



The Committee Secretary,  
 House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires  
 Dept. of House Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

As requested by Mr. Wilson Turkey M.P. I  
 am submitting my ideas on coping with our  
 bushfires.

Whatever aircraft are decided on should,  
 I feel, be bought. If we can afford to buy  
 large aircraft for our politicians (which I  
 agree are needed) I feel it is important to  
 purchase these aircraft for what is at times  
 a life + death battle. These aircraft should be  
 handed over to the R.A.A.F. to maintain + operate.

This would probably ~~at~~ save on the wages  
 of the ground crew + the aircrew.

These aircraft could be based to the States  
 which need them. They should be available  
 at a moment's notice. A lot of damage could  
 be done by the fires while we await the  
 arrival of the aircraft from overseas.

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My suggestion regarding the types of aircraft to be purchased are;

a) Large twin engine fixed winged aircraft that can scoop up water whilst in flight. They can pick up very much more water than the helicopters & are much faster also. They I feel, should be used to fight fires which are away from properties. We are surrounded by water - have numerous dams & rivers where the aircraft can obtain water.

b) The large Keros type helicopters. These one I feel should be used for bombing fires near property. The small fixed winged aircraft & small helicopters do not carry sufficient water to douse fires, particularly when the heat in the fires are really intense,

lastly no properties should be built within 200/300 metres of the bush. Large fire breaks are essential to the safety of properties - If properties are to be built close to the bush, it should be compulsory that a 200/300 metre firebreak be cleared, irrespective of what the Greens & their ilk may feel about it. These breaks may do away for the need to back burn. Also watch towers could be built & manned during the fire season for early warnings.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie (M.C. DUNN)