

From: David Downie **Sent:** Sunday, 5 May 2019 10:38 AM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: Fwd: Fires 2019

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Begin forwarded message:

From: David Downie **Date:** 5 May 2019 at 10:33:25 am AEST
To: AFAC.Rewiew@dpfem.tas.gov.au

I David Downie make this submission into the review of the fires that burnt in January 2019. I also make this submission being an effected landowner , and having spent some considerable time fighting the fires.

Thus:More resources should be thrown at fires when they first start. Particularly when fires start before the First week in February. This will lead to a reduction in cost and less damage to the landscape.

: There is no overall strategy on fire fighting.-ie put fire out quickly.Resources are not used in a coordinated way. Air tankers and dozers etc are not working together.

: Decision makers are to far from the fire front so as to make the best informed decisions.

: Different land agencies and owners have different policies and strategies on fire fighting ,ie shack owners farmers ,parks and wildlife, environmentalists etc.

:All fires can cause catastrophic damage .All agencies and owners have a common aim to protect the landscape from very damaging extremely hot fires.

This issues requires leadership from the State Government in implementing an over strategy that is applied across all land , to through available resources at fires , as quickly as possible to put them out when the fires are small.

: Tasmania was lucky that the January fires didn't take off under extreme conditions that didn't quite eventuate. If those conditions had off prevailed, the central highlands fire would have entered settlements and may have run to Hobart. This all happened in February 1967. The weather was all that saved us.

The way forward:

1/ Have an overall strategy,To put fire out quickly when small, using every resource available in a coordinated way ie air, ground tankers ,foot fighters,and heavy machinery.

2/ When an event like the Central Highlands or Huon fire eventuates ,appoint a specialist "fire general" that is answerable to a strategy with key performance requirements.

ie implement strategy and harness all resources available,before fire event gets to big.

First week in February is critical fo Southern Tasmania.All fires have to be out if possible.

That is the only protection against weather condition like Feb 1967.

The climate is changing which is leading to more extreme weather events.

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