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## **VICTORIAN LANDS ALLIANCE**

### **Media Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Bushfire survey to give voice to concerns**

The Victorian Lands Alliance today launched an online survey to collate community views on bushfire and management issues by tapping the wealth of knowledge in the community.

In announcing the Bushfire Survey, VLA secretary Max Rheese said "A consistent theme in several inquiries and reviews of recent bushfires has been the frustration expressed by community members that they were not being listened to with regard to bushfire threats and how to deal with those threats locally."

"This 10 question survey has the provision for them to add any comments they wish on this topic.

People may for instance consider other methods of fuel reduction besides prescribed burning, such as grazing on public land have not been given due consideration, or they may be more concerned about roadside fuel management. The issues that concern people are what we want to hear about."

"We continue to press for a permanent Community Fire Forum to be established and the survey results will help to identify the main issues of concern to communities to inform that process."

The survey can be completed online and is available at the VLA website at [www.landsalliance.org](http://www.landsalliance.org)

The Bushfires Royal Commission last week heard evidence on native vegetation laws and this week will hear expert evidence on fuel reduction burning. These issues are of vital concern to residents in rural and outer metropolitan communities, however most people have no avenue to voice their concerns on these issues.

"We encourage community members to talk to their local member of parliament about bushfire issues and to complete the online survey to bring about improvement in bushfire management" said Mr Rheese.

– ENDS –

Contact: Max Rheese 0428 621 320

[www.landsalliance.org](http://www.landsalliance.org)

The Victorian Lands Alliance is a coalition of member based recreational and commercial users of public land representing over 40,000 Victorians. The primary objective of the Alliance is to initiate public policy which is consistent with the ideals of its member organisations to improve the management of public land.

This policy will ensure active management and sustainable multiple-use of public land that balances the needs of the environment and the community.