

The Committee of Senators,
Inquiry into Tasmanian Bushfires of January, 2016,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT 2600.

Monday, 2nd May, 2016.

Dear Senators,

Re: Senate Inquiry into Tasmanian Bushfires of January, 2016.

Thank you for this opportunity in which to make a submission to your Inquiry investigating various aspects of the January, 2016 bushfires in Tasmania, specifically the World Heritage Wilderness areas, as per your terms of reference.

I consider the protection of Tasmanian forests, whether native, plantation, in or out of National Parks/World Heritage areas, their dependent industries, livelihoods, communities, atmosphere-cleansing, oxygen providing, recreation, original inhabitants' culture, living and sacred environments to be of utmost importance to our entire Nation, and the world generally. Not to forget eco-tourism's interest in the maintenance and conservation of these healthful, life-sustaining parts of our Planet.

I have written extensively over the last 6 – 7 years of Australia's long-overdue imperative of recognising and acknowledging the enormity of Australia's annual terrorising by one of its two main INTERNAL enemies, namely mega-bushfires, and their catastrophic effects upon life and property, livelihoods and communities.

Our Federal Government needs to understand that the annual \$14 million grant by the Attorney-General's Department to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre to fund the lease of an assortment of aerial firefighting assets has been proven to be disastrous, woefully inadequate, and the cause of deaths, with perhaps otherwise, many preventable.

Tasmania has experienced its share of holocaust, mega-bushfires or conflagrations over decades. Today, compared with earlier years, far more modern and PURPOSE-BUILT FIREFIGHTING aircraft are now available to combat this annual terrorist on our shores, within our borders.

IT IS NOW PAST TIME THAT AN ENTIRELY NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING WILD BUSHFIRES IN AUSTRALIA IS ADOPTED.

AN ENTIRELY RADICAL AND NEW APPROACH TO FUNDING AERIAL FIREFIGHTING ASSETS IS ALSO REQUIRED.

A SQUADRON OF SUCH AIRCRAFT MUST BE PURCHASED, AND FUNDED AND MAINTAINED OUT OF AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL DEFENCE BUDGET.

INTERNAL DEFENCE AERIAL ASSETS TO COMBAT SUCH CONFLAGRATIONS MUST BE ATTENDED TO AS A PRIORITY BEFORE JOINT-STRIKE FIGHTERS.

As part of my submission, I am attaching/forwarding earlier papers submitted to various bodies and authorities in which I have expressed my views on this subject for your Inquiry, and would respectfully ask that these be considered as if addressed to your Inquiry.

Evidence of my genuine concern for the protection of Australians' commonwealth, heritage and our Nation's economy may be ascertained by Googling: Jeff Leddin – Submissions.

I wish to apologise for the lateness of this submission.

With my grateful thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Leddin.