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Sent: Monday, 29 April 2019 1:26 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: Bushfire review 2018/19 [Great Pine Tier]

Brief overview of my experience with the Great Pine Tier fire.

- 1) Fire reported
- 2) volunteer responded
- 3) Then i checked TFS website stated fire was at Pine Tier , not Great Pine Tier .
- 4) Volunteer stated wasn't allowed to push a bulldozer up at the fire as it was in world heritage area .
- 5) TFS website then corrected and then stated there was a fire at Great Pine Tier .
- 6) Days went on with seemingly complacency .
- 7) Volunteer stated that a Back burn which had been left unattended near Top Marshes conservation area had got out of control , then this is when i feel agencies , notifications seemed to take it more seriously .

My response would be as follows

- * **On ground fuel ratings have to be monitored before the start of the fire season & constantly reviewed annually .**
- * **Fire season should now be issued on the basis of moisture ratings not what the calendar reads .**
- * **All fuel reduction burns , burning of rubbish etc commercial or domestic no matter what time of year it is should be registered . How is one to Know if you see smoke if its a bush fire or a burn off ? Gone are the days of being complacent about fires in Tasmania .**
- * **Every body should have to adhere to total fire ban days including Sustainable timber Tasmania & or there contractors for example the fire at Brittan's swamp was caused by forestry contractors operating machinery on a total fire ban day .Larger and more stringent guidelines should be enforced and heftier penalties for non compliance .**
- * **Regional volunteer firefighters should be supplied with drones to exactly pin point where the fire incident is instead of having a rough guess . The photos & coordinates to be sent directly to the relevant agencies e.g TFS , STT , Parks and wildlife ,Tas police etc .**
- * **All fires no matter where they are located should be tackled straight away with fixed winged aircraft , winch enabled helicopters then drop in remote area teams .**
If the fire at Great Pine Tier was tackled the same way as the fire at Orielton which used helicopters straight away the fire at Great Pine Tier would not have been so severe .
- * **Most of these initiatives command upfront funding but in the long term would be economically viable .**
- * **So called fuel reduction burns in my opinion are only adding to the drying out phenomenon we are experiencing and enhancing more bush fires .For example the fire which spread to the Serpentine area has large areas of Boulder & scree country with little or no fuel loads previously present but still managed to spread large areas in this terrain .Instead of spending money on fuel reduction burns use the money to purchase drones , aircraft etc .**

***Back burning in my opinion should only be used in a last resort situation evidence points to back burns which have got out of control e.g Top Marshes conservation area .Still using back burning now in extreme weather conditions when evidence points to more than thirty six percent of back burns get out of control . The Black Tuesday fires in 1967 were made worse by back burning getting out of control .**

*** Emergency assistance grants should be used to purchase drones for regional volunteer fighters .**

The recent central highland five hundred dollar grants were given to people including myself who wasn't impacted to the monetary value of the grant should be issued once receiving evidence of financial hardship .

Bushfire animal response

The sheer lack of response to bush fire affected animals was appalling. National parks and wildlife service have a legal obligation to be custodians of animals numerous certified experienced animal carers and rescuers had been shut down in any attempt to rescue ,care for bush fire affected animals . We had the funds and qualified personnel to enact on a bush fire rescue response with no financial or personnel issues affecting Parks and wildlife services pressing issues. TFS and Sustainable timber Tasmania have all endorsed such a response but National parks and wildlife have stone walled any attempt for such a response to occur .

There needs to be a protocol enforced for bush fire affected animals by national parks and wildlife service .

Regards Dean Brampton