

**BUSHFIRE SUBMISSION  
SENATE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT 2009**

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**SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS**

***\*legislation and policy of Australia's natural resource management is being based on opinionated theory of an ever increasing 'out of touch' city centric bureaucracy without consultation of the generational experience of practitioners farmers, foresters, fishermen who have secured these natural assets maintaining their continuity and sustainability as their families generational vested interest on behalf of Australia.***

***When these experienced rural communities are ruthlessly removed from their field of expertise close down their farms, leases, forests, water ways, for tourism and political advantage then disaster ensues with their loss of generational knowledge and largely voluntary strategic committed care cherishing the forests, rain, water run off, rivers, fisheries!***

***Once well managed forests, high country runs, water sheds, rivers, estuaries, fisheries exposed to mere environmentalists commissioned science to concoct management approaches then native Australia becomes dysfunctional abandoned slums, collapsed ecologies deprived the informed dedicated communities. Through force of numbers vastly experienced farmers, foresters, fishermen are being denied political representation and are treated the environmental enemy not recognized as they are the environmental lifeline for our natural assets. Horror bushfire fuelled by 'man made fuel burdens' is just one public display of failure and destruction going on.***

***\* The quality and credibility of science used to set Government policy on land management is overtly biased towards an environmentalism agenda failing internationally to deliver all it claims. Delivering instead disaster of mass extinction and climate change said to be avoided by abstinence! Misguided spiritual dreams!***

***\*Government can do many things to alleviate what is a deepening predicament for national fire liability. This includes facets of reeducation, redirecting resources, repealing ill informed legislation, putting in place legislative support for impartial fearless accountability and transparency from the very manner bushfire debriefings are conducted at a local community brigade level and then acting on recommendations.***

***\*Government has a roll to play in addressing particulate pollution rain and snow fall inhibition across southern Australia. Remedial circuit breaking rain making. Forward addressing industrial rights to continue polluting without smoke management capture and particulate removal. The rights of environmental groups to elite access to public assets and set land management policy without expertise to offer. Who judges the scientific advice Government adopts? Why are rural communities actively excluded from the political processes they have to live or die by? Committee Ministerial advice needs an overhaul as a manner democratic processes are being subverted. Vegetation management of fire deformed and overgrown vegetation needs urgent immediate retrieval before more ruin death of people, animals, forests, fisheries, water supplies this fire season.***

***\*it may be of interest to this committee that I wrote a submission to Peter Garrett's office in March this year submitted a couple of days late due to the Victorian fires disrupting our affairs and his office refused to accept **my nominations of key threatening processes** requiring urgent attention to avoid continued environmental impact which were***

***Loss of strategic generational community knowledge  
Lack of vegetation management***

## **Harbouring unsuppressed dingo populations**

***After the events of Victoria, Canberra under threat and our high country leading to national water crisis I can only wonder at Peter Garrett's departments genuine concern for Australia's expanding endangered species lists, water supplies forest conservation when the public work voluntarily to alert them to what is agreed across a spectrum of affected community to be areas of serious concern. His departments refusal to accept my submission sends me a very clear message of endemic complacency and hope this submission is not a waste of my time and those who have contributed to my research motivated by a concern and sense of responsibility for this nation.***

### **a. the impact of bushfires on human and animal life, agricultural land, the environment, public and private assets and local communities;**

I would like to open my submission by saying that our family came to the Snowy to raise livestock and farm in 1834. We like other families took a pride in the water, forests, wildlife, wildflowers. Our forestry, livestock raising were our tools to continue environmental care community pride in achievement and almost as an incidental our meager livelihood. Slaved to protect beautiful Snowy from intense bushfire, rabbit plague, mitigate the impact of the Snowy Scheme long before environmental awareness was invented in general society. To see Snowy languish today burnt and broken is cruelty to her community.

One side of our family arrived in 1788 under barbaric and socially unacceptable circumstances of inequality, poverty, famine, cruelty and inhumanity. Our family, like many living in Australia today, know the consequences of poor and unjust governance and have a large contributory vested interest to make certain Australian Government stays on track. It is unknown when other family members migrated and becomes irrelevant except we were privileged to witness Australia as it was likely to have been managed traditionally by Aboriginal people for many thousands of years. Close, interdependent and receptive to our environment. Creating and maintaining open forests and grasslands, maintaining options for biodiversity and fire escape.

Our families adopted traditional management practices and **where allowed** by government edicts of the day, retained in good faith this established "ideal" fire tolerant, fire adapted open forest vegetation structure. Imperative in our volatile, flammable vegetation with antibiotic, toxic, highly residual litter that cannot be resolved in ways other than cool fire driving off the volatile toxins to recycle neutralizing nutrients to acid ancient soils. To deliberately accumulate this litter for commercial benefit is unconscionable. City water, carbon forest, value adding for newspaper pulp, tourism's convenience, cover for public services indolence and incompetence are no excuses to adopt total fire suppression on the pretext of soil conservation, water quality, environmentalism and conservation of biodiversity none of which are valid and long term sustainable reasons compared to the consequences of man made holocaust going off with atomic strength sterilizing sub soil indefinitely. There is then no biodiversity, rain or run off.

