THE THERE’S NO FIRE IN THE BELLY

The Henderson Government today introduced a Bill into Parliament that increases the penalty for lighting bushfires.

Member for Araluen, Jodeen Carney, introduced a bill into Parliament in 2003 which increased the penalty for deliberately lighting fires from 14 to 20 years.


“Now, 6 years later, the Government is desperate to be seen doing something and so has marginally increased the penalties for lighting a bushfire.

“The Government’s Bill imposes a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment for a person who intends to cause the fire or is reckless as to causing it.

“Six years ago, Labor couldn’t stomach a maximum period of imprisonment of 20 years, and it still can’t, because the maximum penalty proposed by Government today is 15 years.

“The Attorney-General says that people who intentionally light bushfires will face tougher new penalties under new legislation….

“If that’s the case, why isn’t Government increasing penalties for attempts to commit arson, and existing provisions relating to setting fire to crops and other plants?

“The Government is keen to promote its Bill as ‘new’. While there are some new sections, the fact is that this, once again, demonstrates that the Government is out of ideas.

“Government finished its business just after 4.00pm today. It’s further evidence is out of ideas and out of puff.”

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 992