

Fire & Smoke Management

Why are
Tasmania's
autumn skies
sometimes full
of smoke?

When a wet eucalypt forest burns in a fierce natural wildfire, massive columns of smoke rise. When the smoke clears, an open ash-bed is left behind. Within days, seed falls from trees left after the fire. With rain and sunlight, new seedlings sprout – and the new forest grows. In the forests, fire is essential for new life – without fire, wet eucalypt forests cannot regenerate.



Fire & Regeneration

In many of our working production forests, harvesting and regeneration systems imitate nature through the use of fire. Debris left on the ground after the logs have been harvested is burned, just as it would be in a wildfire. Seed, mostly collected from the harvested trees, is sown on the clear ash-bed – and the forest regenerates.

Autumn is the best and safest time for these regeneration burns. Foresters study weather forecasts to choose calm days, with the likelihood of rain to follow. The fires are lit so that they burn towards the centre of the harvested area, creating their own draught and minimising the risk of spreading.