



Areas that need immediate attention.

1. Radio communication

This has been taken over by FESA and does not operate in normal conditions let alone a severe fire. One comment made to me was that the new system will not work in all parts of the bush.

2 000

This method of alerting people in the bush about bush fires involves to great a time lag and does not compare with the notification of local Bush fire officers or Shires.

3 Local Government

Local Government where do they stand under the new scheme .it appears that their responsibility for the hazard prevention and suppression of bush fires has been taken out of Local hands. This involves a centralisation of both Local Government by WALGA and the approach to fire from a central spot and it has not worked with single fires let alone in the case of a situation like cyclone "Alby".

4 DEC

The total disregard by DEC management of the need for bush fire training as set out by the Bushfire Review Committee some years ago and the loss of that organisations forestry trained persons and that groups management compared with the city based environmentalist philosophy now in place has many weaknesses.

5 Police

The use of police on roads not trained in the ways of the community they are in has caused the spread of fire to a great extent in a number of cases ,the refusal of passage to 5 fire trucks at Toodjay is just one example.

6.Refreshments

The total disregard of local wives and CWA type persons in the provision of refreshments to the fire fighters by purchasing food from local fast food places does a lot to break down the social structure of rural areas. A look at the report on the Bridgetown fire shows a lot of comment on this and accomadation but not a mention of hazard reduction

7. Hazard Reduction

In all the recent fires the lack of hazard reduction(prescribed burning) has been obvious to all who study bush fires and has reached the lowest point in WA's fire history when the Premier quoting an ISO report (which was not in use by FESA) to stop DEC burning and by implication most other reduction of hazards. This had another bad effect on Local Government and had the effect of breaking down the strong social and working bonds that occurred in rural communities.

8 Setting of burning times

These times have ceased to be the ones set by Local Government but are now set by FESA and in some cases are for a limited period with no renewal by phone.

9 Volunteers vehicles

As the committee would know the majority of rural fires are fought by volunteers in their own vehicles and FESA has in the past tried to decide which ones should be removed in one case banning a vehicle for faulty windscreen wipers.

10 Bush fire management plans

At this moment there are very few local authorities with management plans and in reality local people are the ones to set these up .It is a job that local conditions and resources are needed to be taken into consideration and this cannot be done by a central body.

11 Setting up of Prescribed Associations

Surely this is again taking away power from Local Government as the need for many Shires would differ and you would again finish up with the nomination of smaller bodies being elected.Surely The Minister through the other various channels available would be able to find people for these positions without setting up more