

Your details

Title

Ms

First name

Jane

Last name

Gye

Email

secretary@aabr.org.au

Address

PO Box 447 Berowra 2081

Submission details

I am making this submission as

Other

Submission type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Organisation making the submission (if applicable)

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR)

Your position in the organisation (if applicable)

Secretary

Consent to make submission public

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

AABR represents many onground bush regenerators and associated practitioners across Australia who work in the many ecosystems, mostly degraded, to restore them to diverse, sustainable natural areas, free from the inhibiting invasion of exotic plant species.

Bush regenerators have a vast wealth of experience of how ecosystems degrade, and how to restore them. One of the tools used for restoration is fire.

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

The main contributing factor to the fires was climate change, resulting in a prolonged drought and extended elevated temperatures. The development of catastrophic fire conditions made fire control impossible in many cases, and often resulted in fire causing its own pyrocumulus storm system, producing dry lightening, and thus more fires. Urgent policies are needed to reverse the effects of global warming.

1.2 Preparation and planning

1. AABR understands that more hazard reduction was done in the last year or 2 by NPWS than has ever been done before. Therefore it seems unlikely that more HR will reduce the threats. There were many reports of the fires burning through recently burnt areas without any impediment to their speed or severity.

2. If burning is more frequent than recommended for a vegetation type, species can be lost as they have not had time to mature and produce seed.

3. An ecological principle is that the more frequently bush is burnt, the more the vegetation becomes fire-prone

4. More emphasis on building design and materials, perhaps even developing a standard for a fire bunker as no house can be guaranteed to withstand fire, and hence unable to guarantee human survival.

1.3 Response to bushfires

4. Remote area firefighting expertise seemed inadequate to stop the fires before they could take hold.

1.4 Any other matters

Base political decisions and policies on scientific expertise to provide the best chance of avoiding a repeat of the recent summer bushfire disaster.

Supporting documents or images
