



The Committee Secretary,
House Select Committee on the recent Australian Bushfires,
Department of the House of Representatives,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am submitting information to this Committee because I feel strongly that not enough is done to minimize loss of life when fire strikes. I was deeply upset by the loss of life in the recent Canberra bushfires and could only think – if the REM (Ross Escape Module) had been available to people then this tragic loss of life would not have occurred.

I am an individual with limited resources, I am not in a position to send in a highly professionally prepared submission. I am sending the enclosed information with the hope that this Committee – with all the resources that you have at your command – can find out what has happened to the REM and could it be developed in the future so as to be available to the public; then bushfires need not be so destructive of human life.

The following applies particularly to sections f and h of the Inquiry.

For some years I lived in Melbourne, from about 1989 knew Ross Connell slightly, met him occasionally, heard about how he was trying to develop the REM. In 1996 I moved to Adelaide, apart from a phone call to Ross in 1998 I have not heard of him since. After the tragic Canberra fires I tried to contact him re the REM but without success.

The REM has been designed as a water tank – with special valves so in an emergency water can be released, people can get inside the tank and be safe; the REM could be used on fire trucks as a water tank or as a water tank/home shelter in a private home.

Enclosed; please read this information carefully

- 1 1993 Steel Hotline newsletter, re the REM
- 2 1994 Occupational Health & Safety Awards, Victorian Government
- 3 1998 article from Herald Sun re the REM
- 4 Summary of the REM development to 1998

After the January Canberra fires I tried to ring Ross Connell to ask what had happened to the REM the number could not be connected, Telstra have no number for him, would not say if he has a silent number.

Surely this Committee should thoroughly investigate to see what has happened to the REM, it seems to offer so much potential for saving lives.

Last known address for Ross Connell is 134B Central Road, Blackburn, Vic, 3130

Yours sincerely,

Rosslyn McLeod