

## **Submission**

### **Council of Australian Governments Inquiry into Bushfire Mitigation and Management**

**Submitted by: L.Ralph Barraclough,  
Captain Licola Fire Brigade, Licola 3858  
Ph 03 5148 8792**

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**As a result of fires from the type of alpine management we now have much of the mountains of Victoria, NSW and ACT burnt out so hot the evidence from rock fracturing, erosion and multi trunk snow gums will be around for hundreds of years as will the Macalister River erosion from similar management prior to 1939. If this was natural there would be more evidence of environmental damage pre European settlement. Eroded River banks for miles, alluvial boulder fans, and ancient multi trunked snow gum trees were virtually non existent in our area before high fuel levels became fashionable with the "learned" community. This has been the end result of universities, botanists, ecologists and like minded people from environmental groups ect. pushing their flawed theories. These are theories propped up by substituting fantasy for fact and calling it science while not letting the truth stand in the way of well failed theories. Government funding should be cut substantially to universities until it can be demonstrated they are capable of turning out scientists and not so much of the garbage we are now seeing in these fields. Allowing tax deductions for donations to political lobby groups posing as environmental groups should also be stopped. There should be proper bushfire research by real scientists like the CSIRO used to do.**

**As a result of the fire fighting effort we have seen fires just left to burn resulting in huge losses to community infrastructure as well as polluted water supplies from the indiscriminate use of chemicals. The present fire fighting structure has lead to massive empire building that is inadequate to stop serious fires. The emphasis should be on prevention and not suppression. There should be a full public audit to see just where all the money going to these organisations ends up.**

**I have enclosed the submission from our brigade to the "House Select Committee on recent Australian Bushfires" which covers most areas outlined above in more detail.**

**From the make-up of the panel and the way this inquiry is being conducted, I have reservations about its effectiveness to deliver anything of value that will solve any of the serious problems.**

**L.Ralph Barraclough**

**Captain**

## **Licola Fire Brigade**