

Document 1.

To whom it may concern

Having never written a submission to a Royal Commission or any other commission please excuse anything that may appear amateurish.

Extinction - Don't Let it Happen

255+ persons have been killed in wild fires in the past 30 years

1,000,000,000+ animals have been killed in wild fires this year

The norm we hear about is not here yet not even close

"Love is a flower

You have to let it grow outwards from within

You cannot force love

You cannot buy love

It needs nurturing

It needs two or more

It needs trust

Like the environment it needs us

As much as we need it." - andi Mellis

Please allow the commission's report to grow to fruition.

Before I start on what I believe are some of the issues that need attention, I want to start with how real people felt before the fires, What real people on the front line felt on the approach to the fires and how real people coped.

In early December my wife and I took the extraordinary task of packing all our perishable and sentimental belongs up. They were taken into Grafton, where good friends stored what we cherished in their homes. Now we were living day to day. Our holiday plans together over Christmas were scrapped.

But before this date in late November I was planning for a fire like no other despite no fires burning in our vicinity. The signs to me were ominous. A drought, more severe than we have ever experienced. An average rainfall of 1001mm was down to a meagre 390mm with nothing on the horizon. Soil moisture was severely depleted. Plants like Banksia serrata were succumbing in large numbers to the excessive dry. We had purchased 30,000 litres of water so the tanks were full. We were carrying 105,000 litres into the fire season.

Then the inevitable erupts. Fires burning to the northwest and burning south east meant we were in the firing line. Three days later another fire evolves to our north east with winds changing pushing this new fire to the south south

west.

The fires were now within a day of our home. Friends show up at the best possible time bringing with them 26,000 litres of water. The front garden was saturated as was the backyard. A 30 metre strip to the east and north and 20 metres to the west to the road and 4 metres to the southern boundary. The house had its own little flood, which had turned the grass green and expanded by the following morning. The brown crunching of desiccated grass was now alive, wet with water. For weeks I was bringing in water from a friends place, 3,000 litres a week to maintain full turgor in the plants planted within the 35 metres of the boundary. (equivalent of 15mm of rainfall) Septic water was used on trees for the past week adding about another 1,000 litres of water to the ground.

These plants were fire retardant species with thick leathery leaves which lacked volatile oil in their leaves. The hour of truth to see if my earlier strategies would pay off were upon me.

The gutters were block, 30 Buckets full of water, knap sacks were at the ready, strategically placed around the house and within the house, generator was on stand by in position adjacent to the pump, curtains removed, bedding placed inside cupboards and car placed in escape position with keys in the car. What was there to do now as we wait.

I wrote to the Prime Minister expressing my feelings. This is how real people felt waiting for the eventuality. It is a part of the story that is most often forgotten.

G'day Prime Minister,

today or early tomorrow my wife and I will most likely be confronted by one of the two massive fire fronts burning out of control and bearing down on us.

Sitting here not knowing if, like the birds and animals that surround me whether we will have a house, a garden and a lifestyle to call home on Monday.

I totally blame our past and present governments for inaction taken in the course of the past few decades when the overwhelming science on Climate change and Global Warming forewarned us well in advance of the impending dangers of not taking action. For well over 50 years scientists have capitulated under pressure to say or do nothing from all political parties.

Ever since ██████████ noted that the difference in temperatures; in the city he resided in Ceylon, were 2 to 4 degrees warmer than adjacent forests less than a kilometre away. Blatantly obvious to him and ignored for a hundred years. He hypothesised that deforestation will cause global warming. Yes, over 125 years later it is a confirmed fact that deforestation is a contributing factor to Global

Warming. In just a few short weeks we have now decimated the largest rain-forests in NSW. We have now destroyed over 70% of the **world's** forests, globally with no plans to curb the ruthless, murderous destruction here or globally.

The passiveness under the Hawke and Keating governments was obvious when active participation in combating the problems were ignored and would have been far more economically sustainable than taking the action today.

The indecisiveness from the Howard government led to denialists ruling with false propaganda, misinformation and outright disinformation.

From your actions Mr. Morrison hugging coal and smirking that, "See it is harmless is inconceivable of a man in your position." Yes and so are cigarettes if you don't smoke them and Asbestos if it is left in the ground. Maybe you should hold a chunk of nice, clean, freshly mined cyanide as it is harmless encased in the bedrock from which it originates as well.

Barnaby Joyce's sick statement along the lines after two Green supporters died in the fires along the lines (I now know one was a GREEN and the other a Labor supporter) "They are only Greenies," belittle the lives of all nature and those opposed to his narrow ideologies. Joyce also remarked and appeared in my opinion to have more sympathy for the perpetrator of the murderer who at the time was carrying out illegal clearing, than that of the deceased public servant he shot so mercilessly carrying out his lawful duties on behalf of me and the government. (EPA - Environmental Protection Authority employee) I believe his approach to humanity and disdain to compassionate people like GREENS is now proven without doubt.

Pauline Hanson's stupid statement "Humans are not behind the cause of climate change which has been happening since the dinosaurs were around," is apparently perplexed on the verge of insanity to my way of thinking and the thinking of reasonable people. The Dinosaurs became extinct; yes, no question, from a sudden change in the 'Earth's temperatures' from a meteor strike. - There was a cause. - A meteor; it did not happen over a long period. The five previous mass extinctions were all caused from fast uncontrollable temperature changes. The mass extinction we are now facing is fast tracked human induced temperature change and the once 60% denialists, still presently number 20% stupid, **substratum thinkers who generally support the NP and especially Pauline Hanson's** One Nation and the Fisher, Shooters and Farmers Party. They have caused the fires, caused the unprecedented drought, caused the unprecedented floods as seen in Townsville and still DO BLOODY NOTHING BUT PAMPER TO THEIR GODS IN COAL and set about blaming others for their ills.

EXCLUDING THE GREEN's policy; and that is all it is policy in the making, and apart from the well-meaning but minor tinkering rectification put forward by Rudd, Gilliard and Shorten Federally, we all now know what the electorate did to them. **Jay Weatherill's excellent commitment in South Australia has been the** single bright spot in Australia, very little is being committed or achieved to combat these extremes.

Now the extremely expensive predicaments we find ourselves has long lasting degenerative repercussions for the planet as a whole. We as a nation and you as our leader are deliberately avoiding the facts and science of an escalating situation which is confronting us and already appears to be well out of our control. What we need is someone strong enough, intelligent enough to seize the reins from the narrow mainly greedy, self-interest, foreign owned multinationals and move in the direction of 100% sustainability for all Australians, all the peoples and natural Eco-systems on the Planet by 2025.

And now, yes NOW, you all cry "This is not the time to be debating Global Warming" Then, when is the Time?

When Neville Wran wanted to introduce gun laws in NSW and the LNP sternly opposed the legislation.

When the Tasmanian shooting massacre occurred, John Howard stood up and shouted LONG and LOUD that now is the time to talk about gun control - Before, during and after the funerals of those killed and while the many injured victims were still recuperating action was taken.

When we are confronted with the sixth mass extinction of between 75% and 96% of all life on the planet - NOW..... Is not the time to be talking is heralded from the hallways of power. Global Warming and its long term disastrous effects is to be hidden in a dark secluded cupboard is so cringingly apathetic because NOW is the TIME?

When over 3600 square kilometre in just one combined fire from Ewinger to New Italy in northern NSW has exterminated probably 90% of the wildlife that lived there just a month ago..... Now is not the time to be talking about the effects of extermination, extinction and suffering induced by human greed? I say to you Prime Minister "This is BLOODY HYPOCRISY AT ITS BLOODY BEST and NOW IS THE TIME".

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NOW IS THE TIME TO ENSURE THERE IS A FUTURE.

BECAUSE NOW TIME IS RUNNING OUT and FAST."

Yes Prime Minister you may not like the obvious truths that science has conveyed for decades and I have again ascribe here.

You still have time to reconcile, make change and leave a legacy where others have failed.

What do you intend to do about it for all Australians and nature as one?

Contact me to hear of 6 ways we can make huge changes at very little cost. – Solar power every home in Australia for very little cost.

Drought, Bushfires & Floods signal the end of Australia as we know it

In a country where there is a sparse population, where the land and wildlife have been cherished by a few, and nature is now seeking revenge in its final

throws. The majority of its citizens are seeing the holocaust starting to unfold. **The question is, "is it too late?"**

These dramas are **the direct result of climate change and the world's politicians** both left and right to take the initiative to combat the 100 year old issues. The fires that have burned across Australia are not just destroying human lives but the lives of every living thing that rely on the forest environments. Forests as large as nations are denuded of mammals, avian, reptiles and insects.

Conservative politicians are now tactically preparing and conditioning Australians, appealing to the skeptics and confused, to accept this as the new norm.

What infuriates me the most, is conservative politicians are now tactically preparing and conditioning Australians, appealing to the skeptics and confused, at this very moment **"that this is the new norm."** The opposition also remains deafly silent. This is more spin, more disinformation and more lies. **This is "not" the new norm**, an increase of one degree centigrade is not the new norm, as it could be three or even five degrees centigrade warmer in the near future. We need to plan now for the worst case scenario. This Royal commission is the start for saving lives, changing tact, delivering facts and certainty not the end.

We are experiencing an evolving downward spiral where the norm has not been reached, nor has it been envisaged by the majority. **The norm is a thousand times worse.** The norm will only be reached when and only when man-made global warming reaches its conclusion and that is not in the foreseeable future with present policies. **This is the phase the planet is experiencing when temperatures are just 1 degree centigrade above pre industrialisation not 3 or 5 degree centigrade.**

If we accept this as the new norm nothing will evolve as in nothing will change. Three degrees warming will be exponentially worse than what has been witnessed in the past few months at 1 degree. – Mass world-wide, uncontrollable forest fires world-wide, rising sea levels worldwide, starvation world-wide, no water in the creeks that had water this year and millions of refugees. Yes that is a thousand times worse. To think 5 degrees is unimaginable.

