



Councillor Belinda Clarkson

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Mr Ted Baillieu, Premier
Treasury Place, Melbourne.
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12 September 2012

Dear Premier Baillieu,

re: Victorian government extreme bushfire warning DVD "Don't Wait and See".

In response to the Victorian government spokesperson's letter, on the issue of "leave early" in the event of an extreme bushfire impacting on the Melbourne suburb of North Warrandyte (manningham.vic.gov.au, "Extreme bushfire warning DVD "Don't Wait and See" 3 September 2012, see below).

While answering my seven questions about the detail of "leaving early", the response letter clearly indicates the Victorian government places primary responsibility for the communities safety on "families and individuals". However, it is not "families and individuals" who are responsible for the extreme bushfire fuel, that exponentially increases this problem (see figure 1 below). Mitigating extreme bushfire fuel is the responsibility of the Minister for Planning, the Honourable Matthew Guy MP, and you as Mr Guy's leader. The potential for extreme bushfire causing hundreds of deaths of people trapped by the Yarra River at North Warrandyte, is now confirmed by the Victorian government's own DVD, "Don't Wait and See". However, I believe the message of horrendous devastation to the trapped people of North Warrandyte, is a fraction of the much larger problem at the Eltham Yarra River bridge, where thousands of lives could be lost.

With the greatest respect, it is now clearly imperative that you instruct Planning Minister Guy, to reduce landscape level fuel loads, for at least 10kms north and west of both the Warrandyte and Eltham Yarra River bridges, consistent with the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Recommendation 56.

Regards,

Cr Belinda Clarkson

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Fuel is the only factor we can control.

Figure 1: Incoll Rod Fire Hazard Vegetation Controls Nillumbik.

| FIRE DANGER CLASS | FDI | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | LOW | MOD | | | HIGH | | VERY HIGH | | EXTREME | | |
| FUEL t/ha | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 80 | 100 |
| 5 t/ha | 75 | 150 | 225 | 300 | 350 | 425 | 575 | 700 | 850 | 1125 | 1400 |
| 10 t/ha | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1150 | 1450 | 1700 | 2250 | 2800 | 3350 | 4450 | 5550 |
| 15 t/ha | 675 | 1350 | 1950 | 2625 | 3225 | 3825 | 5700 | 6375 | 7650 | 10125 | 12600 |
| 20 t/ha | 1200 | 2400 | 3600 | 4800 | 6000 | 7200 | 9600 | 12000 | 14400 | 18200 | 23900 |
| 25 t/ha | 1750 | 3750 | 5625 | 7500 | 9375 | 11250 | 15000 | 18750 | 22500 | 30000 | 37500 |

FIRES CONTROLLABLE

FIRES NOT CONTROLLABLE

Cc: Deputy Premier Peter Ryan, Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews, Louise Asher, Ryan Smith, Jeanette Powell, Robert Clark, Richard Dalla-Riva, David Davis, Hugh Delahunty, Martin Dixon, Matthew Guy, Peter Hall, David Hodgett, Nicholas Kostsiras, Wendy Lovell, Andrew McIntosh, Terry Mulder, Dr Denis Napthine, Michael O'Brien, Gordon Rich-Phillips, Peter Walsh, Kim Wells, Mary Wooldridge, Weekly Times, The Australian, HeraldSun, The Age, Diamond Valley Leader, A Current Affair, Andrew Bolt (H/S, Channel 10), 7.30 Report, Neil Mitchell (3AW), Jon Faine (774), Miranda Devine (Sun/HS), Peter Mickelborough (H/S), Jason Dowling (The Age), David Packham OAM, Rod Incoll, Derryn Hinch, Jan Kronberg, Craig Ondarchie.