

Submission Number: NND.001.00708

Submission Of: Gordon Barclay

Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

Preferred means of contact: Email

What is your submission based on? I am making this submission based on my professional knowledge, qualifications or experience or on behalf of a group or organisation

What is your area of professional expertise? 20 years as secretary of South East timber Association

If you are lodging your submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation?

Your Submission

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response worked well?

The use of heavy duty logging equipment by experienced operators in areas that they were familiar with in coordination with local EFS crews & SFNSW employees

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?

After the preempting the declaration of National Parks The loss of logging equipment limited the personell and logging equipment

In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?

the prescriptions of the patch work logging areas lowering fuel levels

Empowering FOREST control officers to develop control plans to mitigate dangerous fuel loads without hindrance

Is there anything else you would like to tell the Royal Commission?

This Document was written in December 2014. At that time 2014 Bob Carr had a policy/ vision of creating a line of National Parks from the Queensland Border to the Victorian border. Looking At the current situation of Bushfires he has substantially achieved that vision at a huge cost to the lives of volunteer firefighters and the financial wellbeing of NSW

." The NSW Forestry & National Parks Bill that pre-empted the findings of the Eden Regional Forest Agreement and halved the Timber industry in the region creating social disorder. At the same time natural areas were created. In these areas our forests will die as a result of disease insect infestation the spread of exotic plants and animals and a policy of intentional fire suppression. Our forest will become a firetrap.

We are asked by Government scientists to believe nature will correct this situation; that the wild fire that we all know is coming will be a small one and will "clear up" our forests. From firsthand experience we know this is not true. When fire comes it will take everything in its path including soil nutrients, watersheds, wild life habitat and the forest itself. So instead of doing the harvesting we know is needed to clear out the deadwood and reduce fire danger, we are apparently going to try a more 'natural' technique called management by holocaust. This will place human life in danger.

As soon as the Government sets out to control everything there will be nothing left to control"

The experiences in NSW this summer and the violent fires in the Bega Valley in 1952, have both seen forests, farmland and native animals decimated, proof of what can happen in the south east without controlled burning by experience bushfire brigades.

The issue of inadequate burning off in national parks and wilderness areas is being debated at the State level.

According to its chief executive, Mr Russell Ainley, the FPA has already sought an independent public inquiry into resolving this issue to protect property and valuable forest resources.

"Major fires this summer in national parks and wilderness areas have spread to state forests and private farmland, causing great cost through destruction", he said.

"For this reason alone it is important that there are adequate contractors supplying hardwood to sawmills in the South Coast and Eden regions, and that they are kept in reserve as part of the region's bushfire fighting community".

At the time of writing this I was the secretary of the South East Contractors Association representing harvesting contractors in the Eden / Bombala region

I suggest that you contact

Russell Ainley OAM

NSW Forest Products Association

To contact him on board to discuss the state wide implications and make Bob Carr accountable for his policies that are causing the current havoc in NSW

Gordon Barclay FCA

Do you agree to your submission being published? Yes I agree to my submission being published in my name