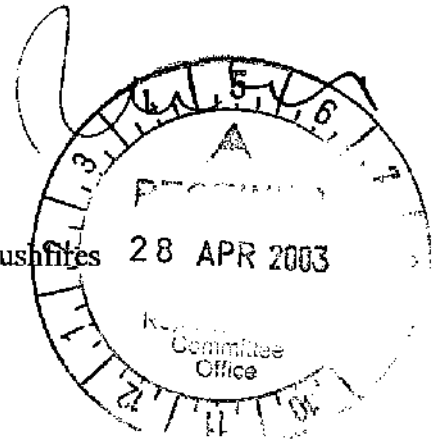


To: The House of Representatives  
Select Committee on the recent Australian Bushfires

Submission to the Inquiry into the Incidence and Impact of Bushfires 28 APR 2003

From David B Fry



To Whom it may concern,

Please accept this submission on my behalf.

My submission makes reference to points

- a) impact of fires on private assets
- b) causes and risk factors,
- c) adequacy of strategies for bushfire prevention, suppression and control, and
- d) appropriate land management policies and practices in relation to bushfires.

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer. My great - grandfather selected land and settled at Victoria Valley in the Grampians in 1879.

My immediate family consisting of parents Bruce and Verna , partner Robyn and two young sons live on a property which borders the Grampians National Park and shares a common boundary with the Park.

The Fry family of past generations, and in my father Bruce's earlier days, leased portions of the Grampians, and grazed up to 1000 wether sheep on leased mountain - run country.

In order to manage the runs in the Autumn, and at strategic times of year, portions of the leased country were 'pattern burnt'.

In addition to the fresh shoots and regeneration of under- story, the burnt areas also provided a tremendous buffer for fire control, and dramatically reduced the incidence of catastrophic bushfires as we have seen in the Alpine Country this year.

The reason for my input to this Parliamentary Committee Inquiry, is that my family and I hold very grave concerns regarding areas of the Grampians National Park, sections of which have not been control burnt for over 30 to 40 years. These areas, (which I would be happy to show you) have such a thick understorey, that it is virtually impenetrable and presents a perennial problem at present and for years to come.

I would like to see an escalation in the areas to be control burnt before it is too late, and a serious disaster, as we have witnessed in the Alpine areas of Victoria and New South Wales, occurs on my own door step.