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I am making this submission as	General public
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	n/a
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	n/a
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	As a Canberra resident in Garran I was not directly affected by the bushfires of December-January 2020, except that smoke made it impossible to get out of the house and smoke followed me all the way to Jindabyne. I was also in Canberra for the 2003 bushfires, which were very harmful.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	It is plain that the bushfires had nothing to do with 'climate change'. They were entirely typical of Australia as I know it (I am 81 and I was for several years a modestly senior officer in the Clth Environment Department). The drought was caused by the Indian Ocean Dipole. Forests and National Parks had been badly neglected for decades. The eucalyptus tree thrives on burning. A severe fire only awaited a match or lightning strike.

## 1.2 Preparation and planning

Read the 1939 bushfire report. It is all there. We cannot allow people to build or towns to be built in the wooded areas. They will be destroyed, not every year but every ten or twenty or thirty years. We need foresters in charge of all forests, national parks or not, with close advice from fire experts. Any and all environmental regulations should be advisory only. Landholders must have free rein over their private property to protect it as they see fit. The vast majority will be responsible. They want to preserve their land and buildings. There must be a little supervised grazing and logging in all national parks. There must be diligent back burning, taking lessons from Aboriginal fire-stick burning. Leaving forests as wilderness (to protect wild-life) is a disaster. The wild life will be destroyed. Manage the parks intensively. there are jobs there for a big work-force.

## 1.3 Response to bushfires

As soon as practicable, water-down or delete environmental laws or regulations that have been directly the cause of these fires. Ensure that our parks and forests are managed by professional foresters and that professional fire-fighters are in control of fire-breaks and the thinning of forests is undertaken by mechanical means or by back-burning. Replace eucalypts on a wide scale with European deciduous trees that do not burn easily, especially around townships. Do not allow folk to build houses in forested areas. All of this has long been known. Just do it.

## 1.4 Any other matters

As I said, I retired a couple of decades ago as Director, Marine Programs, in the Commonwealth Department of the Environment. Just before I came to Canberra in the early 1960s, there was a severe fire around my home town of Adelaide. The Governor's house in the hills was destroyed. A well-known broadcasting personality lost all his records and his home. Since then fire has followed fire, notably the 2003 Canberra fire. After that came the disaster of Victoria - none of the Canberra fire's lessons had been heeded. Even now the fires have been forgotten. I recently drove through the lovely little town of Cobargo and was chilled by the signs of destruction. Foresters and others know what to do, as outlined above. Please act now, take control of our forests and put cattle and foresters back in all national parks. Keep environmentalists out. Above all, forget all the rubbish about so-called 'climate change'. I attach some of the maps at the time. Fire nearly destroyed my friends' house at Blackheath. Fire nearly took out my other friends' house and property near Numeralla. Canberra itself was threatened.

## Upload files

Fires-NSW-22-December-2019-Blackheath-o-Mt-Victoria.PNG - [Download File](#)  
Fires-NSW-22-December-2019-Canberra-region.PNG - [Download File](#)  
Fires-NSW-24-January-2020.PNG - [Download File](#)



