

SAUBMISSION IMPACT ON AG SECTOR OF VEG AND LAND MANAGEMENT LAWS

Fuel load management is often confused by people thinking it consists of just burning off, these fuels can be managed in various ways, things like putting proper management back into the forests, firewood collection, selective logging, thinning and chipping, controlled grazing and other methods such as controlled burning, will help reduce the intensity and frequency of fires.

The severity of these fires was completely preventable, State and local government actively prevent people from reducing the fuel loads that make these fires far worse than they have to be, governments need to stop pandering to trendy green ideology and vote grabbing popular politics, and do what is best for the community.

There are three key elements that allow a fire to exist, Fuel, Oxygen and Heat, remove any one of these, and a fire cannot exist, the problem lies in people who warm chairs in the city, who have never seen a real fire, seem to think they know more than the many who live in these areas.

Government policy and laws that prevent the practical reduction of fuel loads also need addressing, I have witnessed the transition from when we could manage and reduce fuel loads as we determined necessary, through the gradual imposition of restrictions over the years, up to today where management and reduction of fuel loads is almost impossible, as a result of legislative restrictions and onerous approval processes.

I have likewise witnessed the difference in the intensity and destructive nature of wild fire, when management and reduction of fuel loads were not hindered with excessive bureaucratic processes and restrictive laws, where vegetation was managed, fires were easier to control and less damaging, even in wether that was as hot if not hotter, than during the recent Queensland fires.

I have spoke to people that were on these fires, some of the issues they raised were, lack of basic communication and mapping facilities, lack or water transport, lack of machinery, lack of consultation with locals who had intricate knowledge of the lay of the land, no adequate fire breaks from which to launch an attack, the list goes on.

All while some in head office were wasting their time playing with computer generated forecasts, their time would of been spent more productively ensuring their crews had the necessary resources, and even prior to these fires, their time should of been focused on ensuring brigades had access to these basic resources and relevant training, rather than dicking around with computer programs.

As I said previously, people behind a computer screen with the latest IT technology and Computer generated forecasts, don't control and extinguish fires, people with practical experience and knowledge of basic tried and proven techniques with access to adequate, water, functional communication equipment, machinery and other basic resources, do.

My credentials behind these comments. I have lived in the bush for 62 years, much of that time involved with agriculture in various forms, having being a Ranger with the Forestry, as well as a former Group Captain with the Rural Fire Service, I have had many years practical experience in not only bush fire management and suppression, but also land and vegetation management.