Good morning all

The Howitt Society web site <https://thehowittsociety.com/> enables us to target and inform audiences beyond those who subscribe to our public Facebook group or occasionally visit our web page.

Our position on achieving essential reform in the management of public land and related matters is too important to be hidden or overlooked.

The Howitt Society intends being a strong ‘influencer’ to provide balance to others who so far have had a free run e.g. the NON-GOVERNMENT Climate Council <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/> and some academics and institutions that need testing on their opinions on wildfire and forest management. Then, there’s the ‘green influence’ clearly permeating government agencies and local government.

Aircraft suppression water bombing of running fires should not be viewed as the panacea but must be part of fully integrated fire management arrangements to maximise the return on investment in this very costly tool.

There’s also the problems being experienced by people who lost their homes and businesses, due to the failure of the emergency management agencies and local government in properly preparing communities to withstand wildfire coming out of mismanaged forests and National Parks. Mallacoota is a prime example of catastrophic failure.

We’ll be looking to identify malfeasance, nonfeasance or misfeasance by those with statutory and moral responsibilities in the area of emergency management and related fields that affect the health and safety of all Victorians — you can run but no longer can you hide!

Related to wildfire loss and needing attention is the “Leave Early” advice that may be followed by “It’s time to leave and in some situations “It’s no longer safe to leave and to shelter in-place”, typically the family home, homes people are influenced, frightened if you like, into believing they won’t survive.

The inability of the Victorian government to contain COVID-19 to the quarantine hotels is another shocking failure of Victoria’s emergency management arrangements given the 800 or so resulting deaths and the subsequent draconian measures necessarily inflicted on Melburnians to prevent further spread. How many people, particularly the elderly, who’ve been urged to stay in their homes to avoid COVID-19 will be reluctant to leave early and gather in centres where people are not masked up, and possibly die as a result? And, where does the responsibility for such deaths or injury sit, the government!

Where’s the fire services knowledge that supports this potentially dangerous ‘bail out’ approach to community protection, maybe that’s the real problem?

Finally those on the blind copy list receiving this posting, if you prefer not receive postings let us know by responding to the email and we’ll remove you from the distribution.

Earlier today, 1 February 2021, The Howitt Society launched itself into the public environment with the following posting.

to: daniel.andrews, james.merlino, lisa.neville, lily.dambrosio, martin.foley, richard.wynne, shaun.leane, tim.pallas, danny.pearson, Ingrid.Stitt, jaclyn.symes, feedback, admin, michael.obrien, david.southwick, peter.walsh, melina.bath,

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THE HOWITT SOCIETY

healthy and safe landscapes