



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Greg

Last name

Folkard

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

Your story

Every photo I observed of the fires as they occurred and of the aftermath showed trees very close together. All early Australian explorer notes and diaries regularly talked about an open grassland environment dominated by sparsely spread forest giants in the valleys and on the slopes. These trees where huge and grassland fires had no chance to get into the canopy. Many areas in Australia that now have extreme fires never experienced these events before the Britts illegally took over our country. The current forestry practices of the State Government run forestry operations have greatly increased the danger of extreme bush fire events by clear felling "coops" and thus ensuring lots of regrowth of trees way to close together that in the end supports short term poor quality timber extraction. So what has been created is an environment that is oh so ready to create an extreme fire from the associated poorly managed

regrowth.

Our white ancestors inherited a totally different environment that was capable of handling long periods of dry that didn't result in the type of extreme bushfires that now occur.

We can recreate the environment we took over, certainly without many of the animals and plants we have managed to destroy, if we look at the country with a century plus outlook.

We must thin out our forests.

Many greensies will argue against this but protecting current forest environments as they are is not the answer. However, we must not allow the current dominant forestry harvestors to do this job the way they currently operate.

Small scale operations that do little damage to surrounding environment would create jobs and new industries.

Thinning of the twisted/split regrowth could still be used for tomato stakes, fence palings, creation of nest boxes to replace the hollows for our native birds that no longer exist, etc. But we could also create new local industries by using what is left over for biogas and biochar creation to be used locally.

This approach would likely take hundreds of years to finally create an environment, all be it just the trees, that in some way mimicked what was here before the Brits destroyed it.

However, it wouldn't take long to reduce the risk of extreme bushfire events.

If over the next 10 years we remove/kill 9 out of 10 of the regrowth trees in many previously forested areas (either by ring barking or extraction using only small scale machinery) and allowed the good straight trees to start to dominate the landscape much of the danger of extreme bushfire spread would be greatly reduced whilst creating jobs and local small business industries that reduce Australia's dependence on overseas markets.

Of course during this time, the bush that surrounds residential areas in particular (but certainly not limited to) should use aboriginal fire reduction methods to make reduced fire fuel load areas along with habitat areas for existing wildlife rather than large scale area fire reduction burns. These fire reduction methods should be wide spread.

Small examples of these thinning, harvesting and burning methods do exist in NSW that have been implemented by timber harvesters and land holders that loved creating beautiful open forest country behind their harvest but they are few and far between.

I personally have seen such methods used by a one man timber harvester in the Bermagui Cobargo area and his work is there for all to see still after the devastating bushfires that occurred in 2019/2020.

Many National Parks in south east Australia have been handed over to the National Parks after logging operations have created now extreme bush fire dangers because of the harvesting operations that occurred prior to hand over.

Unfortunately many environmental groups fail to understand the consequences of this with regards to ongoing management of these parks.

Certainly any thinning within National Parks should be undertaken only by small scale machinery where necessary, and predominately by ring barking. Selective ring barking will allow the good straight trees to grow much quicker to dominate the canopy and thus, along with the fuel reduction ring barking results in, greatly reduced the fuel load.

In conclusion, excessive harvesting of the wonderful trees that once existed on the Australian continent by current and previous generations has resulted in an extremely dangerous land that is now vulnerable to extreme bush fire environments that must immediately result in a totally new approach to how we treat this land.

Greg

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
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Poor management

1.2 Preparation and planning

Poor management

1.3 Response to bushfires

Well done on behalf of local units

1.4 Any other matters

Lack of support for front line action over quiet times
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Supporting documents or images
