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I am making this submission as	Resident
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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>Our family owns property near the Macdonald River, bordering Yengo National Park. The fires in this national park were devastating, and markedly worse than the '77-78 fires that occurred in the same area. I found blackened wallaby skulls and singed birds nests all over our property after the fires came through. Areas of remnant rainforest were also burnt - many of the species in these pockets will not grow back due to the intensity of the flames. Pockets of rainforest are exceedingly rare in Yengo NP, and risk being lost forever if these fires set a precedence.</p> <p>The lack of vegetation and root coverage after the fires meant that the recent floods were particularly bad. With no vegetation to hold the soil in place, our entire creekline has been significantly eroded, with walls of soil and silt piling up downstream. We've never seen it like this before.</p>
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1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The changing climate is undeniably a contributing factor to the bushfires and floods. However, I strongly believe that the effects of climate change merely highlight contemporary Australia's inability to cope with climate variability.

Long before climate change was even defined, the Australian Landscape has been changing. The eradication of Indigenous fire regimes, the clearing of large tracts of land, and the development of unsustainable agricultural practices have unarguably shaped the Australia we see today. Bill Gammage analyses a variety of historical sources in his book "The Biggest Estate On Earth" to prove that these changed management regimes have shaped a less diverse, less adaptable landscape. This means it is more susceptible to disasters such as fires, floods, and extinctions.

A 50,000+ year old management regime has been eradicated in a mere ~200 years. Since then, we have seen Australia receive the gold medal for international mammal extinctions. We have also seen the gradual yet undeniable degradation of our natural values: from our soils, to the health of our rainforests and silted rivers.

Indigenous cultural burning ensures that different habitats and biomes receive the proper care they need to thrive. It involves precise and tailored management for a variety of areas, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach that many of our diverse natural places receive. I don't pretend to understand the intricacies of this - I don't think many of us do. But I do honestly think that the reintroduction of Indigenous practices will allow for a more diverse and healthy landscape - the way it has been for tens of thousands of years. A healthy landscape is less susceptible to the disasters (fire, flood, extinction) brought about by a changing climate. At the very least, I believe we should be involving Indigenous groups at as many levels of land management as possible. Their knowledge kept the land we know and love in balance for tens of thousands of years - so what's 200 years of straying a bit off course? There's still time to set things straight.

Sources for the genuine benefits of Indigenous land management can be found with a simple google search. Bill Gammage's "Greatest Estate On Earth" and Bruce Pascoe's "Dark Emu" are two excellent science-based starting points.

1.2 Preparation and planning

As mentioned before, the reintroduction of Indigenous Fire Regimes to promote a more diverse, balanced, and fire-resilient landscape in the face of a changing climate.

1.3 Response to bushfires

It has become clear that proper management plays a key role in bushfire mitigation. I firmly believe that more funding for Parks officers and Firefighters is required, as well as focus on the employment of Indigenous Australians in these roles.

1.4 Any other matters

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