Current thinking suggests Aboriginal people have been present in Australia at least 60 000 years and overlapping with mega fauna management of the land by at least 30 000 years if not to as recent as 6000 years ago when 47 species died out including 30 species of browsers and 10 species of grazers adult weight from 50-3000 kilogram.

It has not been established whether mass extinction occurred because of over harvest of joey and eggs, fatigue from reduced food and water over the last glacial drought, sea levels rising too fast before rainfall returned or other reason or combined reasons. America lost 51 species, Africa lost 50 species coevolving with man. Peoples domestication of mega fauna sheep, goats, cattle, horses, donkey, camel, deer etc. may have saved other mega

fauna species world wide just as stockmen in Texas saved the bison from extinction an astute minority of society may have made up for the exploitation of the rest or more likely just bad luck in challenge from climate change as man fed, sheltered, protected their domestic animals!

There were apparently significant herds of Australian native mega fauna animals migrating across the landscape following the fortunes of rainfall and managing the vegetation against fire risk and impact. Gouging out shrubs eating roots and all, ring barking trees and saplings eating bog plants and keeping waterways fire free and clear flowing, thinning and shaping an open forest to deter fire from spreading and holding the heat to cook recovery mechanisms. Even fire in the hottest of summer drought conditions would have been a single fast moving pruning heat not a killer cooker.

Canopy species safe in tree hollows until the fire fronts radiant heat had passed. Other animals could evacuate to areas grazed or recently cool burned, retreat to burnt ground over a broken low flame front, hide in fallen logs, green creek beds, burrows. Biodiversity moves around fire and grazing a choice of habitat and plant succession. Fire timing random and self limited by fuel resolved as it arises not as today saved indefinitely uniformly over vast areas.

To see how native vegetation responds with thrift and vitality to livestock herd grazing there is little doubt Australian vegetation coevolved and is interdependent with large animal services. Grazing, browsing, spacing, trampling in preparation for biologically beneficial cool burns encouraging biochar formation. Biochar recently rediscovered as an unsurpassed soil conditioner especially essential to recycle nutrients at the surface of our ancient acid soils neutralized and revitalized by potash and char. Biochar revitalizing soil microflora essential plant fungi, nitrogen fixing bacteria, earth worms, retain nutrients and soil moisture. Plant litter detoxified and returned in a very available form for plant growth.

***Today's water catchment management policies are designed to choke down and collapse the ecology and inevitably incinerate the evidence of the deprivation that has gone on for decades killing species that assist in maintaining the water to city corporates.***

Man has evolved along side the migratory herds of Africa, Australia's sister land of Gondwana. The vegetation history and evolution shared 250 -90+ million years. Over the last 2 million year ice age, people have evolved observing the interactions interdependence of vegetation with processes of great antiquity, cool fire and grazing. Their survival as a species depended on it.

Ocean going green algae began to inhabit land about 430 million years ago, charcoal appeared in the fossil rocks by about 410 million years ago indicating the presence of fire resolving plant biomass. Plants grew to form wooded forest by 375 million years ago. Animals moved onto land by 360 million years and herds of 1 tonne dinosaur grazers were evident by 220 million years with some species growing to 100 tonnes and 45 meters long including those inhabiting Australia as vegetation evolved. "Fire suppression and denial of grazing services" is a very recent human impost for management of smoke nuisance, commercial forestry or water supply, legitimised by concepts of city centric environmentalism and very select commissioned science, over the last 40-60 years. Foolishly, greedily, exploitively for mere amenity and convenience, aloof tourism and lack of bothering with fundamental environmental understanding and traditional human obligation!

Aboriginal people were here long enough to understand the vital vegetation relationships that were critical to minimal fire impact to retain recoverability preserving seed, soil, forests, water ways, wildlife safe havens. They retained biodiversity by developing a pre-emptive cool fire regime maximizing ignition opportunity in cool weather that mimicked herd grazing effects on plant succession and nutrient recycling when mega fauna were finally lost.

Biota adjustment and mass extinction was avoided on the demise of mega fauna grazing browsing by replacement with pre-emptive cool fire dealing with flammable fuels as they arose. A high level of "housekeeping." Biodiversity survived and thrived on cool fire moving around the small patches of variable fire history seeking the ideal niche. The Australian stockmen (Multicultural decent) understands the complexity and simplicity of this fire risk mitigating system as stockmen trailed the migratory mega fauna herds in his care over areas becoming stock routes and blown aside as highways and thoroughfares largely to the exclusion of grazing migratory animals transferring seed and soil biota.

