

**Submission:**

I am very concerned that the multiple bushfires started by dry lightning received little or no attention for almost a whole week. Particularly as there were no existing emergencies, there was no rainfall and hot windy weather rapidly spread and intensified the fires, gaining momentum as small fires joined together and became large fires. It is my belief that part of the explanation for this appalling inaction was the lack of threat to homes, and that natural wilderness systems are regarded by the government and its authorities as having little value worth protecting. Had immediate action been taken I believe we could have saved thousands of hectares, and some of the great expense of the extended campaign of firefighting that followed. Those rainforests and alpine and peat vegetation lost in the fires is likely lost forever (in human time scales) and a sad legacy to leave for future generations.

We need to dramatically improve the alacrity of fire fighting. The climate has already changed; Tasmania is drier and subject to more extreme conditions, and we need to step up.

As a founding member of the Mole Creek Caving Club, I endorse the detailed and well researched submission prepared on behalf of the club by the Conservation Officer (Deb Hunter).

Michael Lichon 15/4/2016