

Committee Secretary
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires

Submitted by:

Nina Waldron

Address:

Date:

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INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to make 3 suggestions of changes that should be made immediately to the management of Public Land & bushfire
I own 350 acres of grazing land 5 km from Beechworth, bordered on 3 sides by bushland controlled by Parks Vic. & DSE. I have never met in person, nor seen any DSE staff in the area, at any time and believe that absolutely no management is EVER undertaken.
But they did not hesitate to put containment lines through my property, to fight the fire on my land - because it was too dangerous on their side of the fence for fire crews. This is in an area that is extremely fire prone & can expect a severe fire every 20 or so years.

Point 1: Track Closures - whether due to cost cutting or overzealous regeneration plans fire trails have been closed off. Some have been blocked with trees felled & branches cut down, evidence is there for all to see. Tracks are often closed part way causing dead-ends with no warning signs. These are not the actions of a fire aware Govt. Dept! Re-open and maintain these tracks.

Point 2: Fire Breaks and containment lines should be required on all public lands that adjoin private land, unless the Govt. agrees to pay all costs for fence repairs or fire damage that starts on public land.

Point 3: Landowners to have input into management decisions that effect their boundaries. If the problems exist because of under-resourcing, then the most cost effective method of improving management is to work with the people who are out there every day, and see what is going on ie. vermin buildup, weeds + undergrowth. Reintroduction of grazin needs to be looked at urgently - as this is the reason the Eldorado fire was so severe

SIGNED: M. Waldron