

Submission No.418

Committee Secretary

Selected Committee on theRecent Australian Bushfires

Parliament House

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Terms of reference:

To identify measures that can be put in place by Government, industry and the community to minimise the incidence of, and impact of bush fires on life, property and environment. Land management also.

Minimising the incidence of bushfires is an immense problem because large fires have become institutionalized along with the destruction of the environment. This includes wild life, other animals, our life and property — and the health of all living things.

How then can Government, industry and community change this state of affairs?

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 Fire has become the Malin of Summer.
 Govt and media refer to Summer as
 'The Fire Season', and ask us to have our
 'fire plans' ready. Every day during summer we
 hear this - our friends become slightly paranoid.

I once heard a person say that he wished we
 would have a bushfire because he was prepared
 like waiting for a war. We may get the notion
 that is pushed by Govt & media that bush fire
 is inevitable and not far away (only if you're
 one).

Lets call summer Summer and have less
 social engineering. I feel the fire hype
 even though well intentioned may be part
 of the fire lighting by those who intentionally
 light fires - and there seems to be many.
 Sometimes members of C.F.A. (Culbick fire 2003).

The sprays of back burning (my fire fighting)
 on 40° days is in most cases disastrous as
 it keeps the fires going for weeks and
 burns larger areas not needed - wild life & birds
 die in huge numbers.

I have been through a fire storm and
 sat in a dome covered over with a wet black
 cover. Fires jump everywhere but an ideal

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 is to have some idea of the front
 impossible with back burning. Larger the
 fire the more carbonized the creek Rivers and
 water tanks. Also it is difficult to extinguish
 with water bombing.

It seems that the more sophisticated the fire fighting
 equipment - the more prolonged the amount of fires.
 The helicopter is perhaps needed - Bull dozers
 do great damage to property & digger tracks are
 of debatable value and add to the cost of fires
 and destroy forest.

Burning of is a menace. I have nearly lost
 my home at least 10 times from burn fire. More
 information needs to be supplied to the gumbo
 people who pile all up & set fire to all.
 Clear fell logging and the subsequent fires
 that "imitate nature"?, often get away
 and burn precious forest and habitat - Watson
 coupe (powerful owl) Clear fell logging must go.

Smoke from bushfires in summer 2003 was
 phenomenal and we all tolerated it as we
 had no choice. The smoke this week from coupe
 burning and the acid sulfate of napalm has been
 awful. So thick - I nearly rang the L.P.A who

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could have charged the S+E with pollution
of atmosphere (making offensive to senses) human
but of course they wouldn't?

This is because large fires are institutional
and environmental destruction - The frequency of
brush fire allows this to happen to bush fire

Let us have summer not the fire season
no smoke and fire from the Department.

We must be vigilant and not accepting on
the community level. No more fires for 200 years. Every 50
years is enough, even 10 NOT every year. W. Arner.

If you have read this - Thank you
I have 1 1/2 paralysed hands & just scratch as
as you can see. Can't type & couldn't find
someone to do it for me.