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Attention: Karen Walsh

Date: 20 October 2003

To: Dave Darlington
Director, Southern
NSW NPWS

Re: Water Monitoring
Longitudinal Whole of River Health Studies
Immediate Post-Bushfire

From: Acacia Rose
0402 29 8821

20 October 2003

Mr Dave Darlington
Director Southern
NSW NPWS
JINDABYNE NSW

Dear Mr Darlington,

**Re: 'Whole of River Health'
Post-Bushfire & Longitudinal Monitoring Studies**

I wonder whether there could be an opportunity to talk to you on the phone / in person, in relation, to immediate water monitoring leading into whole of river health studies for the next 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year period.

At the first annual celebration of the Snowy River Flow (Mowamba Release) at Dalgety, I briefly discussed with Graeme Enders, the possibility of upgrading the EPA monitoring regime for the high country water catchment area, to the CRC Freshwater Ecology 'Whole of River Health' regime.

Graeme appeared to be receptive to the idea and I trust that the EPA, DLWC and NPWS will feel that it is important and urgent to begin monitoring during the snow-melt period, with a view to upgrading the regime, to 'whole of river health' biological status, over the next few decades.

None of us need reminding as to the critical and perhaps devastating impact of the natural disaster on the water catchment area. In view of the recent corporatisation of Snowy Hydro and more evident National and global water crisis, perhaps it is time to act quickly and decisively.

I note that the PM under the auspices of COAG has called for a further inquiry into the bushfires and Perhaps there may be additional funding through this channel.

Simon from Hot Shots in Thredbo has already collated considerable photographic evidence along the Barry Way and we would like to collect more photographic (digital) evidence, throughout the national Park. I would also like to complete the documentary and once again, find time with Ken Green to do this.

Simon suggested that it would be an excellent opportunity to provide employment for Thredbo people (many of whom are unemployed or under-employed) during the summer, to work under the NPWS and / or DLWC / EPA to begin the collection of water data at key points, leading to consistent, longitudinal monitoring.

I look forward to your early response.

Thanks Dave.

With regards

Acacia Rose
0402 298 821