Our families restored mega fauna grazing 200 years ago and learnt local techniques of minimum impact pre-emptive cool burning, off the Aboriginal people that became our families, communities, workers, mentors. The Australian stockmen is very much a multicultural entity. A cultural integration that has led to a successful, continuous and sustainable land management practice for the most part. The exotic dingo very aggressive hunter dumped in Australia over the last 3500 years was also removed and suppressed to insignificant restoring native wildlife populations sufficient to contribute to vegetation management. Never before 1970 have dingo populations not been suppressed by man or encouraged top predator to become "actively harboured populations!" Never before the dingo being top predator, as man on the land has been for up to 60 000 years the **regulator of biodiversity persistence!** Bureaucrats and commissioned scientists now vie for top predator status denying the man on the land tools to suppress and manage either dingo impacts or fire risk.

Tim Flannery suggests wildlife as vegetation managers were more abundant 4000 years ago before the dingo arrived. Aboriginal were forced to adopt grass seed as a staple after the dingo went feral and reduced wildlife abundance. Aboriginal hunted and suppressed dingo populations minimising their impact on wildlife extinction. When traditional Aboriginal management of dingo suppression was lost wildlife extinction accelerated from 1840 leading to the loss of another 18 mammalian species at least and continuing where dingo have been given open unopposed slather. Wildlife locally, regionally, generally continue to disappear in dingo country with implications for vegetation thrift and fire risk.

Aboriginal pre-emptive cool fire compensated for loss of browsing grazing mega fauna and reduction in remaining wildlife abundance maintaining a thrifty supportive habitat and easy escape for wildlife from dingoes. Not the cluttered dying landscape found in our abandoned public land landscape of today fire and grazing deprived. Wildlife fatigued by hunger and low population densities ambushed by packs of dingo in thickets of scrub and weeds 'the dingo hunting tool' delivering no graze policies to city water catchment.

Wildlife were more abundant on off shore dingo free islands on settlement. Tim Flannery endorses many rural communities observations describing "national park are marsupial ghost towns" imposing policies of harbouring dingo to deliver no grazing, and combined with fire suppression policies wildlife is starved, butchered, inevitably burnt in intense uncontrollable infernos stoked by chronic neglect and deprivation of grazing and cool fire, natural or traditional ignitions to revitalize and ideally space vegetation to share sunlight, moisture nutrients in a fire safe distance. Fire and grazing deprivation are modern man made imposts of convenience ignorance, economic and philosophical greed.

The biota readjustment mass extinction avoided by Aboriginal, then stockmen has been delivered by environmentalism! A national disgrace and tragedy where a fire and grazing adapted interdependent vegetation has been deprived the processes of antiquity. Repeated warnings and pleas from bushmen to government and their hired 'science' belligerently ignored for decades with lethal results and more to follow if active steps are not taken to short circuit further mass extinction final destruction with no rehabilitation possible.

Rabbit plague, colonial ignorance government telling farmers to clear develop or forfeit land ownership or access was also devastating for vegetation in some areas. Recent edicts

of fire suppression and no graze, no log policies have been shortsighted unsustainable and destructive. No grazing, no cool fire, no logging policies have arguably caused more lasting devastation to biodiversity through unprecedented intense large area bushfire than the most exploitive grazing, forestry and frequent fire regimes. Edicts peddled perhaps in good faith by the ignorant making it illegal to adopt reason. Make criminals of law abiding people to carryout their tried and proven effective methods of fire risk and impact mitigation.

Environmental science in particular creeping into the halls of Government has scandalously misrepresented the people of the land for this small cliques own political and vocational agendas which have now become seriously lethal for the nations water supply, generated unforgivably mass extinction of biodiversity, trauma and loss to communities marginalized, vilified and demonized by so called 'science' dictating Government policy and public land maladministration. A science fiction.

Environmentalism has blindly mindlessly sort the worlds wild lands and "saved" them from indigenous fire, nomadic pastoralism, the axe and guns by passing community generational knowledge proven effective by its outcomes for stability of supportive habitat and regular water flows forsaken for a scientifically delivered spiritual suicide. Practical land and natural resource managers have been condescendingly classed as uneducated peasants to be scorned, ignored and excluded at meetings, public submissions, the electoral polls.

Environmentalism has infiltrated government through commissioned science and has delivered lethal policies exclusive of community consultation. There has been no accountability for abuse of public office or abuse of public assets, corrupt conduct, conflict of interest where government manages public land and assets losing objectivity impartiality. The "inmates running the jail!" Legislation leniency and double standard dealing with public verses private assets, perfection of "do nothing" management on excessive salaries claimed for "the good of the environment and biodiversity." Delivery, nothing further from the truth and not subject to public scrutiny. Free from audits of water, biodiversity damage and impact, peer reviewed by experienced land managers in the community. Anyone can stand up and become a self claimed Environmentalist without qualification or expertise to offer. Just buy a letterhead on the weekend to lobby for the week day job.

Public land set aside instead for a little bit of elite tourism feather nesting, propaganda, denial, brain washing kindergarten, claims of natural fire (holocaust stoked by man made fuel loads) and "climate change" more the consequence than the cause! Pour media spin and myth-information into the public arena!

