

Submission Number: NND.001.01007

Submission Of: Vis KOFFSOVITZ

Your Details

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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? Frankston 3199

Your Submission

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

Based on the picture that was created in my mind by processing a secondhand information - we, the community could be proud of all-levels intergovernmental and community cooperation, informational services, individual and community's engagement in helping others.

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

Accordingly, the emergency services - read the committed individuals, could not be held responsible for any policy short-sightedness of allowing people to live in fire prone areas without natural, topographic (foremost distance, inflammable breaks) barriers and inability of coming up with material/accommodation help without delay.

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

We may need to honestly reevaluate the urbanisation model and values we pursue and be creative in introducing solutions that may be required to be the both more in harmony with the long term, multi generational perspective while visualising and providing for aspirational opportunities for young generations for the future.

In this context, for running on a treadmill, we may need to succeed in introducing and implementing a national accommodation downscaling program allowing older generations staying in the same area but with much less demand on community resources.

For getting somewhere, we may need to develop a solid recognition of our long term ability of standing on our legs in the world of everchanging threats and opportunities to project a vision of the appealingly promising, achievable future.

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

To say thankyou for the opportunity of sharing some particular vision for fireproofing Australia, that represents the liberty of an individual mind conceiving and offering one's own proposition.

It advocates for a practical, holistic approach for releasing synergy of our current level of industrial advancement and environmental conditions, in the context of long term vector of civilisational development/aspirations, for managing bushfires by foremost, preventive urbanisational measures.

★ Allowing for the post-virus world to be quite different to what was before and to avoid missing out on our generational chance, we would need to best marshal all our intellectual and productive resource we can afford to identify and redefine the future perspective and possibilities.

In the author's opinion, the outlined proposition is capable of perfectly assisting us with the both tasks.

As it is about much more than fixing the problem till the next fire season within an election cycle, but importantly, is focused on 'wrestling to the ground' the rising issue of intergenerational imbalance of opportunities by creating and synthesising the forces of engagement and inspiration capable of forming a motivational national movement (the sort of Marshall Plan dynamics that helped many to move forward after the last major world upheaval) for the current generations to ride on for overcoming effects of this recent virus upheaval.

Wishing us the best outcome for the future.

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

Supporting material provided:

20AuFireHarmony.pdf

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- On the economy side, perhaps lucky for us, our current system of calculating 'economic growth' based on the formula that omits damage/debit to the environment we cause but keenly takes advantage of the fact it takes much less cost-effort to destroy than rebuild, meaning the more we destroy (our health or the environment) the more it spins economy, what allows those in charge to sell a rosy picture of not-so-true 'economy', originally defined as *doing more and better with less*.

(*eco* – can relate to ecology, the environment where *logy* – refers to words, story telling, fantasy and *nomy* – to knowledge, something we know or just think that we know, often without realising it in time).

- On the environment side, characterised by constant changes, the Nature runs her business called Earth as one huge **closed cycle recycling** plant without neither delivery of new material to, nor a rubbish been taken out. Something worthwhile to strive mimic.

As the data of several years ago from the Vostok Antarctic Station's ice drilling to the depth of some 3km, supposedly corresponding back to some over 400,000 years ago (BP) illustrates, there is a readable pattern of major changes occurring in some 100,000 – 150,000 years intervals with a number of minor variations between the picks.

Accordingly, for that period of time the CO₂ levels kept naturally varying between **below 200 to 300 ppm** corresponding to the temperature changes between **minus 8 to plus 3 degrees** Celsius.

Also, that the last Ice Age period of some 15,000 – 9,000 years ago was characterised by the similar temperature and CO₂ levels variations.

Importantly, bush/forest fires are the integral part of Nature, where the released **CO₂** is needed to power the plants' life what in turn produces **Oxygen**, which is critical for animals' life and the recycling process of breaking down structures back to basic elements of the Mendeleyev table by decomposing or burning/oxidising/crumbling to provide a basic material for new, all transient in nature and subjected to recycling, structures.

When our bushfires in several months can inject by just naturally giving back as fires in short time (or rotting - in long time) as much CO₂ as people, industry and agriculture together do in a year, discarding in effect national indicators and targets through the roof, we can not afford pretending the bushfire released CO₂ to be different to other forms of injections, but to start effectively addressing that issue.

