

SUBMISSION

25 MAY 2007

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

NO. 111

Michael Freshwater

24th May 2007

Hon. John Pandazopoulos,
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear John

I write to you as chair of the bush fire inquiry committee with my submission.

I have been a member of the Country Fire Authority for over 30 years holding positions as Captain, and currently as a Deputy Group Officer.

During this last campaign fire of 2006/07 I held positions of Sector Commander in two sectors, Divisional Commander and also spent time in the Incident Control Centre.

The issue I wish to raise is that of access on major roads, where in a fire situation trees fall over said roads.

When I acted as a strike team leader and also in the above positions the safety of my crews have been of utmost importance and worry when moving along roads where trees are falling over them, you may or may not be aware that during the fires in our area two CFA vehicles had damage caused by falling trees. I do not believe there should be any trees that are able to fall over roads in fire or wind events, for the safety of emergency service personnel.

In saying this I believe the Princes Highway and the Great Alpine Road are two such major links it would not be hard to remove trees so they would not be able to fall over the road.

Looking forward to the panel hearing and appearing.

Yours faithfully



Michael Freshwater