

Your details

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

I am a traditional owner of the Yuin Nation. I have previously worked for NPWS for eighteen years. During this time, I have witnessed and been involved in containing many different types of fires, from HR's to wildfire to remote area fire fighting. During those eighteen years, I have never witnessed what I saw take place last summer.

In 2010 I was selected to sit on the Biamanga Board of Management,(a part 4A National Park). During this time, I had the opportunity to go to Cape York and meet Victor Stephenson and Uncle Tommy and was introduced to traditional land management through cultural fire. This was when my whole perception of fire changed. I realised that we had been using fire the wrong way when implementing hazard reduction burns and that we were creating more fuel loads per hectare through this incorrect method by promoting mid-story ladder fuels species. I realised we were burning for hectares instead of country types. Since then, I have a lot of interest and have practised cultural burning back on my traditional land of the Southern Yuin Nation as the same principles apply across the whole of Australia.

Cultural burning is the traditional fire regime of Australia practised for thousands of years before colonisation. Its the way the Australian landscape needs to managed by fire. There is so much to be learnt from this ancient traditional practice. This is a win-win situation that needs to be reintroduced back into the landscape of Australia at a large scale

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Fire has always been part of the Australian landscape and always will be. I feel that the causes and contributing factor to these mega-fires last summer is the mismanagement of the Australian landscape as well as a combination of miss management of water causing drought.

The fact that the traditional fire regime of Australian hasn't been implemented for over two hundred years is a significant part of this miss management of the landscape. I also feel that extensive logging resulting in regrowth forest had a lot to do with the rate of spread of these wildfires as well as incorrect backburning methods

1.2 Preparation and planning

Cultural burning is the traditional fire regime of Australia practised for thousands of years before colonisation. Its the way the Australian landscape needs to managed by fire. There is so much to be learnt from this ancient traditional practice. This needs to be reintroduced back into the landscape of Australia at a large scale for the preparation and planning of the next mega-fire event

1.3 Response to bushfires

More time and money needs to be allocated to the prevention of these circumstances instead of response

Supporting documents or images
