

Minister for Environment
Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Arts and Heritage



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10 April 2026

Mr Peter George MP
Independent Member for Franklin
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: Laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr George

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 25 March 2026 on behalf of your constituent, Mr Ron Booth, regarding fuel reduction in the Peter Murrell Reserve.

I can advise burning in the Reserve forms part of the ongoing Statewide Fuel Reduction Program, undertaken by Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

Since 2009, 11 burns have been completed by PWS within the reserve as part of its Planned Burn program. Since 2020, 34 percent of the reserve has been burnt (91 hectares over four burns).

I understand PWS has developed a fire strategy for the reserve which applies nationally-recognised Fire Management Zoning across the reserve, with asset protection zones situated on the eastern boundary and the urban interface. Fire frequency in these zones is determined by fuel hazard assessment.

PWS aims to maintain a variety of age classes of vegetation in the reserve through rotating the burns across the area, to reduce fuels while still maintaining species habitats. Burn frequency is an important consideration for PWS in balancing threatened species obligations under State and Commonwealth legislation and life and property protection.

As well as the planned burn program, a comprehensive fire trail network is maintained within the reserve to provide fire vehicle access. Slashing of fuel breaks to remove fine surface fuels is also undertaken every year across the reserve.

PWS also invests in managing bushfire risk through other mechanisms. These include preventing ignitions by regulating where and when fires are permitted, preparing for bushfires by training staff and ensuring readiness on peak fire days and deploying resources to suppress fires and protect people and assets.

I appreciate your ongoing interest in this space and for your advocacy on behalf of Mr Booth. PWS have indicated they are happy to arrange to meet Mr Booth on site to discuss further. Please contact the office of the Minister for Parks if you would like to coordinate this meeting through PWS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ogilvie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Environment
acting for and on behalf of the
Minister for Parks