

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Dominic

Last name

WYKanak

Submission details

I am making this submission as

Other

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Organisation making the submission (if applicable)

NA

Your position in the organisation (if applicable)

NA

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

This Country in a few days will mark the sighting of Our Land by Lieutenants Cook and Hicks, by which later mapping and claiming (1770.8.22, 22 August 1770) the Environment and Biodiversity of Our Country commenced being impacted by colonizer activities, and so this particular BushFire Summer 2019-2020 comes at a Time when the benefit of Sovereignty, First Nation Elders and Community together with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UNDRIP, provides an historical context to Amend legislation/regulation wording so that it properly Recognizes the Sovereign Inherent Custodial Rights of First Nation Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Peoples

(as Individuals or Groups) to protecting Country under Judicial regimes by which Court Costs are born in The Public Interest, and/or Each Party bear Their own Costs.

Likewise, Individuals or Groups suing in The Public Interest to protect The Rights of Nature as is requested by this Submission to be included in Amended legislated wording should also be covered by similar Court/Legal Costs protection procedures for Actions taken in The Public Interest.

Australia is the midst of a pollution and extinction crisis and this summer's catastrophic fires, saw many lose their homes and lives, and an estimated one billion of our wildlife dead. We saw what the future looks like in our country without urgent action.

Strong environmental laws are critical for the ongoing protection and restoration of Australia's environment. They are what protect our precious water, land, native species and air from overuse, overdevelopment and pollution. Current BushFire Management Strategies are not providing anywhere near adequate protection of Australia's People and Environment, and are not able to cope with increased challenges we face with species extinction and climate extinction.

The Bush Fire Inquiry should Amend Legislation to achieve the following:

Sovereignty Recognition of Inherent First Nation Rights for actions taken in Lore and Law to Protect Country referenced to a Spiritual Connexion to Country and/or the UNDRIP.

Future Bush Fire Management regimes should be improved to make sure its strategies can deliver a healthy and resilient environment, reverse the extinction trend and reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions – factoring climate change into decision-making referenced to a legislated Recognition of The rights of Nature and Sovereignty Recognition for First Nation Peoples operating 'Cultural ('Cool') Burning techniques.

These future Bush Fire Management Strategies must protect our native forests and vegetation. It must reduce the amount of discretion that decision-makers have and instead require decisions that protect our Bush, land, water, air and native species.

Future Bush Fire Management procedures should be expanded to include power to make binding national standards for the quality of air and water and limit particulates causing pollution; to have a greenhouse gas trigger, to guard against invasive species, and to prevent unnecessary Habitat land clearing.

There should be increased legal recognition of First Nation Indigenous Knowledge and Sovereignty Rights in any and every related Bush Fire Management Act, and legislated added requirements for the government to seek Indigenous involvement in relevant related decision-making.

Acts should be administered by trusted and independent institutions – State and National EPAs and a State/National Environment Commission to set evidence-based standards and targets, assess the impacts of projects and enforce the law.

There should be a central role for communities in decision making, including merits review of government decisions, rights to citizen enforcement of breaches, citizen suits when government is failing to fulfil its duties under these Acts, and protection from costs orders for Public Interest cases.

With a new generation of environment laws and independent organisations to govern them, the places and wildlife we love can thrive whilst Bush Fire Public and Property Safety are coexistent across Country kept Sustainable for the next Generations.

Thank you for considering my submission,

boondiboondi Bondi Ward

CRdominicWYKanak, [REDACTED]; Email: [REDACTED]

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

Sovereignty sidelining interrupting First Nation Bush Management Custodianship Practices, especially Cultural ('Cool') Burning BushFire Reduction Techniques.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Cultural , Cool, Burning Techniques involving the Recognition and operation of First Nation Custodian Practices.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Compassion for People Flora and Fauna lost and injured.

1.4 Any other matters

Sovereignty of First Nations Peoples referenced to the UNDRIP and The Rights of Nature need to be enshrined in relevant Law Recognizing Lore and Indigenous Inherent Custodial Responsibilities to Look After People and Country.

Supporting documents or images