What I have referred to above is history pact with meaning and first-hand experience of what it is like to be confronted with losing what is dear to you.

Fortunately the fires were extinguished 5 kilometers from the north west, 4 kilometers from the north east and 300 metres from the east of our home and 150 metres from our property.

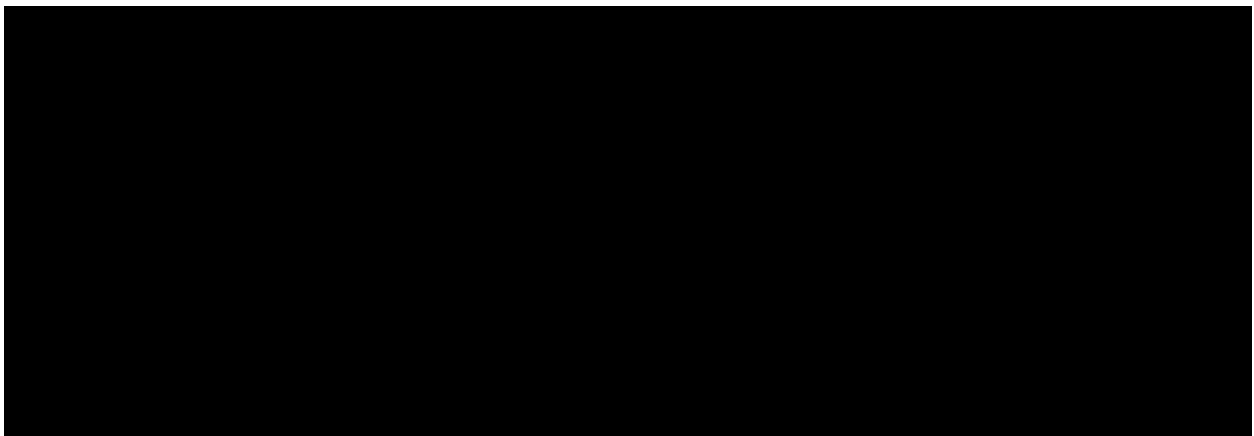
Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors are destined to repeat them mourning the insidious 3 to 5 degree centigrade increases.

The silent cataclysmic results in all this is the short and long term effects sustained on all life from the smallest creatures right through to *Homo sapien*.

It's not a pretty site when you consider we are responsible for all this clearing. Grafton just 10 years ago was surrounded by forests yet now it too is becoming barren due to the loss of habitat and forested areas. As I write the 1650 hectares behind me are ruthlessly and thoughtlessly being logged and selectively clear felled. These recent fires have escalated because of mainly uncontrolled deforestation of private lands beyond belief. They have escalated the impact on our environment adding to the reality that mass extinction is now very authentic.

We have scant data on how many species of small creatures have been wiped out in the fires, and detailed surveys comparing populations before and after the fires will not be forthcoming for many years. Governments will call for enquiries and royal commissions to defer making decisions, implementing any real policies and play the blame game. This Royal Commission must act decisively **for nature, people's well-fare, job security** from the smallest to the largest.

So how can we come to grips with this silent catastrophe?



Amphylaeus morosus

Tetragonula carbonaria

This native bee *Amphylaeus morosus* has been devastated by the bushfires across much of its range fortunately *Tetragonula carbonaria* has a wider distribution but it too has suffered huge losses. They play important roles in pollinating plants and as part of the food web. *Amphylaeus morosus*, plight is so far unheralded. *Tetragonula carbonaria* is the common native bee we are all

familiar with here around The Pinnacles. It is often seen on fruit and vegetable crops like melons, pumpkins, herbs, citrus and even our beloved flowers like the paper daisy and the *Solanum sp.* commonly known as native chili.
Photo Tetragonal carbonaria – andi Mellis

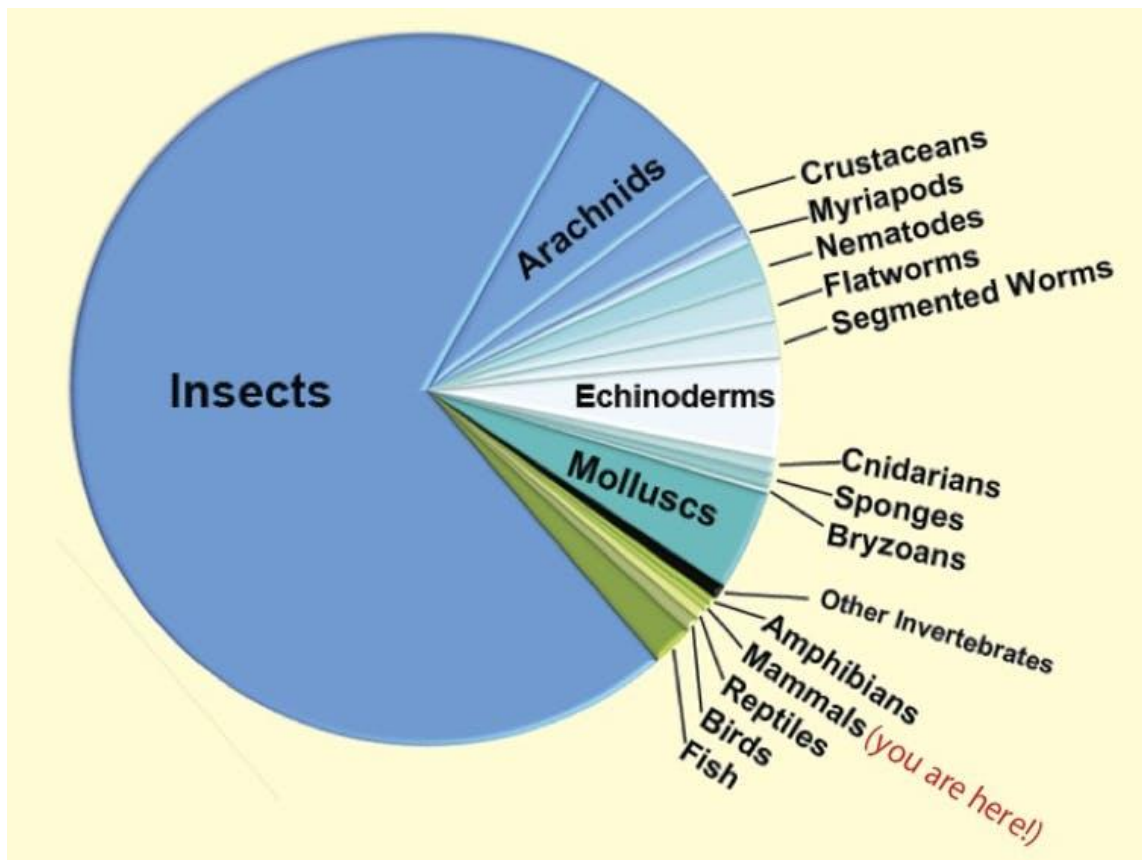
My studies here at The Pinnacles indicate that *Tetragonula carbonaria* Has suffered greatly due to the fires or the heat waves that followed the drought. Individual numbers were down and pollination on melons and pumpkins were both erratic and commenced well after the peak growing season. The number of bees on each flower were less than point five compared to one the season before yet the actual fires were 300 metres and up to five kilometres away.

Insects can be used to estimate true extinction numbers

Using the information that is available, [REDACTED] calculates that at least 700 animal species have had their populations decimated – and that's only counting the insects.

This may sound like an implausibly large figure, but the calculation is a simple one. I'll explain it below, and show you how to make your own extinction estimate with only a few clicks of a calculator.

Using insects to estimate true extinction numbers



There are hundreds of insect species for every mammal species. <https://imgbin.com/>

This “best case” is still extremely sorrowful and depressing. There is a strong opinion now that these unprecedented bushfires could cause one of the biggest extinction events in the modern era. And these infernos will burn till good rains return. What for next year?

Closer to home I did a recent article on the Pygmy Possum with its vulnerability. Having positive sightings from just 13 locations north of Newcastle. 12 of those locations have been decimated by fire. The lone location of its survival maybe found here at The Pinnacles. So it too could be on the brink of extinction. Island populations need special attention and support so they can again repopulate yet nobody is listening to the individual on the ground.

The painful part of these fires is the burning of old trees with hollows. These trees will not be replaced for at least another 150 to two hundred years. This is going to greatly affect the larger parrots, possums, sugar gliders which rely on them for sleeping and nesting. Thousands of artificial hollows in various sizes need to be supplied before spring with supplementary food sources for affected wildlife.

In the mean time they face starvation as the food sources have now collapsed. A good example is the trees known as *Casuarina littoralis*, *C. torulosa* and *C. cunninghamii*, which are the food sources for the rare and endangered Black Funeral cockatoo and red tailed glossy cockatoo. The *Casuarina sp.* have been decimated right along the coast and will take at least 10 years to commence flowering and fruiting in any worthwhile numbers. Common, yes, but we need to replant habitat trees urgently. Trees can be supplied to property owners who lost these habitat trees distributing them where they are required urgently.

To help the starvation of our wildlife we are feeding 6 to 11 red neck wallabies, countless brush tail possums, sugar gliders, pigmy possums, doves, pigeons, finches, two King parrots and many ant colonies. The ants are an indirect method of keeping them healthy in times of need as they are the diet for our resident Echidnas.

Now that I have finished with past and present what can we learn from the past that needs incorporating into the future to preserve the environment and the future well-being of the owner occupants?

