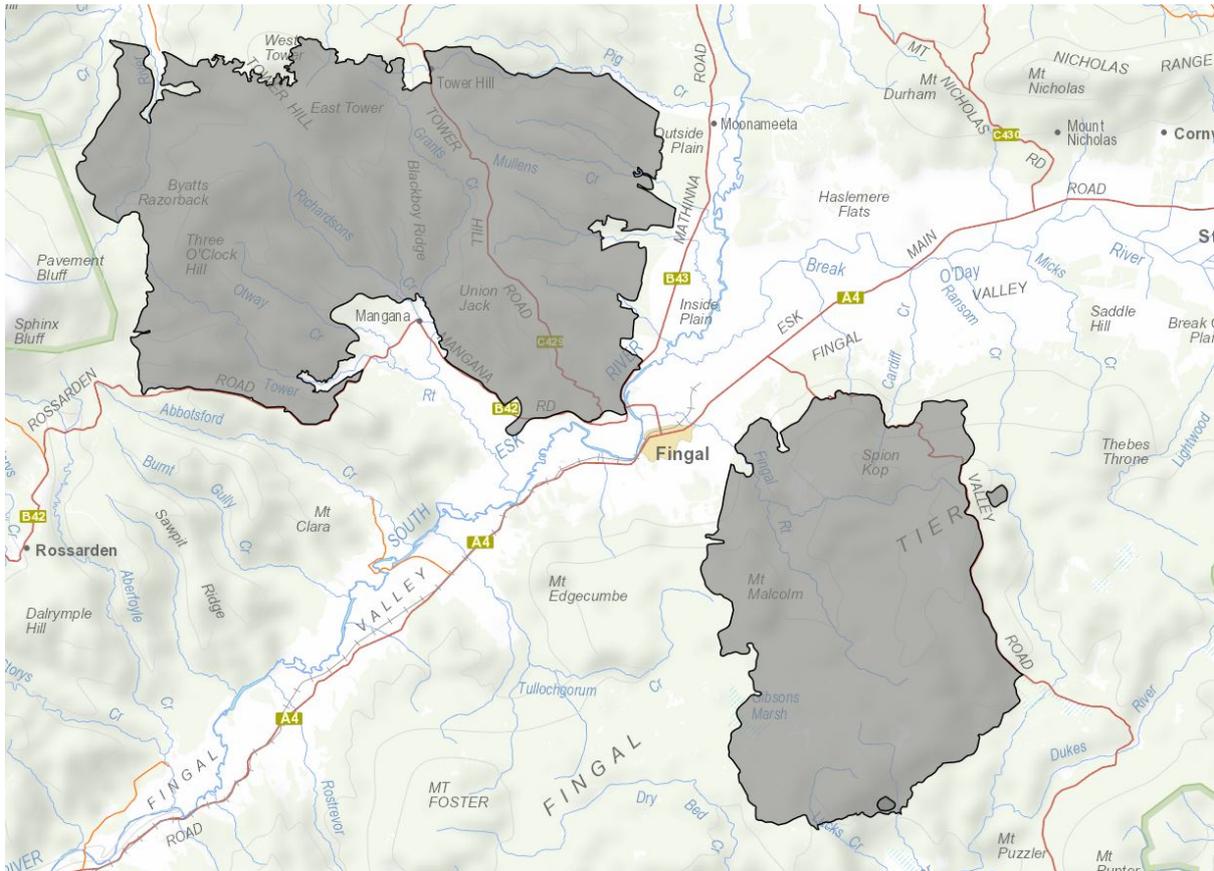


Fingal Fire – Our Story



The Fingal Bushfire in the North East Region has been contained. Both fires, north and south of Fingal are contained as a result of the hard work and dedication of Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) staff in collaboration with Tasmania Fire Service, STT contractors, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, SES and more.

The first fire started on Monday 30 December 2019, in the Mangana area. This fire grew in size due to unfavorable weather, topography and extremely dry fuel and ground conditions. This fire spotted to the south of Fingal into the Mt Malcolm area.

Since the start of this fire, Sustainable Timber Tasmania has deployed staff and contractors from all regions to assist with the firefighting efforts in both the Incident Management Team and on the fireground. STT staff have worked in a variety of roles in the Incident Management Team, including Operations, Situation, Public Information and Rehabilitation. STT staff have worked on the fireground as Plant Managers, Forward Operations, Division Commanders, Sector Commanders and Firefighters. We are very proud of the efforts from all staff in working in a variety of roles to contain this fire.

For this fire to be contained, a series of challenging back burning operations were completed in a variety of weather conditions. Our staff capabilities in executing back burning operations have meant that back burning operations on the Fingal Bushfire were successful.

We have completed significant work and contributed STT staff to complete rehabilitation planning and will continue to work to make the fireground safe by identifying hazardous trees and other works to ultimately restore the area to its pre-bushfire condition.

Although contained, the Fingal Bushfire will likely require patrolling for the rest of the summer. This will largely be undertaken from Sustainable Timber Tasmania staff and the Tower Hill Fire Tower.

The impact on the Tasmanian forest industry from the Fingal fire has been significant. As of 14 January, an estimated up to \$30 million of forest industry assets (both public and industrial private) have been impacted, including both softwood and hardwood plantations and native forest. These losses will have a significant impact on harvest schedule, wood production and local and regional employment for contractors.

STT will continue to work to identify the impact to our assets and will plan for rehabilitation and amendment to harvesting schedules as required.

The fire season for 2020 has just begun, and the work on the Fingal fire is a testament to the dedication of STT staff to their firefighting capabilities and responsibilities.