

To

**Committee Secretary, Select Committee on recent Australian Bushfires.
Parliament House, Canberra.**

From.

Bob Butt

11-4-03

Members.

**I am a CFA fire fighter with over 20 service and a resident of the
Otways.**

Could your committee please take into consideration the following points?

The effect of huge fires in the Otway forests would be far reaching.

**Deterioration of water quality would affect many areas, as their water
catchments are located in the Otway forests.**

**Areas affected would include, Geelong, Colac, Apollo Bay, Forrest,
Camperdown, Lorne, and many others.**

**Parks departments seem to do very little reduction burning and the danger can
only get worse if the whole of the Otways area is swallowed up by National Park.**

**Let us consider, firstly who pays? the parks Dep. does not seem to have the
capacity to fight a major fire.**

**Let us all be honest about this, at the recent fires in the northeast, task force
groups from the CFA were sent from all over Victoria.**

**These people are unpaid volunteers who give up their time sometimes at great
personal expense.**

**It seems morally wrong to depend on volunteers to fight fires which are the
responsibility of the Parks Dep. Risking their lives as has happened in the past to
make a Government look good in the eyes of an ill informed minority group
whose main expertise is demonstrating.**

**Perhaps the time is right for the various save the forest groups to put up their
hands and volunteer their services to the parks Departments as fire fighters, then
the CFA can get down to doing the work for which they were formed mainly
fighting fire on private property.**

Yours faithfully

R. A. Butt.