

❖ Committee Secretary
House Select Committee on the recent Australian Bushfires

Submitted by: Mrs Beverley J Jackson
Address;

Address of fire 2824 Upper Buckland Valley Rd POREPUNKAH

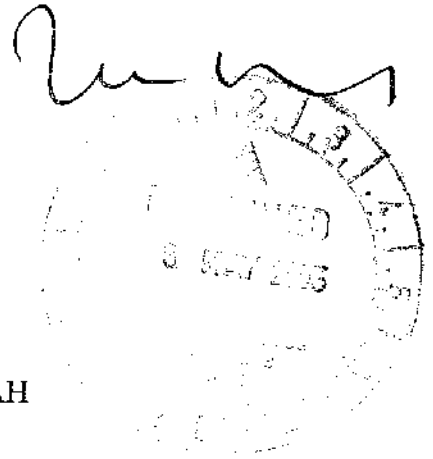
Date; 290403

INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Dear Sir/Madam

The fire that started on Mt Buffalo on the 070103 was not brought under control and I have often wondered why looking at it did not seem very big. My problems with the fire where as follows;

- ❖ There where meetings in Bright ect but I lived an hours drive from there with the fire between us.
- ❖ Once the fire had crossed the Buckland Valley Rd and was in Dingo Ridge I was unable to get any information of where the fire really was.
- ❖ Sometime before the 230103 a dozer was taken up Scotchman's Creek Road to a hilltop to clear an area this dozer was unloaded within 8 klm from our property and could have been brought to our place and used around the fence line this my have stopped the grass fire.
- ❖ On the 250103 my daughter rang me from Bendigo to inform me that there was a fire at the back of our property. When I rang the Shire they had no information apart from Dingo Ridge, the suggested I ring CFA on an 1800 number this I did I was informed by the operator to ring the Shire when told I had already done this I was told to enquire with the local CFA.
- ❖ My son went the to Bright CFA to both volunteer and ask about the fire my daughter had told me about, he was told to ring the Shire or CFA 1800 number.
- ❖ My son that had come up from Melbourne to help me with the fire went home on the morning of 260103 thinking I was safe. My ex husband was leaving in the afternoon and my neibgher was going the next day.
- ❖ We all believed from reports that we could get from Shire CFA and the ABC it was safe here for at least a couple of days and at best the end of the week.
- ❖ If this had have happened I would have been here by my self.
- ❖ At 6.00 pm on the 260103 smoke could be seen at the top of a ridge and at 7.30 pm flames we sat an ate or tea watching the flames grow bigger.
- ❖ At 9.00 pm I turned to speak to my ex when I jumped up and thought the back of the house was on fire or one of our cars, from the glow reflecting it was another spot fire this time at the back of up.
- ❖ This fire slowly burned down by 2 am on the 270103



B. J. Jackson

- ❖ At 1.15pm on 270103 another fire started from sparks blown from still smouldering windrows left from the 1983 fires. This fire was the worst as far as our property was concerned as it came to within 10 ft of our back door burnt nearly all of 60 areas and came within 2ft of one of next doors residents. We stoped fighting the fire at 7.30 due to the fact we couldn't go on.
- ❖ This fire was fought by three people with a ww2 water cart, a wet towel, a shovel, and a nap sack on a trolley. The only reason we stopped fighting was because of accusation.
- ❖ My neighbour's sister rang at sometime after this fire started and she rang the CFA for us.
- ❖ She was informed we lived in a red zone and the CFA would not be attending this was the first we had heard of this
- ❖ After the fire I came inside and there was a message on the phone from somebody from CFA wanting to know where we lived he couldn't find us on the map.
- ❖ This was due to no local knowledge as the local CFA new where we where.
- ❖ The fire burned in our property and around it from 26 to 290103.
- ❖ ON the 060203 I rang DSE to ask what was there intentions about a fire coming towards me from the only side I had not had a fire, I was told somebody would ring my back, I am still waiting for that phone call. I also had DSE staff at my gate that night watching the fire and singing out things like ' we are going to fight this one.'
- ❖ This fire went through my property again on Sunday 090203 DSE did not attend but the CFA did properly due to me complaining it took out about 150mts of fence but I cannot claim for this because it is on the road and not bordering on state forest.
- ❖ Before the fire went through my property I was not hand feeding my animals but I have been since, we also lost fence post, water hose and water pump as well as money due to me having to buy extra food for animals and the native animals that lost there food too.
- ❖ I do not believe I could get enough information apart from my daughter in Bendigo but I must say a BIG THANKYOU to the police they where my only lifeline when I thought nobody else cared. I am also still suffering the side effects from fighting the fire and the continued smoke.

PS

I video tape the fire up here.

15/1/03