



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services

MIN14/002928

Ms Belinda Clarkson
4 Felicia Rise
DIAMOND CREEK VIC 3089

05 FEB 2015

Dear Ms Clarkson

Thank you for your correspondence to the Premier, the Hon Mike Baird MP, which was referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, regarding bushfire rate of spread predictions. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The NSW Rural Fire Service advises me that rates of spread used for the preparation of community warning in NSW are variable and not fixed. Predictions for fire behaviour are prepared by incident management teams with the support of fire behaviour analysts. These are used in combination with other forms of bushfire intelligence to prepare community warnings and information.

I note your correspondence contains responses from the Federal Minister for Industry and also from Emergency Management Victoria. These responses clarify the specific issue regarding rates of spread which occurred during the Black Saturday fires in Victoria.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Government's attention.

Yours Sincerely

Hon Niall Blair MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services