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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Resident
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>Dear Madam / Sir, Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Bushfire Enquiry.</p> <p>As a South Coast resident I sincerely hope I never live through another summer like the last.</p> <p>We live on a bush block, near Moruyua, surrounded by beautiful native forest. Although our property wasn't directly affected by fire, we were on high alert for 2 months and fully enacted our bush fire survival plan four times. At one stage we were surrounded on 3 sides by the fire. The stress is still with me and although everything's green again and the weather's cooler now, whenever I think about next summer the anxiety rises again.</p> <p>Because the science is in: our bush fire seasons will only get worse.</p>

The warming of the global climate has lead to longer dryer summers and more drought.

I'm a little skeptical that any government is able or willing to tackle this biggest of all issues, wedded as we are to a relatively short term political cycle.

However given the tragedy of this summer and the enormity of the loss, I'm hoping maybe governments of all persuasions will finally get serious about urgently moving out of the mining, burning and exporting of carbon emitting fossil fuels like coal, and into the growing opportunities that renewable energy presents. (In reference to your Terms of Inquiry Clause 1.1)

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

The South Coast region has had decades of intensive logging which has made our forests more fire prone. Logging has made the impacts of the fires worse by opening up the canopy leading to drying out the forest floor and increasing the number of smaller, younger trees. Australian National University landscape ecology expert Professor David Lindenmayer advises multiple academic and forest industry studies showed forest thinning in Australia "makes forests more fire prone"

Logging native forests also hastens climate change by releasing millions of tonnes of carbon stored in these trees into the atmosphere when they're logged.

And - unbelievably! logging on the fire ravaged South Coast has just recommenced!

Our forests help bring rain, increase water quality, prevent erosion and improve soil health, store carbon and give us the very oxygen we breath. These forests provide billions of homes for wildlife and should be treated with upmost respect, not destroyed for so little financial gain. Less than 1% of the total work force is employed by jobs directly created by forestry in the Eurobodalla and Bega Shires.

Over 41% of national parks and 40% of state forest has been damaged by recent bushfires. In my area, Eurobodalla Shire, the figures are much worse: 80% of state forests and 90% of our National Parks have been burnt.

The recommencement of logging in these circumstances is truly galling.

#### **Hazard Reduction Burns**

It may seem counter-intuitive but the longer old-growth forests remain fire- free, the less combustible they become. The thicker canopy creates more shade, the undergrowth becomes thinner and less vigorous and holds more moisture - and hence there is less fuel for fires. Case studies from the recent fires illustrate this - most notably the Border fire. It burnt from the Victorian border to Eden in a single day, through some of the most heavily logged forest in Australia, so even though the fuel load in that forest had been reduced, the fire simply swept through anyway. Hazard reduction burns are no panacea.

#### **Land Management**

I ask that the National Parks and Wildlife Service be properly funded.

Over the last 9 year's they've lost \$181 million dollars from their budget. Previously, experienced NPSW staff were a valuable resource in fire (and pest) management.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

### 1.3 Response to bushfires

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#### 1.4 Any other matters

In conclusion we need to listen to our scientists and the fire experts and act on their recommendations.

If we want to decrease wildfires one of the steps we have take now is to stop adding carbon to the atmosphere and start drawing it down out of the atmosphere with mass tree plantings etc. The technology exists. We can do this, if we have the political will and good leadership that motivates and inspires.

I realise this is a very big ask for a government who earns so much of it's revenue from coal, but there's never been a more important time to find the courage to make difficult choices and take a bold moves to serve a greater cause.

Our climate is changing - can you?

Yours sincerely,

Gillianne Tedder

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