

**From:** SmithFamily  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 May 2019 9:29 AM  
**To:** AFAC Review (DPFEM)  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to the Bushfire Review

Please find below a submission to the Cronstedt bushfire review, which was sent on 30 April, ie well before the submission cut-off date. However, we recently received a failure notice, so are re-sending. It would appear that by clicking on the email address in your online flier (dpfem.tas.gov.au/pdf/making% ...), the e-mail address had only been half-transcribed into the e-mail 'To' field. We did not check the address at the time, because we had clicked directly on your flier and therefore assumed it was correct. We hope therefore, that you will allow this submission, which was sent in good faith, prior to the submission deadline.  
Many thanks, Jenny Cambers-Smith & Bronte Smith

**From:** SmithFamily  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 April 2019 8.35 AM  
**To:** 'AFAC.Review@dpfem.tas' <[AFAC.Review@dpfem.tas](mailto:AFAC.Review@dpfem.tas)>  
**Subject:** Submission to the Bushfire Review

Dear Sirs

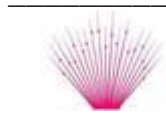
Please consider the comments below, from myself (Jenny Cambers-Smith) and my husband (Bronte Smith), who live at

1. The information to residents available online, was poor and insufficiently detailed. We wanted to see some sort of forecast of fire spread, eg as per the weather forecast. We were never certain whether we were likely to be in danger or not. The alert system on the TFS website is often confusing, with insufficient information as to whether it is a smoke or fire alarm.
2. We need to know where and when back-burns are occurring, so that unnecessary alarm is not generated amongst the community.
3. The best information we had about the fires, was on the Huon Valley Community Discussion Facebook page, where an ex-forestry lady gave interpretations of the Sentinel readings, when she had the time – she was doing the state's job.
4. We feel that the initial response to the lightning strikes across the state was complacent and ill-conceived. The attitude seemed to be that if fire was started somewhere out in the forests, it can just be ignored. We strongly believe that any fire should be immediately quenched (if at all possible), to prevent it quickly turning into something unmanageable. And, in our minds, forest, bush and wildlife should be protected in the same way as humans & infrastructure are.
5. With respect to preventing such catastrophes in the future, these are our thoughts:
  - a. We need to be managing the micro-climate in a sensible and forward-thinking way, with an eye to science and the undeniable fact of climate warming.
  - b. Eucalypts and pine monocultures are extremely susceptible to fire, whereas mixed forest with a rich and damp understorey, is bound to be more resistant. Such forest – in sufficient acreage - also generates its own moisture-laden micro-climate and holds back and stores water.
  - c. The opposite is true of fuel reduction burns – which we are generally opposed to except around houses and important infrastructure. Fuel reduction burns change the nature of the forest, making it drier, more fire-prone and more akin to a eucalypt plantation and potential fireball.

- d. In Europe and the UK (even in parts of Asia), they are working on re-wetting forests and planting more trees. This is exactly what Tasmania should be doing. We should be encouraging the planting of more healthy, mixed forest, in the understanding that – although this could still burn in extreme conditions – it will help to mitigate climate change, store water and create a healthier environment for all.
- e. We should urgently consider the planting of fire-proofing corridors and ember defences, comprised of (for instance) thick deciduous trees that are far less fire prone, plus more fire resistant natives such as wattles and the like. Driving through the burnt-out bushland between Judbury and Geeveston it was notable that wattles were largely untouched, barely singed by the fires. This is clear evidence that certain trees are far more fire resistant than eucalypts and a healthy percentage of such trees in our ‘managed’ forests, would make them much less fire-prone. Unfortunately, the eucalypt estates that STT has created from our native forest, are just fire-bombs waiting to happen. If we stopped clear-felling for wood-chips and instead, selectively took out the best high-value trees (for high margin products), we could allow other slower-growing tree species (sassafras, myrtle, celery-top etc) to thrive in our forests as well, which would also please our specialist timber fraternity and increase the moisture content of the forest estate.
- f. Lastly, we are inclined to think that a reliance on a volunteer fire service – however noble and willing these wonderful guys and women are – is not the way forward. We need a properly funded fire service, managed on both a state and federal level, so that resources can be quickly mobilised to wherever they are needed.

One further comment – it was not easy finding the address to which to send submissions. We’re inclined to think that submissions are being passively discouraged through a combination of little publicity and a short timescale in which to respond.

Yours, Jenny Cambers-Smith & Bronte Smith



Jenny Cambers-Smith

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Native wildlife videos from our property: fb: @tasfauna ([taswildlife.com](http://taswildlife.com))  
YouTube & Instagram channels: taswildlife  
Homecrafts: [www.etsy.com/au/shop/sedgefielddesign](http://www.etsy.com/au/shop/sedgefielddesign)