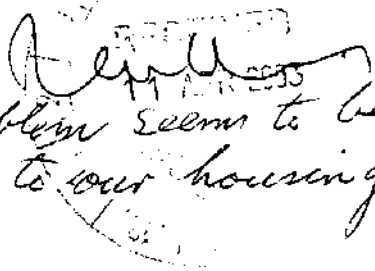


Committee Secretary
Select Committee on Recent
Australian Bushfires
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Submission No.15

59 Macmillan Hill
Frenchs Forest 2086

NSW 9/4/03



Dear Sir, The main problem seems to be our natural Gum trees are in too close to our housing areas and more often too dense.

As we are constantly reminded, Gum trees are Combustible and Explosive when very windy and dry conditions prevail.

My suggestion for minimisation is that services such as Rural Bush Fire Services, Local Councils, and similar authorities should administer Rules and Regulations that all new subdivisions and also existing prone areas be cleared to approx $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilometre Buffer Zones from all housing & buildings.

As we are all aware, trees are necessary, a beautiful asset and attractive.

However there must be NON-COMBUSTABLE trees available to replace our Gum trees in these areas.

My Suggestion is that Nurseries owned by the National Parks & Wildlife and perhaps other Nurseries could be instructed to propagate Millions & Millions of Rubber trees, Moreton Bay Figs, and similar, that are NON-COMBUSTABLE and spread & plant these within the $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilometre Buffer Zone.

This could take some time, but I believe it could be the approach to minimise the intensity.

Yours Faithfully
W.H. Fox.