



Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Submission Cover Sheet

This cover sheet has been prepared by the Commission's public contact team to accompany a submission.

Person completing cover sheet

1. **Staff member name** [REDACTED]
2. **Date completed** 27.05.2020
3. **This cover sheet has been completed based on:**
 - details contained in the submission
 - a phone call with the person making the submission
 - an email from the person making the submission
 - Other (provide details) -

Submission details

4. **Full name** [REDACTED]
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone**
7. **Preferred method of contact**
8. **Is the submission based on:**
 - primarily based on their personal situation.
 - primarily based on their professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation
9. **If the person is making the submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation:**

If the submission based on personal experience:

10. **What was their personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Choose all that apply.**
 - were not living in an area affected by bushfire
 - were in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss
 - lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss
-

- lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss
- part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground
- part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter
- part of the emergency response as health professional
- part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member
- part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee
- assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer
- assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer
- Other

11. Where does the person live:

Local Government Area

Choose an item.

Town name

Post code

If the submission is based on professional experience

12. What is your area of expertise? Please choose all that apply.

- Emergency/disaster response and/or management
- Environment/land management
- Land use, planning, building standards
- Impacts of changes in climatic conditions
- Wildlife conservation
- Traditional land and fire management practices of Indigenous Australians
- Community welfare
- Other

All submissions

13. Does the person agree to their submission being published?

- Yes, agree to the submission being published in their name
 - Yes, agree to the submission being published anonymously
 - No, does not agree to the submission being published
-

Here is my submission:

Every photo I observed of the fires as they occurred and of the aftermath showed trees very close together.

All early Australian explorer notes and diaries regularly talked about an open grassland environment dominated by sparsely spread forest giants in the valleys and on the slopes..

These trees were huge and grassland fires had no chance to get into the canopy.

Many areas in Australia that now have extreme fires never experienced these events before the Britts illegally took over our country.

The current forestry practices of the State Government run forestry operations have greatly increased the danger of extreme bush fire events by clear felling "coops" and thus ensuring lots of regrowth of trees way to close together that in the end supports short term poor quality timber extraction.

So what has been created is an environment that is oh so ready to create an extreme fire from the associated poorly managed regrowth.

Our white ancestors inherited a totally different environment that was capable of handling long periods of dry that didn't result in the type of extreme bushfires that now occur.

We can recreate the environment we took over, certainly without many of the animals and plants we have managed to destroy, if we look at the country with a century plus outlook.

We must thin out our forests.

Many greenies will argue against this but protecting current forest environments as they are is not the answer. However, we must not allow the current dominant forestry harvestors to do this job the way they currently operate.

Small scale operations that do little damage to surrounding environment would create jobs and new industries.

Thinning of the twisted/split regrowth could still be used for tomato stakes, fence palings, creation of nest boxes to replace the hollows for our native birds that no longer exist, etc. But we could also create new local industries by using what is left over for biogas and biochar creation to be used locally.

This approach would likely take hundreds of years to finally create an environment, all be it just the trees, that in some way mimicked what was here before the Britts destroyed it.

However, it wouldn't take long to reduce the risk of extreme bushfire events.

If over the next 10 years we remove/kill 9 out of 10 of the regrowth trees in many previously forested areas (either by ring barking or extraction using only small scale machinery) and allowed the good straight trees to start to dominate the landscape much of the danger of extreme bushfire spread would be greatly reduced whilst creating jobs and local small business industries that reduce Australia's dependence on overseas markets.

Of course during this time, the bush that surrounds residential areas in particular (but certainly not limited to) should use aboriginal fire reduction methods to make reduced fire fuel load areas along with habitat areas for existing wildlife rather than large scale area fire reduction burns. These fire reduction methods should be wide spread.

Small examples of these thinning, harvesting and burning methods do exist in NSW that have been implemented by timber harvesters and land holders that loved creating beautiful open forest country behind their harvest but they are few and far between.

I personally have seen such methods used by a one man timber harvester in the Bermagui Cobargo area and his work is there for all to see still after the devastating bushfires that occurred in 2019/2020.

Many National Parks in south east Australia have been handed over to the National Parks after logging operations have created now extreme bush fire dangers because of the harvesting operations that occurred prior to hand over.

Unfortunately many environmental groups fail to understand the consequences of this with regards to ongoing management of these parks.

Certainly any thinning within National Parks should be undertaken only by small scale machinery where necessary, and predominately by ring barking. Selective ring barking will allow the good straight trees to grow much quicker to dominate the canopy and thus, along with the fuel reduction ring barking results in, greatly reduced the fuel load.

In conclusion, excessive harvesting of the wonderful trees that once existed on the Australian continent by current and previous generations has resulted in an extremely dangerous land that is now vulnerable to extreme bush fire environments that must immediately result in a totally new approach to how we treat this land.

