

From: Berringtons
Sent: Tuesday, 30 April 2019 8:41 AM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: Submission re 2018/19 bush fires in Tasmania.

I would like to make a submission re the above.

As a resident of Port Huon, I was affected by smoke and fire alerts.

From what I have been told, the cause of the bushfires was dry lightning strikes. I understand that dry lightning strikes are a relatively new phenomenon in Tasmania, the result of climate change bringing warmer and dryer summer periods to Tasmania.

I also understand that a fire in the Tarkine old growth forest area was easily and quickly extinguished, resulting in only a small area of forest being burnt, as the old growth forests naturally retain moisture and therefore retard fires. However the fires in the regrowth and plantation areas were not able to be controlled as these areas do not retain moisture and make for large amounts of readily flammable fuel, easily spread with trees so close to each other, and of highly flammable eucalyptus species. I understand the need for timber for sawmills and construction etc, but not trees for the woodchip and ply industries which are both heavily subsidised by the government (taxpayers). I encourage all old growth forests to be retained for eternity and adequately protected by the law, to enable fire retardant areas within forestry operation areas.

I also encourage large tracts of regrowth forest be protected with the vision that these be allowed to mature and provide fuel retardant areas, and habitat and biodiversity.

I also believe that the truth of this – that old growth forests retard fire, whilst plantations and young regrowth forests aid fire, be made public to stop misconception that the greenies have locked up the forests and caused the fires – this is obviously a false belief.

Regarding the management of the fires and the emergency response, I cannot fault either of these, other than to suggest more immediate and urgent water bombing might have averted the disaster before it got out of control.

Kind regards

Robyn Berrington