

From: Peter Downie
Sent: Wednesday, 8 May 2019 1:56 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: Great Pine Tier Fire

AFAC Review Panel,

I have lived and worked in the Lake Country all my life.

We had about 12,000 acres burnt ,but it would have been a lot more if we had not been doing some fuel reduction burns over many years.

Any areas that had been burnt over the last 20 years resulted in the fire extinguishing itself once it reached the previous burn fire edge.

In my assessment due to the lack of strategic burns to reduce fuel, this particular fire could have easily wiped out large areas of south eastern Tasmania.

The south east was exposed to an ignition source with a 25 km front high up in a drying landscape and it was the last week of January.

We all know what the first two weeks of February are usually like from a fire danger point of view.

All that saved us was a cyclone in QLD that produced unseasonably cool and still weather in Tas.

The fire service was completely stretched in our area and would have been unable to prevent serious loss of property and life if Feb had of been hot and windy.

My question is why expose Tas and its people to this risk and emergency cost when all that is needed is a regular team of on ground people doing strategic burns around the state when condition are suitable.

These people would then be familiar with the terrain ,used to working with local land managers and would be much more effective in an emergency.

What is required is proactive fire fuel management not just reactive helicopters saving houses.

I would welcome the opportunity to address you in person.

Peter Downie