



## Your details

Ms

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**Title**

**First name**

Elizabeth

**Last name**

Surgeon

## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

**Submission type**

I am making a personal submission

**Organisation making the submission (if applicable)**

n/a

**Consent to make submission public**

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

We live in a bush fire prone area in the Blue Mountains. This year we watched in horror as an out of control backburn from Mt Wilson turned into the Gospers Mountain fire. This fire burned across the Grose Valley, leapt up the cliff face and incinerated the whole plateau around Blackheath, including our property and our neighbours properties along [REDACTED].

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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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**

See Response to Bushfires section

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**1.3 Response to bushfires**

I believe there is excessive damage resulting from containment lines, backburns and hazard reductions - the Gospers Mountain fire is just one example of many backburns that have got out of control. Other backburns have left huge areas totally devastated. This in turn exposes the countryside to erosion and general degradation.

We need to treat the problem with other strategies than backburning. Not only does it devastate the country, our wildlife (so unique to the Australian bush) lose their habitat and are rapidly becoming endangered.

Dropping incendiaries for hazard reduction during bushfires seems totally illogical as it leads to increased risk of out of control fires and greater damage to countryside and wildlife.

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**1.4 Any other matters**

I believe there needs to be more research into better ways of handling our bushfires than in backburns, hazard reduction or containment lines.

Consult with scientists and environmentalists to find out the most effective and least destructive ways of dealing with the increased fuel in our bushland.

Recognise that climate change is a reality and work together to address the problems arising from it. Our bushland is unique but the effects of the most recent 2020 fires has left huge areas devastated and it will take years for it to recover. In the meantime, countless fauna and flora have been lost.

## **Supporting documents or images**

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**Attach files**

- Fire x3.JPG
  - Fires x1.jpg
  - Fires x2.JPG
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