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I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I was involved in the planning and implementation of the forestry component of the year 11 Victorian environmental studies course.</p> <p>In this capacity I was privy to the construction of the Victorian Timber Industry Strategy.</p> <p>I observed the timber industry, the forestry department and the union engage in data manipulation e.g. the definition of what constituted a forest was changed from trees of an average height of 100 feet to 30 metres. This enabled the inclusion of vast areas of the mallee scrub in the data of unlogged forests. The same sort of subterfuge occurs in NSW. The water that comes off our undisturbed forests is worth more than the timber.</p>
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	<p>The frequency and ferocity of bushfires in Australia's wet sclerophyll forests is exacerbated by our forestry practice. This is rotational harvesting on cycles less than 100 years. Most of our</p>

reserved forests have also been logged at least once since white settlement. The cedar trees of course were all removed even before land was selected for farming.

This has meant that the vast majority of these forests are in fact juveniles. As these young forests grow they take up the soil moisture, stream flow decreases, the canopy is lowered and the tree density is vastly increased. From as low as 4 trees per hectare to 100's.

The pre-existing forest was of gigantic trees over 200 years in age, with a cool moist, shaded understory (see attachment). A cessation of logging in native forests is urgently required with careful management of fuel loads, mechanically, as the forests recover.

1.2 Preparation and planning

No amount of hazard reduction burning can hope to reduce the risk of wildfire in juvenile forests that are so flammable. Some areas where people have chosen to live can never be made safe from wildfire. As it is hazard reduction burning makes the cooler months smoky and polluted just like this summer.

1.3 Response to bushfires

I observed the state and federal government response along with the NGO's to be well-resourced, well integrated and compassionate.

All these sectors should be proud of the response that has been made to assist our fellow Australians.

1.4 Any other matters

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regrowth1.JPG - [Download File](#)





