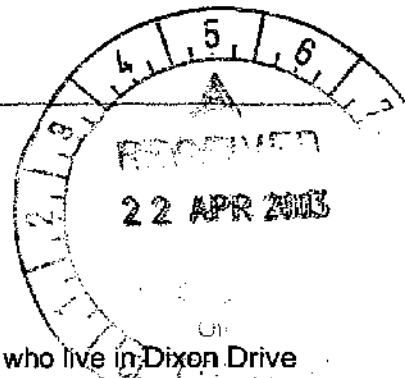


Submission No.31

Newsome, Silvana |

From: Tom & Susie Crogan [speed000@tpg.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, 19 April 2003 4:40 PM
To: Committee, Bushfires (REPS)
Subject: Bushfires



During the recent fires in Canberra I came close to losing my nephew and his wife who live in Dixon Drive Duffy. Defying orders from the police to flee they stayed to protect their home which also incorporates his business. I am extremely happy to advise that after a desperate night they succeeded in this although it was a close-run thing.

Some reports suggest that the widespread fires at that time were largely fuelled by unchecked growth in the forests. Some political bodies lobby to leave the forests alone in pristine splendour and plead to allow firetrails to deteriorate to discourage their usage by those on recreational pursuits.

This apparently worthy attitude is flawed. The inevitable and devastating fires do enormous harm to both flora and fauna while those who try to enjoy the environment of the forests via the fire trails do little harm. Education is the answer to that.

Therefore I ask that your Parliamentary Committee institute wide-ranging reforms to remedy the neglect in forest management which has led to this recent spate of disasters and to see that they are carried out Tom Crogan