



TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA

A Local Government Association

3 December 2003

Mr Stuart Ellis
COAG Bushfire Inquiry
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
3- 5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

coagbushfireinquiry@pmc.gov.au

Dear Mr Ellis,

TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA SUBMISSION TO THE COAG BUSHFIRE INQUIRY

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) is an incorporated local government association comprised of 20 Victorian municipal councils. The Association's primary function is to provide a forum for local government to address issues of common interest relating to forests and forestry industries and their impact on local government operations and local communities.

Early this year TTV commissioned RMIT University's Centre for Regional and Rural Development to conduct a preliminary socioeconomic study of the impacts of the recent bushfires on local government and affected communities in the North East and Gippsland regions. The report provided the Association with substantiated evidence on the following issues:

- The social and economic impacts of the recent bushfires on the communities in the North East and Gippsland;
- The impacts of bushfire mitigation strategies on private property, the community and the economy;
- The adequacy of infrastructure and human resources for fire mitigation strategies; and
- The use of existing fire fighting resources, including the effective use of resources and interagency cooperation.

The attached submission is supported by the findings of this study.

Should you wish to discuss any of the details contained in the submission, please contact me on 03 9667 5514.

We look forward to the outcome of this inquiry and seeing appropriate changes made to forest management, fire planning, preparation and response and the emergency management practices adopted in any future bushfire events.

Yours sincerely

NAREE ATKINSON
Executive Officer