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ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Submission

SUBMISSION

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NO. 005

Address:

Environment and Natural Resources Committee
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Inquiry into the impact of public land management practices on bushfires in Victoria

The recent fires in the alpine area have once again demonstrated the serious dangers of following the advice of "certain scientists" promoting an extremely biased and inaccurate view of environmental science then scratching one and others backs to try and make their work look credible.

Present National Park policies of removing alpine grazing and cool burning have encouraged extreme fuel build-up making large alpine areas dangerous for both humans and the environment. This approach virtually insures the destruction of ancient single trunk snow gums. For years these ancient trees, that have been growing since before European settlement, have been protected by the mountain cattlemen's burning and grazing. Huge areas survived the 1939 holocaust that are now being killed, or seriously damaged, from fires even under benign weather conditions. The trees replacing this ancient vegetation are multi trunked. If these hot fires were natural there would be examples of ancient multi trunked snow gums.

There is already problems with bio-diversity in the Alpine National Park. The Alpine Marsh Marigold survives very well on Kevin Higgins Bennison Plains property with grazing and cool burning. Few would dispute that it is a threatened species in the matt of snow grass too thick for it to penetrate through in the Park. This plant is listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Bog skinks are listed as an endangered species in the Alpine National Park, yet these small lizards can be easily caught just through the fence on Kevin Higgins's private land.

The so called scientists the Government has been taking advice from are in no way the solution to the serious fire risks we face, they have been part of the problem. Alpine grazing and cool burning should return as a priority to protect the environment and public.

I ask that this submission be acknowledged in writing.

Signed: John McLeish

