
Title

First name	Pamela
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Last name	Reeves
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I am making this submission as	General public
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Submission type	Personal
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Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
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Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
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Consent to make submission public	Public
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Your story	<p>I, like millions of residents of NSW, was affected by the smoke from the fires. My greatest concern is its composition - all the items from buildings and equipment that contained toxins. At present, the long-term health effects of inhaling this toxic smoke is unknown. Will the government be providing more funding to our health system for the treatment of people who are suffering from diseases related to the smoke from these fires in the future? Will it be providing money for research into the effects on our health?</p>
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I live with my family on the edge of a large bushland area. Although we were not directly affected by fires, we were greatly concerned about the possibility of one occurring, as we are every year. Climate change is making that fear more accute.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors	Climate change is the major cause of increased bushfire danger, with season length and severity of fire season to increase. The
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government needs to now urgently address ways of reducing the state's carbon emissions - a target date of 2050 is much too late.

1.2 Preparation and planning

There needs to be a comprehensive study of locations of threatened species and endangered ecological communities so that they can be better protected in case of fires. There must also be plans to undertake fire restoration and rehabilitation guidelines for those areas.

There is no scientific evidence that show grazing or logging will reduce fire risk. Neither of these should be reintroduced into conservation areas.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The volunteer firefighters are an incredible group of people. It is unacceptable that the funding had been reduced by the government resulting in them not having enough trucks and equipment to fight the fires. Why should their lives be put at greater risk because of budget cuts? There were areas they couldn't fight fires because of this shortage. Funding must be secure and not aligned to specific grant programs.

1.4 Any other matters

I think it is time the knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal people is used to help better plan and carry out hazard reduction burning. It is very obvious the way we have been doing it is totally inappropriate and ineffective. In addition, we cannot allow the loss of over a billion native animals to be accepted as the new norm.

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