

Submission Number: NND.001.01023

Submission Of: Francis Gregory Smith

Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

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? I am a citizen with first hand knowledge of the general

Where do you live? Champion Lakes 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?

To:

The National Royal Commission into Black Summer Bush fires 2020

Air Chief Marshal Mark Donald Blinskin AC (retd)

The Honorable Dr Annabelle Claire Bennett AC SC

Professor Andrew Kerr Macintosh

Madam and Sirs,

Over a period of many years I have as a layperson (now 66 yo) observed and taken note of methodology utilized in the process of fire management and the resources used for such events.

I was also part of the large volunteer team that fought fires in the early eighties in Wesburn and Warburton area in Victoria.

As such I have a proposal and recommendation.

1 To assist in saving many homes and people by destruction by fire and the killing of wildlife species by not carrying out the preventative burning in national parks and forests etc.

2 To create a 300 meter boundary on all national parks and forests etc. Also to create fire breaks of 300 meters wide at 5km(or to be determined) intervals across such forests and parks etc.

This will enable fire fighting equipment to travel safely around during the fire fight situations in grid patterns numbered and referenced for location identification and safety sections of an area.

This also allows the fire fighting equipment to be positioned in the large fire break area to stop oncoming fires. It also allows the free area flying requirements for Fire Fighting Water Bombing Aircraft of the fixed wing type that are much more cost effective to operate than Helicopters.

The clearing of these fire breaks will employ many forest industry workers.

This will also give the timber industry some boost with the supply of forest woods etc

The continued clearing with large tractors and disc harrows or plow will ensure minimum vegetation growth and almost zero burnable fuel, without killing the wildlife or endangering fire fighting team members.

The forest structure will remain intact forever and not kill off susceptible species of Flora and Fauna.

With a burn off, many animals die as they get caught in the fire coming from usually many fronts etc. With the clearing processes the animals will be able to move and not be burned to death.

The concept of indigenous burning has in research and history been a disaster for trees and the natural forest structure. This was created purely as a method of

a) Herding animals into a closely designated area for food hunting and,

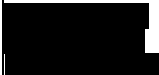
b) a method of clearing the tree canopy to permit the ground level growth of food and grasses attracting the types of animals in the indigenous diet at that time.

This requirement for food gathering culture has long passed and the community including Scientists have long understood this.

Now we find that Environmental Management is a key factor in considering how we manage food production and also how the Earth generates Oxygen. These issues were never a consideration in the thousands of years that the Indigenous occupants have used such techniques.

Yours Sincerely,

Francis Gregory Smith



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

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