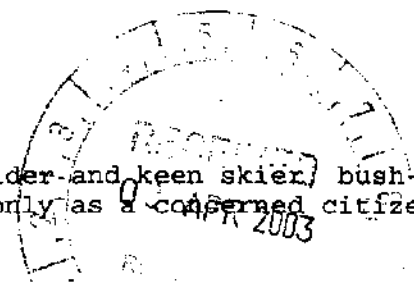




From: Rebel Penfold-Russell [
Sent: Monday, 7 April 2003 7:32 AM
To: Committee, Bushfires (REPS)
Subject: Personal submission



To the Minister concerned.

I have just returned from Thredbo and am a lease holder and keen skier, bush-runner and quasi local of the the Village. So I write this only as a concerned citizen of a place I love dearly.

It is extra ordinary to see how close the fires actually came to the Riverside Cabins, water tanks and gold course within the KT area on the western (Funnel web run) side of the Valley. Everywhere around the village the valley forest is stripped with large swathes of burnt black and tan trees, burnt out underbrush. It is a testament to the locals and fire brigade that the village was indeed saved when you see the valley before and beyond.

Whilst on the surface this looks devastating, the fires are a natural part of regeneration, and the new shoots on the trees are already well established -clearly seen on the trees even near the road, and along the Dead horse track and funnel web run. In need of upgrade, but the vegetation will come back.

Having said all this, I respectfully suggest perhaps if the NPWS had been more proactive with local farmers -locals in general about back burning in the cooler months, perhaps the fires would not have got so much fuel. Certainly the back burning episode at Kalkite mountain would not have got so out of hand. I am no expert here, but I am sure you know the feeling has run hot down there.

I have, as many other have, made a submission to the NPWS Plan of Management report, being prepared for the next 20 years. It has been strongly suggested that they have tried to bury this report and not wanted submissions from people interested in winter sports, as some of their members do not deem Skiing a sport suitable for "delicate eco system" areas. I would ask that the parliament look at this report carefully, and notice some of the wording in the NPWS report. Skiing villages only take .9% of land area but contribute a great of revenue (over 70%). Suggesting that the ski reports be moved on- and out of the KNP- should be seriously questioned.

Thanks you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts, and again congratulations to the fire fighters.