

# TOSTAREE FIRES

## Support for fire crews

Sir,- I write to wholeheartedly support the performance of the fire crews from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the CFA who responded to and fought the recent fire at Tostaree.

The fire was reported as soon as smoke was visible to the very experienced fire-spotter in the Mt Nowa Nowa fire tower at 1.04pm on Tuesday 1 February.

The local DSE fire crews were immediately dispatched including 16 fire-fighters, one tanker, four 'slip-on' pump and hose units, and a first-attack bulldozer.

The fire was in grassland on private property, about 1-2 hectares in size, and the flames were about 1.5 metres high. The fire

weather was extreme, with very strong winds, a temperature of 40 degrees and very low humidity.

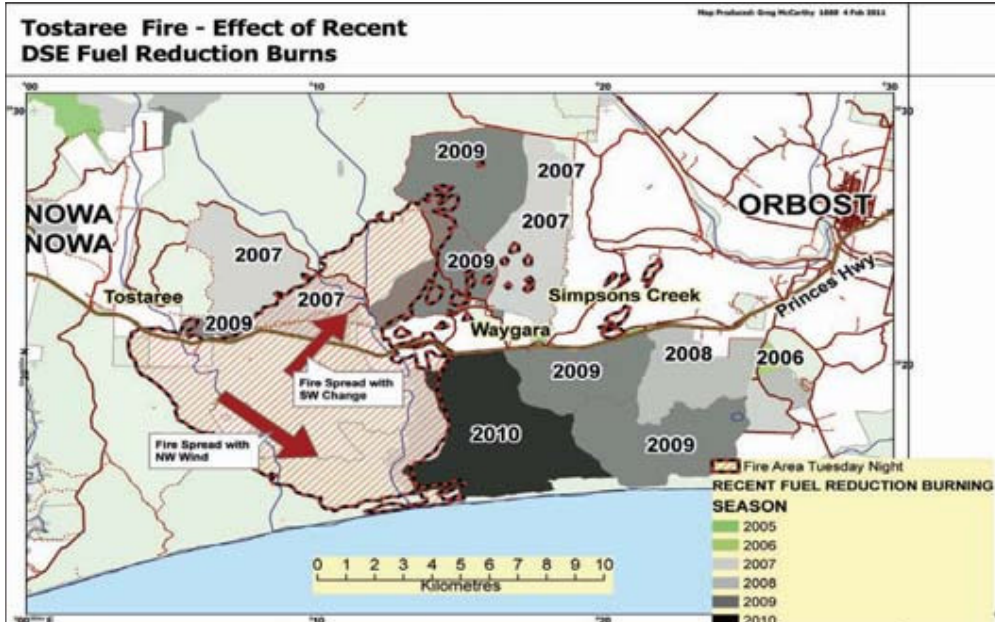
Under these extreme conditions the fire soon crossed the Lower Tostaree Road and entered the forest.

The fire has since burnt over 8000 hectares, and authorities are investigating the cause.

From my own inquiries, I have absolutely no doubt that all DSE personnel involved in the detection and early response to this fire acted promptly, professionally and expertly.

Any suggestion to the contrary simply does not fit with the facts.

Yours etc.,  
Ewan Waller,  
DSE chief fire officer.



## Snowy River Mail

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**Tuesday, February 15, 2011**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2011**

Consulting rooms:  
**East Gippsland Osteopathic Clinic**  
17 McLeod St, Orbost

**Appointments to be made through Bairnsdale**  
Phone 5152 4380

The dramatic effect recent Department of Sustainability and Environment fuel reduction burns had on slowing (and in some areas actually stopping) the progress of the Tostaree fire last week. The fuel reduction burns and the years undertaken are listed, with last week's fires highlighted with red lines.

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