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# Don't forget the country: CA

The Country Alliance party has warned that if metropolitan Melbourne forgets about the issues behind the recent tragic bushfires, they will have failed those who lost lives and property.

Party spokesman, Russell Bate, said while the legacy of the bushfires will remain, there is a danger that the causes are likely to be forgotten.

"History shows that we are pretty quick to forget the lessons of the immediate past" he said.

"So while metropolitan Melbourne will soon be focussing on the football season and what's happening in *Home and Away*, they must also remember that country Victoria will be trying to get back into something resembling their lives before the fires and most importantly, trying to address the issues that caused the tragedy in the first place".

Mr Bate said his party intends to make a submission to the Royal Commission on the bushfires.

"Our focus will be on the basic issues of proper land management. Previous Royal Commissions as far back as 1939 have addressed them but there has been little change of substance as a result. It will be impossible to move on until they are finally addressed".

"Urban Australia has demonstrated magnificent generosity in its support of the fire's victims. However while money will help restore lost property it will never restore lost lives. Unless we address the ignorance, inactivity and sometimes sheer stupidity underlying the local and state government policies that exacerbated the recent tragedy rural and regional Australians will continue to be needlessly exposed in future fires." he concluded.

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