

SUBMISSION

10 MAY 2007

NO. 050

Mr. Barry Noble

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Inquiry Member

I am writing this letter to put on record my utter disgust at the incompetence of those in charge of dealing with the summer fires that threatened our life and property. Fellow property owners and fire fighting ground crew share my disgust.

That a few small lightning strike fires (Mt Hump), close to a DSE depot, in calm conditions were allowed to spread, shows utter mismanagement by those responsible for containing such outbreaks.

Whatever system was in place to control fires in late 2006 was shown to be utterly flawed. I feel I can speak with some expertise as I have worked as a fire fighter and in the Fire lookout tower.

The resulting scandalous waste of taxpayer's money (tens of millions) and the disruption to the lives of those near the fires will be well recorded.

My family and others in Gippsland should not have to live each summer with the threat of fires emanating from ~~the~~ National Parks and forest areas incompetently managed.

We can only hope that this inquiry will recommend more sweeping changes than the inadequate measures taken after the last (2003) inquiry.

