While not directly impacted by the fires of this summer I wish to make a brief submission.

I live in Coonabarabran and have been a member of a local bushfire brigade for 40 years. I have a background in Science and have been on Castlereagh Zone Bushfire Committee. In our area we expect to have significant fire approximately every 7 years generally in the Pilliga. In one such fire in 2006 approximately 40% of our 1500ha property was burnt out.

Over the time of my involvement with the RFS I have experienced fires of increasing ferocity culminating in the 2013 Wambelong Fire which burnt out 98% of the Warrumbungle National Park as well as much of the surrounding area and barely avoided turning Coonabarabran into another King Lake. Many would have died. I'm now only involved in Communications when absolutely necessary.
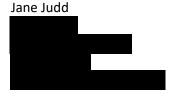
It is obvious to me that the changes in the fires are not the result of inadequate preparation either on the part of landholders or government agencies such as NPWS. Individual fires are frequently started by lightning strikes, not the malicious deeds of arsonists. But the deep cause of the increasing problems are the anthropogenic changes to climate that we are already experiencing.

Scientists for years have predicted an increase in extreme events as a result of Climate Change, whether these be droughts, ferocious storms, torrential rain and floods and even snow at the wrong time of year. The increase in energy in the atmosphere has precipitated the violent and unpredictable behaviour of the fires.

Until we start to address Climate Change this will only get worse. The droughts will get longer and drier, the temperatures will get higher, the window of opportunity for hazard reduction burns will get shorter.

I have great sympathy for those who lost so much this past summer and understand why they try to rationalise its causes. However this will only get worse until we address the Climate Change issue.

Yours faithfully

Jane Judd

I am happy for my submission to be publicly available but request that you do not publish my contact details.