

Dundas, Ian (REPS)

From:
Sent: Saturday, 24 May 2003 12:51 PM
To: Committee, Bushfires (REPS)
Subject: Home bushfire shield

THE HOME FIRE SHIELD

Attention; Committee Chair Parliamentary Committee into Recent Australian Bushfires

My submission is in reference to :
 (e) any alternatives or developmental bushfire mitigation and prevention approaches, and the appropriate direc

My premise is based on my own assessment of the Canberra firestorm, and were confirmed by phone conversatio

The Home Fire Shield
 'fire-proofing the interface between the bush and suburbs'

Premise:

that the major threat in a bushfire entering a suburb or threatening a house or other structure is the th
 (This is why residents are encouraged to wet down their property and remove any bushes and other material wh

Conclusion:

Therefore the most effective protection would be to completely prevent ember strike on the house, and comp
 Issue; whether the Canberra firestorm was unusual in that embers were in front of the fire, as stated in Cat

Answer: While firestorms like the Canberra were extreme in a normal bushfire season 30 to 40 houses are unde
 Issue; radiant heat through the fire shield could be a factor,
 Answer; A layer of professionally constructed house fire shield would have a insulation layer to prevent he

THE SOLUTION:

To prevent ember strike on the house and to prevent ember ignition.

A 100% effective way to do this would be to completely enclose the house in canvas (or wool, or other natu

An amateur version would be sail canvas with the material from upto 20 fire extinguishers soaking the inside

A more professional manufacture would be to create a further layer of material that prevents heat transmissi

The main Issue would be the scientific study of what materials would best fit the requirements to raise the

The two most important results would be (i) to prevent ember strike hitting the house, and (ii) if the fire-

Three types;

- (i) Fire Mummy*; a truck with a electronically operated drum to unreel the wrap to go round and round, with 1
- (ii) A fire retardant tent (able to enclose a standard sized home) to transport by air (with a hook in the to
- (iii) A sail drape for partial but quick protection.

Strategy;

Rather than as seen as a commercial product paid for by the private home owner; it would be better to have :

One suggestion that seems around is to change the Architectural code for building house in 'at bushfire ris

In the design of a professionally manufactured home fire shield part of the design would have to make sure

Justin Leonard of the CSIRO Fire Science and Technology Research, who studies the effect bushfires have on 1

Jim Gould who at CSIRO studies bush fire dynamics, suggested wool or cotton, not keen on wattle, or canvas.

For larger structures such as a block of units or veterinarian hospital or observatory, a custom-made 'sail

Vehicle shields for cars or even bushfire tenders could be made; and used when a fire rushes over the top c

ACTION TO TAKE;

This concept is seen as viable by one of the CSIRO fire experts and I would suggest the ACT Government fin

Models and testing of materials would be needed, as well as issues of transportation and speed of erection c

My name is Mark Whalan and I am contactable at 21 Flinders Ave, Klama Downs NSW 2533 or on Ph. 42377614 or 4

I hope this submission is of use and I await your response.

Remaining respectfully,

27/05/2003