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## Your details

Mr

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**Title**

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**First name**

William

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**Last name**

Hastings

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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**Submission type**

I am making a personal submission

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**Consent to make submission public**

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

I have the pleasure of living in the village of Pearl Beach on the edge of the National Park in NSW. This village of some 650 homes serves as a retirement and holiday destination, and is serviced by a single two way road that winds down an escarpment to the village by the beach.

The village is well wooded having a high level of trees on both private land public land alongside the roads. It is considered the village could not be saved in a bushfire, only individual well prepared properties could be saved. Fire could rapidly spread through the village with the canopy of the tree lined streets acting as a conduit for a blaze.

Since the introduction of the 10/50 vegetation clearing rule, many properties have elected to reduce their fire risk by cutting back vegetation that threatens their property. However many properties remain at risk due to the presence of street trees that are the domain of council. Property owners are not entitled to cut down council trees, or boughs that come within the 10 metre rule.

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My own experience indicates that

1. Council places greater emphasis on the preservation of the local landscape than the safety of life and property.
2. Council attempts to deflect costs associated with maintaining the street trees in a safe state.

I urge the enquiry to support the principles underlying the 10/50 Vegetation clearing entitlement regulation by mandating the co-operation of Councils in the removal of council trees and boughs that contravene the 10 metre rule.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

## **Supporting documents or images**

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