

PEAK ENVIRONMENTAL ENTERPRISES

and CONSERVATION CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

9th May 2003

The Secretary
Select Committee on the Australian Bushfires
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Submission to Select Committee on the Australian Bushfires

1. I write in this submission to draw attention to the international conservation significance of the areas covered by the inquiry and to suggest that this needs to be used as a vital context or frame of reference for the making of recommendations.

2. In particular I draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the area has been the subject of official assessments against the strict criteria of the World Heritage Convention and the Convention's Operational Guidelines and that it has been found that the area is of world heritage quality.

3. It is the Commonwealth Government's intention to make a nomination after further assessment.

4. Of special relevance to the present inquiry is the fact that amongst the chief values of the proposed world heritage area are the eucalypt dominated flora and the alpine flora. The values of the former are described in *Report of the Expert Workshop, Canberra, 8 7 9 March, 1999. Comprehensive Regional Assessment World Heritage Sub-theme: Eucalypt-dominated vegetation.*

5. I attach as part of this submission a map (attachment 1) showing areas which are likely to be considered for the nomination (a final selection will be made as part of the process of developing the nomination) and an information summary which refers in more detail to the values and the history of the proposal.

6. The main point of this submission is to recommend that in considering what changes if any are desirable to land management policies and practices high priority needs to be given to considering how these would be likely to affect the region's world heritage nomination prospects and values.

Yours sincerely

Submission No.321

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