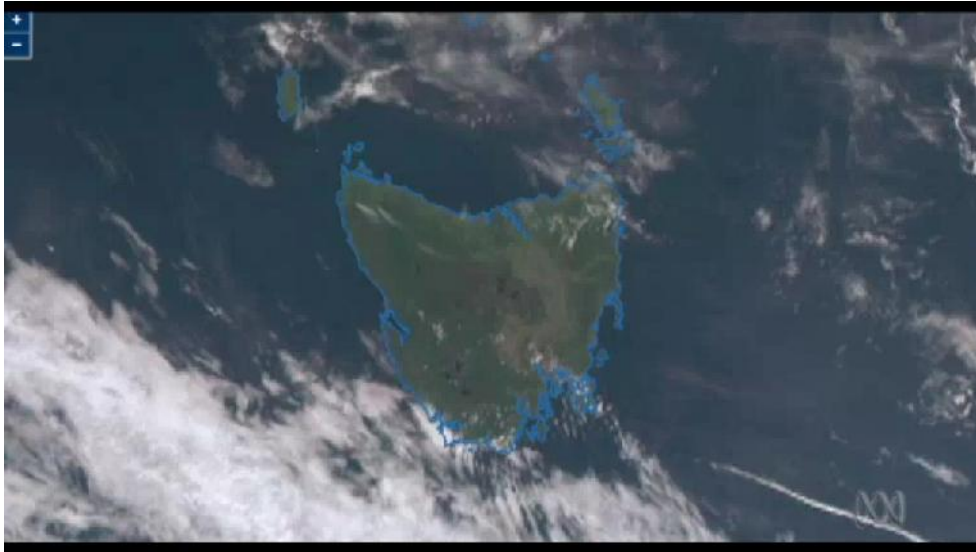




Smoke from forest regeneration burns in Tasmania seen in BoM imagery

By Laura Beavis

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GIF: The weather bureau's satellite images captured the smoke trail in Tasmania's north-west

Smoke from forestry regeneration burns in north-west Tasmania could deter tourists from visiting Cradle Mountain, environmentalists have warned.

The weather bureau (BoM) has confirmed the white line seen developing and stretching over the north-west on its satellite imagery was not cloud, but smoke.

Former Greens leader Bob Brown said Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake were both covered in smoke on Tuesday.

"With shuttle bus operations and car parks packed at the height of the season for visitors to see deciduous beech forest, the picturesque autumn scene is filled with manufactured smoke," he said.

"It's outrageous, these forest-destroying burns should be banned. They not only aggravate climate change, threatening the Tasmanian wilderness but they are destroying hundreds of visitors appreciation of some of the most delightful wild panoramas on Earth.

"They are an economic disaster."

Smoke has created 'light haze'

Accommodation providers near Cradle Mountain said a large amount of smoke has been visible in the area since mid-afternoon on Tuesday and there had not been any wind to disperse it.

They said the smoke had created a light haze but it was not obscuring views of the Cradle Mountain peaks, and it was much lighter than the smoke pall created by bushfires in the area during summer.

According to Forestry Tasmania, it conducted 10 regeneration burns in north-west Tasmania on Tuesday, near Trowutta, Edith Creek, Smithton and Wynyard.

It said the burns were only conducted if they complied with the state's Coordinated Smoke Management System, which was developed with the Environment Protection Authority.

It controls the amount of smoke that is allowed to be released each day in different areas.

The Bob Brown Foundation said there was also a fuel reduction burn conducted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service inside the Reynolds Falls conservation area of Cradle Mountain.

Forestry Tasmania issued a statement saying it had not conducted any forest regeneration burns near Cradle Mountain.

It said burns on Tuesday were primarily south of Smithton, and therefore any smoke anywhere near the ground at Cradle Mountain was likely to have come from burns conducted by other organisations and private property owners.

Topics: forestry, air-pollution, rural-tourism, tourism, cradle-mountain-7306

PHOTO: The smoke spread can be seen in the north-west tip of this weather bureau satellite picture. (Supplied: Bureau of Meteorology)

MAP: Cradle Mountain 7306