Back packing bushwalkers, engineering a bureaucratic career doing their hobby and getting paid for it. Siphoning off public money from health, education, transport, rural services etc. to pay for expanding environmental industry grabbing public land to maltreat and burn. Grab farms and private forests rendered dingo infested hulks and fire hazards. Move the tourist enterprise and water catchment on after the inferno to more well managed land to destroy by unsustainable policy impost!

Failure of land management policy powering captive breeding programs, public and private donations, threatened species legislation used as an excuse to land grab more farmers land supporting species now disappeared off public land mal treated national park but used to be cared for forestry or farm land supportive of native species fed, watered, kept safe from foxes, dingoes, pigs, weeds or horror bushfire.

Environmentalism is a hoax and fraud, vote catching gimmick over done by successive governments extorted for gaining power because everyone likes and cares for the environment its just established rural communities know what has to be done to deliver that security. When you take generational rural community away only then do people wonder what they did to avoid chaos and destruction. Their forests, farms, fisheries have

been targeted and taken from them at a cost to the environment confiscated from them for real estate deals in subdivisions, dehabitation of city water catchment, what ever the ploy little to do with the long term national interest in securing natural assets and assets rural communities have nurtured and cared for voluntarily, for generations.

Fire intensity and area affected is proportional to the fuel accumulated. As dingoes have been actively harboured on the pretext of "ecological balance" or other good cause and are known to bring about destruction of livestock production and wildlife extinction they appear to have been used as the back up tool to bring about no grazing across our public reserves, city water catchments set up by Botanists. Scientists with no skills in fire or other aspects of holistic management. Animals apparently eat Botanist's botanical specimens and need eliminating from the scientific experiment. Fire is considered bad in all forms for tourism, city carbon off sets and soil cover of 10+ tonne per hectare flammable dead plant material said required for quality water delivery, maximal profits minimal water treatment expenditure. Government water providers are happy with this short term, short sighted profitable but long term unsustainable lethal practice.

The impacts of fire suppression no grazing, no logging policies is horrific for the soil, vegetation, water supplies, biodiversity plant and animal. 100s of millions of species are volatilised over vast areas similarly deprived fuel resolution for decades. Unnatural build ups made possible only with effective fire suppression. Bigger more efficient equipment and public expenditure on fire fighting has maximised fuel 20-250 tonne per hectare on the ground. Built a rambling dense flammable scrub and jam packed as many hungry spindly trees into the available space. Any fire in such an "over grown" vegetation holds the heat and cooks the forest sub soil to canopy. Boils the trees, burns into the roots blows the soil, 1000s of years worth of biochar accumulations seed, essential soil biota and nutrients away. Expertly and scientifically done!

When a drought summer comes along lightening is likely a high success rate to produce multiple ignitions when piles of fuel is waiting under every tree. "Poor house keeping" being Government policy! To retain a pleasant vista at the tourist resort! How awfully affluent and short sighted exploitive even! City peoples amenity, convenience, profitability, comes before long term environmental safety and security. Practical experienced land and natural resource managers have been deliberately excluded from the committees and political policy making process, why? They might point out the folly and failure internationally of spiritual environmentalism? The essential place of indigenous man in his environment? Destroy the career creation scheme on the public purse?

The fires Canberra, Melbourne 2003-9 have killed in the order of 200 people made about 10 000 homeless and many burnt out in 2003 have still not rebuilt. Many people are suffering post traumatic syndrome a type of debilitating chronic fatigue brought on by trauma which may include injury and or loss of land, livestock or pet animals, family, home, loss of identity in their changed landscape. Loss of livelihood and lifes work and achievement. Photos, records, memorabilia, family heirlooms, farm buildings fences raised. A type of war trauma and fear of close death in the most barbaric circumstance from Government policy imposts. The stress of waiting for fire for weeks as it blows about uncontrollably. Fire fighters trapped and helpless witnessing the cruelty to animals forcibly abandoned. Volunteers denied an objective, impartial, receptive hearing to deal with fire risk for decades then their worst fears vindicated. Obstructionists never brought to account. More orchestrated public hearings covering of backsides denial and chronic ignorance rumours and misinformation. Lack of political leadership.

An estimated 400 million trees have been boiled in their own sap over 4 million hectares. Some trees could be up to 400 years or more old. 600+ million or more birds, lizards, mammals, frogs, with unknown insects, soil biota incinerated most thoroughly over vast areas rendered deathly silent and sterile even years later. Rocks exposed and exploded in the atomic heat. If the general public removed a lizard from a national park they could be fined \$1000-\$2000 may be more but if government policies destroy 4 million hectare or more burnt to sub soil there is no criminal obligation, just declared "natural," just "climate

change"??? Dingo packs and inferno, butcher, burn and starve farm animals and farm families that's natural? Not deemed theft of livelihood!

One man related to me a story where he had been a senior incident controller working day and night for weeks sleep deprived and chronically stressed in war zone circumstances striving for survival. His family were fire fighters and trying to maintain the family home on their own. The pressure he felt very acutely. Central office of little help other than taking his resources for their priorities. Rural communities largely expendable.

