

From: Randall Trethewie
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2019 9:51 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM) <AFAC.Review@dpfem.tas.gov.au>
Subject: AFAC.Review@dpfem.tas.gov.au

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AFAC Review panel,

I am the custodian of a 6000 acre property named Lake Fergus /The Bluff/Skittleball hill in the Central Highlands of Tasmania directly adjacent to the Great Pine Tier and the central plateau World Heritage area

I purchased the property in 2003 / 2004 and was extremely concerned with the fuel load of the vegetation .

In the winter 2005 I started fuel reduction burns this was carried out when snow was on the neighbouring central plateau conservation area ,I did this for fear of fire escaping on to my neighbours mismanaged World Heritage land ,this adjoins the Lake Fergus area of my property.

In winter 2006 I did further successful burning around the lake and along the valley floor. Further light burning has been carried out along the western side of little Pine Lagoon in the last two years.

The Great Pine Tier Fire of the 15 th January 2019 in fact started within 1km of my boundary , to highlight my point the land that I had previously burnt around lake Fergus was not impacted even after some 14 years.

In November 2018 I was contacted by Eve Lazarus from NRM South to ascertain whether or not I would be interested in participating in some fire management trials. My answer was clearly yes ,but stated that myself and my northern neighbour, Peter Downie are both already conducting preventative burning practices and would like to conduct more .

It would be essential to involve our other neighbours who are the custodians of the World Heritage conservation area who in my opinion DO NOT manage their land.

In 1961 there was a wild fire that swept through the conservation areano burning has been conducted there since .

Some 58 years with no preventative fire management.!

If the conservation areas were managed by way of cold burning and patching out areas every 20 or so years, then when lightning strikes do occur fire fighters have an area to work from.

Although I have been actively farming and have owned rural land for some 50 years I am now witnessing the unnecessary cost and destruction of vegetation including our ancient pencil pines .

The wildlife has also been impacted enormously, starving animals with burns and scorched feet is all extremely distressing....

I find it a paradox that the area that is designed to be protected through Conservation and World Heritage listings is in fact the very area that has and will cause Catastrophic destruction to vegetation and wildlife and possibly humans.

This is mainly due to the hard line green movement who have resisted fire management that used to be carried out by the early graziers and the aboriginals before them.

SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS:

Tas Fire Service and particularly Officer Brett Fazackerley were wonderful at keeping me informed and congratulations go to all the fire services .

It is largely futile to try and put out a fire in high summer in this kerosene bush country.

Every helicopter in Australia would not succeed in stopping a wildfire in unmanaged /mismanaged kerosene bush country in high summer.

On the 16 th January when the helicopters started operating the fire area was relatively small , the most effective time to fight these fires is at first light....

In the first week it was well after 9am before they started operating !

It appeared that daily fire management meetings were conducted around 8 am in the mornings mid summer when the most effective suppression time would be from first light to around 11 am .

Not enough authority for back burning given to local fire chiefs on the ground Need to take on more local risk management.

Hobart control centre too remote & bureaucratic

(Definition of bureaucratic procedureover-concerned with procedure at the expense of efficiency OR common sense)

I suspect that the total cost to the community via Federal ,State and local governments would be in excess of \$100 million and perhaps much more.....

Most of this could have been alleviated with old fashioned burning practices.

Please refer to the Tas Fire Service maps of the area around Lake Fergus that was not burnt due to preventative management.

Yours faithfully

Randall Trethewie

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