



Rob Stokes

Pittwater MP



28 November 2014

Mr Bill Gye
President
Scotland Island Residents' Association
PO Box 70
CHURCH POINT NSW 2105

Dear Mr Gye, *Bill,*

I write to update you on important changes to the NSW Rural Fire Service's Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice.

As you may be aware, since the Code was introduced in August this year I have held numerous discussions with both the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Minister for Emergency Services to highlight its unintended consequences and potential misuse.

In late September a planned review of the Code was expedited and a number of immediate amendments were made to help ensure the Code was addressing its designated purpose.

Following the receipt of submissions and further discussions, additional amendments have now been made which significantly reduce the Code's eligibility areas, whilst still ensuring assistance and protection for the most vulnerable residents in our community.

These changes have seen the clearing entitlement area reduced from 350 metres to 100 metres for Category 1 bushfire prone vegetation, and from 150 metres to 30 metres for Category 2 bushfire prone vegetation. This is in line with Pittwater Council's longstanding bushfire control buffers.

Local Councils have also been reminded to reclassify any vegetation areas not believed to pose a bushfire risk and submit their revised maps to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Thank you for your feedback on this important issue. It has proven extremely valuable in my recent discussions.

Yours sincerely,

ROB STOKES MP
MEMBER FOR PITTWATER

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