The red devil had finally burnt it self out. He was on his horse riding through the unimaginable devastation when he came upon about a hectare of dead birds every colour and species covered the ground in front of where his horse stopped abruptly. He was weeping as he related the story. The bush is still silent. He continued looking to see if his cattle had escaped wondering what he would find.

Another said "we lost our house and we nearly lost our son sheltered behind the tire of the grader as the inferno engulfed the region. My brother committed suicide after a fire when we were kids. He never got over it. "The government agent came to hear our concerns and did not take one note during the meeting. How concerned he was!"

"We lost 400 sheep in the fire some died others we had to destroy, survived the impossible and then we killed them out of kindness for their injuries, then the wild dogs came in and killed another 600 when our dog fences were destroyed. Shade trees on isolated hills just exploded into flames. The air was super heated. The fire moved 80 kilometers in 3 hours. The air was on fire. For years we'd be vilified for trying to cool burn. Grazing outlawed. Clearing outlawed, forestry outlawed. We were set up to burn. The local politically upward "greens" would vilify us in the local paper. They spent the fire down in the beachside motel on the taxpayer while we tried to survive what we could. Governments gained power on the negotiated extorted green vote. Thugs vandalizing forestry machinery were declared national heroes and political candidates. There is no accounting for the fuel they generated in abandoned forests. Blame a fictitious arsonist! Who built and abandoned the fuel loads?"

"Our fire fighting effort was confiscated to save the ski resorts or Melbourne water. They left us mostly women and children with a garden hose and box trailer! There were 92 bulldozers working on Melbourne water fire break and they put in a 100 000 hectare panic back burn to full the Gippsland lakes with sub soil and toxic algal bloom. These were the forest the greens selflessly saved for a political stunt. Confiscated to cremate."

"We fought in the bush until it was no good to stay. We got back to the village and they had taken the fire hose fittings as if intended to let us burn. No settlements in the city water catchments. Scorched earth and building boom makes you wonder about terrorism. The perfect crime."

## ENVIRONMENTALISMS NO GRAZING, NO LOGGING, NO COOL FIRE DELIVERS CLIMATE CHANGE, MASS EXTINCTION, WATER & FOOD CRISIS



"Arson is always claimed. Is it the bloke lighting the match or the government agencies letting the fuel build up that no ones allowed to deal with that's the arsonist?"

"Is 'climate change' the cause or just the consequence of chronic neglect destroying our forests, soil, rural communities?"

The greens saved 360 000 hectares of Alpine Ash forest from foresters and burnt it 2003-9. Some of that forest repeated burn the regrowth. The forest now dead. About \$360B in dressed timber. Gone. The once regenerative forest cost recovery conservation gone burnt in 1987 then 2003 regrowth, burnt in 2003 then 2006 regrowth! **They claim cool fire, forestry, grazing exploitive and destructive well we know now what professional expert destruction and exploitation looks like.** Plantation pine 20 000 hectares another \$200M, Canberra water \$300M for treatment works, buying irrigators water, pipes and diversions. \$650M in building insurance. 1000s of kilometers of fencing and infrastructure. What about the on going sheet erosion, reservoir siltation, soil conservation policies delivered? People have lost their jobs or livelihoods indefinitely. The ACT forestry has been shut down and the local greens rewarded by jobs planting natives and fire rehabilitation programs. Laundering public money for tree planting junkets for their friends. The fire delivered social engineering. Was it deliberate? Blatant kickbacks for votes at what price? People are angry at the corruption and cover up.





Research records of Stromolo observatory and ACT forestry were destroyed. How do you value that? Soil was bunt off farms and bushland. How do you value that? Instead of boiling the water, they boil the catchment!

Farmers have had their livestock killed by the fire, pastures, soil burnt, drought and lack of water taken, stolen for fire fighting forcing sale of their nucleus breeding animals. Loss of genetics which is an issue for the industry and future food supplies security. The high country is a livestock nursery. National park water sources were rendered inaccessible or destroyed to restore wilderness values! Farmers have been abused for **volunteer** fire fighting for weeks months trying to fight the unfightable, risking their lives. Their farms leveled as the battleground to stop the red devil.

Token drought aid and fire relief, and worse, no view to the future that policies will change the repeated chaotic fire that will arise out of fire deformed regrowth. No rain or run off, off such vegetation indefinitely. Canopy burn produces rain shadow and rampant regrowth denied thinning stops run off. Climate change delivered by the department of climate change above reproach as they claim they act for the good of the environment and there is no public audit whether water security or biodiversity retention is delivered long term! There is no recourse for rural community impact or public misrepresentation of their activities as farmers, foresters or fishermen. Vilification, bullying, harassment slander is unacceptable declared illegal in the workplace but still fair game for a community sector rural minority to be slandered in the public press by members of their own Government under the week end letterhead of an "environmental movement."

Farmers have had their land taken for national park to breed dingoes and produce inferno. They have lost in all directions as their service towns die on their feet, no employment futures for their children sent off to town to receive services of education, health care.

There is no hope, no long term security to retain the best farming families in the world. Is this social engineering the taking over of Australia the bloodless war?

