

SUBMISSION

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ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE



**NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

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Your Reference:
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01 May 2007

Hon. John Pandazopoulos, MP
Chair
Environmental and Natural
Resources Committee
Level 8, 35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE, VIC 3000
Attention: Committee's Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Pandazopoulos

**Re: Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices
on Bushfires in Victoria**

Following your letter dated 29 March 2007, North East Catchment Management Authority submits the information requested for the report to be presented to the Victorian Parliament.

Annually the North East Catchment Management Authority receives written notification that DSE Fire Operations Plans for Fire Districts in the North East Region are undergoing their annual review. Typically the plans outline a schedule for fuel reduction and ecological burns, map these areas, and detail proposed new preparedness works.

DSE requests our contribution, and formally invites us to input into the development of the Fire Operations Plans. A Public Land Fire Prevention Community Forum is held in a number of locations to provide us with an opportunity to contribute. We are also invited to examine the Draft Plans and to provide the Department with comments and suggestions for consideration. Copies of the Plans can be viewed during normal business hours at various government offices.

Topics covered during the Public Land Fire Prevention Community forum include: providing detail on:

- Fire Management Responsibilities on Public Land
- The Planning and Use of Fire in Land Management
- Overview District Fire Operation Plan.

The CMA (water quality officer) provides a formal written response to DSE on the annual plan. We assume prescribed burning operations are completed to the standards outlined within the Code of Forest Practice 1996.

Historically (until 2006) Catchment and Agricultural Service within DPI would provide comment on the impact of any works on catchment values in particular soil stability, which would be directly related to our water quality concerns. Unfortunately in 2006 DSE were been informed by DPI that they are unable to continue provide this service to DSE. I do understand attempts are currently being made to rectify this situation

If you require further information please contact Veronica Lanigan on (02) 6043 7600.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Riddiford', written in a cursive style.

John Riddiford
Chief Executive Officer