Further clearing is not the answer. – Clearing and deforestation accelerates global warming. That is not what we need, we need forests to help curtail the effects of global warming. Ewingar state forest and floral reserves are a great example:

- * Recently logged areas suffered extensive hot burns,
- * Older logged areas suffered fewer effects of a hot burn and are recovering Quicker,
- * The floral reserve in the middle suffered light burning in patches with the canopy sustaining over 90% green coverage immediately after the fires.

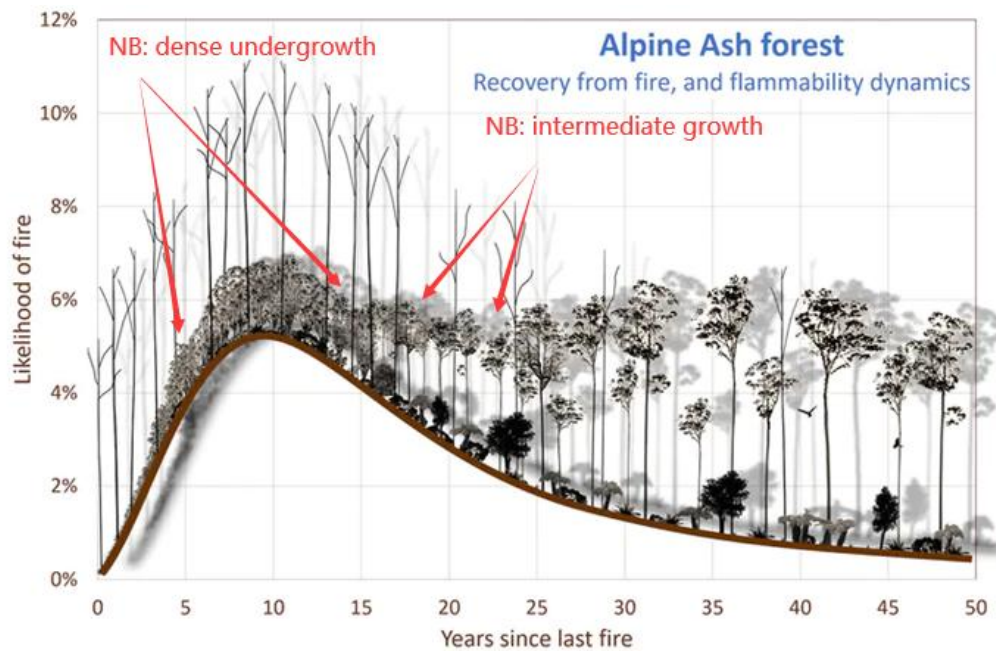
Prescribed burning has not worked and is not working as has been witnessed this fire season. It has been one of the main tools for fire management on public land for decades with no real positive outcomes in stopping wild fires. It does not prevent bushfire.

The misconception that prescribed burning decreases fuel loads and so reduces the spread and intensity of bushfires is being widely challenged. This has to be brought into question and many recent scientific documents testify to the accumulation of fuel loads. In fact it promotes regrowth often forming denser more prolific fuel loads and allowing for the ingress of exotic weeds like *Lantana camara*.

Areas that have not been burnt or logged for decades:

- * Have less fuel loads than where perennial prescribed burning are carried out,
- * Logging actually opens the forest floor exposing ferns and shrubs (undergrowth) to heat and air movements drying out the undergrowth making it more vulnerable to fire and concentrating volatile oils,
- * New growth and intermediate growth in logged forests actually carry a far greater density of fuel loads than old growth forest and forests of 10 to 50 years in age,
- * The fuel loads are at an intermediate level within the forest, which allows for greater air currents to get under the fire and accelerate the spread pushing fires into the canopy where they are more difficult to work with, are less predictable and burn with far hotter temperatures.
- * Land at Nana Glen that had not had fire on it for over 70 years, had a natural park like effect beneath the trees and resisted the penetration of a **fire from surrounding land in the late 1980's without fire brigade** intervention.
- * Our property at The Pinnacles has not been burnt now for 20 years. Four years ago it was impossible to see through the forest from one side of the block to the other. With selective clearing of weaker samplings over the first few years only, we now have a clearer view from one side to the other with many shrubs giving way to the cooler moister sublayer. Fungal growth has increased dramatically over this time. Over 500 different species have been documented (photographed) on the 4.25 hectares in the past two years. Fungi play an integral role in maintaining soil moisture and recycling matter, which feeds the forest as a whole.

The drawing below with our own studies show that prescribed burning every few years actually enhances the vulnerability of fire by increasing the fuel loads rather than decreasing them. A better plan would be to undertake selective thinning of undergrowth with gradual removal of weaker saplings during the intermediate stages. This would be most constructive in and around national Parks and in forest reserves.



Alpine Ash forests become increasingly flammable until the trees are tall enough to avoid ignition, and the shrubs thin out. Phil Zylstra, Author provided

Fire proof Homes built in forested locations:

- * Consider the aspect on the block as to which direction most fires especially severe fires originate taking into account prevailing winds during the fire seasons,
- * Have homes set down lower than the surrounding land,
- * Support low set home designs over high set homes,
- * Build homes into slopes or hills,
- * Have the buffer zones planted in species, which have thick leathery leaves and do not possess volatile oils,
- * The correct placement and growth type can actually catch and retain embers helping to eliminate spot fires close to residences.
- * Build homes using fire proof or fire retardant materials,
- * Possible construction of fire proof shelters below the actual home,
- * Supply of water to be a minimum of 120,000 litres,
- * Make the filling of tanks compulsory when the fire season is declared or when fires are likely to occur,
- * Have Councils make an attempt to drench ground around homes or major outbuildings on each property with water 36 to 48 hours before fires are due to approach the homes.

There is no doubt that **fire warnings** and individual fire actions need to be better improved with more frequent warnings issued. Many residents in my locality were unaware of the present situation during the height of the fires due to poor communications being updated around every six hours. This is an area where Emergency services could call in the service of military communications to set up roaming stations near fires or settlements. – Good practical exercises, which are already paid for by Australian Tax payers.

To be effective these changes need to be part of a well-designed long-term community education program that notates where homes are.

Local councils should take a more active role in planning for bushfire, including planning for evacuation and supply of water in fire prone areas. – The example given above where our yard around the house was flooded 36 to 48 hours before the fire was expected, made an immense difference to the vegetation.

Greater emphasis on preparation as outlined above in our case needs to be prompt and clear from an early time frame in each scenario.

I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by emailing me at [REDACTED]

Take care and be happy,
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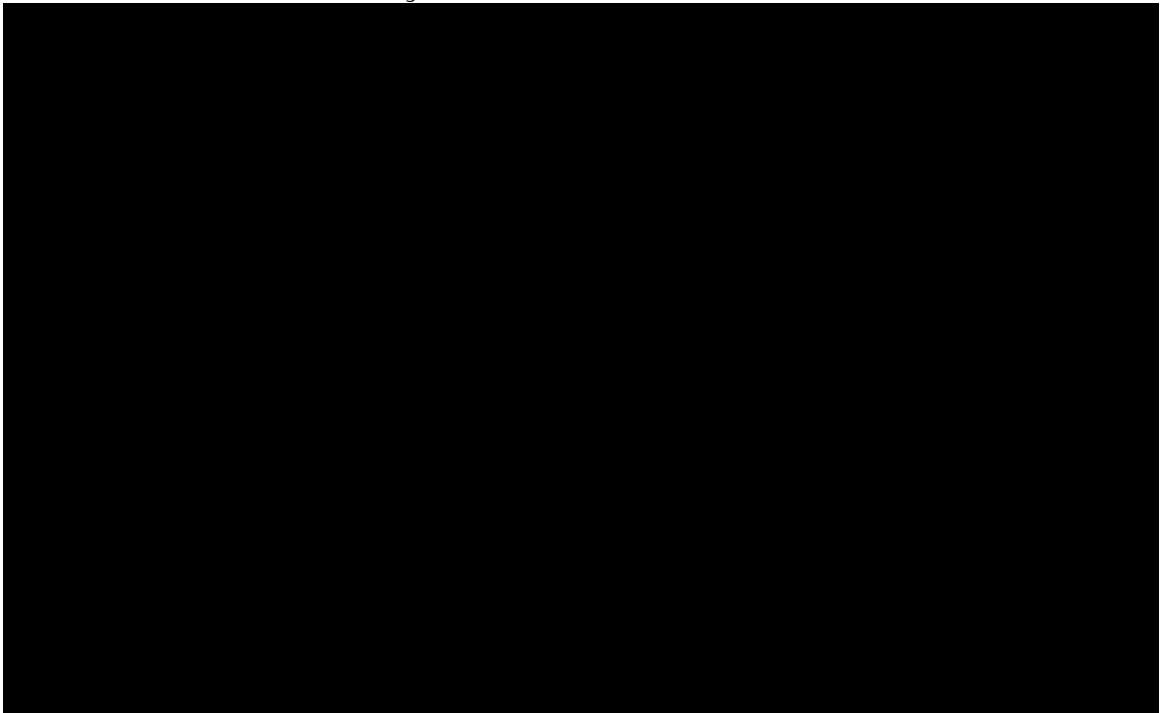
What we have now, needs dedication, planning, zeal, diligence and protection.

Science is fact and science is not just hypothesising the fires were a result of Global Warming. Scientists are certain that the degree and widespread nature of the fires devastation world-wide were a direct result of our actions in not containing Global Warming.

