



SUBMISSION .....7.....

Senator Ross Lightfoot  
Chairman  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator ~~Lightfoot~~ *Ross*

### PIERCES CREEK SETTLEMENT

I write in my capacity as Chair of the Community and Expert Reference Group, the committee of community members appointed by the ACT Chief Minister to advise on recovery from the 2003 ACT bushfires. The Group has played a key role in the community and government response to the fires and continues to advise on the longer-term aspects of community recovery.

Since its first meeting in February 2003, the Group has gathered extensive knowledge about the key factors that support and enhance the recovery of individuals, families and communities from disaster. One important factor in recovery is the capacity of households and communities to resume control over their own lives.

The urban householders who lost their homes in this disaster have begun to resume control over their lives by making decisions about their housing futures. Rural householders have not been able to make these decisions because of the uncertainty surrounding the future of the rural villages. This uncertainty, which has arisen following recent NCA decisions, continues to jeopardise their personal recovery.

I would ask that the Standing Committee takes this information into account and that the Committee makes recommendations for speedy resolution of the future of the Pierces Creek Settlement.

Yours sincerely

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Chair  
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