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16 JUN 2015

Mrs Belinda Clarkson
4 Felicia Rise
DIAMOND CREEK VIC 3089

Dear Mrs Clarkson

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2015 enclosing a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, of 11 May 2015.

In your letter to the Prime Minister you refer to the recommendations from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC). The Tasmanian Government is implementing 65 of the recommendations from the VBRC, although 17 need to be modified to suit Tasmanian circumstances.

The rate at which a bushfire will spread is estimated using models that take into account a range of factors including fuel type, fuel load, wind speed, temperature, relative humidity slope and moisture. These models are used to assess the level of risk and estimate the time that a fire will impact a community in its path. Accurately estimating the rate at which a bushfire will spread is important to ensure that timely warnings can be issued.

The Tasmanian Government is working with the Australian Government and other states and territories to ensure improved consistency of warnings and information relating to bushfires. The Council of Australian Governments' *Law Crime & Community Safety Council* (LCCSC) has acknowledged that the science that underpins current fire danger ratings systems can be improved.

The LCCSC has endorsed the development of a new 'Next Generation' Fire Danger Rating System as a project of national significance. The Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre is leading this project on behalf of the LCCSC and fire agencies.

The new Fire Danger Rating System will impact on the way that warnings and information are issued to communities. In April 2015 the Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee accepted a *National Review of Warnings and Information* and has agreed to lead a review of current frameworks, assessing the evidence for change, and identifying opportunities for harmonisation.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will Hodgman".

Will Hodgman MP
Premier

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