## Your details

## Submission details

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| **I am making this submission as** | A member of the general public |
| **Submission type** | I am making a personal submission |
| **Organisation making the submission (if applicable)** | Lyndsey Hatchwell |
| **Your position in the organisation (if applicable)** | Lyndsey Hatchwell |
| **Consent to make submission public** | I would like this submission to remain anonymous |

## Share your experience or tell your story

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| **Your story** | Dear All, I would like to submit my thoughts/experiences re the clearing of trees and vegetation. As someone who has actually purchased a home that was once classed as falling in the 10/50 zone (not far from bush land) and is now not. The property has 5 large trees of which one (that now has a preservation order) was butchered because the neighbour did not like its canopy over his land (he purchased the his house knowing the tree was there). He went to the Council the Land and Environment Court and lost but managed to get the tree literally cut in half by using the 10/50 |

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| | laws of the time. He was not worried about fire, he just did not like the tree. Luckily due to much care and attention from the prior owner the tree survived. It (not a gum) provides shade, cooling, soil stabilisation and moisture among other things to my property and is a supermarket and home for many native species. The area of Baulkham Hills (North) where I live has been devastated by many trees being cut down and I am worried that this law is being utilised for personal gain more so than for any possible fire negating benefits. Given what we have seen from the recent fire season, if we get an nasty fast moving fire here trees will be the least of our problems. |

## Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its Terms of Reference.

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| **1.1 Causes and contributing factors** | Climate change, drought, excess clearing of bush and tree removal. Human encroachment. Hot burn practices. |
| **1.2 Preparation and planning** | It often appears that the continued loss of trees in the RFS 10/50 Clearing Code entitlement areas has frequently little to do with bushfire risk or hazard reduction.<br><br>Native vegetation should not be cleared without a well-informed assessment, particularly if it is only a low bush fire risk. The environment should be a key consideration in managing bush fires. Many homeowners are unlikely to know what threatened species, habitat values and other environmental matters should be considered. |
| **1.3 Response to bushfires** | The RFS should have more of a role in advising homeowners in regards to vegetation management as well as other key bush fire management and maintenance measures. We need experienced people to make the best assessments for the homeowner and area in general. • Also homeowners need to notify the RFS and relevant councils of vegetation clearance proposed so local fire managers have an up-to-date understanding of the clearance being undertaken. Monitoring vegetation clearance carried out under the 10/50 Code is not be possible without having a comprehensive reporting process in place. |

## Supporting documents or images