

25/ Feb/ 2021

Inspector-General

Tony Pearce

Dear Sir.

I have lived in Victoria some 67 yrs in East Gippsland , the last 35 yrs @ Clifton Creek , I have a close affinity for the welfare of the Land & Enviroment & appreciate the beauty & serenity the land offers, we need to protect it better & try to preserve our history for the future generations . As we know items Burnt turn into ash & dissolve which terminates it's existence, we need to preserve & protect our environment.

Attached is some items I suggest that need immediate attention since being a Resident Farmer timber contractor since 1975 still an active equipment operator , attended my first bushfire in 1972 plus I also remember writing a submission in 1970 to the then LCC " Land Conservation Council" in support of maintaining a better ecological balance for the future , which obviously by recent events has not been achieved.

Yours Faithfully

Gilbert Rothe.

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LACK of OVERARCHING CONTROL

1. No Federal Fire Mitigation Act
2. No State Fire Mitigation Act

TERMS TO BE ADDRESSED URGENTLY

1. When the grass is green in the paddock - you can safely burn in the bush.
2. Fires do not burn only between the hours 9am -5pm on chosen days.
3. Bush Fires control cannot be effective only between 9 – 5pm. Must be controlled 24 hrs a day.
4. Only accredited operators by recognition of prior learning of machinery for crucial fire edge direct attack.
5. Numerous DELWP personal not experienced.
6. Some Dept. experienced personal overlooked also local knowledge.
7. Too many entities cause confusion – DELWP - CFA - Greenies - Shire Councils - CMA Aboriginal Land & Water – City based environmental activists – Control from a distance etc.
8. Aerial fire-bombing / cart before the horse - Water supplies almost non-existent in strategic areas, limiting effective use of helicopters.
9. Rehabilitation of ALL fire breaks should be only erosion control.
10. All power line easements should be used as strategic safe areas / widen / burn from / manage & protect infrastructure.
11. New public buildings in high risk areas to be earth covered with strategic vegetation surrounds.
12. Recent fires of last 20 yrs. use Roadside and Waterways vegetated areas as wicks for bushfires. Numerous boundary fences were burnt that bordered roads and creeks.
13. Too much emphasis put on FALL-BACK lines instead of DIRECT-ATTACK of fires.
14. Lack of strategic fire break maintenance at safe time of the year – Lack of on-going annual Pre Preparedness.
15. Inconsistent Planned Burns Thwarted and not followed up to form defensive lines of fire breaks.
16. Too Much Fire Lit in the prohibited period and is not properly contained to a designated area.
17. Private Property Boundaries should have a minimum of 20 mtr clearway with an additional 30 mtrs of intermittent vegetation.