

Submission Number: NND.001.01359

Submission Of: Stuart Lewien

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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?

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?

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?

Rather than controlled burning near urban areas I suggest that the scrub and undergrowth be mulched and heaped so that it decomposes under its own weight (a process called hot composting) and this then naturally and quickly (in only several weeks) forms soil. Machinery, probably specialised, would be needed to process the vegetation in bulk. This would make far better use of the resource than to control burn it. Burning will send up CO2 whereas generating soil will tie up CO2 - so this would also help to combat climate change. The soil could be partly spread in the vicinity to help prevent soil fertility depletion and partly used in the urban area. It is likely that local volunteers would be keen to assist. Since climate change is reducing the number of days when it is safe to do controlled burning, my suggestion would also help by reducing the amount of controlled burning needed.

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