



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

Mr Gary Nairn MP
Chairman
House of Representatives Select Committee
into the Recent Australian Bushfires
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Nairn

I write formally to your Inquiry to raise some issues of importance.

Firstly, I enclose as evidence notes of a meeting I convened of State Forestry Ministers on 10 November 2000 during which a briefing was provided by Mr Paul de Mar of State Forests of New South Wales, an experienced fire fighter, who attended the American wild fires several years ago. I enclose a copy of my media release issued after the meeting.

I also include my correspondence with State Ministers following the meeting in which I can advise you categorically that all but one Minister refused absolutely to implement prevention processes that might require "the removal of even one tree."

I also enclose copies of my correspondence with the Australian Press Council regarding the media's duty of care in their coverage of matters that can cause severe risks to life and property.

The enclosed example referred to is only one of a number of similar stories (copies enclosed) that followed my attempts to warn Australians through an appearance on the *Sunday* television programme. The Council's reply is not encouraging and you might wish to invite it to attend your hearings to expand on its approach.

However, I enclose a copy of a recent article in the *West Australian* newspaper, that does indicate to the Committee that media feature writers are capable of taking a very serious and constructive approach to this vital subject, unfortunately after the horse has bolted, I commend the article to the members of the Committee.

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2002 Year of the Outback

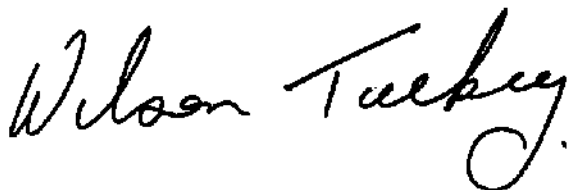
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In regards to the American fires, I enclose some media coverage that has come to my attention over time.

I am willing to provide verbal evidence should your Committee desire.

I would also like to thank all your committee members for their commitment to addressing the life and death issues before the Inquiry. In my personal opinion, such tragic outcomes need not be the result of an Australian bushfire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson Tuckey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'W' and a decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Wilson Tuckey

9 June 2003