



Media Release

Thursday, 10 May 2018 | Media contact: Andrew Oldroyd 0428 315 397

Fire restrictions lifted in East Gippsland

The Fire Danger Period and Seasonal Prohibited Period will end at 1.00am on Monday 14 May in the East Gippsland municipality.

These seasonal restrictions are based on local conditions and take into account fuel moistures, fuel loads, grassland curing, weather and rainfall.

CFA's Assistant Chief Officer, Trevor Owen said: "We've had a long and exceptionally dry summer which led to the extension of restrictions for East Gippsland.

"While restrictions are to be lifted, we urge everyone to be careful and plan their burns carefully.

"Ring the Vicfire Burn Off Line on 1800 668 511 before conducting any burns and use common sense. Any fire left unattended in windy conditions can spread into bushland, onto a neighbour's property or into other materials which could cause untold damage

"CFA places only limited restrictions on the lighting of fires in the open air outside the Fire Danger Period, but the lighting of fires may be fully or partly restricted under legislation and by-laws administered by your municipality and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)."

Always remember to:

- Check local by-laws before burning-off and never leave a burn-off unattended
- Tell your neighbours and call the Vicfire Burn Off Line so that brigades don't get called out to burn-offs unnecessarily
- Check the weather forecast before you burn off and never burn off in dry, hot, windy conditions.

"Anyone living in or travelling through Gippsland needs to keep an eye on the weather and be aware of their surroundings. We've had a relatively quiet fire season this year, but there's no need to be complacent," Mr Owen said.

Forest Fire Management Victoria Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Gippsland, Chris Stephenson said: "People enjoying Gippsland's National Parks and State forests should be as careful with the use of campfires over this period as they were in the Fire Danger Period – we've had too many bushfires caused by campfires this season.

"If people are in any doubt about the use of fire on private or public land, the best thing they can do is seek advice from either CFA or Forest Fire Management Victoria."

Information about fire restrictions is available in CFA's 'Can I or Can't I' brochure available at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/restrictions or by phoning the Emergency Vic Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Forest Fire Management Victoria consists of specialist staff drawn from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and VicForests. These staff work alongside CFA, other emergency services and communities across Victoria to protect people, property and the environment.