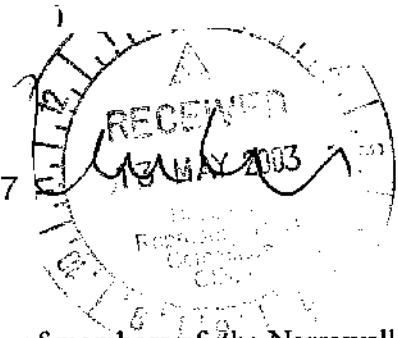


NARRAWALLEE RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Secretary
Australian Bushfire Committee
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission No.237



Dear Sir.

The following submission has been prepared with the assistance of members of the Narrawallee Residents and Ratepayers Association after many lengthy discussions. I am a member of 3 Shoalhaven City Council associations and 1 local association and am a member of the Rural Fire Service. The accompanying photographs are in groups, the group number appearing on the back. An explanation of these is included in the text of the submission. The views expressed by this submission have been discussed with other community members, and reflect the views of the majority of the community.

Since taking up permanent residence in Narrawallee almost 3 years ago I and other residents have been involved in discussions with Shoalhaven City Council in an effort to have Council maintain and reduce fire hazards in the reserves owned, or managed by them on behalf of the NSW State Government, or delegate the authority to willing local volunteers to work under Council supervision. All approaches to Council have received negative results.

Shoalhaven City Council recently appointed, Fire Mitigation / Bushland Management Officer, Megan Birmingham, stated at a public meeting that she intended to have the minor part of her job, Bushland Manager, as explained to her at her job interview, take precedence over her main role of Fire Mitigation Officer.

I have been advised that an inspection of the Narrawallee area will be carried out in May by Megan Birmingham and have requested an invitation to attend. During this inspection the following issues will be addressed, fuel loads on reserves, provision of firebreaks and asset protection zones.

Photographs Group 1

Show excessive growth that has been allowed to build up around the public toilet block in 1 of the reserves.

Photographs Group 2

Shows excessive growth being allowed to spread from the reserve towards one of the only roads in or out of the village.

Photographs Group 3

Show the original internal fence alignment depicting where Shoalhaven City Council has authorized its relocation allowing vegetation to spread unchecked. We have been advised verbally by Council that this will be allowed to continue, as the further the vegetation spreads the less grass Council has to mow.