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CA Calls for Councils to use common sense on tree clearing

The Country Alliance party has called for local councils to use common sense in their application of penalties to landowners clearing trees around homes in bush areas, many of which were impacted by bushfires in February this year.

“Country Alliance would like to see local Councils quarantining penalties levied out to rate payers who have cleared trees within 10 meters of their dwelling” said spokesperson, Andrew Jones.

“The State Government has recognised that common sense should prevail. Changes which the government is bringing into effect will make it legal for landowners to cut down trees within 10 meters of their dwelling.

“We are of the view that local councils should similarly recognise that common sense should prevail and write off the penalties they have handed out. To do otherwise demonstrates a culture of short term self interested revenue raising” Jones said.

“Councils know that the State Government is changing the law and need to respect that their residents and ratepayers are acting appropriately.”

Mr Jones said that if the penalties were not quarantined, affected residents should contact the ombudsman to try and put some common sense into the bureaucracy.

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2010 Candidate for Eastern Victoria Region