



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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May 9, 2003

Committee Secretary
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA



Submission No.326

Dear Sir,

Inquiry into the recent Australian bushfires

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is the peak body representing the apary industry in Australia. Member bodies include:-

Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations
Honey Packers' and Marketers' Association of Australia
Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association
National Council of Pollination Associations

In respect of the terms of reference, industry wishes to address:-

- (b) the causes of and risk factors contributing to the impact and severity of the bushfires, including land management practices and policies in national parks, state forests, other Crown land and private property;

and

- (d) appropriate land management policies and practices to mitigate the damage caused by bushfires to the environment, property, community facilities and infrastructure and the potential environmental impact of such policies and practices;

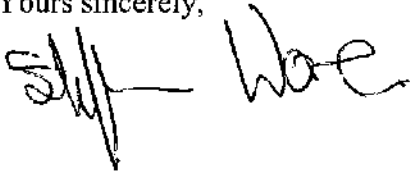
In respect of the above two points, industry attaches a copy of its recent Resource Conference which included beekeepers, researchers and land managers. The points raised during the Conference highlight the ongoing difficulties of public lands being properly managed and utilised for the benefit of all stakeholders. In recent years there has been a marked increase in the amount of public land made available for National Parks and this has resulted in the exclusion of beekeepers and other stakeholders. The

failure of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to properly maintain roads and fire trails is a constant source of frustration to our members.

Industry would welcome the opportunity to meet with your Committee to further expand on the issues raised in our Resource Conference. The issues, though not specific to bushfires, raise a large number of management issues which need to be considered independent of emotion but which go to the long term heart of properly resourced public land management in Australia.

I would welcome the opportunity to expand further on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Ware', written in a cursive style.

STEPHEN WARE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR