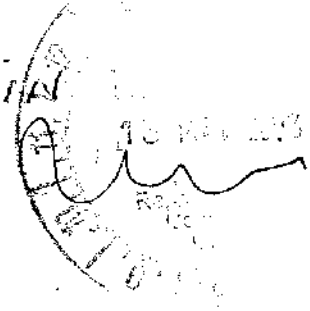


Committee Secretary  
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires

Submitted by:

LEONARD TONKIN

Address:



Date:

7/5/2003

**INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am ex RAAF airfield construction.

I worked at Shelley in 1949 in a Sawmill

tree felling logging and building roads, also doing  
fuel reduction in forests under Forest Commission

supervision each September & October. I was on call

for Tallangatta & Corryong areas was construction

foreman from 1960 for 20 years and fought the  
fires & approve the lightning strikes many after dark

walking miles to find our strikes before they become

large fires.

The C.F.A were never trained to fight these large fires They were only used where they could use Tankers. We had the help of farmers & cattlemen in areas near their fence lines We used hand tools and fought fires from our own hand trails.

I flew in the air strips at Shelley and put in the Phoschek raising talent

I was employed by the Forests Commission to prepare a site for the Pine Plantation clearing forests & building roads also was leader for fighting.

SIGNED: L. Tonkin