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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	General public
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	In January 2020 I travelled to Kangaroo Valley and Batemans Bay to visit relatives and friends and offer support following the unprecedented bushfires in NSW.
<b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b>	<p>The main cause of these bushfires was extended periods of reduced rainfall and severe high temperatures caused by climate pollution generated by humans. Emissions from burning fossil fuels (mainly coal and gas) is the main contributor to climate change. Unsustainable logging and land clearing is releasing huge amounts of carbon and should cease immediately. Sustainable wood plantations and farming should be funded and encouraged. Forestry operations such as clearing and burning of native vegetation has increased the amount of fast growing, fire adapted plants, including weeds, which provide increased amounts of fire fuel which causes more frequent, more extensive and more intense fires. This is exacerbated by reduced rainfall and high temperatures caused by climate change. Monocultures</p>

of selected forestry tree species increase the incidence and severity of fires by removing fire barriers of different vegetation and moist depressions. Forestry operations change hydrology as trees take up and reduce soil moisture and water runoff thereby reducing local moisture levels and increasing evaporation. The building of unsuitable housing and other developments in bush fire prone areas should be more strictly controlled. Some areas should be completely off limits for development to prevent loss of life of occupants, workers and fire fighters.

#### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

Coal and gas exploration and mining should be completely phased out in NSW. Coal, gas and other materials should not be burnt to generate electricity in NSW as we need to control our carbon, nitrogen and methane emissions. Renewable energy projects should be funded properly to develop well established industries and replace jobs lost in the fossil fuel industry. Logging of native forests should end immediately and be subsidised to transition to plantations, encourage the use of materials other than wood and increase recycling of paper and cardboard products.

#### **1.3 Response to bushfires**

The response from government was poor, especially the Federal government. The Rural Fire Service was supportive of fire affected communities.

#### **1.4 Any other matters**

Logging and urbanisation are destroying huge areas of native vegetation which provides habitat and food resources for plants, animals, fungi, invertebrates and a multitude of microscopic life. Logging and urbanisation cause erosion which contaminates our water storages like what occurred in Batemans Bay. Sustainable land management and proper and enforced land management and development controls should be compulsory and not all areas should be available for development.

#### **Upload files**