



FORESTS & FOREST INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

Level 5, 2 Kirksway Place
Battery Point, Tasmania 7004

Phone: 61 3 6233 6510
Fax: 61 3 6224 0599

8 May 2003

Mr Ian Dundas
Committee Secretary
House of representatives
Select Committee on the Recent Australian Bushfires

Bushfires.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Dundas

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the 2003 Bushfire Inquiry.

We do not feel we are well placed geographically to comment on the recent mainland fires but share the concerns of the Australian people and all on the Select Committee that such episodes not be allowed to happen again.

In our climate, with our fire tolerant species, it is essential that fuel not be permitted to accumulate to the extent that it leads to uncontrollable catastrophic wildfire.

A regime of fuel management has long been advocated by those with experience in fire in Australian vegetation types and it is unfortunate that we appear to neglect the lessons of history.

We draw the Committee's attention to the Working Papers prepared for submission to the Helsham Inquiry of 1988, which should be available from the Forestry Tasmania library, and the Report of the Chambers Inquiry into the bushfires of 1967 in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Allen Dagger
Chairman