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I am making this submission as	General public
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	83 years of living & working in bushfire prone areas.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	Wildfires need fuel & heat. The conditions experienced for these last fires have historically occurred regularly since white settlement i.e. drought, following years of good seasons with understory growth then heatwave conditions with high winds - all documented. After the millennial drought we had unusually, 9 good seasons with unprecedented growth. The result is obvious. So the roles of weather, drought, climate change, fuel loads & human activity need to be closely examined.

Weather, drought & climate change are linked. If we could transform our inland with innovative water supply management & land practices, abating dryness could decrease evaporation & temperatures & increase rain activity opening up our regions for potential decentralisation & massive production. |

The majority of our population clings to the coastal fringe, living on good soils with the best rainfall with resultant raised heatbanks from concrete & pollution. These areas were formerly the natural habitat of koalas. We need to concentrate on fuel loads, housing locations, building standards & appropriate land clearing to reduce fire hazzards.

In the 1970s raised environmental concerns resulted in an over-reaction with forests & proclaimed national parks locked up as "preservation" areas & valuable rural land practices banned. Only 10% of rainfall could be captured & stored & innovations like Keyline Farming were outlawed. The result was dryer, less productive farms, pumping incessantly from rivers & streams with no drought-proofing. Conversely, the environment suffered.

ACTIONS:
1. Immediately I would like to see an imperative collaboration with indigenous fire experts towards a transformation to COOL burns, (www.creativespirits.info/aboriginal culture - "Cool vs. Hot Burn Comparison" pp. 20/21) NO CANOPY BURN is environmentally critical for species & is sustainable & practices MUST change.

2. COOL burns concentrated around towns, villages & properties.

3. Cleared buffer zones of kilometres within & outside Parks & forests boundaries. This could be income producing with proffered grazing agistment.

4. Tree-breaks of fire retardent species planted at forest boundaries, town & village limits & around isolated dwellings - the safety advantages have been proven. - income for Govt. nurseries.

5. Reduction & no new plantings of Eucalypt & other flammable species in settled areas.

6. Strict restrictions & standards for siting & building applications.

1.2 Preparation and planning	as above
1.3 Response to bushfires	I believe the increasing intensity of wildfires is a direct result of bad fuel load management e.g. since the Kosciuszko National Park's 1974 Plan of Management changes of practice, wildfires have increased in intensity & spread, resulting in the decimation of our Alpine Ash population along with the incineration of our endangered Corroboree Frog & Pygmy Possum species. Koala colonies in formerly well-managed state forests (now national parks) have been obliterated. This is unforgiveable & unacceptable. Half of our emissions have come from bushfires. Reduce wildfire occurrence & climate change targets will be met. The recent fires & floods have have had the most amazing positive & optimistic outcome - a resurrection of the Australian fighting & community spirit which has become, I feel, a new beginning for us as a proud united nation. As a people we need patience, tolerance, positivity & optimism & these have been at the forefront of our recovery & Govt. responses.
1.4 Any other matters	It is imperative that the COOL vs. HOT BURN COMPARISON study be researched thoroughly & immediately. Instead of criticising fuel load control, environmentalists might see the difference.

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