

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY,
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON RECENT BUSHFIRES,
DEPARTMENT OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600.**

31 May, 2003.

Dear sir,

I have been advised by Mr. Wilson Tuckey M.P. Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government to have the submission below which I sent the minister be put into evidence of your inquiry.
I ask you to do this.

RE: SUBMISSION TO BUSHFIRES INQUIRY

Although I am not resident in the rural areas of Victoria I feel by making this submission that I am supporting the rural communities throughout Australia who not only suffered the tragic bush fires but also because of the conservation policies are being restricted by State Governments as to what they can do on there own properties.

I contacted the Department of Agriculture in Victoria for submission details and was advised that the Federal Government was holding an inquiry into the recent bush fires yet there is now publicity that the State is also holding an inquiry.

The conservation policies of the states and the federal government have completely gone too far and government in Australia have lost the plot and these bush fires highlight the dangerous side of the conservation policies where access roads which logging companies create to log forests became overgrown and fires in national forests which were started by lightning were left to burn unchecked because of the inaccessible wilderness areas.

Fires came out of the national forests in Victoria onto private property and still was left to burn and it appeared that the Victorian Government fire services waited far too long to engage the fire which gathered momentum and really they waited until towns were threatened.

The lack of back burning encourage ground cover fuel for bush fires and also the drought conditions which were in place for several years Victoria did not just fall under a drought this season and it has been dry for several seasons.

The Victorian Government is using conservation not just to protect the environment but as an end to their communist objectives.

Conservation allows them to control farmers as to what they can do on their properties and can force farmers off their land if restrictions are too harsh.

Conservation also can undermine the free enterprise system which the Labour Government is dedicated to as shown by their illegal legislation in the federal area postage where they have introduced fines if distributors put advertising into "No advertising material" letterboxes which adversely effects small business who cannot compete against big corporations who use letterboxes as well as the electronic media to advertise their products where small business cannot.



Bush fire have been become more intense in recent years and records of recent deaths of fire fighters is evidence of this and the state government must allow logging in state and national forests also allow cattle and other live stock to graze in state and national forests to reduce fuels and allow access to wilderness areas to engage fires as soon as possible and not wait till a town is threatened which could be too late.

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The Victoria Government Ministers do not wish to be interviewed on the fires by the ABC Stateline program and have set up an inquiry to be headed by a state public servant.

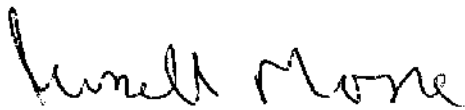
The State of Victoria Government will not co- operate with this federal government enquiry which clearly shows that they want to white wash the fires inquiry to firstly get away from liability for not properly managing the national and state parks and also to keep their conservation policies in place to carry out their ultimate political goal of a Communist state.

This morning it appears the state government tried a political stunt and a back burn was instigated which went wrong and fire fighters were called in to put out a major fire which jumped check lines which shows that the amount of fuel on the ground is the cause of the intense fires which occurred in Victoria.

The Victorian Government wants big companies to plant trees in Victoria as part of the Carbon Credit system but can the companies rely on the Victorian Government to manage those trees so they do no add to the air pollution which occurs in bush fires.

The conservation policies in Australia need changing to a realistic policies where common sense prevails and farmers are not regulated off the land and so too the tourist industry can access can carry their business without restrictive conservation laws.

I will send a copy of this submission to the inquiry that the State of Victoria is attempting to hide as a submission to their inquiry.



RUSSELL MORSE (DIRECTOR)



The Hon Wilson Tuckey MP
Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government

Mr Russell Morse
Director
Out 'N' About
55 Hawksburn Road
SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141

28 MAY 2003

Dear Mr Morse

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2003 providing your submission on conservation policies and their effect on landholders in respect of bushfires. I regret the delay in this reply.

I note that you have provided this submission to the Victorian bushfire inquiry.

The current inquiry by the House of Representatives Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires seeks to identify measures that can be implemented by governments, industry and the community to minimise the incidence of, and impact of bushfires on, life, property and the environment. This will include consideration of the issues you raise.

Details about the Committee and its inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be viewed at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/bushfires/index.htm>

I understand that this Committee is accepting submissions up until the middle of June. To ensure that your submission can be taken into evidence, you should forward it direct to the inquiry the contact details of which are provided below.

Postal address:
Committee Secretary
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

E-mail address:
bushfires.reps@aph.gov.au

Telephone:
02 6277 4813

Canberra:
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6277 7060
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Perth:
38th Fl "Exchange Plaza"
2 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6000
(GPO Box B58
Perth WA 6838)
Tel: (08) 9325 4077
Fax: (08) 9221 3325

Mid-West:
23 Chapman Road
Geraldton WA 6530
(PO Box 1781
Geraldton WA 6530)
Tel: (08) 9964 2195
Fax: (08) 9921 7990

Great Southern:
Shop 5 The Link Shopping Centre
St Emile Way
Albany WA 6330
(PO Box 5077
Albany WA 6332)
Tel: (08) 9842 6228
Fax: (08) 9842 6006

Submissions can be accepted as confidential if the need exists and verbal evidence can be given in-camera. All witnesses are protected by parliamentary privilege.

I sincerely believe that the Members of Parliament involved, whatever their party political allegiance, will do their best to recommend a future management regime to ensure Australia does not suffer the same degree of death and devastation as has occurred in recent events.

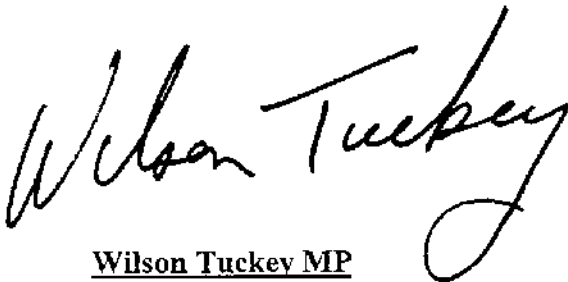
Because of the broader environmental and social issues of large-scale bushfires the Federal Government has been working on the establishment of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) which was announced on 10 December 2002. The CRC will begin its work in July 2003. The Federal Government will contribute \$25 million towards this CRC, which will have resources totalling some \$110 million over a seven-year period. The Bushfire CRC will provide research on fire protection strategies, including land management, to help minimise the destructive impact of bushfires on people, property and the environment.

Through the 2003-2004 budget, the Federal Government has offered to provide an additional \$68.5 million over five years for the Disaster Mitigation Australia Package which will fund mitigation measures to help reduce the threat posed by natural disasters such as bushfires, cyclones, floods and landslides.

I have always been a firm advocate of addressing problems before they arise. This Package represents a new approach to natural disasters in Australia; a fundamental shift in focus beyond recovery and relief towards cost-effective, evidence based disaster mitigation. This approach accords with your suggestions.

Thank you for raising this matter with me and I urge you to make your submission as soon as possible to the House of Representatives Select Committee inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson Tuckey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Wilson Tuckey MP