



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



143 Main Street, Lilydale 3140
Tel: 9735 3208 Fax: 9735 3697
Email: christine.fyffe@parliament.vic.gov.au

12 August 2010

Labor Won't Commit to Fuel Reduction Burn Target

Liberal Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe has today repeated her attack on Premier John Brumby's lack of interest in committing to a new target for fuel reduction as recommended by the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission's final report.

"The Minister failed to respond adequately to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) *Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria* report on earlier bushfires which recommended preventative burning levels be increased from 130,000ha to 385,000ha," Mrs Fyffe said.

"It is beyond belief that a government can have such a blasé attitude to fuel reduction when lives are at stake. We lost 173 people in the Black Saturday Bushfires. How can it be that the message still hasn't got through to the Premier and the Minister for the Environment?" Mrs Fyffe asked.

"It remains to be seen whether the recent round of community consultations on the bushfires will have any effect in impressing upon the Premier what communities, the media and Coalition Members of Parliament have been crying out for all along – we urgently need increased fuel reduction in bushfire prone areas," Mrs Fyffe said.

The Liberal-Nationals Coalition has made it resoundingly clear that we would adopt every recommendation including the all important fuel reduction recommendation which stated that, "*the State should fund and commit to implementing a long-term program of prescribed burning based on an annual rolling target of five per cent minimum of public land.*"

"This is a State Government of missed opportunities. What is so evil about it is that communities end up paying for the government's inaction," Mrs Fyffe said.

Media: Ruth Barendse – 9735 3208