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Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 August 2009

Dear Ms Radcliffe

### **INQUIRY INTO BUSHFIRES IN AUSTRALIA**

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) notes the Senate Select Committee on Agriculture and Related Industries has launched its own Inquiry into Bushfires in Australia and would like to provide a submission for the consideration of your committee.

The VAFI is the peak employer representative body for the Victorian timber industry. We play an important role in advocating on behalf of the industry at both a Government (Local, State and Federal) and community level and our industry contributes in excess of \$6 billion to the Victorian economy, employing over 32,000 people.

As the Senate Select Committee would be aware the 'Black Saturday' bushfires hit the timber industry and our local communities very hard, resulting in the Victorian Premier, the Hon John Brumby establishing a Royal Commission into the matter. We have made a submission to the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission (VBRC) and believe it deals with the Senate Select Committee inquiry's following terms of reference: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k and l. We, therefore, tend our original VBRC submission to the Senate Select Committee for consideration.

Should the Senate Select Committee hold public hearings into this matter as has been indicated, we would very much welcome the opportunity of appearing before it.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip Dalidakis", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Philip Dalidakis  
Chief Executive Officer

