



Hello.

I'm extremely unwell and lost everything in the the fires.

I've been a wood cutter for 15 yrs and volunteered and worked for the CFA and live on the western edge of town at 3 Betka Rd. The area directly and firstly hit by the Fire.

The are west of Terra Nova firebreak and north across to Watertrust Rd and all the way to the Betka River must be bulldozed, shared logging or we'll be here again in another 5-10 years and it will be worse.

Shared logging as in loggers take half and stack the rest for community source of fire wood.

Burn the rest after bulldozed into several massive heaps of vegetation/fuel including stumps.

This must be an interagency operation: EGSC, DELWP, Parks Vic, Mallacoota Township, Police, CFA and SES and independent firewood and logging companies including VicForests.

There is a Vegetation Overlay covering most of this area that must be removed otherwise nothing can be touched.

The area must be an open lightly forested native grassland area planted trees 40 metres apart. Ferns and grass boys must be removed and stored and keep alive by Parks Vic until replanting starts.

Paths put in everywhere with picnic tables, couple of Gazebos for weddings etc.

Create another safe zone for people to enjoy Mallacoota rather than cook on a beach.

Davis Ck kept buffered for 20 metres either side and then mostly cleared when replanting is established.

Use Peter Andrews Natural Sequence Farming all through Davis Ck to create a water feature for birds, amphibious creatures and the like but also a feature with bridges and walking paths etc etc.

The area can be burnt and slashed 2-3 times per year again using indigenous techniques.

Point is this idea will create a 2-4 km buffer back to the Betka RV where serious fuel reduction burns can take place the other side of the Betka and fireproof Mallacoota forever as long as indigenous type slow burns are conducted every year. It could be a feature on how to use these techniques on an ongoing basis.

Any fire that seriously threatens Mallacoota will come from Wingan River to the west and that's exactly what happened and it was a fluke and the bravery of CFA local brigade Capt Rod Lewis who stopped the edge of the fire hitting 2 x fuel stations next to each other which would have seen a death toll in the hundreds or more. He deserves a medal as does 1st Lt Stuart Johnston for his all round bravery in saving a property and the brigade station with Capt Lewis.

The CFA from [redacted] removed all other resources and abandoned Mallacoota. [redacted] [redacted] deserves the sack as does [redacted] officers for completely abandoning Cann River and virtually all bar 11 vehicles in Mallacoota. They are a disgrace and always have been with 23 volunteers sacked by Mallacoota Brigade 12 months before the fires by [redacted] with the assistance of [redacted]. Another 23 trained officers that could have made a difference instead of untrained officers, who aren't supposed to wear uniforms, [redacted] at the Brigade and

then seen 2 -3 days later waving out of tanker trucks in a drive by in the Melbourne CBD..... total joke.

Remove the VOverlay and clear that area is the only hope moving forward otherwise we sit and wait for the next one and we learn nothing.

All this information was part of the damage and will form part of the solution.

Sincerely yours,

CFA Member (downgraded to member and expelled from Mallacoota Brigade for no reason except speaking up against bullying).

I'm now a member without a Brigade and I wonder how that works ?

Philip Counsel
CFA No. 6801802
Member no brigade
Residing in Mallacoota.

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Sincere regards

*Philip Counsel
Community Development,*

