

## Victoria Government Gazette

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## Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND (REVISION 1) AND PREPARATION OF REVOCATION OF THE EXISTING CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND

Notice is given that, in accordance with Part 5 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 –

- a) A draft of the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (Revision 1) (the draft Code) has been prepared.
- b) A revocation of the existing Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (which was approved on 21 December 1995 and notice of approval published in Government Gazette No. S125 on 21 December 1995) (the existing Code) has been prepared.

The existing Code provides the overall framework for the integrated management of fire and fire related activities on public land in Victoria. The Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land is designed to ensure that the response to wildfire and the use of prescribed burning are in accordance with sound environmental guidelines, and assist the achievement of other fire management objectives.

The draft Code will replace the existing Code once it is approved. The draft Code has been prepared in consultation with the community including a Discussion Paper and a series of Regional Information Sessions, as well as contributions from academics, the forest industry, key stakeholders, fire agencies and catchment management authorities.

Public comments and submissions are now invited on the draft Code and the proposed revocation of the existing Code.

A copy of the draft Code and the revocation of the existing Code may be obtained from: the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Customer Service Centre by phoning 136 186 (between 8am to 8pm); DSE Offices in Melbourne, Bendigo, Benalla, Traralgon, Box Hill and Ballarat; via email to firecode.review@dse.vic.gov.au; or on the Internet at www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires.

Submissions on the draft Code and the revocation of the existing Code must be made within 60 days of publication of this notice and are due by close of business (5.00 p.m.) 2 September 2005. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

All submissions must be in writing and should be sent to: Fire Code Review, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002, via fax (03) 9637 8589, or via email to firecode.review@dse.vic.gov.au.

The information provided in the submissions will be used by DSE for the purpose of reviewing the draft Code and the revocation of the existing Code. It may be disclosed to review panels and other relevant agencies as part of the overall review process. All responses will be treated as public documents and will be placed on the Internet for public access unless a formal request for confidentially is made. All such requests for confidentiality (whether in relation to the whole submission or any personal information contained within the submission) will be honoured by DSE. However, please note that access to confidential submissions may be sought under the **Freedom of Information Act 1982**. If you wish to access information in your submission once it is lodged with the Department you may make a request by contacting the Fire Code Review Team at the above address.

JOHN THWAITES Minister for the Environment

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