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By **Andrew Bolt**

## Firey debate

MARCH

**02**  
2009  
(8:18am)

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Filed under:

Nillumbik Council, where so many of the Black Saturday dead were killed, holds a meeting. One councillor - just one - asks why it doesn't now instantly drop its **dangerous bans** on clearing vegetation:

*My Notice of Motion ... calls for the Council to ask the relevant Minister to urgently suspend laws and clauses such as 52.17 Native Vegetation and others to allow residents to undertake bona fide fire protection clearance works without the requirement to obtain a permit and without the fear of prosecution. Let's do something that shows leadership...*

Passions then explode, and the councillor is outvoted by every other councillor. The transcript below.

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### PROFILE



Andrew Bolt's columns appear in Melbourne's Herald Sun, Sydney's Daily Telegraph and Adelaide's Advertiser. He runs the most-read political blog in Australia and hosts Channel 10's The Bolt Report each Sunday at 10am and 4.30pm. His book 'Still Not Sorry' was released in 2006.

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# TRANSCRIPT

## NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2009

### Agenda Item 13 Notice of motion 13.006/09

**Cr. Bendtsen:** We move to the final notice of motion which is Item **13.006/09** a motion by Cr. Clarkson.

**Cr. Clarkson:** Thank you Mr Mayor. I would also like to thank the CEO Bill Forrest for helping me with the wording of this notice of motion. I would like to move that Council as a matter of urgency and in the interest of protecting life and property that Nillumbik Shire Council write to the planning Minister or the relevant Minister to (1) Urgently suspend Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation of the Victorian Planning Provisions and Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay, Clause 42.03 Significant Landscape Overlay Clause 22.12 Neighbourhood Character Policy and relevant schedules to allow residents to protect life and property by undertaking bona fide fire protection clearance works without the requirement to obtain a permit until the outcome final report of the Royal Commission set up by the State Government. (2) Fund an educational media campaign to assist with preparation and awareness of the bushfire risk.

**Cr. Bendtsen:** Thank you Cr. Clarkson. Is there a seconder for the motion? There being no seconder the motion lapses. ....*interjections from gallery*....

*Transcript typed from public radio broadcast from Plenty Valley 88.6FM Please check for accuracy against Plenty Valley recording.*

### Note:

The lapsed motion preceeded by six months, the Victorian Government allowing residents the same right. That is, "bona fide" clearance works generally known as the 10/30 Rule (see below). The lapsed motion moved by Clarkson, preceeded 18 apparently false allegations made against her by Victorian Government agencies. The apparently false allegations, some of which carried a maximun 5 year jail penalty, were made over 3 years and estimated to have cost in excess of \$300,000.

### **Go-ahead to clear land** The Age August 1, 2009

RESIDENTS in fire-prone areas across Victoria will be free to remove trees and native vegetation near their homes under a State Government strategy designed to avoid a repeat of February's deadly Black Saturday bushfires. Under new rules, property owners will not need a council permit to remove trees and vegetation within 10 metres of their homes. They will also be allowed to remove low-lying vegetation, such as shrubs and scrub, out to 30 metres from homes.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/goahead-to-clear-land-20090731-e4ii.html#ixzz2Lhp0aUUk>