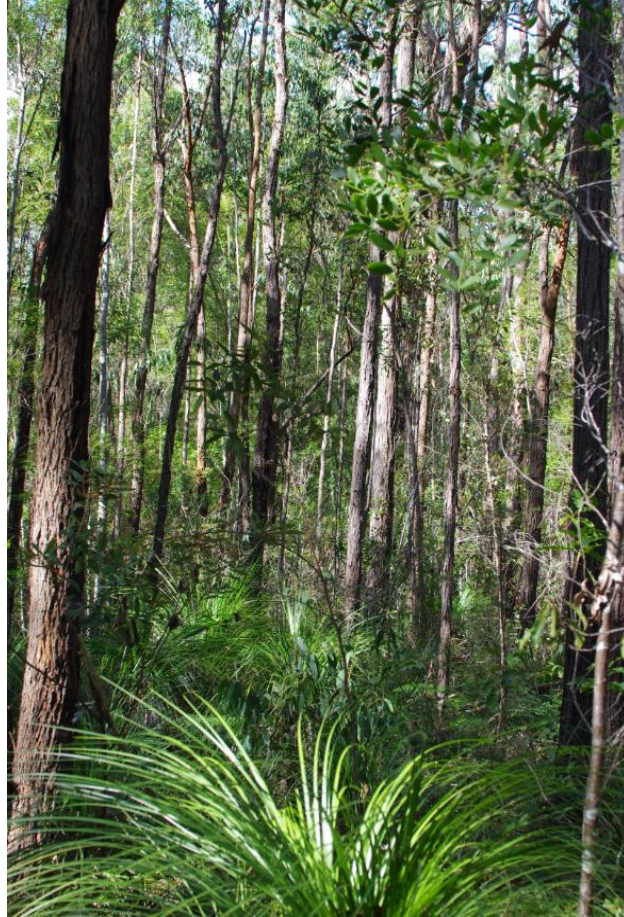
What we have seen and are facing is depicted in the following photographic display in what I see as a chronological order of events from 2020 to 4000 A.D



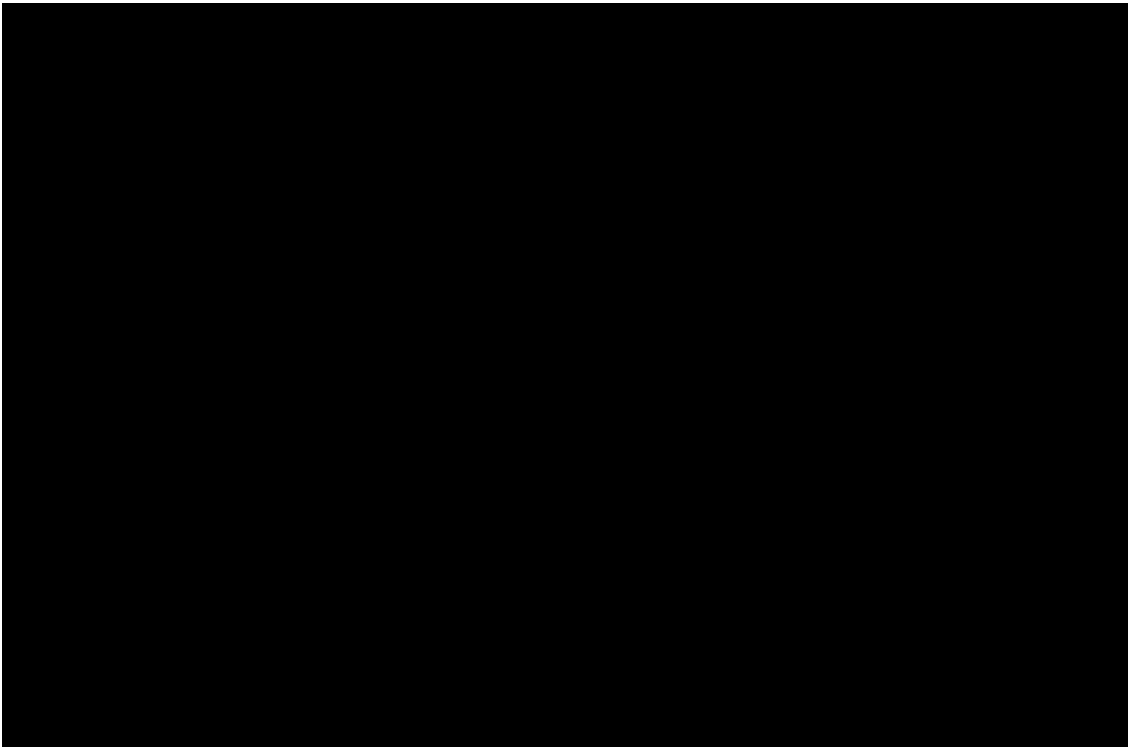
Busy street scene Melbourne



Busy park scene Melbourne

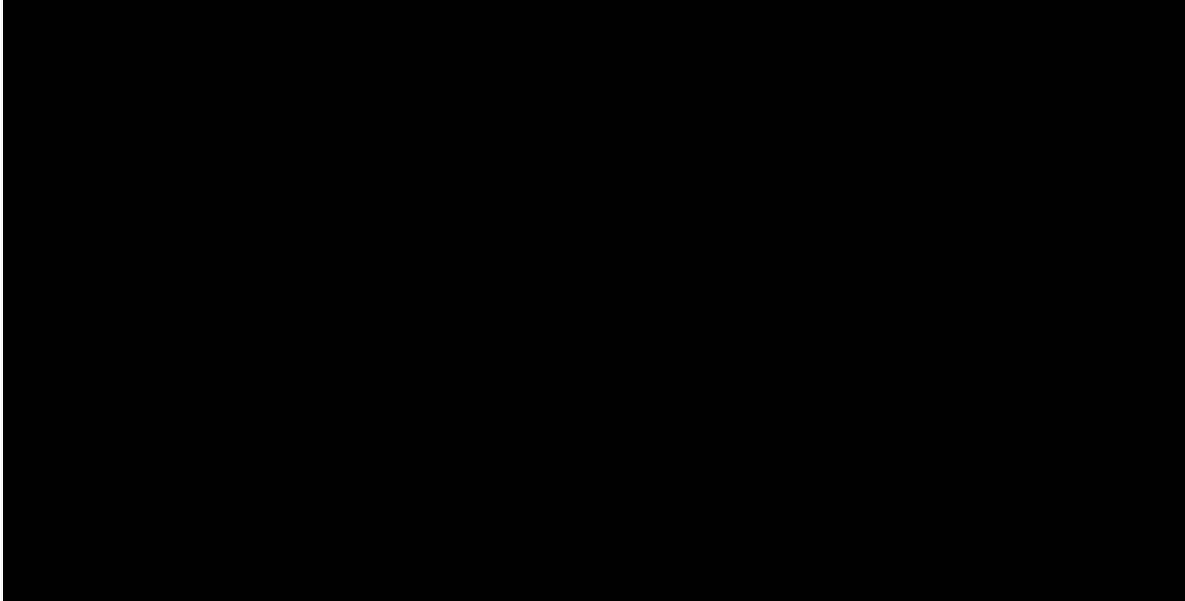


Healthy four tier dry Eucalyptus forest in drought The Pinnacles



The Australian bushfires may be the start of total devastation @1 degree post industrialization temperature increases expected to reach in worse case scenarios of 4 to 5 degrees.

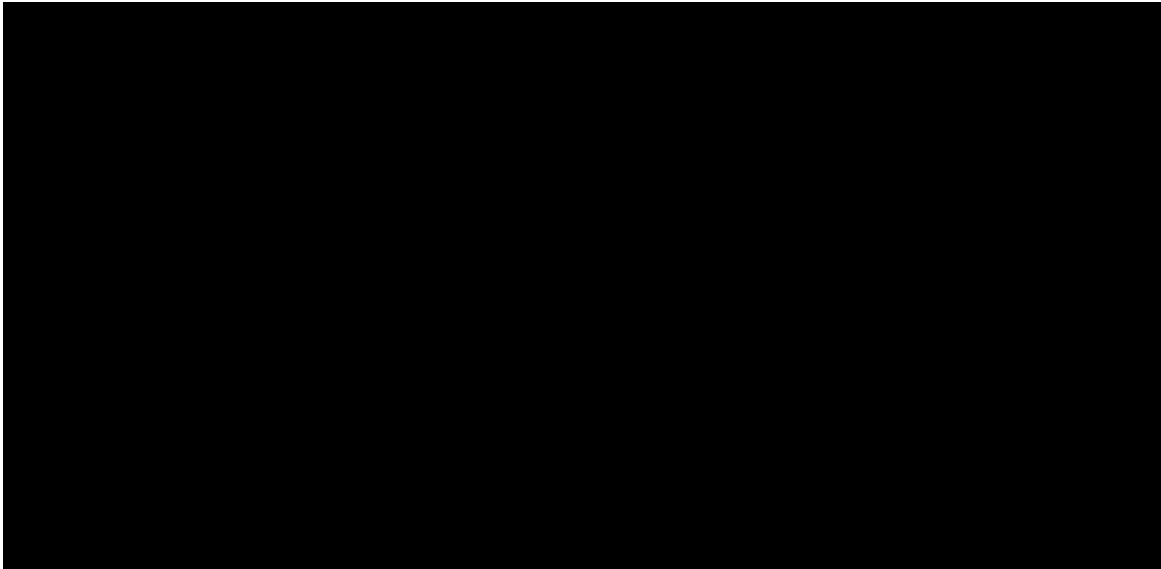
The next phase of what Australian cities will look like:



