

May 24, 2016

Robert Brown MLC
Chairman - Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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Dear Mr Brown

Earlier this year I forwarded to you a 27-page document titled 'Investigation into the Wambelong Bushfire, Warrumbungle National Park, Coonabarabran, January 2013'

That document contained written claims and photographic evidence that an officer of the Office of Environment and Heritage and a Ranger from the National Parks and Wildlife Service had committed perjury before the Parliament of New South Wales General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5's inquiry into the Wambelong Bushfire and the NSW Coronial Inquiry into the fire.

On the 5th of May, Madeleine Foley, the Director of Committees advised me in writing that the issues that I raised were under consideration by your Committee.

Since submitting that evidence in the form of the 27-page document, additional evidence has come to light which further supports the claims that the two abovementioned officers misled those inquiries.

The first item is a photograph, titled 'Western park entrance' taken at the western entrance to the Warrumbungle National Park, on the morning of Sunday 13th of January, 2013. That photograph was taken by a Daniel Henley and is a wide angled photograph showing the road leading into the park blocked by vehicle barrier boards, clouds of brown smoke obscure the sky. The large timber 'Warrumbungle National Park' sign can just be glimpsed behind a tree branch to the left of the roadway as it curves to the right.

In support of the perjury claim the annotated enlargement of this image more clearly shows that there is no large yellow and red 'Park Closed' sign covering the Warrumbungle National Park sign.

In addition to the production of that photograph, I have been informed that the small A4 sized white paper 'Closed' sign that was attached to the tourist drive sign on the outskirts of Coonabarabran and for which there appeared to be no evidence as to who put that sign in place, was in fact placed there by the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Area Manager for Coonabarabran, Mark Fosdick.

John Ward, a retired senior NPWS Ranger has stated that he and his wife Karen were driving past the large tourist drive sign on the edge of Coonabarabran in the week prior to the fire when they saw Mark Fosdick standing beneath the sign. They stopped and helped Mr Fosdick by holding his ladder as he put up the A4 sized paper sign.

I would request that your Committee accept these additional items of information for its consideration.

Respectfully

John Shobbrook