



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

STANISLAV

Last name

SIMKO

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A member of the general public

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

While we were fortunate not to have lost our rural property in the 2020 bushfire, we were right on the edge of it, and lived through immense anxiety being in close vicinity of the bushfires. This was exacerbated by our experience in the 2003 Canberra bushfires, where we managed to save our house, but lost the shed containing workshop with \$90,000 worth of tools and equipment. Houses in our neighbourhood were all destroyed in the fire. (We lived at [REDACTED]).

I respectfully submit that the enquiry examines the role on the severity of bushfires caused by the forest floor waste and the general untidy state of the NSW forests, both State and private, namely the volume of the floor litter and unmanaged, highly volatile undergrowth scrub.

This accumulation of hazardous fuel is not the natural state of the Australian bush. I refer to the following statement by an Aboriginal person : "You gotta burn, an elder declared, you don't

burn then country will get poor, it will shut itself up....no good for anybody then. A bad fire was better than no fire, for no fire let fuel build up, making a bad fire worse." From the book : Bill Gammage, The biggest estate on earth ; how aborigines made Australia. Allen@Unwin 2011. Page 184

As mentioned above, this time we were lucky to be spared by the devastating fires, however we are living life in constant fear, what is going to happen to us in the next fire season, as there does not appear to be any action from the local and state authorities relating to the forest floor waste reduction in our area, which has the same fuel load as was present in the surrounding burned out areas.

If the forest floor cleaning is considered to be too costly I suggest the following:

The biomass collected during the forest floor cleaning could be utilised as the biofuel for the electricity generation. Biofuel is a renewable resource complying with the Paris agreement rules for the renewable energy generation fuels. Using it for the power generation would:

- reduce the amount of fossil fuel used by Australia for the electricity generation
- provide badly needed jobs for the rural areas on the eastern coast
- reduce the fire hazard and the intensity of the bushfires
- utilise the valuable resource, which is currently wasted and even worse, fuelling the bushfires
- mitigate Australian greenhouse emissions from the electricity generation

The economic viability of the above proposal could be gleaned from the operation of the Drax power station in England, which generates 5% of English electricity, using wood pellets imported from the USA and in spite of the costs incurred by purchasing and transporting its fuel is still economically viable.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
