

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on  
Agricultural and Related Industries  
PO BOX 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

Dear Sir,

Re the Federal Bushfire Enquiry:

With regard to fuel reduction I would ask when the Government is going to stop bending over backwards to placate the Green Lobby on this matter and take notice instead of bushmen – men who have lived and worked in the bush all their lives, and the farmers who live and work close to the land and whose very lives and livelihoods depend on the safety of their land and who understand the value of fuel reduction.

Every bushfire inquiry since the 1930s has recommended fuel reduction as absolutely essential to reducing the damage of wild fires. But nothing happens. Don't get me wrong. I am as interested as anybody else in the preservation of orange bellied parrots or green tree frogs et al., but not when their preservation endangers human lives.

The Greens Party is now calling for a further "scientific enquiry" into fires! So how much further research is needed? Australia's indigenous people have had 60,000 years experience of using fire for reducing fuel loads in forests. Isn't that enough?

The Green's Party is lobbying now to obtain the balance of power in various parliaments, compromising the ability of governments to build new dams and to manage forests. If they are successful we can look forward to many more Black Saturdays.

Yours faithfully,



MARY SEXTON