



Your details

Ms

Title

First name

Robyn

Last name

Neeson

Submission details

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

Whilst not directly impacted by last summers bushfires my community saw and felt the impact of the surrounding fires. Our skies were blackened at 2pm in the afternoon, our neighborhoods were united in their confusion about how close the fires were and where we could go. We were constantly hosing our houses and yards. The recommended evacuation centres - St Georges Basin and Huskisson were impractical. The trauma happened repeatedly as fire emergencies were declared for the area. We were surrounded on 3 sides (the 4th being the ocean). We were lucky enough to escape direct impact, but the memories linger. We were the lucky ones. A month or so afterwards a few of us went into National Parks and saw the utter devastation. Nothing was left. The soil had turned to ash, we sank up to our ankles in it. No birds.. No animals. But there were bulldozers and chainsaws. Some were clearing hazardous trees on roadsides, others clearing trees that would have regrown - if given a chance. Since the fires there has been extensive clearing of bushland, all in the name of keeping our community safe. Councils have gone berko on recommending APZs the width of highways surround our urban development, and transect our National Parks and State Forests.

The so called 10/50 rule further permits unauthorised clearing. There will be no areas left for wildlife recovery or habitat if any of this occurs. Meanwhile, developers are rubbing their hands together as the 'Green Tape' has been all but obliterated . Our bushfire scientists have stated that adhoc clearing and logging have actually exacerbated the ferocity, randomness and unpredictability of these fires. The clearing of what remains of our bushland is not the solution. All it is achieving is removing remaining wildlife habitat (it will regrow if allowed to!) and making the management and modelling of fire movement more difficult. Furthermore, clearing wide strips of vegetation for firebreaks allows for wind tunneling which increases a fires ferocity and speed. Vegetation management is only one tool which, when used correctly, can help to minimise the frequency and impact of fires. We have a lot to learn from our indigenous land managers.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

Supporting documents or images
