PETITION

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, are concerned that WA faces a very high risk of crown fires, where fire gets into the upper reaches of trees and spreads in a manner that overwhelms fire fighters and towns because the State's recommended prescribed burning targets have not been met.

The annual target for prescribed burning in WA used to be in the vicinity of 300,000 hectares a year. In the 1990s, that was reduced to 200,000 hectares a year. Between 2000 and 2008, the average annual area of prescribed burning in WA was only 149,000 hectares, which is 25 per cent below the target. This has created a backlog of 400,000 hectares where the forest fuel levels are now extremely high.

Although prescribed burning is controversial and many people find the resulting smoke unpleasant, we believe that as prescribed burning targets have been set by experts, they should be met.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly request that the Minister for Environment and Conservation, and the Government fulfil the State's prescribed burning targets to lower the fuel load that has built up before Western Australia experiences a tragic event like the devastating recent fires in Victoria.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Please return to Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton, Shop PO5 Stockland Riverton, Corner High Road and Willeri Drive, Riverton WA 6148