

Time submitted: 03/04/2020 11:58:15 PM

Submission Number: NND.001.00240

Submission Of: Michael Darby

Your Details

Email address: [REDACTED]
 Phone: [REDACTED]
 Preferred means of contact: Email
 What is your submission based on? I am making this submission based on my personal situation
 What was your personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires?
 Where do you live? Other Western Australia

Your Submission

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response worked well?
 In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?
 In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?
 Is there anything else you would like to tell the Royal Commission?
 The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Submission by Michael Darby
 [REDACTED]

The Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (VFFA) on 5 March 2019 carried an article by highly regarded writer Miranda Devine who wrote: "Melissa Price, the new federal Environment Minister, has done untold political damage to a government already divided over climate action by spouting idiotic green propaganda about Victoria's bushfires. On Tuesday, she linked the fires to climate change, claiming there is "no doubt" of its impact on Australia."

In a cruel irony, the Minister's Christian name in the Greek language is Μέλισσα meaning honey bee. As the result of the conflagration-promoting policies espoused by this shamelessly ill-informed minister, a new round of bushfires has massacred innumerable bees and vaporised their life's work.

In May 2019 a Federal Minister for the Environment worth two bob would have been loudly demanding that all State and Territory Governments focus immediately on drastic fuel load reduction in preparation for the 2019-2020 summer. Such leadership could have saved the lives of many humans plus countless stock and wildlife, and avoided massive destruction of property. Instead, the Minister recklessly encouraged criminal negligence on a massive scale.

On 26 December 2019 I posted on Facebook asserting:
 "We urgently need a Royal Commission into the current and ongoing fires. The alternative is more unnecessary deaths, pain, and misery inflicted upon humans, and more unnecessary cruelty inflicted upon stock and wildlife."
 On 25 May 2019 Hon Melissa Price MP was shifted to the Defence Industry portfolio, where her expertise in espousing exactly the wrong policy must sit very comfortably with the Minister for Defence, fellow West Australian Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC. Neither has done anything to cancel the appalling >\$200bn submarine contract. Neither has shown sufficient interest in promoting the defence of Western Australia or advancing the defence industries of Western Australia.

The complete Miranda Devine 5 March 2019 article follows:
 "Melissa Price, the new federal Environment Minister, has done untold political damage to a government already divided over climate action by spouting idiotic green propaganda about Victoria's bushfires. On Tuesday, she linked the fires to climate change, claiming there is "no doubt" of its impact on Australia.
 "There's no doubt that there's many people who have suffered over this summer. We talk about the Victorian bushfires ... There's no doubt that climate change is having an impact on us. There's no denying that."
 Sorry, minister, it wasn't climate change that caused the latest bushfires which have so far destroyed nine homes in Victoria, and it wasn't climate change that killed almost 200 people in the Black Saturday fires ten years ago.
 The real culprit is green ideology which opposes the necessary hazard reduction of fuel loads in national parks and which prevents landholders from clearing vegetation around their homes.
 The ongoing poor management of national parks and state forests in Victoria and green obstruction of fire mitigation strategies has led to dangerously high fuel loads over the past decade.
 That means that when fires do inevitably break out they are so intense that they are devilishly difficult for firefighters to contain. As a federal parliamentary inquiry heard in 2003, if you quadruple the ground fuel, you get a 13-fold increase in the heat generated by a fire.
 Locals know the truth. Andrew Clarke, owner of Jinks Creek Winery, which has been destroyed by a fire which raged out of the Bunyip State Forest, "begged" for fuel reduction burns to protect his property.
 "I've been begging them [Forest Fire Management Victoria] for 20 years to burn off the state forest at the back of our place and still to this day it hasn't happened," he told the ABC's Country Hour.
 Clarke said a planned burn-off was called off because of concerns about nesting birds. So how did that work out for the birds?
 Just three weeks ago, Victoria's former chief fire officer Ewan Waller warned that state forest fuel loads were reaching deadly, Black Saturday levels. No one paid any attention. But you can bet Premier Daniel Andrews will hide behind the climate change furphy. Parrotting green lies suits politicians because then they can avoid blame for their own culpability.
 The Black Saturday Bushfire Royal Commission criticised the Victorian government for its failure to reduce fuel loads in state forests. It

recommended more than doubling the amount of hazard reduction burns.

Instead, in the last three years, alone, the Andrews government has slashed the amount of public land being hazard reduced by almost two thirds.

It's a crime.

The wonder is that the Morrison government is helping him with his alibi.

(ARTICLE ENDS)

Thank you Miranda Devine.

False assertions blaming bushfires on "climate change" have been distressing to the victims, and have been intended to promote the dangerous agenda of profiteers who seek and obtain great personal benefit from subsidies to unreliable energy.

Please record this my request to give oral evidence to The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

Yours sincerely

M i c h a e l D a r b y

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[REDACTED]

[Do you agree to your submission being published?](#) Yes I agree to my submission being published in my name

[Supporting material provided:](#)

Submission to the Royal Commission.pdf

naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

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 6109

3 April 2020

Commented [x1]: