



## Daryl Maguire MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services,  
Veterans and The Centenary of ANZAC

MIN15/002067-03

Mrs Belinda Clarkson  
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Dear Mrs Clarkson

Thank you for your letter of 22 July 2015 to the NSW Premier, the Hon Mike Baird MP, which was referred to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott MP, concerning emergency warnings and the rate of fire spread used in fire prediction. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I am advised the NSW Rural Fire Service took part in a National Review of Warnings and Information during 2014. The review has now reported its findings and recommendations, which include a review of national policy related to information and warnings; consistent warning frameworks for specific hazards; improved use of social media and new technologies for warnings; and improved relationships with media and online services for the dissemination of warnings.

Under the leadership of the Australia – New Zealand Emergency Management Committee, the National Public Information and Warnings Working Group is considering the findings of the report. The Group will oversee the implementation of recommendations contained in the report.

As previously advised, the rates of fire spread used for the preparation of community warnings in NSW are variable and not fixed. Predictions of 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.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Daryl Maguire MP**  
Parliamentary Secretary

14 SEP 2015