



Title	Mr
First name	john
Last name	willmott
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I am a descendant of old local families of the south coast and very familiar with Mourya to Kiama. I have grown up in the bush fighting fires in summer. I was on RFS and emergency management committees in Shoalhaven 2004-2008. I have a Masters in Planning.</p> <p>This is completed in haste and was waiting for the community meeting.</p>
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	<p>1/ Fuel Load 2/ Land Practices and Management 3/Urban Planning 4/Climate</p> <p>1/ Fuel loads have not been managed effectively in the South East of NSW since the 1980s. It became worse in early 2000s with the South East Forest Agreement. State Forests were converted to National Park.</p>

This included failed pine plantations and areas of strategic planning around coastal towns. eg/ South West of Ulladulla urban area was a site for a proposed airport being a pine plantation which is now National Park. A Area west of Huskisson and a Bridge to link coastal towns to provide emergency and bushfire buffer was consumed by National Park.

The Timber Industry were provided techniques by the early indigenous population they would continually manage the forest recourses and undertake small low intensity burns. For Decades Forestry were as efficient however now leaving far too much fuel on the ground as can still be seen 5km north of Batemans Bay. Urban Planning must provide perimeter uses to Major towns to ensure safety. Urban areas must have a reduction of tree canopy to reduce house to house fires. Shoalhaven City Councils 45Degree Rule needs to become a standard. Neighbours through council need to be able to force cleanup of adjoining land both in Public or Private ownership.

Climate low intensity Burns will increase CO2 emissions. Emissions are only one aspect of Climate Change and should not be the only focus. Land management practices in the West on the State need to be a greater focus to reduce desertification.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Continual Low intensity burning of the South East Forest. Not All forests will regenerate as rainfall is lower. Major Towns Huskisson/ Vincentia, Milton/Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Narooma, Bega, Merimbula/ Eden need to be planned with sufficient asset protection to be a safe place for Tourists. Tourism is too important to the region and with 1 in 4 years having significant bushfire activity we must manage these people in place. The evacuation of the coast was the most ridiculous decision of the 2019/20 summer. Further outlined below.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The initial response to the Currowan fire was too little due to the high bar placed in relation to control burning. It would have been sensible to backburn from Brooman to the fire in the cool of a evening rather than sending recourses home. Recourses arrived in Wandandian in the evening around 23rd of December and 9 units stood down. These crews on a night where there was drizzle could have been tasked doing controlled burns between Power lines and Highway to strengthen containment lines. Instead this was done with a road closure on Boxing Day. We need to return to more active fighting fire with fire we can never have enough water via aircraft.

The Big fires in 1968 etc locals defended properties no town water so gutter were clean. Drums of water and hessian bags were used. Now you are told to evacuate roadblocks don't let you back with supplies etc. Don't tell people to evacuate then not defend property claiming a worse fire event.

If a doormat catches fire a house is lost if trees are then overhanging a neighbouring house it is lost too.

Residents were told to mulch gardens because of the drought this was big reason many houses were lost. The good land management practices of Brooman Saved Termeil and Bawley point during the westerly on 4th December.

20 miles of Cars gridlocked with boats and trailers were a sitting duck in the middle of a fire zone. We need to manage tourist in place in the major towns. Boats and Vans should be left at showgrounds and secure places. I was personally advised to get a couple of hours sleep and would be woken and advised of highway updates. I woke to GPs redirecting me to find the roadblock had left me asleep in the middle of a fire zone. Alerts use locations which do not exist to locals as familiar reference points but exist on someones mapping system.

1.4 Any other matters

Technology failure.

Too much smoke for wifi to work. Fires near me is too far behind the fire front and provides false security and anxiety. Emergency centre without backup power supply. Cutover switches to all

homes with solar panels is a must. Supermarkets closing due to no POS (Point of Sale System) must be addressed. Local advise to issues of terrain and access were ignored in the centralised command structure. We must return to a more local response.

Upload files