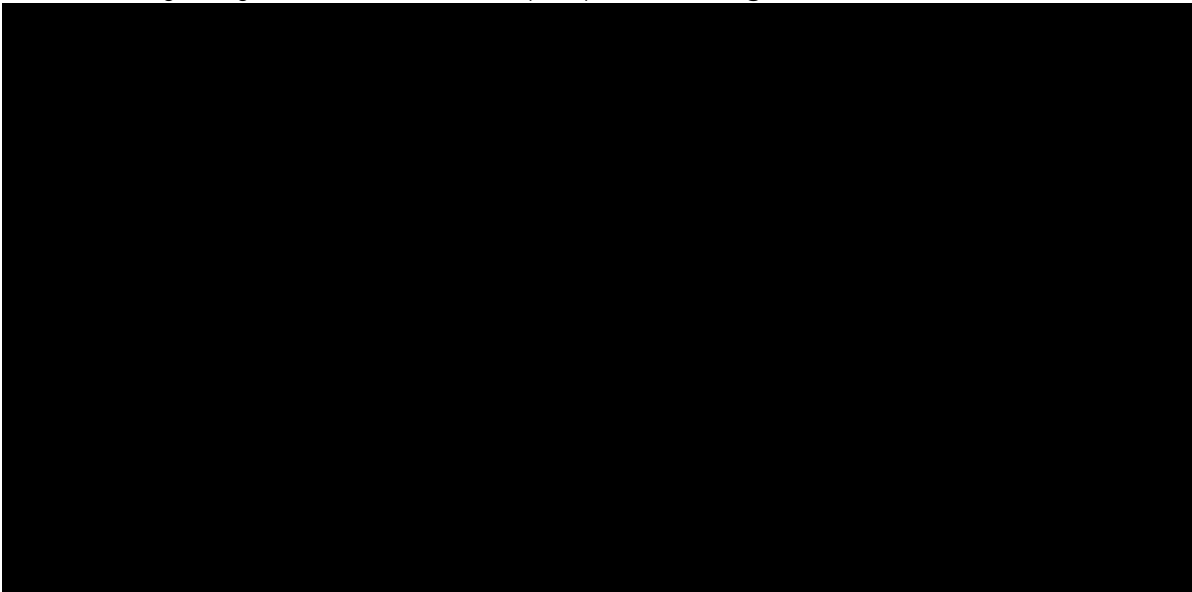
Sydney fly overs showing prospective view of total extinction



Airport terminal denuded of people showing the last flicker of life



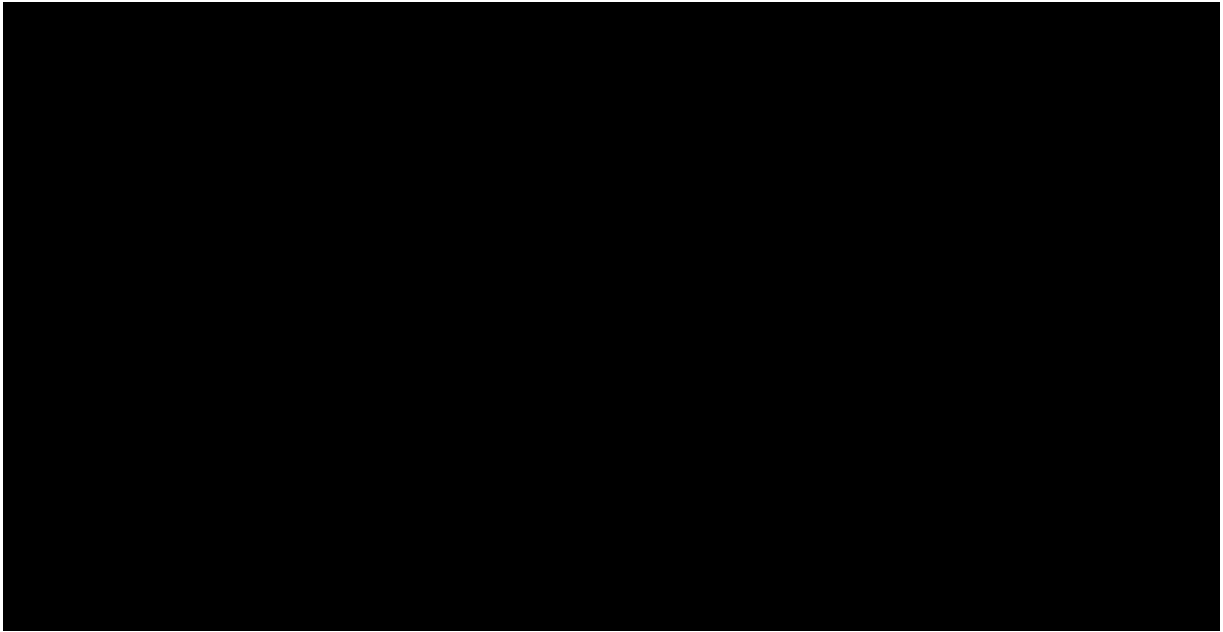
A Sydney Park denuded of people showing the last flicker of life



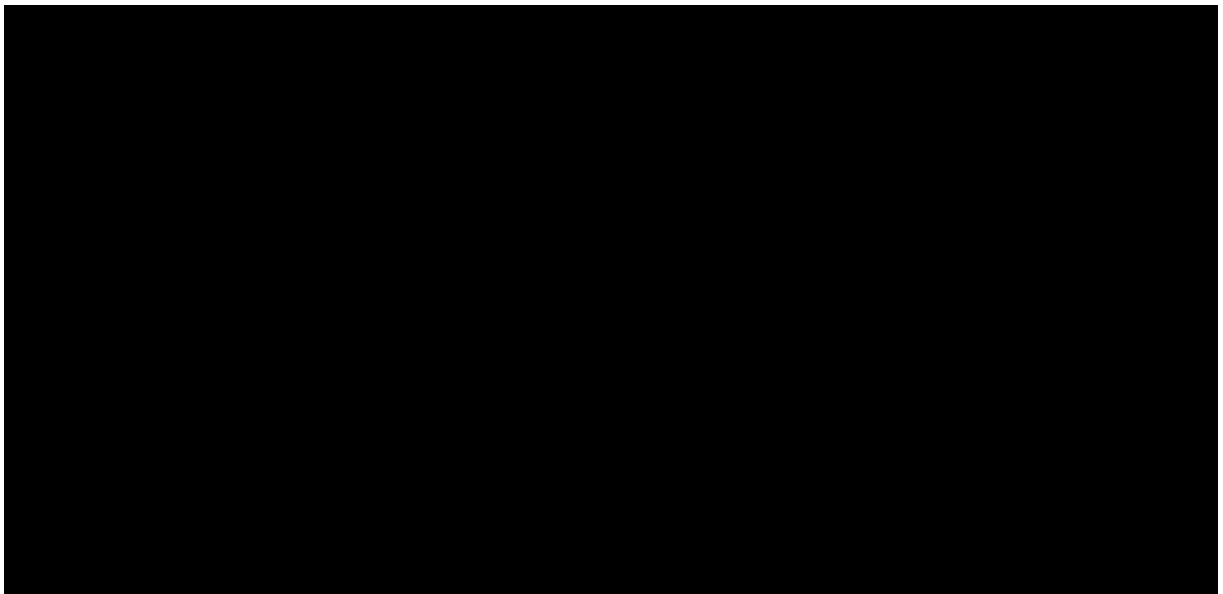
An amusement park Sydney denuded of people showing the last flicker of life



