



May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **An Open Letter to the Premier**

Dear Premier,

This week, as we reach the three month anniversary of the bushfires, we request that you inform the community what tangible actions have been undertaken to prevent a repeat of the holocaust that occurred on Black Saturday.

We are of course aware of the work the royal commission is doing and of the timing of their preliminary report, but are also mindful that the next bushfire season is just seven months away.

As leader of the government, we believe that you have a responsibility to advise the community of the progress made on bushfire prevention in these three months.

The community is willing to support positive steps to prevent a recurrence next summer of the disaster we experienced in February. To that end, we encourage you to unequivocally accept the major recommendation of your own parliamentary bushfire inquiry, the advice of the auditor general and the calls of a bushfire ravaged community to mandate as an absolute minimum; a tripling of fuel reduction burning to 385,000 hectares per calendar year.

This measure has broad acceptance in the community, requires no legislation to implement and sends a strong signal to communities and rural residents that ongoing land management will be based on science and bushfire research.

Community No Fuel No Fire meetings held already at Healesville, Barmah, Colac and Inverleigh have drawn hundreds of Victorians who are concerned about the management of public land. A meeting at Bairnsdale on May 19<sup>th</sup> will address these same issues.

If your government will not endorse the widely supported recommendation for fuel reduction burning on 385,000 hectares of public land per year to minimise fire risk to the community, we call on you to explain – Why not?

Victorian Lands Alliance