
ALLAN BROWN

July 16, 2003

Committee Secretary House Select Committee on the Recent Australian Bushfires.
Gary Nairn MP

Dear Gary

I understand you are presently Chairing Meetings around New South Wales in regard to last summer's bushfires.

Of course fires can't burn without fuel.

I am a member of the Far South Coast National Parks Advisory Committee; Tim Sheppard is the Regional Manager.

At one of the committees meetings late last year around September or October as it was evident the Country was in a Drought as it still is, I raised the matter of fuel reduction in National Parks and so on, because it was evident to me that there were many National Parks surrounding Forested areas in close vicinity to towns and villages in the State of New South Wales that were at substantial risk in the event of fire.

I asked what was being done to reduce the risk of fire?

I was told that due to inadequate or limited resources nothing more would be done to reduce the potential risk in the Far South Coast Region, even though it was clear there was substantial risk to life and property.

I pursued the matter a little further and in the end the Regional Manager replied by saying we're living in hope there won't be a fire.

One of reasons apart from lack of resources given was fuel reduction burns can have an impact on some species in this example it was frogs living in the grass.

It seems to me that the bureaucrats in some government agencies are not particularly competent when making assessments on behalf of their Employers that is the taxpayers and should ask for other assistance when it's obvious the tasks under their leader ship is too much for them.

In my opinion National Parks and Forestry should be amalgamated to reduce bureaucracy leaving more resources (money) for more out door people to do something constructive.

Cattle grazing needs to be reintroduced as a tool to reduce fuel loads in Forests and National Parks and decisions should be made by the regions community's not metropolitan Bureaucrats!

It is ridiculous to be even contemplating adding to the size of national parks when its clear they can't be properly managed because of the resource issue and they are one of the greatest fuel loads and of course least accessible areas when fires actually get started.

Yours Sincerely

Allan Brown