

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Jimmy

Last name

Malecki

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission into the Australian Fires that were exacerbated by climate change. My home and property were impacted by the Myall Creek fire on the 16th November 2019. I would like to commend the firies on doing a terrific job in saving my home.

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

I strongly believe that a drier landscape is a major contributor to the extreme 2019-2020 Australian bush fire season. Major contributing factors are:

1. Drought exacerbated by climate change dries out the landscape leaving our bush more prone to extreme fires.
2. Over logging causing too much canopy loss dries out the landscape leaving our forest more prone to bush fires.
3. Too much hazard reduction burning instead of a targeted or mosaic approach promotes fire resistant plants and leaves the landscape drier and more prone to bush fire.

1.2 Preparation and planning

We need to take urgent action if we want to prevent fire seasons like we just experienced.

Action needed:

1. Immediate, fair dinkum action on climate change. We need to keep coal in the ground and stop burning fossil fuels.
2. We need a moratorium on logging of our public native forests and reassessment of Private Native Forestry vegetation regulations. Too much vegetation is being removed and creating drier landscapes.
3. People should be putting sprinklers on roofs and have adequate water in order to wet any dwellings and surrounding vegetation to minimise risk.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Suggested improvements in response are:

1. Our Prime Minister should not have left his post for a holiday to Hawaii during the bush fire crisis.
2. The Australian Defence Forces should have been deployed a lot earlier in the crisis.
3. More information regarding what to do should have been put out in the way of PSAs. For instance, don't fly drones near bush fires as helicopters might be present.
4. The government should not deny the science around the bush fires. This season was the season of climate change bush fires.
5. We need our forests to sequester carbon. Removing more vegetation is not the answer.

1.4 Any other matters

There are talks regarding doing more hazard reduction burns and removing vegetation. The hazard reduction burning needs to consider the type of habitat to be managed. For instance, you never want to burn rainforest. Some areas are better managed with mosaic type burns. The NSW Government already has a Hotspots program and that department along with independent ecologists should be consulted on the best way forward regarding fire management.

We have lost a lot of animals during the bush fires. Australia is the world leader in species extinctions. NSW and Queensland are world leaders in deforestation. Deforestation causes drier landscape and makes us more prone to bush fires. It's time for us to focus on rebuilding our complex forest systems instead of turning them into quassi plantations like the timber industry wishes. There are more jobs in tourism than the timber industry.

My property has not burnt for 17 years and has not been logged for longer than that. The canopy had good coverage and rainforest was coming back. I noticed that over managed and over logged areas with less canopy burnt hotter than my property. The State Forests in the area with intensive logging burnt hotter than the National Parks where the trees and habitat are left alone.

It's concerning that in the media, it seems there is a push to do more vegetation removal and mass hazard reduction burning when from experiencing it first hand, it's the opposite of these views. I'm concerned their motives for more vegetation is self serving and will not actually accomplish minimising extreme fire events.

Supporting documents or images

- 104A9950.jpg
- 104A8611.jpg
- DJI_0015.jpg



