ground and infrastructure.

STT Fire Management Manager Dean Sheehan said crews are working hard within the impacted areas to locate and remove dangerous trees alongside major roads, however there will remain an ongoing and real risk that trees may fall before or after this work is completed.

“Many minor roads and tracks remain blocked and obstructed and will remain closed to the public if the environment is assessed to be hazardous,” Mr Sheehan said.

In addition, specific areas remain closed for safety reasons such as the Tahune Airwalk. These areas will remain closed until further notice, when assessments can be made and they are deemed safe to be reopened. Please observe all signage and do not attempt to drive tracks that are obstructed.

PWS State Fire Manager Paul Black said visitors are asked to reconsider their plans in particular if windy or wet weather is forecast, and to keep an eye on the forecast fire danger rating if planning on venturing into remote areas or camping within reserves.

“When setting off on bushwalks, walkers are reminded to always use the Walker Registration Logbooks provided, and to sign in and out and carry an emergency communication device such as Personal Locator Beacon or satellite phone” Mr Black said.

Campfire restrictions are in place across all national parks, reserves and crown land statewide until further notice. This includes all campfires, fire pots and other enclosed devices that burn wood, charcoal or solid fuel.

Visitors are asked to respect road closure signs and direction from staff or contractors on the ground for their safety and that of staff members. There will be ongoing fire management and rehabilitation operations being conducted throughout the impacted areas.

Both PWS and STT are working hard to restore access to the publicly managed land in fire impacted areas. However, with the current focus remaining on containment and impact assessment, it will take considerable time before all areas can be reopened.

Information relating to Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service Track and Reserves Closures can be found at [www.parks.tas.gov.au/closures](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/closures) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania road closures can be found at [www.sttas.com.au](http://www.sttas.com.au). Fire alerts list and map can be found at [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

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