Urbenville Rural Fire Brigade C/O PO Box 2 Urbenville NSW 2475

Dear sir/Madam.

1 5 304 2001

At the AGM of the Urbenville Bush Fire Brigade there were very deep concerns expressed by all members at the <u>lack</u> of hazard reduction being done in our area and indeed NSW in general.

The powers in control seem very happy to prepare for the inevitable disaster of bush fires bur reluctant to do any preparation at ground level.

Money is no problem after the event and 10 houses burnt in Sydney on the 8th October 2002 it seems that no lessons have been learnt from the previous years disasters.

The government officials will help in all ways including waving clean up and building fees, when some hazard reduction would have prevented the heartache and great expense of the clean up and rebuilding.

Of great concern is the attitude of the natural parks and wildlife who although have great area of land in this area do not appear to have developed any useable plans for fire control in the past 4 or 5 years in which they have been in control of this land.

The restrictions being placed on private property is chocking the practical management of this land also.

It is felt proper controlled burning off exercises in favourable weather conditions, even if they would be in occasional need to control some fires which may get out of bounds, would prevent danger to human life, animal life and property would be far far less.

Thank you The Urbenville Rural Fire Brigade

Thelma Winter

(Hon. sec)