

Rever
03/06/03

Committee Secretary
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires

Submitted by: Thomas Wilfred Jarvis

Date: 23 / 05 / 2003

INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re Fire in January, 2003

Fire started in Crown Lands, Mount Mittamatite, that joins my property and as far as I could see it would have caused very little damage to my property until the powers to be started back burning and never looked after them, letting it get out of control.

They put in fire brakes at least 1 to 1½ miles from the fire and were hells bent on burning to these brakes even after the fire burnt its self out, the strike force lit it up again and burnt a lot more ground and grass.

At one stage the local CFA Brigade & Cudgewa Brigade had the fire out and the strike force came along and lit it up behind them and even let it jump the trail, because they had taken all the firefighters to where they had lit another spot. At one stage they lit up my boundary fence because the ground was too bare to burn and in all burning about 1,000 acres of my ground and 800 that should not of been burnt doing a lot of damage to the fencing.

As I have been in 3 fires '39, '52 and 2003, I understand that you went to a fire to put them out not to keep on lighting them, as I don't know who was giving the orders I could not stop them and it went on for a week and it was the worst effort I have ever seen, only one thing saved the district from being burn out was the weather as they would not have stopped it as there was so many people and trucks there doing nothing. Just making a real picnic of the whole thing and wasting tax payers money.

Signed: *T.W. Jarvis*

Mr T W Jarvis

23 May, 2003