

INQUIRY INTO WAMBELONG FIRE

Name: Mr Alan Imhoff

Date received: 6/01/2014

I have been severely affected by Wambelong fire

I hold title to 3 properties adjoining Warrumbungle National Park and another a short distance away, in total approximately 10,000 acres of which approx 10,000 was burnt.

Destroyed was 2 houses, one of which was 13 years old and very substantial construction, 137 head of Angus cattle breeders, 130 calves from day old to 3 months. An estimated 80 Kilometers of fencing of which 27 kilometers was within 12 years old.

NPWS currently are in a state of standoff.

Shortly after fire Blazeaid assisted myself in removing approx 12 km of boundary fence with park using my equipment which include a CAT D7H and CAT 931C track tractors and MF 840 and MF 6270 wheel tractors. This exercise clocked up 50 hrs on dozer. Since then I have cleared between 6 to 10 mtrs along my side of fence line accumulating a further 120 machine hours upon dozer.

I was contacted by a NPWS ranger to assess fire damage to common fence line at which I emphasised they pull their finger out and utilise blazeaid volunteers, nothing has happened!

I have recieved one letter from NPWS

they measure approx 9.6 km and claim I fenced out 50 ha of park, I followed the proverbial piece of string of existing fence, their materials quantities had an extreme shortfall.

They indicated in fencing agreement I was to construct fence in 6 months and maintain it indefinitely. I am 65 years old and have had 2 open heart operations and due for number 3.

Of the common fence line approx 5 km falls under RFS section 76 and was clear my side

NPWS had used this route in the past and laid 1080 baits upon my side of fence without my knowledge or consent!

They recently contacted myself regarding cattle in park, nothing has been resolved!

Two of fence line I estimate at 100 years old and had not been burnt. One of which is a paper road which I propose to clear as a fire break,

Pandora's box has been opened!

Yours

Alan Imhoff