

John Stuart,

Fire Warden, Nebo Rural Fire Brigade

Dilkera Station,

Nebo, Qld. 4742

The Research Director,

Public Accounts and Public Works Committee,

Parliament House,

George Street,

Brisbane, 4000.

5th. March 2010.

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on the Auditor General of Queensland's report into the management of Rural Fires and in particular the Fire Wardens Review. Having served in excess of forty (40) years as Fire Warden for the Nebo Rural Brigade Area I feel I have a reasonable knowledge and experience of the requirements of the position and expectations of property owners to make the following comments.

Variation in Topography and Population Density

A local warden living within a sparsely populated area covering large areas is much more aware of seasonal conditions and community requirements than a centralized area director.

Fire Wardens Operating at Arm's Length to Q.F.R.S. Rural Operations

I find this comment to be exactly the opposite of my experiences. Wardens from our district communicate regularly with our Area Director to discuss conditions and receive sound advice. This does not mean they could replace local wardens whom are on the ground at all times.

Access to and Through Property's and Utilizing Local Knowledge

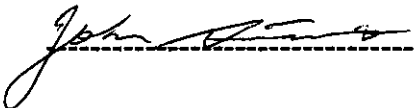
Requests for permits from a local warden give a good back grounding to local property accesses and access through property's if required for fire control. Local knowledge is also an advantage when requesting assistance of privately owned machinery for fire control.

Comment on Permit Zoning System

Conditions can vary considerably over a very short distance and introducing a zoning system for the issuing of permits within a zone which may have a fire ban in place could cause property management concerns.

Central Queensland is experiencing an unprecedented mining growth and the role played by the local fire warden in negotiations with Mining Companies, Queensland Rail, Main Roads and other contractors contribute to fewer out of control fires and an awareness to abide by the rules when controlled burning takes place.

Local input and control of our destiny works well within our area however, centralization of these responsibilities will make it more difficult to entice new volunteers into our brigades.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Stuart', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

John Stuart, (Fire Warden)