



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

ED16/201

The Hon Robert Brown MLC
Chair
Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your letter of 5 May 2016 concerning evidence provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5's inquiry into the Wambelong Fire.

OEH has reviewed the evidence provided to the committee in Supplementary answers 6 and 7. Having done so, OEH has not discovered any information that contradicts its evidence in relation to the stated sign locations, or the map depicting sign locations as provided in Attachment C.

It should be noted that the map at Attachment C does not show the location of all closure signs and vehicle barricades that were erected by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff prior to the fire, for example additional signs were erected at various points within the park adjacent to the John Renshaw Parkway.

I would like to clarify, based on OEH's review, the context of the photos at Attachments D and E.

I acknowledge that the photographs at Attachment D and E in the OEH evidence were taken after the fire. The evidence for the Parliamentary Inquiry was, as you would appreciate, compiled a considerable time after the fire was extinguished and indeed after the park was reopened. Accordingly, the photos are re-enactments of the 'Park Closed' signs that were in place during the fire. They were included to provide pictorial imagery to illustrate the characteristics of the signs that were displayed by NPWS staff at the time (see also paragraph below). They were provided to the committee to be informative and certainly were not intended to be in any way misleading.

The photograph labelled Attachment D is a re-enactment of the 'Park Closed' signage put in place at each end of John Renshaw Parkway on Friday 11 January 2013. These signs were subsequently replaced by larger signs. An example of the larger signs, which depicts the western entry to the park on John Renshaw Parkway, is shown in the photo at Attachment E. These larger 'Park Closed' signs were installed following receipt of the signs from the manufacturer, at some time after 11 January 2013 but before the fire was declared out.

I would like to correct one error relating to the size of the 'Park Closed' sign at Attachment D. The dimensions of that sign were approximately 1000 mm x 280 mm, not 1000 mm x 400mm as indicated in Supplementary answer 7.

OEH has no information available to suggest that the size of the other signs erected by NPWS were materially different to the sizes quoted in the OEH evidence.

To further illustrate the location and visibility of park closure signage displayed by NPWS staff, I attach an image taken by a freelance photographer on 19 January 2013. This photograph shows the sign displayed on the Dooranbah Road entrance to the park near Tooraweenah.

Should you require any additional information please contact me on .

Yours sincerely

TERRY BAILEY
Chief Executive

25 May 2016



Warrumbungle

National Park

Centre,

Camping

31 km

NATIONAL PARK
CLOSED
On and off to Warrumbungle

