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TO COMMITTEE SECRETARY
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES
DEPARTMENT OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
FAX 02 6277 4424

FROM Sub 102
ROBERT G PENDERGAST (BOB)

7 MAY 2003

AT MT BEAUTY AFTER THE FIRST LIGHTNING STRIKES, FIRES WERE STARTED IN PARKS VIC MANAGED AREAS. PARKS PERSONAL WOULD NOT LET ANYBODY INTO THE PARKS TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRES.

THE VIC DSE (OPT OF SCORCHED EARTH) STOOD ON THERE HANDS AND DID NOTHING, AFTER ABOUT 3 DAYS THEY DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM BY THEN THE FIRES WERE COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

THE SAME THING HAPPENED AT MITTA MITTA MT PINABAR AND VARIOUS OTHER FIRES UNTIL THEY WERE OUT OF CONTROL.

DSE & PARKS SET UP FIRE CONTROL BASES 60-100KS FROM THE FIRES. KICKED OUT EXPERIENCED LOCAL FIRE BOSSES AND FIREFIGHTERS REPLACING THEM WITH HEAD OFFICE ACADEMIC IDIOTS WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT FOREST BUSHFIRES IN MOUNTAIN AREAS.

KEPT FIRE BOMBING AIRCRAFT GROUNDED WHEN CONDITIONS WERE IDEAL TO CONTROL SPOT FIRES AND FIRE FRONTS THE AIRCRAFT WERE CONTROLLED FROM MELBOURNE OFFICE
(I AM A PILOT MYSELF SO I KNOW ABOUT CONDITIONS)

THREATEND LOCAL PEOPLE WITH FINES OR JAIL IF
 THEY TRIED TO BACKBURN INTO THE FIRE FRONT TO
 STOP IT ENCROACHING ON ANYMORE COUNTRY
 PARKS & DSE FIRE CREWS OFFICE HOUR FIRE FIGHTING
 NO NIGHT CREWS TO PATROL FIRE BREAKS
 OHOS. RULES ARE A BIG HINDERANCE IN MOUNTAIN
 BUSH FIRES THEY CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS
 MUST BE ONE FIRE FIGHTING ORGANISATION ONLY
 DEFINATELY NOT PARKS OR D.S.E VIC AS THEY HAVE
 PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE A BATCH OF
 INCOMPETENT IDIOTS.

ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE SUSPENDERD IN
 MOUNTAIN FIRES AND COMMONSENCE TO PREVAIL
 IN DECISION MAKING

USE LOCAL FIRE BOSS'S AND FIRE FIGHTERS WITH
 KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA. ALL DECISIONS ON
 BACKBURNING, FIRE BOMBING TO BE MADE BY
 PEOPLE AT THE FIRE FRONT OR LOCAL FIRE BOSS
 FUEL REDUCTION BURNING IN EAST VICTORIAN ZONE
 10YR PROGRAM IS 113000 HECTRE BEHIND IN THEIR
 OBJECTIVE

BUFFER ZONES BETWEEN CROWN LANDS AND FREEHOLD
 LAND TO BE CLEARED OF SCRUB AND TREES ETC.
 AT LEAST 50 MTRS. OUTSIDE PRIVATE BOUNDRY
 FENCES WILL SAVE THOUSANDS OF KMS OF FENCES
 ASSET PROTECTION FOR FARMERS TO BE THE FOLLOWING ORDER
 LIVESTOCK THEN FODDER STORAGE MACHINERY & SHEARING SHEDS
 THEN PASTURE CROPS AND FENCING, THEN THE HOUSE AS IT DOES
 NOT CREATE INCOME OR AS THE FARMER REQUESTS

REGARDS

Robert G. Pennington
 R. G. PENNINGTON

(BOB)