

Committee Secretary  
 Select Committee on  
 the Australian Bushfires  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600  
 Dear Sir/Madam:



### A scorched Environment!

Following the disastrous bushfires in South East Mainland Australia in the summer of 2001-2003 it is time to put under the microscope various environmental initiatives of State and local governments and analyse the impact these are having on bushfire hazard reduction.

These initiatives fall into two classes -

1. Those aimed at the question of "global warming"
2. Those prohibiting any private interventions with native flora on private property.

Byorn Lomborg (1998) in "The Skeptical environmentalist" considers that global warming measures must not be considered in isolation from other factors. But according to Piers Ackerman (see attached) the whole "question" of global warming has become "questionable" anyway.

The NSW Clean Air Act of 1997 prohibits the lighting of fires in the open (eg for winter hazard reduction in backyards.) A permit can be applied for, for rural properties.

As expected this has had an enormous impact on the accumulation of combustible rubbish in NSW.

Councils throughout NSW have rushed to place Tree and native vegetation preservation orders on all private property in their areas.

This may have seemed a good idea initially.

But as the details show (see enclosed specimen from the Blue Mountains City Council) they make it impossible to reduce fire hazard due to dead or dangerous material on private property.

Even if permits were obtainable how could Council officers inspect 10000 properties several times a year?

Because there seems no way for these ill considered draconian measures to be repealed and as they leave no way for private citizens to engage in hazard reduction in winter months then these bodies - State & local Councils must assume full responsibility for bushfire and for compensation of bushfire.

Yours sincerely