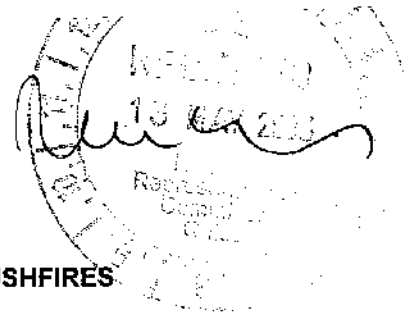


Submitted by: Geoffrey L Lacey

Date: 2 May 2003



INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Dear Sir/Madam,

In view of the large number of bushfires that start through lightning strikes in heavily timbered country in NE Victoria and elsewhere, I wish to submit a suggestion that the Federal and State Government considers erecting a series of intelligently sited lightning arrestors in National and State Parks, in the form of steel towers with lightning arrestor rods attached to help alleviate the number of fires that begin through lightning striking trees, especially near populated areas.

I am aware that such a measure would not stop bushfires from starting, but if lightning arrestor towers were located within defined regions, adjacent to populated areas and farmsteads, they would ensure that lightning induced bushfires start only in outer wilderness areas, giving firefighters and farmers more time to set up fire breaks, get additional help and move livestock, etc. and better organise and implement property protection plans.

Lightning arrestor towers would also probably save many homes from being burnt down, wildlife and livestock losses and pastures from being destroyed, events that cause much grief and hardship and are so expensively wasteful and unnecessary, as was the case during the recent bushfires.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Geoffrey L Lacey