



Department of Environment Land, Water & Planning

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Ms Belinda Clarkson
Secretary
Firestick Estate Inc.
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Ref: MIN016304



07 JUN 2016

Dear Ms Clarkson

PRESCRIBED BURNS OVER THE LAST DECADE

Thank you for your email to the Hon Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria, dated 12 May 2016 about fuel reduction on public land. This matter falls within the portfolio of the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

Each year the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), together with Parks Victoria (PV), plans and delivers a program of fuel management works on public land. DELWP works closely with local council, Melbourne Water and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to plan fuel reduction strategies and to ensure works are coordinated and complementary to provide the best possible risk reduction outcome.

The area you have referred to in your email as the Eltham Gateway contains approximately 1,100 hectares of public land, for which DELWP has fire management responsibility. Over the previous 10 years to 2016, DELWP, together with PV, has treated over 260 hectares of this land through fuel reduction burning operations. This equates to approximately 2.4% of the public land treated through planned burning annually.

In addition to planned burning, DELWP and PV also use a range mechanical fuel treatments to manage fuel on public land. These Non Burn Fuel Treatments (NBFT) are conducted annually in Spring and early Summer and include broad acre slashing, strategic fuel break maintenance and improvement, mulching operations and bio mass removal. Over the previous 10 year period more than 740 hectares of public land has been fuel reduced using NBFT. This equates to approximately 6.7% of the public land treated by NBFT annually.

Through a combination of planned burning and NBFT, approximately 9.1% of public land in this area has been treated annually by DELWP over the past 10 years. These figures are summarized in the table below:

	Total Public Land (Ha)	Area Burnt (Ha)	NBFT (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)	Burnt %	NBFT %	Total %
Last 10 years	1100	260.7	741.3	1002	23.7	67.39	91.09
Yearly Avg	1100	26.7	74.13	100.83	2.37	6.73	9.1

From 1 July 2016, DELWP will be working with the CFA, other land managers, the community and stakeholders to roll out *Safer Together*, a new approach to reducing risk of bushfire and improving the way we deliver planned burning throughout Victoria. Part of this change will be moving from an annual hectare burning target to a risk based approach and targeting specific strategic areas for fuel treatment. For more information on *Safer Together*, please visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au/safer-together

Please find attached a map showing the location of planned burning and NBFT that DELWP and PV have conducted over the past 10 years in the area around Eltham and Warrandyte.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, please call Dan White, District Manager, Metro on (03) 9210 9314.

Yours sincerely



Michael Hodder
Chief Operating Officer