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I am making this submission as	Other
Submission type	Organisation
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	Founding Director / Cultural Fire Practitioner
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation (KCFSAC) is a non for profit organisation that aim to revive Traditional Aboriginal cultural practices of burning Country as an alternative approach to Hazard Reduction techniques used by private and public landholders and managers.</p> <p>We were incorporated on 22 March 2017 after operations as a an Aboriginal community group from 2015. As a group of volunteers that have performed cultural burns, workshops and presentations on both public and private land, we have become a largely self sustained non for profit entity who aspire to continue to share the knowledge of Aboriginal Cultural Burning and caring for Country through the cultural practice of cultural fire.</p> <p>With regard to the 2019 - 20 wildfires to which this enquiry relates, we wish to share our experiences of the impact of the wildfires on the cultural burn sites which our organisation treated with cultural fire since 2015 and more recently in August 2019.</p>

The first was at a private property called 'Ngurrampaa' which is a natural bushland property located in Laguna NSW not far from the edge of Yengo National Park.

Our organisation performed a series of cultural burns amounting to approximately 5 hectares in size from 2015 to 2017. These burns were performed primarily around the built infrastructure of 4 separate dwellings situated in the epicenter of the property.

On or about the 6th December 2019, the 'Little L Complex' / 'Gospers Mountains' Wildfires impacted on 'Ngurrampaa' and the results of the impact on this property and the dwellings and Country can be summarized in the following articles and interview links:

Please see:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-miraculous-owners-say-cultural-burning-saved-their-property-20200103-p53okc.html>

ABC Newcastle Radio Interview Podcast:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/newcastle/programs/drive/cultural-burn/11890180>

Further examples of other cultural burns that Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation have performed or been directly involved with are on a private property at Broke NSW that has a Conservation Agreement over it and a neighboring property at Fordwich that operates as a winery. Both of these properties were also impacted by the 'Little L Complex' fire and the benefits of the series of our cultural burns performed on these properties with regard to protection of houses and infrastructure.

Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation strongly believe that the revival of Aboriginal Cultural Burning practices can contribute to reducing excess bush fire fuel loads that lead to the impact of wildfires. We also believe that it is an alternative approach to Hazard Reduction burning that in itself, also impacts on the ecological values of Country and other issues relating to impact of wildfire.

Please fire to our website for more information about our organisation at:

<http://www.kooricountryfiresticks.com.au/home.html>

You can also follow our stories and related articles on our social media pages including facebook: @kooricountryfiresticks.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires

1.4 Any other matters

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