



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Nick

Last name

HOPKINS

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

My wife and I lost our home and workshop and gardens on 31st December 2019. We lived in a rural residential sub division behind Malua Bay in Eurobodalla Shire. We evacuated early.

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

Climate Change is the gamechanger in fire intensity, frequency and behaviour around the world and NSW is no exception. Until

governments and Councils of all political persuasions can bring themselves to admit this basic scientific fact we will never have realistic policy settings throughout the economy and society to come to grips with bushfire risk in this country.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Climate change intensified the drought of 2019. For the first ever, we had had to buy in a delivery of water for household usage. We were left with a dam too dry to be able for us to draw on for house protection in a fire via a sprinkler system. Climate change rendered our house indefensible.

1.4 Any other matters

Our hinterland was surrounded by logging operations in State forests where the logging debris had simply been left on the forest floor because Forest Corporation of NSW didn't have a sufficient window of opportunity during the year to safely burn the debris (see photos). This many tonnes of dry material per hectare greatly increased the risk either of a bushfire starting by lightning strike or of a bushfire becoming uncontrollable very quickly. My recommendation is that unless the post logging burn in our public native forests can be safely undertaken before the advent of the next fire season then that operation should not be allowed to take place.

Land managers need to embrace the practice of "cultural burning" as a method of risk reduction as practiced by our indigenous forebears for millennia. Government needs to invest heavily in training and resourcing organisations like the Firestick Alliance

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- Benandarah State Forest next to Princes Highway near Batemans Bay post logging 1.JPG
 - Benandarah State Forest next to Princes Highway near Batemans Bay post logging 2.jpg
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