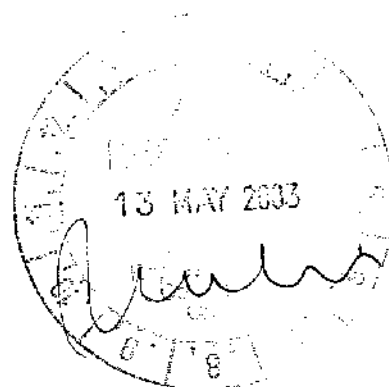


Committee Secretary  
House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires

Submitted by: MR D. McCauley

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 7/5/2003

### INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Dear Sir / Madam,

I give comment to this inquiry as experienced by my deployment to the Beechworth region.

- lack of direction & communication from control leaders.

~~We~~ We were sitting around awaiting orders after arrival, when an action plan should have already been devised & implemented.

- many hours of unproductive time.

set off from home at 5.00a.m from local station via

Benalla on a bus only to be sent for breakfast, and

then a lengthy delay in further direction. Sometime

2.

around 11:00, before we rolled (6 hours in fact). There were long delays for resupply of water for our tankers. Then there were delays in transport going back home. I volunteered to fight fires not to sit around on my butt!

- need for improved supply + refilling of tankers perhaps through better communication.
- seems to be a sway to personal comfort more so than to the task at hand.

upon arrival, no direction other than "breakfast."

Our "work" didn't start until hours later.

- attitudes + policies of D.S.E + Parks in relation to tree clearing + tracks.

e.g. a tanker had to back up to get round a bend because the dozed track went between 3 trees instead of a more practicable route.

SIGNED: D. McAule

38: In summary, attitudes have to be changed,  
- a fire needs to be hit hard with all the  
equipment and manpower that can be mustered,  
in an expeditious manner.

Communication needs a big overhaul and the  
"green" attitude needs a reality check.

Also the government as a neighbour should  
share the burden of fencing costs.

D. Wilson