



The NSW Clean Air Act of 1997 prohibits the lighting of fires in the open (eg for winter hazard reduction in backyards.) A permit can be applied for, for rural properties.

As expected this has had an enormous impact on the accumulation of combustible rubbish in NSW.

Councils throughout NSW have rushed to place Tree and native vegetation preservation orders on all private property in their areas.

This may have seemed a good idea initially.

But as the details show (see enclosed specimen from the Blue Mountains City Council) they make it impossible to reduce fire hazard due to dead or dangerous material on private property.

Even if permits were obtainable how could Council officers inspect 10000 properties several times a year?

Because there seems no way for these ill considered draconian measures to be repealed and as they leave no way for private citizens to engage in hazard reduction in winter months then these bodies - State & local Councils must assume full responsibility for bushfire and for compensation of bushfire.