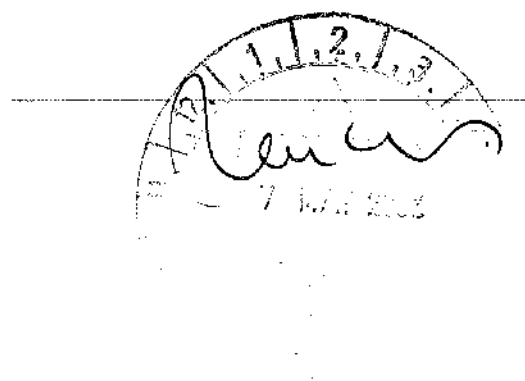


**Newsome, Silvana (REPS)**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 May 2003 1:14 AM  
**To:** Committee, Bushfires (REPS)  
**Subject:** Bush-Fire measure Inquiry.



[Bushfires.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Bushfires.reps@aph.gov.au)

6<sup>th</sup> May 2003

**Attention: Parliamentary Committee inquiry into Bush-Fire measures.**

Dear Sirs,

In response to advice from Australian Institute of Landscape Architects on your Parliamentary Committee's inquiry into measures to be implemented to minimise bushfire impacts, I contribute the following submission.

- 1) There can be no "One size fits all" approach to on ground actions. Fire danger is dependent on many variables including topography, vegetation type, weather, fuel loading, moisture, proximity to type of asset, access and ability for control of danger.
- 2) A 'Blanket' annual burn hazard reduction is not necessarily the answer... especially in this area. eg. Bladey and Whisky grass have the same explosive fuel loading within 3 months, even in drought and rainforest and fresh-water margin wetland will respectively revert to inflammable Eucalypt & Casuarina if allowed to regenerate.
- 3) Fire risk and fighting management must be 'locally' and site specific based to be effective. This from an individual understanding of the variable factors of 1) above, environmental and human resource expertise and education.
- 4) The locals should know how to prepare for, protect and fight fires in their own situation. If Government really wishes to effect fire danger minimisation, localised education programs should be considered as a large part of a program along with placing the onus on 'Individual' or 'community' protection.
- 5) "Reasonable" Bush fire precautions, preparations and risk management activities are to be commended but fire (or Bush-fires) are a natural phenomenon and part of Australian country life. To say that 'people should be totally protected from fire' is a farce.

To demonstrate the diversity of bush-fire control requirements; this area has recently received a new fire-truck (Cat 7) that is superior in many ways to our old petrol driven and water pump fuelled 1972 tanker. We applaud the investment and think it a perfect machine for the flatter grasslands of the western or delta/flood plain coastal areas. However we are in steep forested slope areas of the 'escarpment' and need something slightly different to be as good for us as the new Cat 7 would be for the flatter grassland areas. (eg. Larger wheel diameter, greater ground clearance, less cables (break & clutch) where they will get damaged by sticks/logs on the ground, etc.)

Fire prevention, management and control / fighting is a very area, time, situation and site specific thing and thus it is requested that these differences be effectively acknowledged and incorporated into any guidelines, DCP, LEP, REP, EPA Act or Local Government legislation as well as RFS assessment of Development Applications.

Hoping these comments are fruitful in delivering an effective, prepared community no matter in what situation people and assets may exist.

Yours Sincerely,

**Rupert G.H. Milne Home**

Landscape Architect and volunteer member of Bellbrook Rural Bush Fire Brigade (NSW).

7/05/2003