

The Principal Research Officer  
Community Development and  
Justice Standing Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Perth, WA 6000

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Munglinup  
WA 6450

03 October 2012  
Maxwell Szulc  
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Your Dr. David Worth,

Regarding Inquiry in States preparedness for this years fire season.

The following is a submission I offer to your committee. As a private property owner having Cheadenup Reserve adjoining my northern boundary and the Munglinup River reserve adjoining my southern boundary plus vacant Crown land four kilometres from my western boundary, I have made numerous requests and complaints that these areas of native vegetation are not being adequately managed to prevent or control bushfires.

These requests and complaints have been directed to the Esperance office of the Department of the Environment and Conservation as well as directly to the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Bill Marmion. The former failed to respond and the latter, Mr. Marmion's staff stating my concerns have been put on file.

In recent years a devastating bushfire burnt through Cheadenup reserve then soon after heavy rains caused flooding as their was major run off from the bare burnt ground causing down stream erosion damage through my property.


The Munglinup River Reserve links with reserves all the way to the Coastal reserve and when this lights up with a Northern Westerly wind behind it then the fire will be unstoppable.

In this area the fuel build up from up to fifty years accumulation of leaf and stick material will make a fire so fierce and intense that everything will be destroyed.

Both reserves are prone to lightning strikes during summer storms and these fires tend to take control quickly. The reserves are home to fauna of great conservation value and the D.E.C has not shown proper interest and diligence in protecting these areas.

In 2009, inspectors from D.E.C Compliance Section obstructed my efforts in the Supreme Courts to adequately establish fire breaks on my property to protect native vegetation.

Vast amounts of State money and manpower is being wrongly used to prosecute land owners to the detriment of that available money to be spent on fire prevention and control measures.

Yours Sincerely,   
Maxwell Szulc