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To: [Committee, Environment \(REPS\)](#)
Cc: an.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: vegetation and landmanagement C"tee
Date: Saturday, 18 January 2020 1:55:52 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Our wonderful local Member Mr Dan Tehan mentioned we could make a submission to your committee, so thank you for the opportunity and may I make the following observations.

I understand our PM may instigate a Royal Commission into land management regarding bush fire issues, also understand the Victorian Premier Mr Andrews has suggested an inquiry into same..

I understand if and when these take place, a lot of input will be made by "experts", my worry is some of these experts will be commonly green bureaucrats whom sit in front of computers, in air conditioned offices, relying on computer generated information . These people have a right to espouse their opinions of course, but hopefully this type of generated information will not be the only source from which information will be gathered.

The type of "expert" whom should also be considered, are the grass roots people on the ground, NP rangers, CFA rural volunteer fire fighters, farmers, and rural small town dwellers. These are the people with handed down wisdom, years of experience and knowhow.

The other thing I would like to mention, the last Victorian RC into cause/effect of bushfires, found a need to cold burn forested areas, as was done up until approx 30 years ago, 8% per year, a suggested norm, when final draft was written this was reduced to 5% per year, which still was not achieved. When any argument is put to Greens politicians, they insist cold burns are part of their manifesto. The thing they don't/won't debate, are the restrictions enforced when', how, what a cold burn can take place. In our local area, because of the strident restrictions in place, dew level, wind, heat, endangered spider, orchid found etc, the number of days a legal cold burn could take place was reduced to 3 days. Of course, sadly ,a winter/autumn cold burn can get away, but does not cause the dire destruction of a wild fire. We are also lumbered in some areas with Local Government placing unreasonable restrictions on property owners being able to create fire breaks around their properties, even in some instances not being able to remove a dead tree. Thirty years ago property owners either ploughed or burnt large tracks of land around their land, and roadside to help with fire control.

We live in a country with high volatile, oil infused eucalypt forests, with undergrowth flora commonly needing a burn to re generate, that is needs fire/smoke to stimulate new plants, that's how they have evolved, isn't it called evolution. Green supporters seem to forget this part of the equation . They seem to have the idea forested areas can re-generate back to some utopian pre European pristine untouched environment. They forget our indigenous population were the original cold burners of our forests. Mr Andrews has recently legislated to stop sustainable logging of our hard wood timbers, sustainable logging that has been managed by university trained foresters for over 100 years, and not only stopping the use of a renewable resource, but negating the fact of tracks made by loggers into our volatile bush environment, enabling, if needed access by fire trucks. Why and what was the need for such legislation.

When certain people, especially green zealots, argue these fires and manmade Climate Change are parcelled together, I would like them to explain what part of manmade CC caused all the great forests in both hemispheres to be buried during a glacial age, thousands and thousands of years ago, creating the coal we now mine all over the world. Planet Earth is a dynamic planet still evolving.

Australian forests rely on being burnt, the thing we must do is manage those fires, not allowing wild fire to decimate the country, we must manage our forests , control planning with sensible clearings around habited areas, controlled cold burns and the economics to allow such. Our volunteer fire fighters would certainly prefer to help with such, rather than the current “chase the horse after it has bolted” mentality.

Thankyou

Yours faithfully

Wendye Maddox

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