Media Release

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Reminder to protect valuable paddock trees when burning stubble

Landholders are being urged to take the necessary steps to protect paddock trees when burning stubble on their properties.

Fire restrictions are currently in place with a Fire Danger Period declared by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) until the start of May. This means that a permit is required to burn grass, stubble and other vegetation on your property until the Fire Danger Period ends.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Regional Manager Natural Environment Programs, Jane Roots said native paddock trees have significant biodiversity benefits and are protected by law.

Good planning and management before burning on your property is important and will help avoid impacts, ensuring these valuable trees are protected in the long term.

There are a few actions you can take to protect paddock trees: slash around the tree to establish an adequate fire break and wet the area around the tree before beginning your burn.

It is also important to ensure you have adequate water and the right equipment on hand to extinguish the fire before starting a burn.
Find out more at www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/farming-and-native-vegetation

Please ensure you follow all CFA guidelines which outline what you can and can't do during a declared Fire Danger Period.
Find more information at https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Anyone wanting to report concerns about stubble burning and the destruction of any paddock trees should contact their local council.

Quotes attributable to Hume Regional Manager Natural Environment Programs, Jane Roots

"It is important to protect native paddock trees. They provide shade to stock, reduce wind impacts to crops, store carbon, and provide habitat to important pollinators and birds that feed on pests."

"We encourage landholders to be well prepared before beginning a stubble burn. Creating firebreaks around trees and having water and equipment ready to extinguish the fire will ensure you can protect your valued native trees."

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