



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT (RIS)

Proposed Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2004

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Forests (Fire Protection) Regulations 2004.

The proposed Regulations are to be made under the **Forests Act 1958** replacing the Forests (Fire Protection) (Interim) Regulations 2004 that are due to sunset on 30 June 2004.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to reduce the possibility of fire and the use of heat engines and equipment from causing wildfires which may threaten life and property and environmental values within Victoria's forests, parks and reserves. The main purposes of the proposed Regulations are to prescribe the conditions under which fire, equipment and machinery may be used within State forests, national parks and protected public land at any time of the year, and the conditions under which fire, equipment and machinery may be used on adjacent private land in those parts of Victoria which are subject to the "fire protected area" as defined in the **Forests Act 1958**. The proposed Regulations also provide for fire prevention and suppression measures for sawmills operating within the fire protected area.

The RIS discusses possible alternatives to the proposed Regulations and concludes that the proposed Regulations are the best means of achieving the stated objectives.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Department's Information Centre at 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, or by phoning 136 186 (between 9am and 5pm weekdays). Electronic copies may be obtained from the Department's internet site at www.dse.vic.gov.au/ris.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and the accompanying Regulations. All comments

must be in writing and must be received at the following address by 5pm on Friday 11 June 2004.

Mike Niven
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All submissions will be treated as public documents.

Dated 7 May 2004.

JOHN THWAITES
Minister for Environment

SPECIAL

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