

**From:** [bruce&chris.foott](mailto:bruce&chris.foott)  
**To:** [Committee, Environment \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bushfire submission  
**Date:** Saturday, 18 January 2020 10:52:25 AM

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Attention: Mr Ted O'Brien

I live in the Bellingen Valley at a place called Darkwood NSW 2454.

We were affected by fires in the valley from September 2019 until January 2020 only just free of smoke in the last few days.

Please consider to following submission;

**Firstly we need to stop COAL MINING** to reduce carbon in the environment.

**PROTECT** our rainforests for without them there will be NO US.

**Sensible** management and control of land clearing in rural areas and new residential areas. Native animal habitats need to be protected not cleared.

**PLANTING** of oxygen forests with a firebreak around The boarder.

**REDUCTION** of waste by banning plastic bags and reducing plastic. Bring back the glass bottle and recycling of them.

**WATER** better management of our water resources. Farmers need to share this resources better than what they are now. **Drip irrigation** should apply to cotton farms and other heavy users of water. Better ways to store water so it doesn't evaporate.

Firebreaks to be implemented around towns in vulnerable Rural Areas.

Properties in rural areas and in a high risk area near forests/ bush to have firebreaks around their homes.

The Purchased of more firefighting aircraft - NOT LEASED.

The RFS to be paid the same as the Army Reserve when and if called out to fight fires.

The ADF to be trained to help fight fires in extreme conditions.

Immediate response to fires to put flames out before they get to OUT OF CONTROL.

No control burns until further investigation to see if they are affective in the fight against fires.

Training of office staff at RFS head quarters at Coffs Harbour. We found the Fires Near Me app unreliable, incorrect and not regularly updated. When contacting the RFS in Coffs, information we received was very poor.

Future RFS volunteers to under go medical and fitness tests. Our local RFS has 5 women and I think 3 men the average age must be 60 plus.

Hefty fines for those who carelessly or purposely start fires during Fire Bands. Repeat

offenders to receive a term in prison.

Carbon, waste and land clearing have to be dealt with first to reduce the affects of droughts, pollution and the lack of water.

Hopefully some of these things I have listed will be considered and implement.

Darkwood Resident  
Christine Foott

Sent from my iPhone