

19<sup>th</sup> May 2003

The Chairman  
Senate Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT



Dear Sir

Re: Senate Bush Fire Enquiry

Being in my 70<sup>th</sup> year of living on the land and getting my living from the land I realize as many of us do we have to look after all the country of Australia and learn from mistakes made in the past. One of the tragedies I think and thousands would agree is the noisy conservation groups that have too much power to get the twisted and untrue story over to the majority that locking up Bush and Reserves indefinitely will save the trees and most importantly the animals and the birds that live there because when the fire storms do eventually come by accident or desire no army of fire fighters will control the situation.

The old and proven way to reduce the fuel and save the animals and birds is to have the local fire officers give permits to responsible land owners including Parks and Wildlife Personnel to do dozens of small reduction burns as soon as patches and fuel will burn then this is the correct time to do it as this becomes the regenerated parts that regrow and green up and this is where the animals move to and feed. This is where the old animal hunters always found the best and strongest game and so did the Aborigines who practises this for centuries.

If the powers that be are to stop finger pointing and set down where they all stand on responsibilities on the areas they claim to represent and see whether they are up too the task of being responsible for those areas.

Hopefully this enquiry will be able to find a balance between saving lives, property and our Natural Reserves.

Reuben W. Radford

