



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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MP Christine Fyffe Puts the Heat on the Government by Calling for Tougher Arson Laws

Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe has attacked the State Government's lack of action to strengthen arson laws in an adjournment debate delivered to Parliament on Wednesday (24/2/10).

Mrs Fyffe criticised the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Bob Cameron, stating that, "A consequence of the government's delay is that anyone convicted of arson between now and the time any new arson laws are eventually introduced will receive lighter penalties."

The Coalition has publicly stated that anyone convicted of arson or related offences should be liable upon release and subject to an Extended Supervision Order (ESO). Under an ESO restrictions can be imposed on the activities, residence and movements of those considered to pose a high risk of re-offending.

"Minister Cameron publicly supported the Coalition's proposal saying that extending supervision orders from sex offenders to arsonists will be considered. That statement was made back in mid-October over four months ago," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Attorney General Rob Hulls was looking at a possible extension to jail terms to 25 years during talks with the Commonwealth Government. Nothing has come of that either," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The current Minister for Police and Emergency Services should have been right on top of this issue. It is over a year since the Black Saturday Bushfires and we are still in the midst of the bushfire season," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The State Government's lack of action is preventing these important arson laws from being passed which means any pending arson cases will not take into consideration the changed standards of the community,"

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