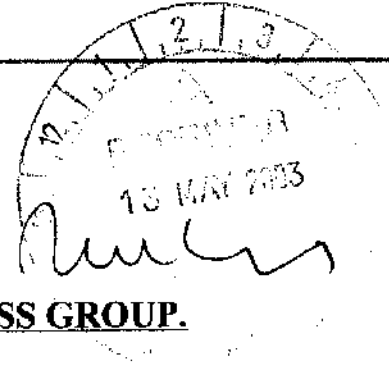


Barrett, Adrian (S. Panopoulos, MP)

Sent: Sunday, 11 May 2003 5:11 PM
To: Barrett, Adrian (S. Panopoulos, MP)
Cc: Panopoulos, Sophie (MP)
Subject: ALPINE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP



ALPINE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP.

Victorian Bush Fire Inquiry.

Ms Sophie Panopoulos MP,
 Federal Member for Indi,
 117 Murphy St., WANGARATTA. 3677

Submission No.286

Dear Sophie,

We are a new group representing Community Groups from the Kiewa & Ovens Valleys with nominated representatives from the following groups -

- ❖ Victorian Farmers Federation
- ❖ Country Fire Authority
- ❖ Mt. Beauty Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Mountain Cattlemens Association
- ❖ Victorian Association of Forest Industries
- ❖ Public Lands Council
- ❖ Bush Users Group
- ❖ Indigo Region
- ❖ Timber Communities Australia
- ❖ Australian Deer Association

The above groups as you would realize represent a lot of people and industry and the group as a whole are totally appalled at the lack of **Park Management, Fire Management, Fuel Reduction and the total debacle of the recent bush fire management.**

Bush fires that in all probability if attacked properly early never would have spread into the massive disasters of our Victorian Alps.

We as a group feel it is imperative to harvest all the burnt areas of millable saw logs. This includes areas under Parks Victoria control. Access to the areas can literally be achieved by the Minister by a stroke of a pen.

The royalty from this timber could go back into the coffers of Parks Victoria thus giving them an income to help fix some of the damage caused by their own mismanagement. A project like this would also provide jobs in reopening the Mt. Beauty Sawmill.

The Alpine Access & Conservation Group fully supports this Commonwealth Bushfire Review and hope it will achieve the conclusions that will satisfy all user groups of the Victorian Alps.

It has been reported to Peter Burke, President of the Victorian State Executive of the Australian Deer Association, by hunters that firebreaks have been constructed along existing tracks and they are up to

100 metres wide. Four separate hunters have told him that the quality of track construction is poor and that rain will probably make them impassable and in some instances dangerous. The big question is does DSE have sufficient funds for stabilization work on the tracks they have turned into firebreaks.

Please accept the following submissions.

Kindest regards,

Neville Wright.
President.
Alpine Conservation and Access Group.