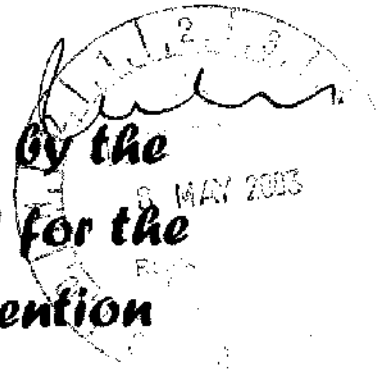




Towong Shire Council  
*Legends, Lakes and Valleys*

**Submission prepared by the  
 Towong Shire Council for the  
 Municipal Fire Prevention  
 Committee  
 on May 1, 2003**



The Towong Shire Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Committee (MFPC) was established in 1995 pursuant to S54 of the CFA Act. The Committee meets twice per year the first meeting prior to the beginning of the fire season (usually October) to assess the requirements for the coming fire danger period. The second meeting (usually late May or June) allows the Committee to review the effectiveness of the Fire Prevention Strategy and its strategies and the operation of fire suppression work to determine any changes required for future operations.

Following the recent bushfires experienced in Victoria and particularly in the north east and the area known as the Upper Murray, the committee met to discuss the impact on local areas ranging from the Biggara, Nariel and Tallangatta Valleys, Corryong to Mitta Mitta and beyond.

The following submission is forwarded on behalf of the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee.

The major issue is lack of available water in close proximity to the fire front. The topography is steep and land use ie: forest and parks, mean that there is few natural water holding points. This placed a huge draw on private supplies to fight fires on crown land, eg: dams. It also leads to significant delays in hauling water to the fire front due to load distances and difficult terrain.

It is not a question of being able to gain access to private supplies but that there should be a network of strategic storages, eg: dams, within a reasonable distance to perpetual firefronts and consistent with the fire defence system to be used eg: road tanker or helitanker.

In upper catchments the supplies cannot be readily restored especially in periods of drought.

Such a system could provide significant environmental values if integrated into wildlife corridors and catchment management plans. The supplies would essentially consist of dense storages and should be a legitimate entitlement to protect the catchment and subsequent water quality. It should be stipulated that the provision of such storage dams would be for the specific use of fire protection in times of need.

**Recommendation:**

1. That a series of strategic storages be established to complement the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan; and
2. That such storages be legitimate entitlements in water legislation as protecting catchment and subsequent water quality.

**Submission prepared by Towong Shire Council's Manager Technical Services, Mr. Peter Lenaghan.**

**Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lenaghan on (02) 6071 5100.**

**Towong Shire Council  
P.O. Box 55  
TALLANGATTA. 3700  
Date: May 8, 2003**



0260712371



TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 55  
TALLANGATTA. 3700  
Ph: (02) 6071 5100 Fax: (02) 6071 2371

TO: Bushfire Reps...  
FROM: Diana Snaith  
DATE: May 8, 2003  
SUBJECT: Submission

NO OF PAGES: 3

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle



**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Attached is Council's submission in relation to Bushfires in the North East.**

**This submission has also been faxed.**

**Thanks.**

**Regards, Diana** 



Towong Shire Council  
*Legends, Lakes and Valleys*

***Submission prepared by the  
Towong Shire Council for the  
Municipal Fire Prevention  
Committee  
on May 1, 2003***

The Towong Shire Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Committee (MFPC) was established in 1995 pursuant to S54 of the CFA Act. The Committee meets twice per year the first meeting prior to the beginning of the fire season (usually October) to assess the requirements for the coming fire danger period. The second meeting (usually late May or June) allows the Committee to review the effectiveness of the Fire Prevention Strategy and its strategies and the operation of fire suppression work to determine any changes required for future operations.

Following the recent bushfires experienced in Victoria and particularly in the north east and the area known as the Upper Murray, the committee met to discuss the impact on local areas ranging from the Biggara, Nariel and Tallangatta Valleys, Corryong to Mitta Mitta and beyond.

The following submission is forwarded on behalf of the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee.

The major issue is lack of available water in close proximity to the fire front. The topography is steep and land use ie: forest and parks, mean that there is few natural water holding points. This placed a huge draw on private supplies to fight fires on crown land, eg: dams. It also leads to significant delays in hauling water to the fire front due to load distances and difficult terrain.

It is not a question of being able to gain access to private supplies but that there should be a network of strategic storages, eg: dams, within a reasonable distance to perpetual firefronts and consistent with the fire defence system to be used eg: road tanker or helitanker.

0260712371

- 2 -

In upper catchments the supplies cannot be readily restored especially in periods of drought.

Such a system could provide significant environmental values if integrated into wildlife corridors and catchment management plans. The supplies would essentially consist of dense storages and should be a legitimate entitlement to protect the catchment and subsequent water quality. It should be stipulated that the provision of such storage dams would be for the specific use of fire protection in times of need.

**Recommendation:**

1. That a series of strategic storages be established to complement the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan; and
2. That such storages be legitimate entitlements in water legislation as protecting catchment and subsequent water quality.

**Submission prepared by Towong Shire Council's Manager Technical Services, Mr. Peter Lenaghan.**

**Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lenaghan on (02) 6071 5100.**

**Towong Shire Council  
P.O. Box 55  
TALLANGATTA. 3700  
Date: May 8, 2003**