



July 10th 2009

An Open Letter to the Premier

Dear Premier,

This month marks five months since the catastrophic events of February 7th when the state was engulfed by firestorm and less than five months until the next bushfire season, yet the community and the state are apparently no better placed to minimise bushfire risk than last year.

Whilst we all wait for the recommendations of the Bushfires Royal Commission to address issues before the commission, we cannot wait any longer to deal with issues that are already apparent from previous inquiries into bushfire disasters.

Last week we heard from legal counsel representing the state about what measures are not going to be undertaken in time for next summer. We all would like to hear from your government what tangible actions to reduce fire risk that have been undertaken to protect our lives and property.

The Victorian Lands Alliance has written to you on three occasions since the Black Saturday fires on behalf of many in the Victorian community, imploring immediate action to address the serious fire risk that remains in many parts of the state from high fuel loads. We urged that you adopt the recommendation of your own parliamentary Bushfire Inquiry to treble fuel reduction burning. Five months after the disaster and thirteen months after the tabling of these recommendations no actions have been taken to reassure Victorians that their pleas for public land fire management have been heard.

Victorians are entitled to know what action their government will take in the few months remaining before the next fire season.

Victorian Lands Alliance