

SUBMISSION – BOGONG FIRE.



22 May 03

The D.S.E. didn't light the match but they provided the fuel, therefore I believe they are responsible for burning our pasture and fences. 550 acres of private land and 2500 acres of Crown Leases were lost.

1] For the past 15 – 18 years we have been asking for fuel reduction to be undertaken on one particular area, at the south east of our property. This was never done as there was always an excuse, because of a few sticks of timber on Granite Mount they were worried that they would scorch a few leaves. Since the fire it's well and truly scorched now. Back when the forest was managed properly by the then Forest Commission the same Mount was burnt periodically with out ever scorching a leaf. But local knowledge doesn't mean anything to the current management.

2] Fuel reduction and grazing definitely prevents major fires like we have just experienced. Fuel reduction and grazing on the south side of our property helped save our main property from being burnt out from that direction. It slowed the fire down therefor we were able to back burn and steer the fire around the perimeter of the property. It also had a bearing on saving our neighbours property, when the wind changed as there wasn't enough fuel to get up into the canopy to cause spot overs.

3] I believe the previous Liberal Government is just as responsible as the Labor Government for bowing to the Greens to win their preference votes. Locking up large tracks of land and calling them National Parks have helped create this devastation that we have just experienced. I believe the National Park needs to be cut in half to bring it back to a manageable size. People who adjoin National Parks or State Forests should have and equal say on how they are managed.

4] The D.S.E. and Parks Victoria have proved incapable of managing the forests by incinerating every thing they are supposed to protect eg: Flora and Fauna.