

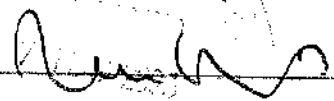
**Newsome, Silvana (REPS)**

**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 May 2003 9:09 AM

**To:** Committee, Bushfires (REPS)

**Subject:** Childowlah/Good Hope Fires, Yass.

18501011  
Sub 92  


To the head of the Select Committee,

My name is Michael Merriman, Fifeshire,

I would like to make some points about the Childowlah fire which occurred on Jan. 18th 2003.

I would like to do a verbal submission if possible, as there too much to put in one letter.

Points I would like to discuss:

- 1: Cause of fire ( I believe power lines, from very good source)
- 2: Preventative fire trails (have been lobbying local member and fire control centre of Yass to have these trails maintained and upgraded, as they were unsafe for use, but were marked in the fire map/booklet. This has been documented in the brigade minutes 12 months prior.)
- 3: I believe if the fire trails were in correctly the Fifeshire fire would have been about a third of the size. As it was we lost approx. 2000 acres.
- 4: Since the fire noone from fire headquarters has been to visit the fire area to investigate how and where and which way the fire went , and what control was in place at the time.
- 5: At the time of the fire, there were a lot of other fires in the district, but in this area the fire was left to individual property owners to fight and control themselves.
- 6: A positive from fire fighting ability ,I saw in the days later, was the use of helicopters in this hilly region, was absolutely brilliant, and could have been deployed earlier.
- 7: I have been a deputy fire captain in this brigade for 20 years, and due to the management from the Fire Control Centre of Yass, I have resigned this year, as I believe we are no longer on the same wave-length.

I would be happy to answer any questions, by any committee,

yours faithfully,

Michael Merriman.

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