Beaches will return to the elements



Once crowded sports venues left to corrode and succumb to the elements



Once packed opulent religious venues left to corrode and succumb to the elements

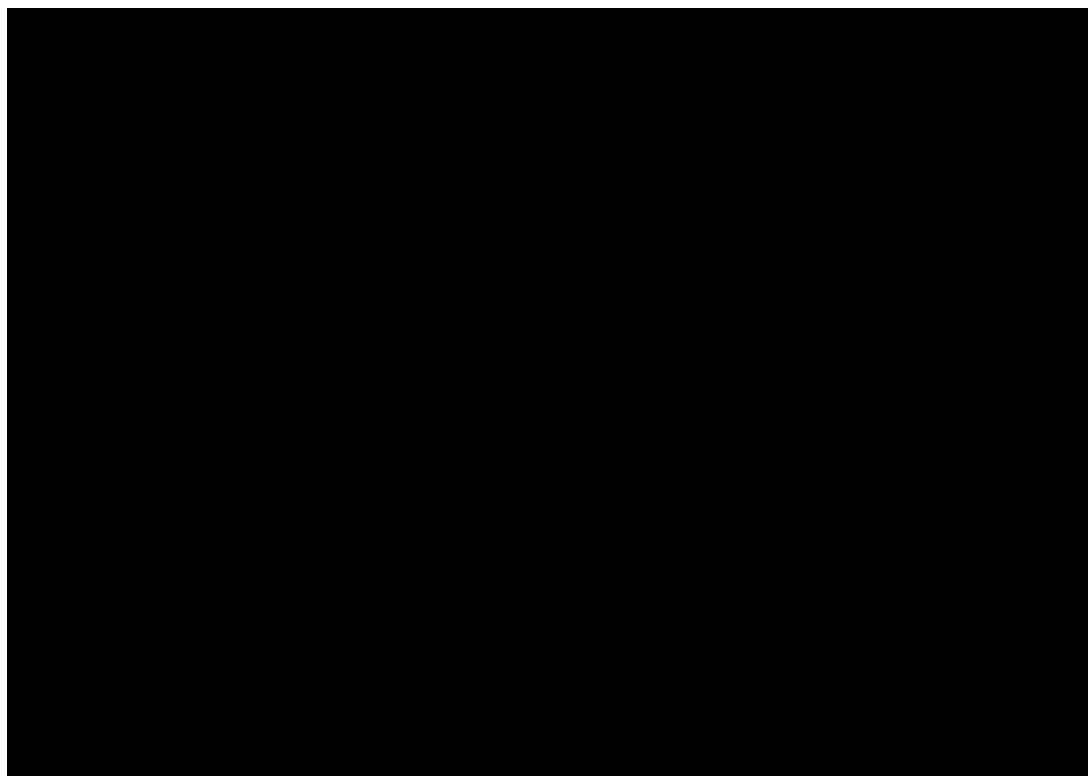
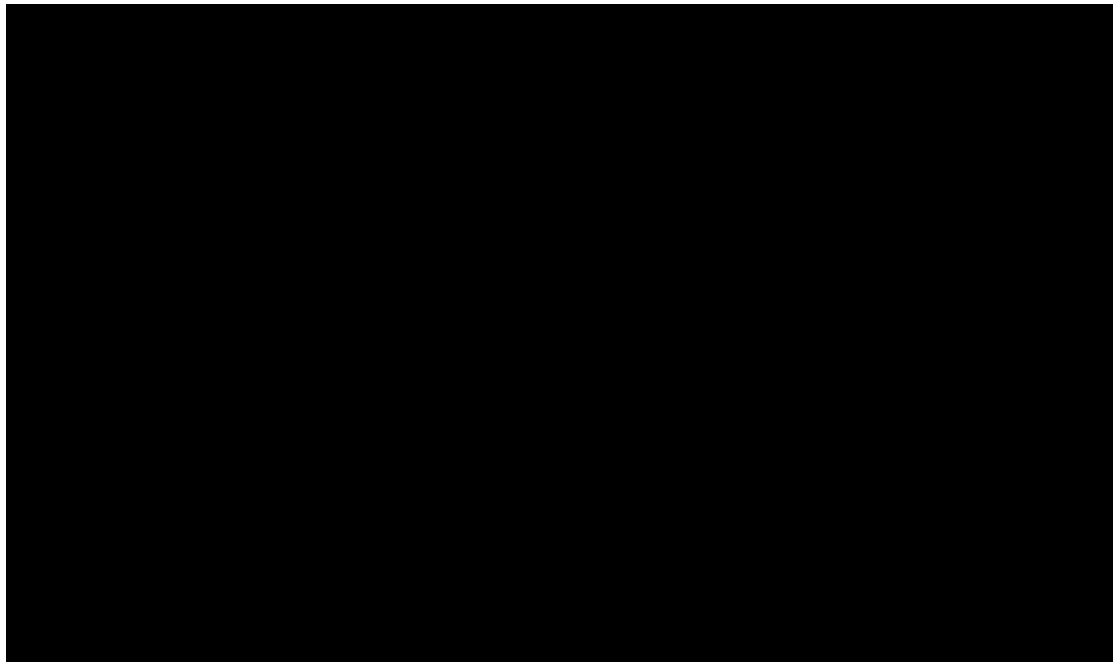


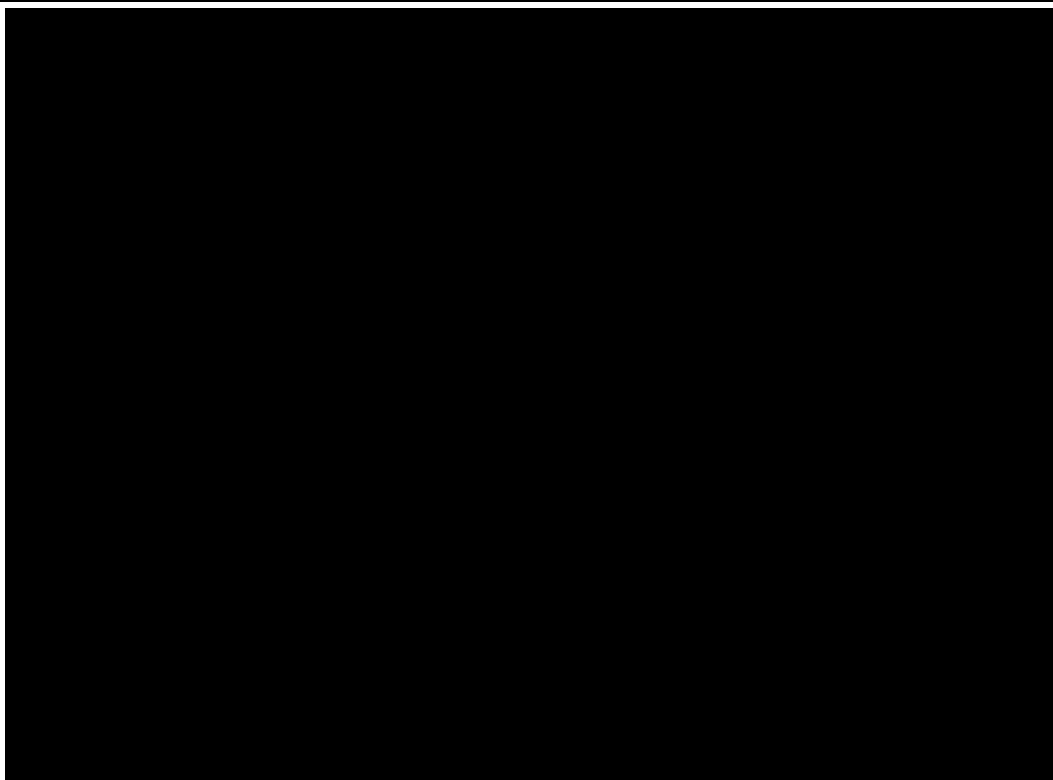
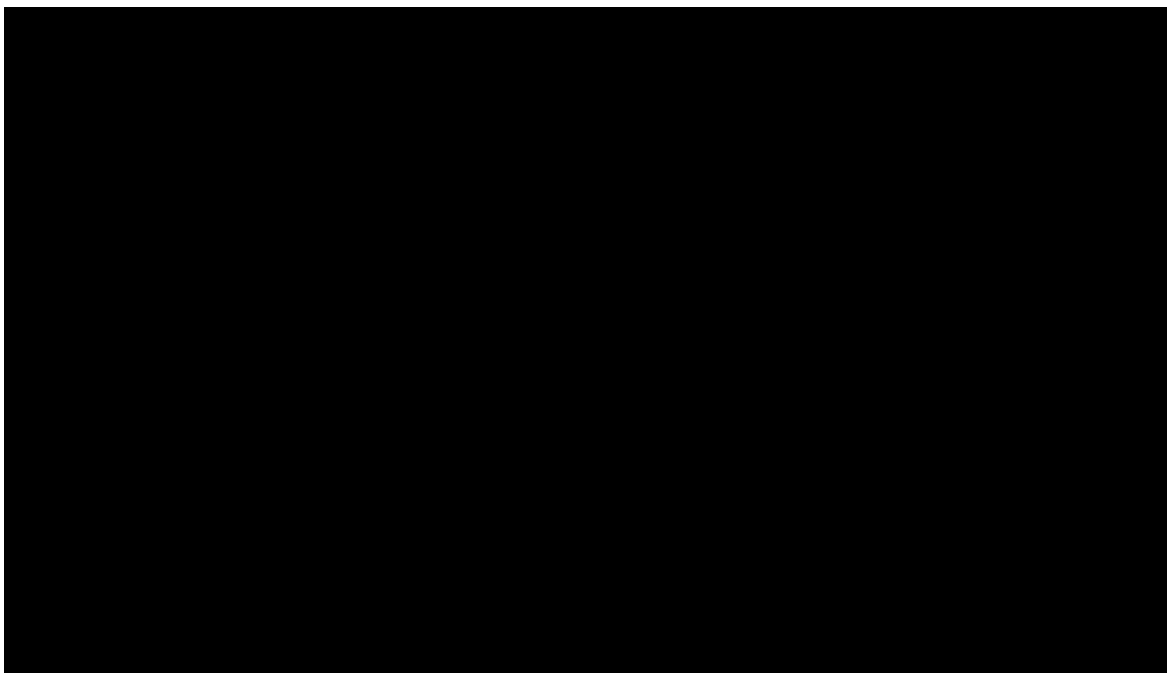
Once crowded tree lined avenues are a remainder of better times before nature full regains control



