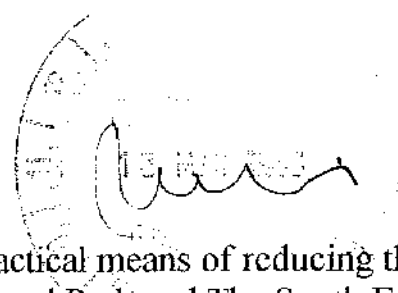


The Secretary,
The Select Committee On The Recent Bushfires,
Parliament House,
Canberra. 2600.



Dear Sir,

My submission to the committee is directed to the practical means of reducing the build up of fire fuel in National Parks such as The Kosciusko National Park and The South East National Parks on the South East Escarpment.

My submission calls for the return to grazing by both sheep and cattle as well as seasonal low intensity control burning and is based on the following facts.

[1] A wet winter or snow cover prevents the use of hazard reduction by fire.

[2] A run of good seasons produces a build up of fire fuel but restricts the use of hazard reduction by fire because of rain.

[3] Controlled grazing by livestock is the natural and most practical way to reduce the build up of fire fuel.

[4] Controlled livestock grazing would lower the fire fuel available to a level that would prevent the spread of wildfires from lightning strikes in remote locations.

[5] The use of controlled livestock grazing and low intensity burning places the emphasis on not having a summer firestorm. At present the emphasis seems to be to building Fire Control Centres and providing Rural Fire Service volunteers with tankers and equipment to fight the fires.

[6] Last summers fires in The Kosciusko National Park must never be allowed to occur again. Not only because of the total destruction of some of the flora and fauna within the Park but also the threat imposed on the Monaro grazing land and towns.

I would propose that because of their local knowledge and expertise viable lease areas of National Parks be available by ballot to local graziers. Some Government funding may be needed to establish the infrastructure such as yards and fencing. Any such funding must be considered as being worthy when compared to the cost of helicopters, tankers and paid firefighters last summer.

I am a member of the Cathcart Rural Fire Service . I have grazing and forestry properties in the Bombala district.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

Brian Murphy.

Submission No.256