



25 October 2013

Letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald

Dear Editor

Environment Minister Greg Hunt 'looked up' Australian bushfires on Wikipedia and decided it was clear that there was no link between climate change and increased bushfire intensity ("Greg Hunt uses Wikipedia research to dismiss links between climate change and bushfires", Oct 24).

It's not surprising that the Minister has to resort to Wikipedia following the rampant cuts to federal, state and territory government department libraries. His own department library's staff and budget were drastically reduced over a year ago.

Government libraries connect policy makers to the essential information they need to make decisions based on well researched facts. If the slashing of government libraries continues, we will see more politicians quoting Wikipedia and fewer using high quality scientifically proven facts when making life-changing decisions. Hopefully this gaff will encourage the Minister to use his own specialist library and inspire other Ministers to ensure that their libraries are fully funded and resourced.

Sincerely,

The Australian Library and Information Association

