



Media Release

Thursday, 26 April 2018 | Media contact: Rachel Dawkins 0407 821 153

Fire restrictions extended in East Gippsland Shire

The Fire Danger Period and the Seasonal Prohibited Period, managed by CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria respectively, have been extended in East Gippsland Shire until 1.00am on Monday May 14.

CFA's Assistant Chief Officer, Trevor Owen said: "We have had a hot, dry summer with minimal rain, particularly in the east of the region, so CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria have decided to extend fire restrictions for a couple of weeks longer than usual.

"Autumn is bringing some unseasonably warm temperatures and we still have significant underlying dryness in east Gippsland," Mr Owen said.

"Both our agencies have responded to numerous fires on public and private land over the past few months, some of which have taken their toll on our communities.

"The Fire Danger Period and Seasonal Prohibited Period are being extended to ensure the community is not put under any unnecessary risk.

"We want to minimise the risk of further fires that could start as a result of private land burn offs in the continuing dry conditions.

"We've had an unusual summer in East Gippsland. Several private burn escapes occurred early on in the season and this led to CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria declaring the Fire Danger Period many weeks earlier than usual. We don't want to see private burn escapes this autumn, so we have extended the restrictions.

"To protect community safety, no fires can be lit on private land without a permit, which is subject to stringent conditions and can be obtained from your CFA District office," Mr Owen said.

"CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria crews will continue with their planned burning programs when weather conditions are suitable and safe to do so, also working under strict conditions and approval processes."

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.