This is how the most productive innovative sector is humbled and destroyed for their land? For what to replace it? Some unproven foreign ideology? Political fashion statement where minority rural groups are locked out of the political process. Ministerial committees, committee stacking, late night legislation, corrupt conduct, orchestration, manipulation against the national good amounts to treason.

Law abiding people made criminals to save the environment by tried and proven effective methods declared remotely, exploitive, unfashionable, inconvenient by thuggery elements of society! They have the committee stacked so no substantiation required for the internal unpeer reviewed agenda driven commissioned science over ruling community evidence and adopted practice. Consolidation of stupidity pseudo scientifically.

Whealan told CoAG after Garry Nairns 2003 'Nation Charred' report he wanted more research money to investigate biodiversities response to fire hazard reduction. What has terrestrial biodiversity done for 430 million years before Whealan arrived with his hand out for public research funds to relearn where the roots of humanity has arisen? Man has observed fire in his environment for over 2 million years and has preemptively managed fire for over 250 000 years until environmentalism came to obstruct on the basis of false, unsubstantiated and ignorant claims.

David Lindenmayer Fenner School ANU told the Victorian Environment and Natural Resources Committee parliament enquiry June 2008 he had read 10 000 reports and none had evidence forestry activities mitigated fire risk. Practitioners find it too obvious, water runs down hill! to waste research funds on stating the generally accepted management of structure validated and quantified by CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products Vesta project. Curiously Peter Garretts office closed down this CSIRO division recently beheading this knowledge. Government told by Lindenmayer if they provided research funding he could investigate fire risk management value of forestry! Why does the public have to pay to educate this man the response of vegetation to degrees of disturbance? Cool fire intense landscape changing fire, clear fell verses selective log and strategic thin and structure? Gee wizz science!

The critical structural parameters to protect soil, vegetation, biodiversity, community assets are well known by the established communities being deliberately targeted to be dislocated as "exploitive" farmers, foresters or fishermen! Are we rewarding votes with job creation reinventing the wheel at the long term cost of our nations environment to create a niche for hired science?



Dick Williams was pulled in from the Tropics killing water buffalo in Kakadu to defend CSIRO Plant Industry's long history of advice on fire suppression and no grazing in the high country. Alec Costin's brainchild with Melbourne Uni's Turner, Fawcett among others delivering European Environmentalism through their commissioned scientific careers destroying mindlessly indigenous fire and nomadic pastoralism to protect they think their exclusive botanical specimens and public paid scientific summer junkets in the high country resorts.

Dick Williams feebly told the same Victorian parliamentary enquiry Lindenmayer addressed, he had **counted 2000 twig diameters as indicators of fire intensity** post 2003 harvested off grazed and ungrazed runs and told parliament and the Australian people he found "no evidence grazing stops blazing!" Contradicting fossil evidence going back 400 million years! More grazing biodiversity less fossil charcoal! Sheep known to be better browsers scrub controllers were pulled off the high country by Costin, Fawcett and Turner in 1947-1969 Soil Conservation NSW Victoria, Academy of Science, CSIRO. Fire banished from stockmens tool kit 1944 to 1986 as a scrub manager. Dick Williams and friends in collaboration with Costin in the 1980s "established" surgically modified low country cattle did not eat scrub. A predictable unrepeated, unpeer reviewed outcome! More clandestine internal departmental reports not publicly available for scrutiny masqueraded as legitimate science.

Cattlemen knew their high country adapted cattle taught their calves to eat scrub when the sugars rose at certain times of the year when it was unpleasant for scientists to be on the high plains researching. They knew cool fire enhanced scrub palatability for cattle, sheep, wallaby, possum, broad tooth rats before the dingo butchered their populations. Dingo apparently mysteriously deliberately reintroduced and farmers subsequently denied effective dingo control measures targeted species specific poisoning and trapping efforts carried out by well resourced professional staff. Farmers have been obstructed to protect

wildlife and their livestock from dingo massacres by more legislation and regulation lacking validity to sweeping claims of environmental impact and inhumanity.

