

Appendix 9.

Request for an Audit of Forest Fire Management on Public land in Victoria by the Auditor-General of Victoria

Submit anonymously ~~Yes~~
No

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Sector Private Citizens

Subject Forest Fire Management on Public Land

***What is the True Cost of Forest Fire Management on Public Land in Victoria?
What actions are required to increase transparency and accountability in reporting these costs in the public interest?***

Summary of your concerns or suggestions

We are concerned that the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent each year on forest fire management on public land are not fully and transparently reported in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's annual reports to Parliament.

Such reporting should be a key indicator of the agency's capacity and capability for what is a key government responsibility to its citizens and communities.

We have reviewed the Auditor General's key audit themes from 2015/16 and believe this case involves all the themes. It is considered timely for a comprehensive audit that will identify what actions are required to increase transparency and accountability in money and resources being spent on a vital public service and what improvements might be made for this purpose in the public interest.

We submit a report in support of this request for an audit.

Supporting files:

- * Forest Fire Management questions for the Auditor-General of Victoria
*What is the True Cost of Forest Fire Management on Public Land in Victoria?
What actions are required to increase transparency and accountability in reporting these costs in the public interest?*

- * Appendix 1. Spreadsheet arrangements [Text plus spreadsheet on disk].
- * Appendix 2. Bushfire Suppression Costs in Victoria. A short cost study of the 2003 Alpine Fire & an appeal for more reporting transparency.
- * Appendix 3. Forest Fire Management in Victoria. Inquiries, Reports and Reviews from the Past Eight Decades: 1939-2016.
- * Appendix 4. Selected Annual Reports of the Agency Responsible for Forest Fire Management on Public Land.
- * Appendix 5. Proposed Amendments to the Forests Act 1958.
- * Appendix 6. Selected Extracts from the Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2012.
- * Appendix 7. Extension to the Case for Prescribed Burning in Bushfire Management. A PowerPoint presentation on disk.
- * An accompanying disk with all of the accompanying files

The extract given in Appendix 8 *What is the True Cost of Forest Fire Management on Public Land in Victoria? What actions are required to increase transparency and accountability in reporting these costs in the public interest? Barrie Dexter & Donald Macleod November 2017* was part of 'the Prepared Document' sent to VAGO in support of this request for an audit