Packed theatres left bare to rot and decay

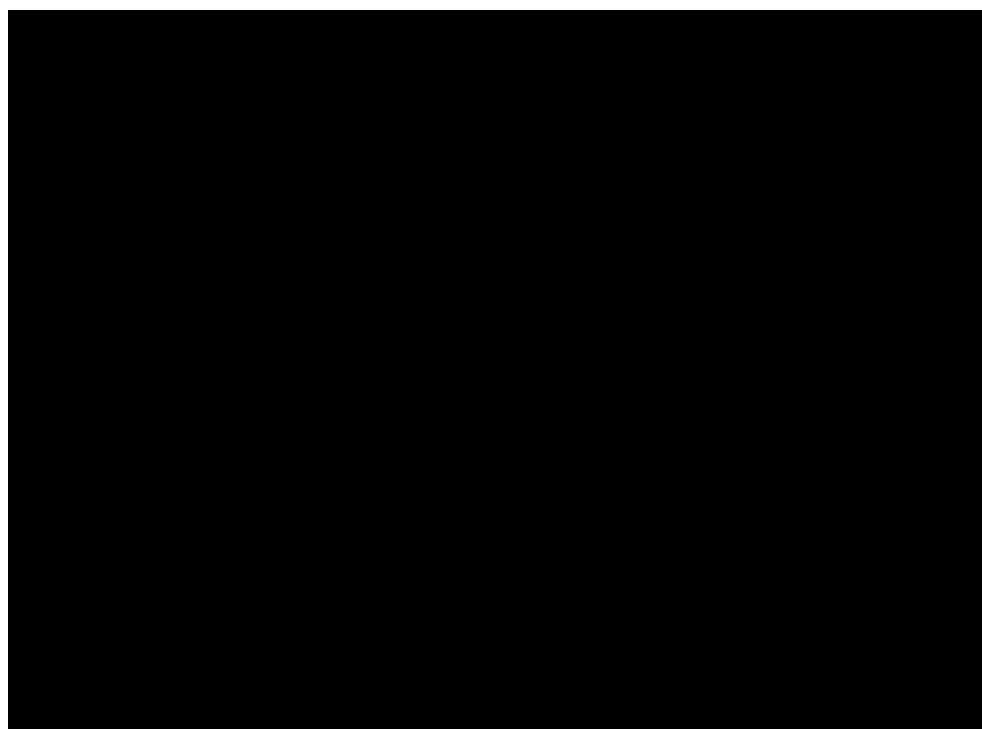
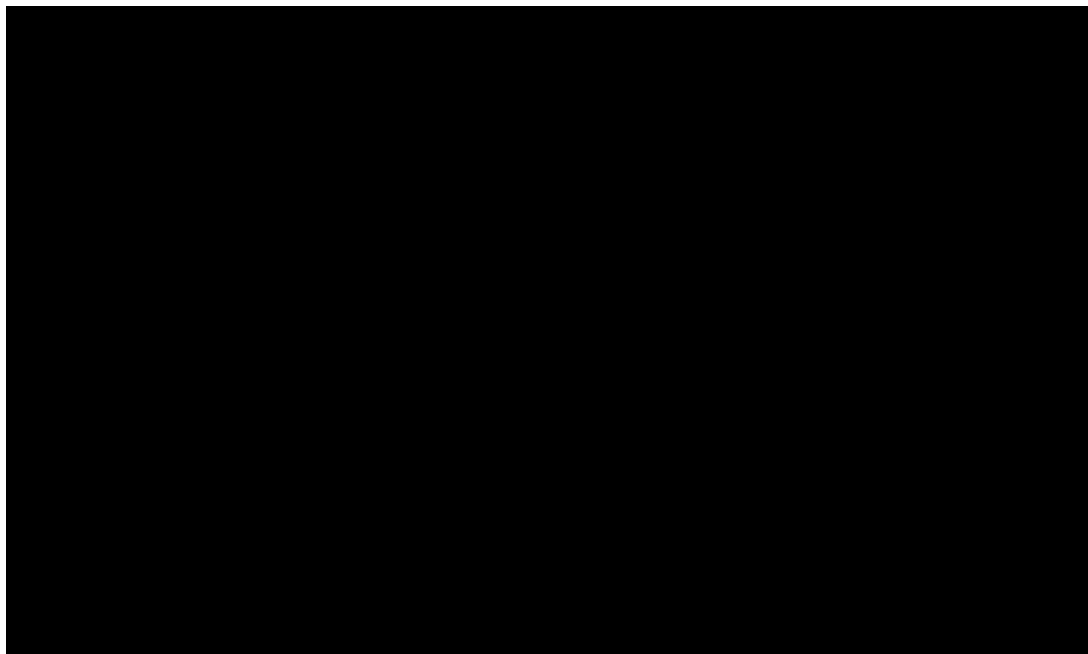
Or the rest displays lessons in modern history:

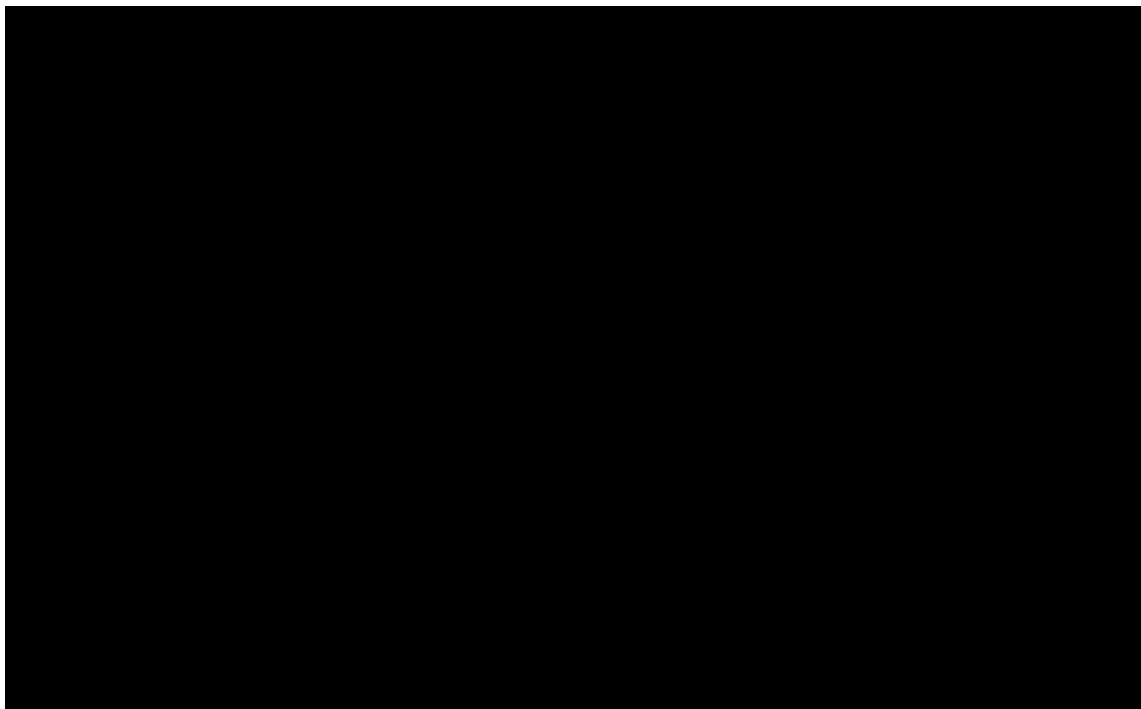
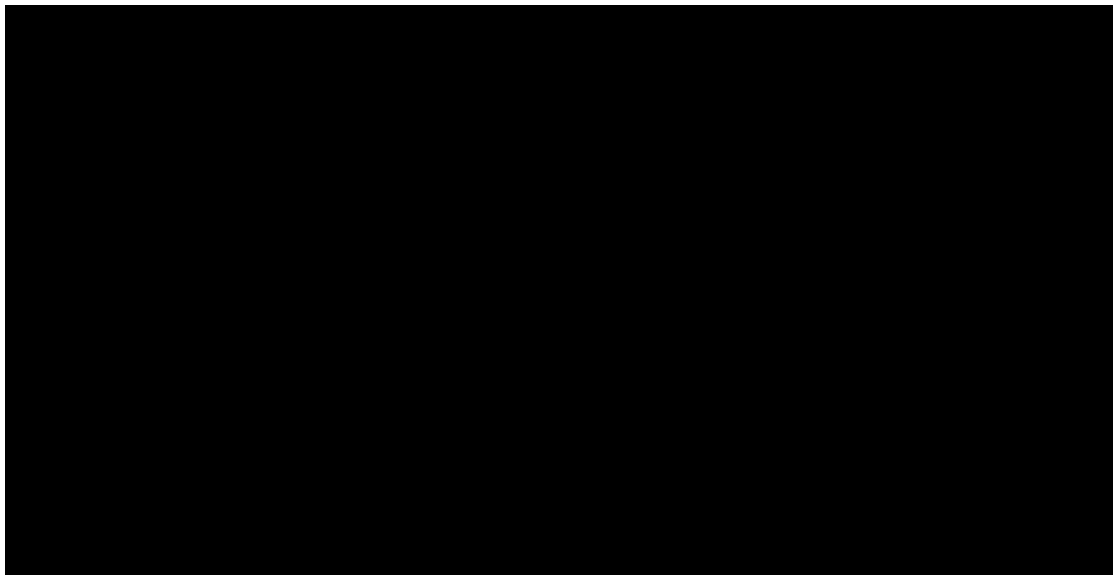