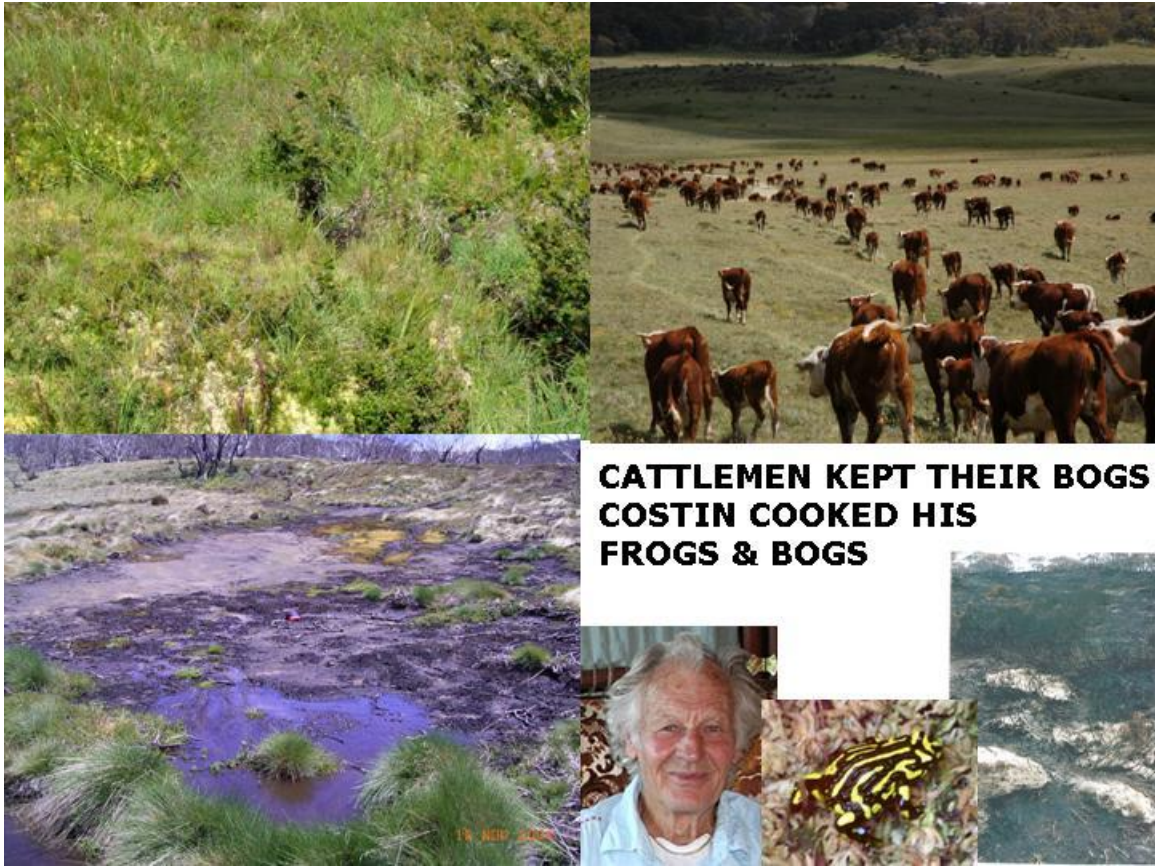
In 1991 Victorian cattlemen's stocking rate was reduced 60% by experts in the city boffin boxes with no expertise in rangeland grazing management systems to do so. No right of appeal or challenge to shonky science fiction. Victorian cattlemen and high country management had to conform to what madness was adopted in NSW and ACT 1969! Destroy the evidence there were superior management regimes to secure water, biodiversity, community safety.

Bushfire CRC independent scientists were refused research licenses to go in and compare grazing and destocked runs after the 2003 holocaust. Why? Remaining runs were destocked and mysteriously burnt in benign weather when fire jumped established fire breaks in 2006. How come, was there evidence to hide? Conform to stupidity and disaster. Protect the lucrative business of futile fire fighting, endangered species captive breeding programs, bog rehabilitation transferring bog plants in the cover of night from grazed green protected runs to Fawcett's fenced in plots incinerated as predicted. Lucrative publicly funded fire rehabilitation projects given to scientists offering flawed advice! Captive breeding programs and bog restoration!

**DICK WILLIAMS CSIRO COLLECTED 2000 TWIGS & COULDN'T FIND THE EVIDENCE GRAZING REDUCES BLAZING! ON BOGONG HIGH PLAINS**

**DICK ALSO CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY GROUND FAUNA HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM KAKADU SINCE WATER BUFFALO REMOVED? FLAMMING OBVIOUS DICK! GRAZING REDUCES BLAZING**





**CATTLEMEN KEPT THEIR BOGS  
COSTIN COOKED HIS  
FROGS & BOGS**

*The impact of bushfires on human and animal life, agricultural land, the environment, public and private assets and local communities is **profound on going and in many cases incalculable**. Bushmen predict this was "the big fire" changing the landscape. If active measures continue to be obstructed to gentle back the ideal open forest, mature vegetation then repeated quick succession fire will be the regime in the over growth regrowth of limited fire hardy species. Continual erosion of biodiversity, soil, water yield, social economic and environmental values. Will bureaucracy be too late to react? Too bloody minded to acknowledge error of their political vested interest or in fact is it a calculated process of national demise?*

***b. factors contributing to the causes and risks of bushfires across Australia, including natural resource management policies, hazard reduction and agricultural land maintenance;***

There is no doubt in the minds of the rural people the high country fires were needless and man made. **Policies imposed** on public land by environmentalism fire suppression, no graze backed by harbouring dingo exterminators, no clearing selective logging vegetation management has been the root cause of the severe unstoppable bushfires across the high country Canberra, Melbourne 2003-9. Experienced land managers and fire fighters read off the same page on this issue. "Criminal neglect and negligence" has been used to describe the situation. Private enterprise would be locked up if they delivered knowingly such destruction.



