



Commonwealth of Australia

**Exemption under section 158 of the
*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999***

I, **Peter Garrett**, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, being satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so, hereby exempt, under s 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the State of Victoria, and those acting on behalf of the State of Victoria, from the application of all of the provisions of Part 3 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in relation to the following action:

All actions taken in response to the current severe bushfires in Victoria, including but not limited to clearance of vegetation, building of fire breaks and back-burning.

This exemption takes effect on the date of this notice.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Peter Garrett', written over a horizontal line.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Dated this Eleventh day of February 2009