



Phil Seymour

ATTENTION: Committee Secretary
House select Committee on the recent Australian Bushfire
Department of house of Representatives
Parliament house
Canberra ACT 2600

2 May 2003

To the Committee

RE: **BUSHFIRE 2003**

The lightning strikes across Northern Victoria and Southern New South Wales this past summer have caused great damage to the National Parks, State Forests and privately owned land. As a landholder in the Kiewa Valley, Lot 4 Tawanga Parish, we had a lightning strike on top of the ridge, known as the "Gluepot", which burnt approximately two (2) hectares and was able to be put out by the local CFA – Dederang Fire Brigade.

This ridge was burnt two or three years ago in autumn, as a fuel reduction burn. Lightning strikes normally hit high on the mountain or ridges. *My suggestion is this. Just as there is a "Total Fire Ban Day" announced in each region of the state according to weather conditions, there would be a "Control Burn Day" announced after the autumn break to be managed by the local CFA Brigade in our State Forests (at least burn the ridges).*

Fire requires three elements: fuel, heat and oxygen. You will never eliminate wildfire but you can reduce the fuel in the forest floor that increases heat. Increased heat scorches everything and leaves nothing alive.

The local fire brigade (CFA) can put a lightning strike out just as they did on "Gluepot", which had favourable westerly winds and was unable to get going because of the lack of fuel.

Please consider my suggestion and I look forward to your findings and suggested best practice.

Regards

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Candidate for North Eastern Province