



## **Media Release: 20/12/06**

# **Coroner wants to Burn “All Areas”**

The *National Parks Association of the ACT* cannot support recommendation number 32 of the Coroner’s Report into the 2003 Fires, which states that “all areas of the ACT - including the catchment areas” should be subject to “regular and strategic burning”.

Recommendations 33 and 34 reinforce that the Coroner wants fuel-reduction burning extended to “all areas of the ACT”, “excluding only small areas of particular ecological or conservation importance”.

Burning the ACT’s water catchment areas will cause erosion that would seriously pollute our precious drinking water reservoirs, as the 2003 fires proved. This may eventually force ACT residents to buy their drinking water at the supermarket, rather than get it from the tap, because of the prohibitive cost of treating our tap water to drinking standard.

In addition, regular burning of the ACT’s rural leases would be very dangerous, as these fires could escape into the Namadgi National Park or into our Nature Reserves, as occurred recently.

Our Namadgi National Park is a conservation jewel - it must remain fully protected!

Chris Emery  
Vice President

20/12/06

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