

State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Sub No 1

From: Don Middleton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2013 10:45 AM
To: State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Subject: Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill



Dear State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

I think the new amendments are a fantastic and well overdue Idea. Fire in the Australian bush is not a possibility it's an absolute fact! I only have 4.2 acres of mainly bushland but am unable under the current legislation to adequately protect my property from fire as the regrowth after all the rain is protected. Another problem is I cannot touch trees that are more than 10 metres away from the house even though if they fell while on fire they would definitely cause me to lose the house. The insurance companies actually ask if you have trees within 20 metres of the house, they won't cover me. While insurance companies use 20 metres (far more realistic given the size of an average gum or ironbark) and council uses 10 metres we are left with a choice of massive fine or losing the house.

I take the conservation of the bush very seriously. All acreage owners are in the bush because they want to be there and they pay a premium for the land too. Giving rural residents the ability to self-determine and take appropriate pre-emptive action against natural disaster is not only common sense but removes grounds for retributive legal action should the unthinkable happen.

Please let common sense and practicality prevail and let residents decide how best to manage the bush they cherish.

Kind regards

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Don Middleton
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