



Title	Mrs
First name	Judith
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I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	NA
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	NA
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I provide the following link to a short video, as I can't attach it. It was made recently by my husband, with a few other fire impacted folk, through Greenpeace: https://w.w.facebook.com/watch/?v=3001247513269568</p> <p>I ask you please to view it, HEAR it and let yourselves be changed by it. You will hear my husband and others speak from their hearts, to bring alive the ferocity and fear of the 2019/2020 fire experience we survived. (I acknowledge my husband as a Walbanga Aboriginal Elder of the Yuin Nation.)</p> <p>I make this submission because I never want our Country, our front-line service folk and communities/families like mine, or our environment and wildlife, to EVER have to face the like of this fire storm again.</p> <p>Finally, please note I am a Liberal voter traditionally but I am now</p>

seeking a party/government that will NOT deny the underpinning climate crisis destructively and lethally at work here. We need leaders who WILL take their duty of care to their people seriously, and who WILL bravely face as well as act to mitigate against further fires like this.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The story of the wildfires of 2019/2020, that started early - lasted for months - spread from the North of the coast of NSW to the very bottom of the State coast and across to our Victorian border, IS an horrific tale of the devastating impacts of climate heating of ONE DEGREE. It is a story demonstrating that our climate HAS CHANGED and we can't cope with the results, yet ahead of us looms the summer of 2020 (and beyond).

Let me start the tale by noting that the effects of increasing heat with the drying of our atmosphere was evident in our (once) iconic coastal forests in the Eurobodalla where I live (as with other Forested areas), in the preceding 5 or so years. I had stopped walking my Forrests too distressed by the sight of our dying trees, fear for the future of these beautiful lands and habitats, along with the creatures and insects calling this 'home' - but no longer safe or a nurturing place.

I noted the lack of apparent care being taken of our forests, even in the National Parks, and I realised our assumption that we can keep going with a 'business as usual' approach was doomed, in having dreadful impacts on the world around us that we rely on, yet take for granted. I realised as a people we were too removed from our environment, we aren't in touch with the harm we do. That we appear to only understand USING (up) the land rather than CARE and PROTECTION of our Country, with SUSTAINABLE use of land/waters and resources.

1.2 Preparation and planning

This section of my submission is focused locally though, from my comments at ToR 1, it is clear the broad neglect of the reality and detrimental effects of our changing climate, with a corresponding deterioration in health and viability of our forests is highly relevant, demonstrating a lack of diligence to critical warning factors, that led to a dearth of appropriate remediation or preparedness.

I focus locally because the Shire Council I trusted to properly manage my local environment in the Eurobodalla, to also respond appropriately to the fire inferno itself and its long-term debilitating impacts on our economy, way of life and future aspirations, HAS FAILED us. The impacts of the recent fire inferno in the Eurobodalla Shire were DEVASTATING: we lost over 500 homes, with many more damaged including my own, plus over 70% of our forest environment and habitats. Yet, when I, like many others here sought to address the Council in August 2019 to warn them of the prospect of deadly fires ahead of us and the need for FOCUSED ACTION, apart from 2 Councillors, I was rudely treated and as usual with public meetings, the Mayor did not even attend. The Council was IGNORING the growing issue around them, concerned only with further development and logging, without apparent interest in the impacts of their 'business as usual' approach.

Further, when the fire hit we were completely unprepared here. For example, diesel had to be drained from Council trucks to keep the hospital generators running in Moruya. Yet, the fire was on the edge of Batemans Bay for over 3 weeks - a 'ticking bomb' being ignored by our Council with our Mayor encouraging tourists to still come and stay!!!!

So, our Council is part of the problem here. Sadly, through necessary pandemic measures, we now have to tolerate the

Council's ongoing denial of the issues and their general incompetence, for a further year.

1.3 Response to bushfires

I worry for the local fire fighters (their families) and other frontline staff, who had to go out for weeks supposedly 'fighting' these fires. The fires of the 2019/2020 fire season were NOT ordinary fires that react in predictable ways, and that our systems/approaches are capable of meeting/resolving - that is - stopping the fires as generally expected.

So, fires of this magnitude and ferocity, as our fire experts KEEP telling us, MUST NOT continue or we will NOT have a NSW, or an Australia, any of us will want to live in.

I faced a fire here with minimal fire fighters present on that fateful New Year's Eve, being told that but for a fortuitous wind change, the whole of Batemans Bay and surrounds would have burned. As it was, my family and I spent many hours on the beach, in thick smoke with howling fire around us, unsure if we would be forced into the sea with our elderly, children and pets. As our world burned around us and none of us knew if our homes was in the fire's path.

The MJOR response has to be to START to FACE and DEAL with the causes of this harrowing and horrific Fire season - to start to address the climate crisis ALREADY upon us.

1.4 Any other matters

Constant logging IS unsustainable, is devastating our already vulnerable wildlife, and effecting the air WE breathe. Scientists have been telling us for many years our trees (and our seas/water ways) ARE our LUNGS. Trees also help to bring the rains, replenish soils etc. So, part of climate resuscitation IS SAVING forests and habitats.

Pandemic measures, in shutting off much of our 'business as usual' way of life, has shown us how nature can respond when our greenhouse emissions drop to levels the environment can again begin to cope with. This should give us HOPE that a path forward from here, that addresses greenhouse emissions with effective investment and draw down of renewable power, plus sustainable economics with more connection/care of our country, WILL remedy our current fire storm causal crisis of climate heating. In turn, returning our climate to the balance state we need to live well and avoid the current dooming threat of more fire infernos that we cannot manage.

Thank you.

Upload files
