



AgForce welcomes Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into vegetation management

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AgForce Queensland Farmers has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the role of vegetation management in Queensland's devastating bushfires.

General President Georgie Somerset said a Parliamentary Inquiry was, by virtue of its rigour and powers to talk to a range of agencies and stakeholders, the only forum that would reveal the role of vegetation management in the catastrophe.

"We believe a Parliamentary Inquiry will offer a sufficiently robust and objective investigation that will enable sensible changes to vegetation management laws and processes and hopefully prevent these sorts of tragedies in the future," Mrs Somerset said.

"We implore the Queensland Government to fully and genuinely cooperate with the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry so we can get to the bottom of this issue."

Mrs Somerset also called on the State Government to show similar leadership and a commitment to a genuine solution by agreeing to the Opposition's call for a State Parliamentary Inquiry.

"This business-as-usual review by the Inspector-General announced by the State Government is a manifestly inadequate response to a disaster that they themselves describe as unprecedented," she said.

"We must involve a broad section of views to provide the answers we need to prevent such widespread devastation to life, property and the natural environment from ever occurring again.

"An investigation into the management of conservation areas and State-controlled land, in particular fuel management, must form part of the terms of reference of this Inquiry.

"If the State Government, as they stated yesterday, believes this is a discussion about climate change, then that needs to be part of the review to ensure their vegetation management policies and practices are adequate and appropriate."

Ends.

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