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| First name | Gary |
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| | |
| I am making this submission as | Primary producer |
| 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 am a third generation farmer running our family property [REDACTED] Our property was decimated by the the Bees Nest fire on September 6th 2019. The fire started on Public Land (National Park) adjacent to our 3000 acre property, one week earlier from a lightening strike in the Guy Fawkes National Park. Unfortunately the fire was allowed to move and expand from the original ignition point for a week, before the massive fire took off, and in a matter of hours after the fire escaped from the park and our property was engulfed. Fortunately our house and sheds were saved thanks to the support of the local RFS. Unfortunately about 1100 hectares of native and improved pasture had been wiped out in the blink of an eye. Also approximately 26km of fencing infrastructure was destroyed. This included 8km of dog proof fence which stood from the early 1900's, about 100 years old, and 18km of internal fencing and neighbouring boundary fences. We also had 14 cows in calf destroyed directly, and indirectly another 16 cows in calf were lost. The result of loosing</p> |

this number of cattle for a small farming business has a major impact in itself. Even before you consider the massive financial loss of fencing approx, well over 600 thousand dollars in itself. As a result of this fire we are in financial ruin and it will take many years for us to recover financially but the environment may never recover.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

- * lightening strike - the large fuel load in the National Park created the fire
- * unprecedented dry weather - was a major factor which should have seen more urgency to control, suppress and black out the fire immediately when first identified
- * National Park slow to react - it should have been managed better in its earlier stages with a view to a total 'black out' instead of path management
- * National Parks lack of respect of "local knowledge"- local landholder advice on where to stop and contain fire was not acknowledged

1.2 Preparation and planning

- *Far too much fuel in National Park - no hazard reduction or very little had happened before the fire
- * existing fire trails had not been maintained by the National Parks and fire trails not wide enough to stop fire
- * more frequent hazard reduction plans to reduce and minimize threat and intensity of fire causing far less damage to ecosystems and communities of landholder assets

1.3 Response to bushfires

- *response was slow and ineffective without urgency. Fire was left unattended when fire may have been extinguished or controlled at approx 6 hectares in size which then grew to well over 100,00 hectares

1.4 Any other matters

- *Blatant disregard for joining landholder assets and personal safety through lack of planning for hazard reduction
- * National Parks are supposed to look after the environment but management of parks has helped to contribute to a wildlife disaster
- * environmental disasters - loss of ground cover, topsoil, affect on waterways and the affect on wildlife
- * Govt money should be allocated for constant hazard reduction burns which would be minimal compared to the massive cost of fire fighting once wild fires appear. ie mosaic burning
- * poor communication in remote areas - more available communication in our area as radios and phones non usable due to the terrain and location of towers

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