

FOREST OWNERS' CONFERENCE

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5 December, 2003

COAG Bushfire Inquiry
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
3-5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Sirs,

Re: Submission to COAG Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management

I write on behalf of the Forest Owners' Conference and commend to you the attached submission for your inquiry.

The Forest Owners' Conference is an industry group of plantation owners and fire agencies located in the southern border area of Victoria and South Australia. We are an integral part of the region's fire fighting resources and have extensive experience in fire prevention and protection in the rural environment.

The southern border region presents many difficulties in the coordination of fire prevention and suppression activities due to the interaction of numerous Government jurisdictions and bureaucracies. However organisations such as the Forest Owners' Conference and the Southern Border Fire Coordination Association have developed many linkages and close cooperation to overcome these difficulties. These ideas and systems may be applicable for use in other areas of Australia and so are presented in our submission.

I would like to issue a special invitation to the inquiry members to visit the region so that we may more fully explain the issues of fire fighting in a border area and show you the advances we have made in the protection of rural Australia from bushfires.

Yours faithfully

Ruth Ryan
Chairperson