

Mr Malcolm Turnbull  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

22 December 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

## Extreme Bushfires in Victoria

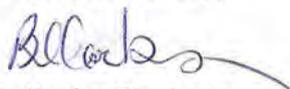
I draw your attention to a letter I received from the Attorney-General's Office (A-G), of 13 December 2015 about extreme bushfires in Victoria. The letter was written by the A-G's Office in response to a request from you (Att. 1 & 2).

However, while the letter states "...the Australian Government provides substantial support...to drive nationally consistent approaches...", it does not mention why public warnings about extreme bushfires, appear to be based on a passage of fire of 9, and not 24 kilometres in one hour. The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission placed public warnings first.

On re-reading my letters about this crucial issue, to you and former PM Abbott, along with the Premiers responses, I believe Australian Governments are in error regarding public warnings about extreme bushfires. My letters provide expert advice that this apparent error will result in deaths, an outcome I believe only you have the authority to avoid.

With the greatest respect, would you please conduct an independent Inquiry. To support this opinion, please see [www.elthamsdeathtrap.com](http://www.elthamsdeathtrap.com) and Governments official warning video "*Don't Wait and See*".

Yours sincerely,



Belinda Clarkson

CC: **Opposition Leader:** Bill Shorten & selected Australian media

State:	Leader:	Opposition Leaders:
Australian Capital Territory	Chief Minister Andrew Barr	Jeremy Hanson
New South Wales	Premier Mike Baird	Luke Foley
Northern Territory	Chief Minister Adam Giles	Michael Gunner
South Australia	Premier Jay Weatherill	Steven Marshall
Tasmania	Premier Will Hodgman	Bryan Green
Queensland Premier	Annastacia Palaszczuk	Lawrence Springborg
Victoria	Premier Daniel Andrews	Matthew Guy
Western Australia	Premier Collin Barnett	Mark McGowan



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING  
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

Reference Number: C15/111218

Mrs Belinda Clarkson  
4 Felicia Rise  
DIAMOND CREEK VIC 3089

Dear Mrs Clarkson

Thank you for your correspondence dated 01 October 2015 to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your correspondence.

Your views are noted and they are important. A strong democracy and a responsive government always require constant feedback from its people about the issues that concern them.

The matters raised in your correspondence relate to the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney-General. As such, the Prime Minister has referred your correspondence for a response.

Further details about contacting the Minister and department can be found at [www.gold.gov.au](http://www.gold.gov.au).

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Fisher', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch

11 November 2015



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

MC15-008372

13 December 2015

Ms Belinda Clarkson  
4 Felicia Rise  
DIAMOND CREEK VIC 3089

Dear Ms Clarkson

Thank you for your letter of 1 October 2015 to the **Prime Minister** regarding extreme bushfires in Victoria. This was referred to the Minister for Justice who has portfolio responsibility for this issue. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Constitutional responsibility for emergency management and the protection of life and property lies with the states and territories. This includes responsibility for preparation and response to bushfires. This includes the management of bushfires and public warnings, using the best science and modelling information.

As previously advised, **the Australian Government provides substantial support** to states and territories to drive nationally consistent approaches and facilitate the sharing of resources and expertise. This includes enhancing bushfire systems, community education and public warnings. Please refer to the enclosed correspondence for further detail on these initiatives.

States and territories are best placed to identify the high-priority risks in their local communities and the specific measures that will address those risks. They implement activities and fund local grant initiatives which best meet specific jurisdictional needs. For example, the short video you refer to, **'Don't Wait and See,'** was a local government initiative funded through a Victorian government grant. I suggest you 'credit' this to the appropriate source on your website **<www.elthamsdeathtrap.com>**.

Thank you for writing on this matter. I trust the information provided is useful.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Kelly  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
National Security Resilience Policy Division

Encl: Attorney-General's Department Correspondence, 22 December 2014 (MC14/23907)