



Sam Dundas

Secretary

Select Comm. on recent Bushfires

House of Reps

Canberra.

Dear Sam.

Finally I need to say that the shine of Kavenaghe of which I am CEO and have been for 20 odd yrs is 2/3 bush 1.2m ha of which 820000 ha is bush.

Although we have money allocated to us on a annual basis ranging from 5000 to 30000 pa from DORA and distributed by F&S for strategic fire break maintenance & implementation it is nowhere near enough.

A bush fire we had this yr started by lightning developed into a huge fire 107 km long x 54 km wide and devastated some 304000 ha.

Farmers were severely affected losing some 100 km of fence and several thousand ha of pasture - the houses would have been worse had it not been a drought year and the hills were largely bare - otherwise in my experience the fire would have finished up in the sea.

It burnt continuously for 10 days and on 2 nights with humidity at 14% and winds of up to 60 km was travelling in excess of 2000 metres per hr at times.

Our strategic breaks were of some help but largely ineffective and our resources were horribly inadequate.

We need more money for wider breaks (seal modification) and more, and better fire fighting resources. - Farmers have been looking after Vacant crown land fires for far too long - it should be a shared community responsibility.

Yours Sincerely

ROD DAW Managing Director AFSA, ASM, CMA.

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