



The Department of Environment and Conservation wishes to advise the Margaret River Wine Industry Association of its proposed Spring 2008 Prescribed Burn Program in the South West Region.

The burns indicated are being undertaken for a range of purposes including management of fuels on DEC lands for protection of life, property and community values, protection and enhancement of biodiversity values, and also for regeneration of forests following timber harvesting operations.

Each of the burns on the program is subject to a comprehensive planning and implementation process, including pre burn environmental checklists. Part of the planning process includes written notification to immediate neighbouring properties. These neighbours will receive a more detailed map of the individual burn and information in relation to purpose and timing of burn.

The Department takes into consideration known adjoining vineyards and processing facilities when planning for prescribed burns, including development of burn ignition strategies which aim to minimise potential for smoke to transport and settle on vineyards for sustained periods – particularly in the period of veraison.

At present the Department is working with the Agricultural Department to update their database on vineyard locations within the Southwest, as this is not yet complete we still rely on a neighbour notification process and local knowledge and field inspections to identify vineyards and processing facilities adjacent to scheduled prescribed burns.