Your details

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Ms

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Submission details

I am making this submission as
A member of the general public

Submission type
I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public
I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

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
Future planning for bushfire risk management in NSW recognise that climate change is now a major driver of increased bushfire danger and that further increases in global temperature are likely to increase the length and severity of fire season, restrict the window of opportunity for safe and effective hazard reduction burning and increase the costs and the risk to the community from bushfire events across NSW.

♣ Government should recognise the body of scientific evidence that strongly specifies only very recently burned areas may reduce fire severity under extreme and catastrophic fire weather conditions. Under these conditions areas hazard reduced, particularly those treated over more than 1 year previously, are unlikely to provide substantial fire suppression benefits.
♣ Hazard reduction burning should be undertaken strategically, with clear objectives for burns that show measurable benefits in reducing risk to identified assets. Hazard reduction burning programs aimed at meeting area treated based targets are of little benefit.
♣ Asset Protection Zones identified in Bush Fire Risk Management Plans should be the focus for reducing fuel loads, rather than undertaking hazard reduction burning in natural areas located far from built assets. The width of APZs required for asset protection must be based on scientific evidence.
♣ There needs to be a comprehensive inventory of environmental assets, including the locations of threatened species and endangered ecological communities which are then included as environmental assets in Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. Treatments to reduce the risk to these assets must be identified where possible. The Plans must incorporate post fire restoration and rehabilitation guidelines, especially for threatened species, communities and refuge areas.
♣ There is no scientific evidence to show that grazing or logging will reduce fire risk and both can be devastating to threatened species such as koalas and damage natural processes. Government must ensure that neither is reintroduced into conservation areas.
♣ There are many strategies used in firefighting, the benefits and costs of each needs to be assessed to determine their effectiveness and what their detrimental outcomes for the environment are.
♣ With the increasing frequency of lighting ignitions in remote areas, various technologies and strategies for rapid extinguishing of these fires must be investigated, including an increase in the use of remote area firefighting teams.
♣ The Government must develop a State Fire Management Strategy in consultation with peak stakeholder groups including NCC that addresses fire response and recovery. The Government needs to commit to funding for these strategies which is not aligned to specific grant programs and has funding certainty.
♣ Following major bushfire events, post-fire environmental recovery actions are needed including targeted recovery for threatened species and communities which are listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. Recovery actions must consider pest species, weeds, minimising erosion and sedimentation and maintaining water qualit

Supporting documents or images
