

1. I am a Volunteer member of the Milman Rural Fire Brigade that uses my own equipment when attending fires in our area of the Livingston Shire Council.
2. I own a property at Milman Qld division of the LSC 4702.
3. Our Milman Rural Fire Brigade (dads army) consists with 95% of our members over 60 and are very officiant when attending fires in our area.
4. We have had 2 cyclones come through our area in the last 5 or 6 years.
5. Our Brigade did do reduction burns earlier in the year in our area (problem areas & along the country roads in our area) with the approval of the LSC and as it turned out was the best thing that could have done to reduce the amount of build up debris on the ground. This elevated problems in our area not like what happened at the Caves. Massive build up of debris.
6. The Caves Fire was enormous and getting out of that one without loss of life was very fortunate.
7. I did attend the Caves Fire pushing it back from farming area's at Mt Etna. The only way this was, could have been done was by using the dozed fire breaks and back burning.
8. I did take photo's which I have, in the area's that I attended. Horrendous.
9. I put these up on face book when I arrived home at midnight and my comments were about back burning between fire breaks and that was the only way the fire could be controlled without burning out the farming crops being burnt out that I was trying to protect.
10. When this was put on face book my wife received a phone call (I was not home) to tell me to take out the word back burn out of my post or I would be reported to the 1st officer of my Milman Rural Fire Brigade. Which she deleted.
11. Talk about being pissed off when I was told. THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE ENCROACHING FIRE at the wild fires I attended was to back burn into the encroaching fire. Some guys just need to go and see what happens at these fires
12. Build up of combustion and debris on the ground needs to be removed and more reduction burns needs to be done.

Anyway I do not know if this is what I was supposed to say and I am no expert (just a dads army helper) but this is the way I saw it. Farmers need more assistance.

Greg.