Of course, we can elect to fight '*fire with fire*', what may sound motivational macho, if not for producing a scorched land unable to support a life rich evolutionary cycle.

Or, as 'hoping for is good, but controlling is better', we can elect preventing wild devastating fires by a clever urbanisation model designed for keeping them under control with its two natural retardants – non flammable/open **space** and **water**.

- On the community side, judging by the long term trends, we may bet on creating a manageable, environmentally responsible living for the growing population numbers powered by the richness of its diversity.

★ Generally, by moving away from exclusively monetary driven to 'take each time only as much as you can manage' model of economy.

For simultaneously providing for **healthy food** and **safe, socially just, happy living** by developing new urban centres with:

1. Dividing the land into 20 X 20 km blocks and clearing the inside bush in some 8 km radius to create the mixed urban-rural space for some 20,000+ people connected by rail and roads with a major regional centre of 100,000+ people some 100 km away, while providing ahead for the future integrated countrywide fast train network and air transport.

2. Providing at the centre some 5 km radius urban space (of some 500 persons/km² on 15-20 m²/person living space or some 10,000 m²/km² accommodation space equalling to 1% of the urban land reduced by its multilevel) with rail and cabling under the feet and trees overhead boarded by a rural/agriculture land, preferably joined by a rail/road corridor with the beach of some convenient, the faster the transport – the further distance away.
3. Constructing around the entire perimeter, some couple hundred meters from the forest edge, the chain of interconnected dams.
4. With solar electricity farms established on the land by inside dams, also along the entire perimeter, that would provide for the population, business and pumping stations needs, with any surplus being exported.
5. All rain falling on urban and run-offs from rural spaces to be collected and pumped to the dams for the people and animal's consumption, while redistributed in two qualities:
 - pristine for personal hygiene, drinking, cooking and medical needs,
 - standard for toilet flushing, cleaning, washing, industrial and agriculture needs plus some for wild animals in the forest.
6. With controllable interconnected clusters of soft-leaf deciduous trees and shrubs planted on both urban and rural space for providing a safe park-like environment for the mixed, mostly medium to high density accommodation with balconies under leafy green roofs for shade in summers and bare branches letting warming sun through in winters and farmhouses on the rural land.
7. To encourage population growth, a percentage of low cost accommodation would be allocated to single parent families.
8. To stimulate personal development, some 1,000-2,000 high quality government jobs relocated there would provide a core for creating appealing conditions for attracting new, knowledge and the arts based industries enticed by clean, green electricity and healthy, as well as community and environmentally friendly, living.
9. To encourage community growth, places of social importance like kindergartens, schools, shops, etc. to be located in a walking distance from accommodation and supported by the integrated *no-fossil-fuel* mass transport network.
10. Clusters of old people accommodation to be mixed with clusters of families with children in the same neighbourhood.
11. With garden plots for a personal use next to the accommodation for those wishing to have a contact with the soil.
12. An extensive wood chip cover of the soil would limit the evaporation and encourage the production of organic matter.
13. The economy model that benefits small producers close to markets would help secure fresh, nutritious food – meaning natural fertiliser grown grains, fruit, vegetables and meat for people and importantly, natural fertiliser itself for the fields.
14. Complimentary, the system of community run food processing training and businesses would be introduced there.
15. Certainly, there would be need to keep providing for a range of other initiatives with the necessities arising.

★ Paraphrasing a good saying, the best time for freeing ourselves from the bushfires sorrow to hang over our hearts was before allowing for an 'everyone-for-itself' kind of urbanisation model setting emotional mindset standards, and the second best is right now.

When seeing things in the broader context of very transient nature of us operating within the process of infinitive change, in the reality where everyone of us was forced into by the urges of one parents and from which, due to a failing health or accident, at some point everyone would be forced out, it becomes clear that whatever now we do or not do, for whatever fundamental or opportunistic reasons, the future generations would study, for how far it was possible to stay in power by selling to masses the unknown or conveniently presented to be known or even the outright fantasy as known-sure.

Critically, at what point eventually people started working things out and reacted to what extend.