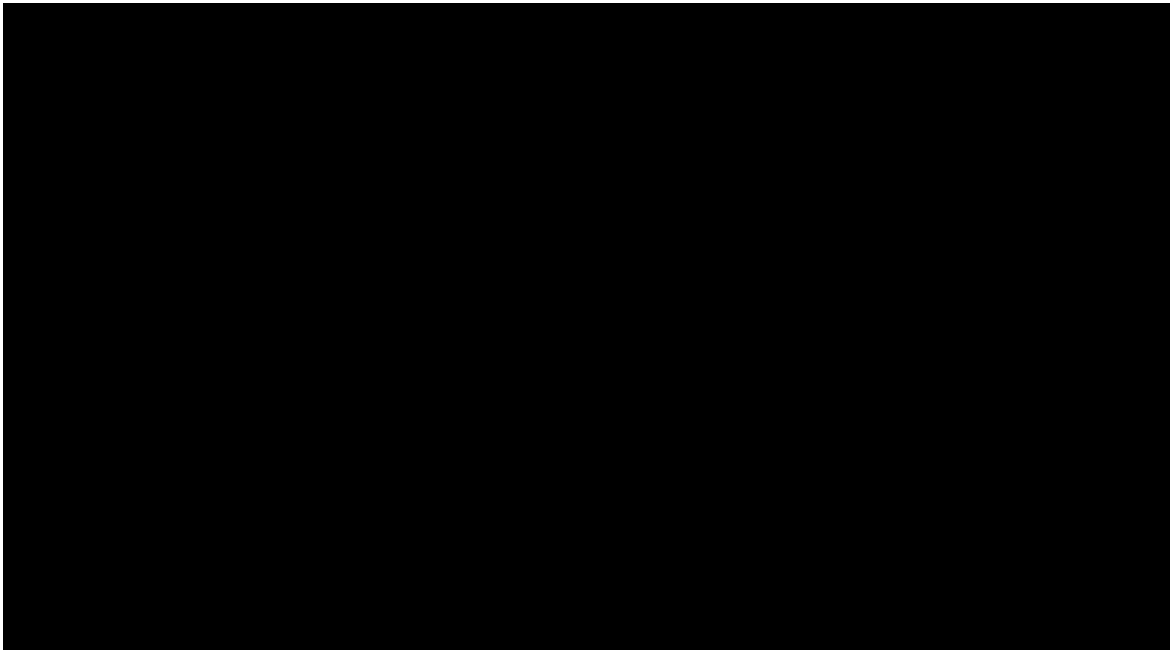




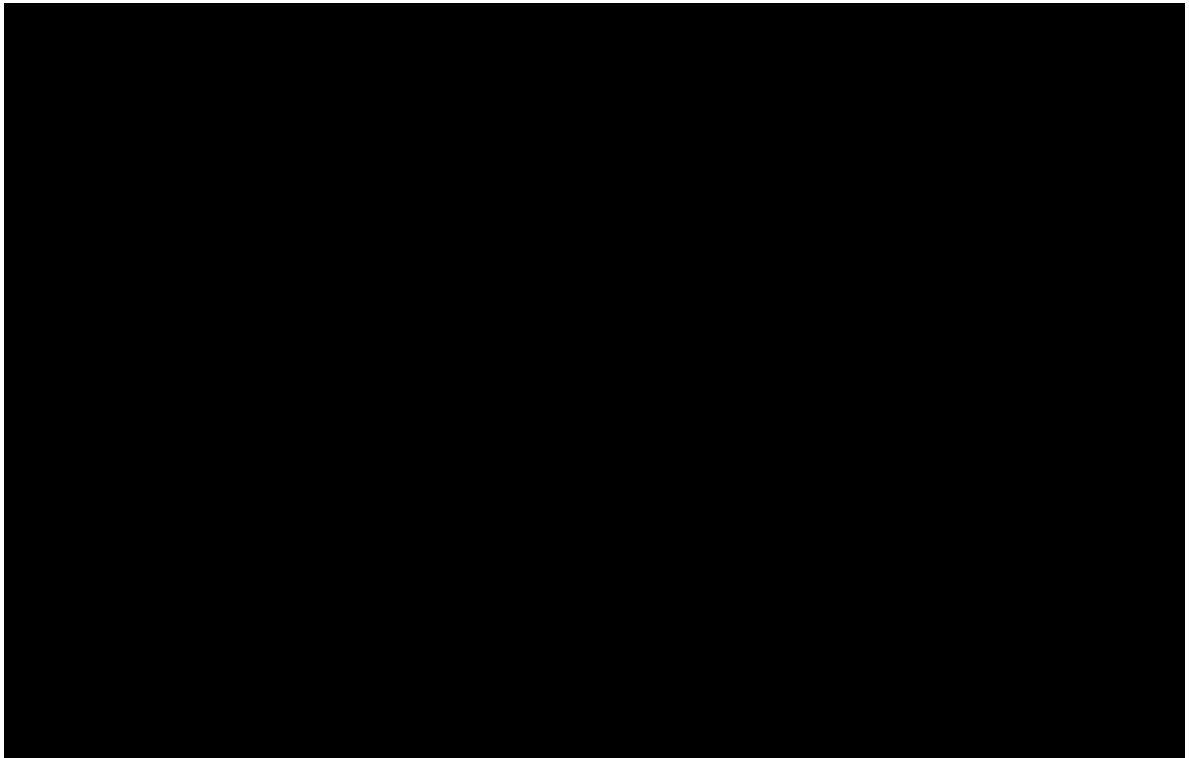
Stepping back into Ancient History where once great empires once ruled:



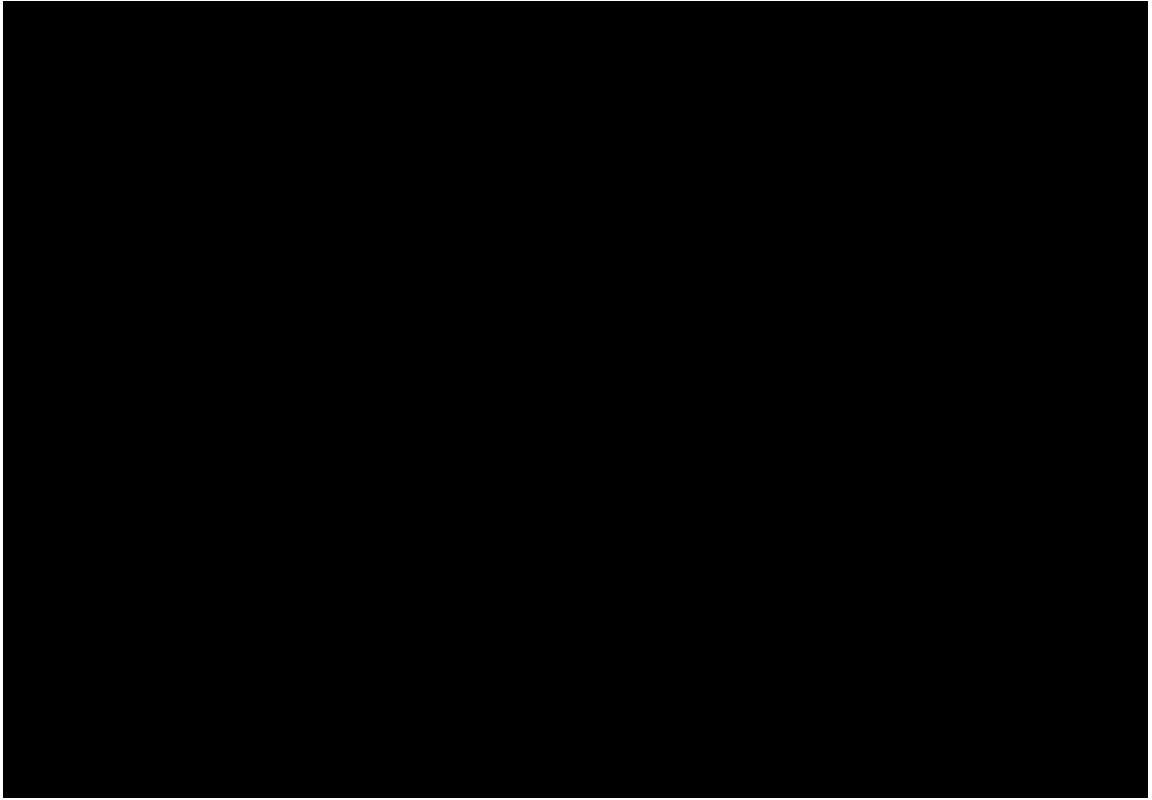




A once powerful empire the Inca buildings now lie in ruin

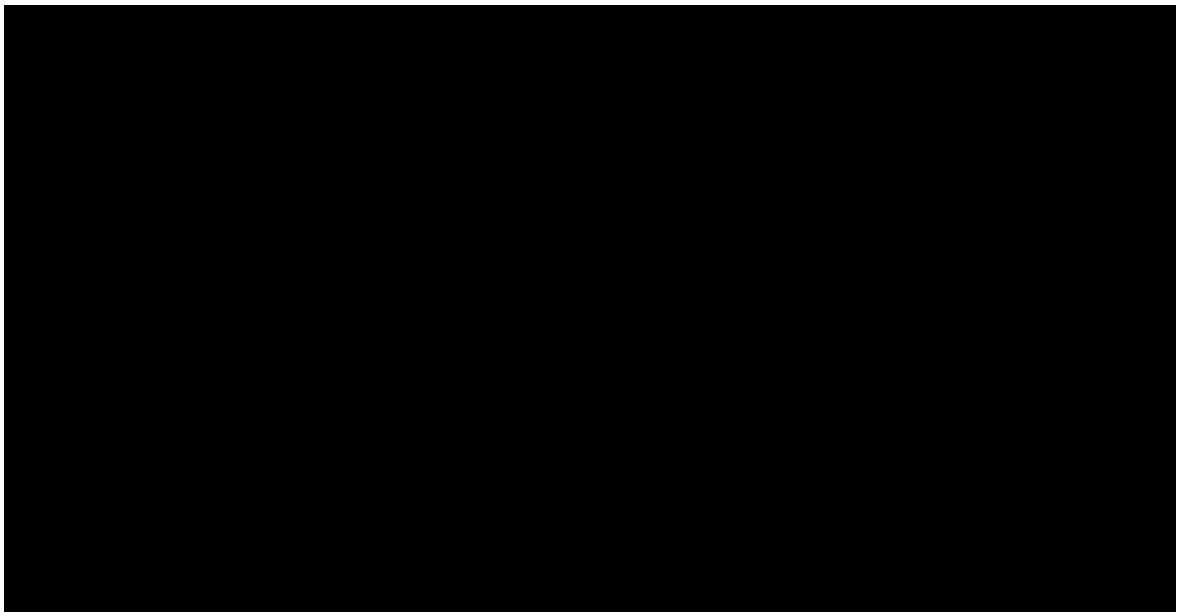


Remnants of a great thriving rainforest civilisation is all that remains
following deforestation



Hegra's thriving metropolis and vast farmland
is now just ruins within a desert

The only evidence that man once walked here:



Now is the time to act. Uncontrolled Global Warming will lead to devastating fires. Controlled temperature changes leaving the smallest or the most insignificant footprints will leave greater biodiversity.

**Not just for better outcomes from bushfires
but for the benefit of the whole planet.**

The time to start is now.

**Like the web of life everything is intertwined including our
ultimate survival.**