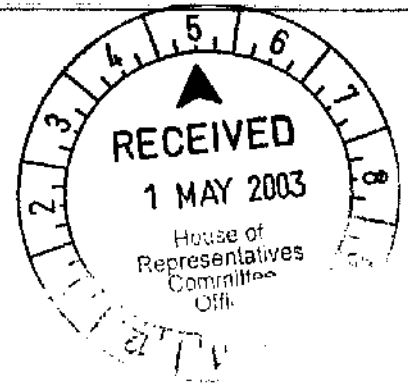


Newsome, Silvana (REPS)

From: Manuel Kallis [kallism@bigpond.com]
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2003 10:10 PM
To: Committee, Bushfires (REPS)
Subject: Submission into bushfires
Importance: High



6th April 2003

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENCE AND IMPACT OF BUSHFIRES

In response to your invitation to submissions my comments are as follows,

I have just spent \$6000.00 hard earned dollars putting in new and upgrading old bush fire access trails and correct fire breaks on my property in order to give the RFS "QUICK" access when (and not if) the next fire hits. This is my responsibility to my neighbours and the adjoining National Parks and State Forests. Unfortunately NPWS and State forests don't show the same respect to their neighbours and to their management of Public assets.

This unmanaged situation of limited access and limited fuel reduction burn offs leaves compounding problems.

When fires start,

- RFS cannot get in to either monitor at close range (if conditions are favourable) , ie. at the fire front, ready to act if conditions change. Or fire fight at the first instance and contain as required.
- Creating fire breaks and access trails after a fire has started is useless, it takes too long and history shows these trails are usually formed in the wrong areas as wind direction predictions are very difficult to "get right".
- Not allowing correct fuel reduction burn offs to be conducted, because you can't get in to do it, or manage the job safely.
- No one would carry out fuel reduction burning during poor conditions, so why allow a fire to burn uncontrollably during poor conditions, only when you can't get to

it. To sit and wait is unacceptable.

- Helicopters help fight fires, but fall short when fuel reduction work is needed.

Allowing RFS to get in to a fire safely gives you more control that just watching to see if it will stop.

Allowing unaccessable fires to burn is a threat to the whole community, a major financial loss to neighbours and environmental disaster.

In times of much litigation, who will be the first to take action against NPWS and/or State Forests in a financial loss situation due to bushfire mismanagement.

I am responsible for my property, are NPWS and State Forests responsible?

Yours Faithfully
Manuel Kallis