

From: Robyn Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 1:18 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: PS RE: Submission

Hi again Felicity – I trust you received my edited submission?

I forgot to mention something: The Mienna Jewel Beetle. This beetle is endemic and highly endangered (it was until recently thought extinct)

See <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6091792/mienna-jewel-beetle-back-from-brink-after-devastating-bushfires/> for details.

It apparently survived the fires, but I would like to know, did Parks, DPIPW or whoever is responsible for managing the areas this beetle occurs in (they won't tell the general public exactly where it is, presumably to avoid people collecting them) inform the TFS of the existence of this beetle, and the importance of protecting those areas? Or was it just total good luck that it wasn't burnt?

No-one I've spoken to knows that answer to that question.

The article above also says this: "More detailed information will be provided by ... monitoring of fire-affected areas which will consider impacts on habitats and species," the spokesperson said.

It would be good if information on this program were made public. Again it reflects poor communication and lack of coordination. None of our Group have heard anything about this post-fire monitoring program either.

Government departments need to work WITH the local community, and groups like ours, not in a vacuum. Apart from most likely leading to better outcomes, it would save a lot of their resources. We are there on the ground, with a lot of expertise, and can input a lot of valuable information if they would only communicate with us and tell us what is going on/they are planning to do. Instead of us finding out via the media, then having to try and chase the relevant person(s) etc etc. all of which wastes our time and effort too.

Thank you again – Robyn Lewis