

Submission to the Senate Select Committee Inquiry into the Incidence and Severity of Bushfires across Australia .

The two major influences on fires are weather conditions and fuel .

Contrary to some beliefs , humans can have little influence on weather , the use of technology to try to combat fires in extreme conditions is our only defence in these circumstances .

Fuel reduction is a significant method of reducing both incidence and severity of fires , even when arson is the cause . Arson is actively targeted , but lightning is beyond our control . I am old enough to remember vividly the early 1940's , when drought and fire-favourable weather conditions led to large areas of timbered country in my locality being ablaze as the result of dry storms , with no possibility of extinguishing them . This was no great issue , as the huge rabbit population made it impossible for fires to travel over developed country . Because of the demise of most of the rabbits , and the existence of very illconceived legislation restricting landowners usage of fuel reduction and programmes to limit and nullify bushfire events , when fires occur , as they will , the effects will be severe and far reaching .

It is apparent that any conclusion reached by your committee urgently needs to advise major action on fuel reduction .

Arthur John Hallman



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur John Hallman".