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From: laurie dillon Sent: Friday, 10 May 2019
1:07 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: submission no acknowledgement

Input to the inquiry into recent bushfires.

Locking up of Forests is unnatural and leaves them exposed to fire by neglect.

In the case of Riveaux Road there were 3 jurisdictions allegedly managing the Forests or neglecting the Forests.

These forests have been fought over for many years by the Green movement trying to eradicate Forestry Tasmania as Managers of the Bush. These forests have been a resource for Forestry Tasmania and enable revenue and jobs for the local community.

Many areas in Australia where locking up has occurred and heavy conservation has prevailed thousands of hectares of Forests have been lost to uncontrollable fires. Recently before Tasmania the Bundaberg area and then Victoria were subjected to bush fires.

I contend that the State Government by acceding to locking up Forests has put the community at risk of injury and financial loss. In the case of Riveaux the Tahune Airwalk has been lost and Neville Smith Timbers has been sidelined for several months and Ta Ann has been put in jeopardy due to the fires.

Lack of management by Government is a major cause of bushfires. Fires can be managed if there is a single jurisdiction and logging is permitted to generate revenue to pay the costs of management and re-generation.

In Riveaux Area due to lock-ups, roads and fire trails have been neglected. Arguments have been taking place over who is allowed to put a fire out. Local rumour has it that Forestry (SST) was held up for 2 days getting permission to put a fire break due to WHC restrictions.

Management of Tasmanian institutions these days is mainly by politics rather than common sense and public safety and responsibility. In this case it will be passed off as a natural occurrence but really it was caused by neglect by Government and politics.

The people of the Huon Valley were exposed to danger and property losses due to politics alone.

Politicians are a disgrace and no longer represent the public safety and well being of the community at large. More like existing only to achieve the status of sitting on the Green Seats in parliament.

Politicians taking instruction from activists and minority politicians is the cause of forests burning Australia wide. Politicians who are not standing with honesty and explaining to the population the risks of ignoring forests and undermining defences such as fire trails, fire breaks and the Forest Managers.

Although my input here may not assist you in recommending that people of Tasmania carry watering cans and knapsack sprayers my words if implemented would be much more effective.

Weak politicians seeking the Green Seats caused these fires and your recommendations should be honest and say so.

Yours faithfully

Laurence Dillon OAM