



## Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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17 February 2010

### **Outrage at the State Government's ill-timed burns**

Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe has slammed the timing of the State Government's plan to carry out fuel reduction burns in the Yarra Valley region.

"I am the biggest advocate of the need for increased fuel reduction burns," Mrs Fyffe said.

"However the Government's plan to burn so close to the Yarra Valley vineyards at such a critical stage of the growing cycle is crazy," Mrs Fyffe said.

"After ten years of neglect in reducing the fuel loads on forest floors, the government is making decisions on the run without consultation, without using basic common sense and without any regard to people's jobs and families," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Growers lost the majority of their crops due to smoke taint last year. The last thing they need now is smoke destroying the 2010 harvest," Mrs Fyffe said.

"So many jobs in tourism were lost last year. People employed in the wine industry and associated businesses such as cellar doors and restaurants endured months of reduced hours which has taken a toll on workers paying mortgages and rent," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The wine industry is the lynch pin of tourism in the Yarra Valley," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The possibility of smoke taint or of fires raging out of control is going to take some businesses to breaking point," Mrs Fyffe said.

"DSE promised to consult, promised to inform. They have not. They have just released a statement saying where they are going to burn. This is indicative of a government that is grossly out of touch with what is happening on the ground," Mrs Fyffe said.

**Media: Ruth Barendse – 9735 3208**