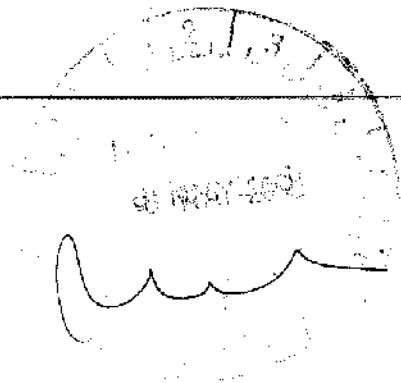


**Dundas, Marlene (REPS)**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2003 11:25 AM  
**To:** Committee, Bushfires (REPS)  
**Subject:** Bushfire Feedback



***Alan and Bernadette Lush***

In response to your call for comment, I am a forester with over 30 years experience in native forests, mostly southern karri in WA, and my work has always incorporated fire management, both preventative and reactive. I am appalled at the lack of science appearing in the public debate over fire management and welcome this chance to make a brief contribution.

Although fire management in WA mainly focusses of protection of human values – life and property – the implementation of strategies to reduce fire hazzards has always taken into account ecosystem requirements. Preventative measures include hazzard reduction burning that incorporates a range of intensities, frequencies and seasons in a way that attempts to mimmic pre-xisting and naturally occuring events. Where and what kind of burning becomes a function of values to be protected so more frequent burning occurs in the vicinity of human settlement; I expect that this has contributed to the biased view of critics of current practises.

Fire in the bush has been seriously disrupted by settlement but is nevertheless essential for the regeneration and development of innumerable plant species and assossiations. These in turn make up bird and animal habitats and all depend on some form of disturbance to maintain health and vigour.

Acknowledgement of the essential need for fire in more ways than what we now experience (summer conflagration in high hazzard areas due to active fire exclusion) is a crucial first step to restoring a balanced regime the has in the past and can again satisfy ecological requirements whilst also protecting human values.

Thank you,

Alan Lush

8 May 2003