



Title	Mrs
First name	Lisa
Last name	McCarthy
I am making this submission as	General public
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	<p>•Extreme heat and drought conditions were a significant cause of the fires. Bushwalkers witnessed extreme dryness and that traditional water sources had dried up. We also noted extreme heat. Both theses effects meant we had to cancel activities. These weather extremes and declining rainfall are consistent with the environmental changes foreseen by climate scientists hence:</p> <p>•We recognise that climate change is now a major driver of increased bushfire danger and that further increases in global temperature are likely to increase the length and severity of fire season.</p>
1.2 Preparation and planning	<p>•We consider that hazard reduction should concentrate on reducing the fire risk around communities and properties. We are not convinced that hazard reduction in wilderness and remote</p>

areas should be undertaken unless there are sound ecological reasons to support such activities.

1.3 Response to bushfires

•Adequate resourcing of the Rural Fire Service and other emergency services should be a priority for all levels of government.

1.4 Any other matters

•We recognise that rebuilding and recovery after the fires will require considerable investment by the public and private sectors over many years. This cost should be considered in future plans which should seek to reduce climate change and thereby avoid incurring these costs again in future.

•Rebuilding and recovery must include funding and allowance for the ecological recovery and future protection of our national parks and other natural areas.

•The fires also present an excellent opportunity for land managers to undertake systematic culling of feral animal populations such as horses, pigs, deer, goats, foxes and cats. The fires also provide increased requirements and opportunities to address weeds. We advocate for an increase in resources provided to land management agencies such as NPWS in order to undertake feral animal and weed control.

•We urge land managers to expedite the rebuilding and recovery of the bushwalking infrastructure that was destroyed or damaged in the fires such as walking tracks, bridges, signs, campsites and huts. Restoration of the walking track network will enable people to reconnect with places they have long known as well as introduce others to the splendours of NSW national parks and other natural areas.

•Restoration of this network and the planned and gradual augmentation of the network, where appropriate, will also aid regional economies such as through demand for local services such as trades, hospitality and tourism.

•Hazard reduction should concentrate on reducing the fire risk around communities and properties. Not in wilderness and remote areas.

•Extensive bushfires reduce opportunities for locals and tourists to be able to exercise, bushwalk, and benefit from time in nature when numerous parks and natural areas are closed due to bushfire, threat of bushfire, or damage from bushfire. Work towards restoring these options to pre-climate change levels by addressing adverse the drivers of climate change.

•Extensive bushfires reduce opportunities when people can safely exercise outdoors because smoke from bushfire is resulting in dangerously poor air quality. Work towards restoring air quality to pre-climate change levels by addressing the drivers of climate change.

•Address the impacts of extreme heat, dryness, bushfire smoke, and bushfire on our native ecosystems, plants and wildlife populations so that our biodiversity may be retained and restored for their own sake, and also for their enjoyment by humans.

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