***We here in rural Australia write yet another submission to Government and wonder if anyone is listening, willing to listen!?***

Rural Australia has endured the **paid pantomime of endless enquiries**. Cover up and deceit. Abuse of government office. If the Labour Green governments and party faithful in bureaucracy ACT NSW Victoria in 2003 had not arrogantly **boycotted** Garry Nairns Enquiry Nation Charred 2003 perhaps there would **not** be 200 dead people and 10 000 homeless this February! Killed with atomic force from accumulated fuel to 1963 or more! The Canberra Cottor catchment has been closed to grazing since 1911 and cool fire since 1975-84. Accumulated conserved fuel available to burn down entire towns and city suburbs is a wonder more people did not perish. It was a close call the fire did not explode the chlorine tanks at Canberra's sewage works and poison all north Canberra in 2003.

Many huge forest of the south east are being similarly set to explode and kill. See Bob Debus's Alps to Atherton \$6M proposal to buy his way into Federal politics. **The mindless land grab continues** for political chips! Robust adult bipartisan discussions had to be had after the 2003 fiasco vindicating decades of repeated warnings from rural communities belligerently ignored. Will they in future???

**ALPS TO ATHERTON  
2800km BUSHFIRE ZONE**

**\$6M BRIBE TO BLUE MTS  
VOTERS TO MOVE DEBUS  
NSW TO FEDERAL PARLIAMENT**

**DUNPHY FUND \$1+M PA TO BUY UP  
DINGO COUNTRY & DEFENDED  
ROCK WALLABY COLONIES ON  
NSW FARMS**

**EXTERMINATE WILDLIFE WITH DINGO  
BUTCHER BRUMBIES BY SNIPERS  
DESTROY GRAZING LOGGING COOL FIRE**

**DESTROY SHEEP GOAT CATTLE RAISING  
CLOSE TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTES**

**BAN AERIAL BAITING 1080 & TRAPS**

**CONFISCATE FORESTS  
FOR CREMATION**



Mindlessly the Murray river Barmah forest, properties in W NSW are being prepared for the same fate as Peter Garret says "grazing is against conservation goals" yet the land he bought supports many native species in a well established grazing regime, fire risk minimal to managed. What is a city based lawyers **expertise in land management**? Can a farmer, forester or fisherman go to Macquarie street and hang up his shingle and become a lawyer with such ease as Peter Garrett becomes a land management expert? The man who sings for fire victims is wanting 125 million hectares of Australia's total of 770M hectare to furnish his political career? Already the endangered listing of species within his office is growing by the day and he has not made the connection his environmental policies are lethal. The people he is dislocating and disenfranchising are the only ones that really understand their environment and are being denied the political will and support to function. Shelter natural Australia against further colonial stupidity of Government extremist and fashionable whim.

**Returns to rural Australia reflective of production costs are chronically denied** on food, fiber, timber, water, land stewardship. Farmers, foresters, fishermen families are declared public and environmental enemy subject to media vilification and demonized in front of kindergarten are Denied basic health, education, transport services, money siphoned off into tree planting programs laundering public money for vote catching job creation as rural communities are denied political input, extorted and exported. Sold out on a free trade market against subsidised competition.

Food quality assurance skewed against competition from imports of lesser quality assurance. There is an official rort of rural Australia and this is manifest in how rural people can continue to survive and protect their farms, forests, fisheries from the aggressive city centric pressures of demand for resources without a rural footprint subsidising city squander and growth. Rural communities used as scapegoats for the

ensuing chaos and anarchy of chronically poor, dysfunctional and ignorant governance. Solutions blocked, public resources siphoned off pork barreling for votes.

Yes these are the issues that produce massive bushfire a very public symptom of **chronic neglect of rural Australia and denial of a political voice**. What is less obvious is the mental stress, suicide, lack of technology transfer community knowledge to our children on proven effective environmental stewardship. It might be smart to destroy viability of farms and community continuity for a short real estate boom on abandoned hobby blocks, lifestyle existence, but once the legacy of past management dissolves into slums, what then. No one knows local fire behaviour. No hazard reduction is in place, not enough red trucks to go around. Elvis is off protecting the top end of towns assets. There is no water to be had anyway out gunned by fuel conserved for decades since the real farmers were displaced as the uneducated peasant class. Community knowledge beheaded.

**Fire suppression, no grazing, no dingo control, no logging, no vegetation management ARE key threatening processes and have failed world wide to deliver environmental security.**



**Environmentalism and its select jaundiced science has delivered disaster** depriving the worlds forests of human replacement of mega fauna by cool fire and domestic animal grazing. Our forest harvesters are our mechanical dinosaurs. Clear fell verses selective logging is what we decide is best practice. Not stop the lot and deprive everything while ever it lasts. A feeble attempt at creating wilderness tourism, temporary before the holocaust! Move on with a new land grab until it burns. Subsistence shifting tourism for the pretty people moving on from the wave of destruction their neglect and negligence delivers. The very reason areas are beauty spots, have their lifeblood torn



away. The very people that created it, nurtured it, progressed it, committed generations of care to it cut off and sold out!



**The factors contributing to the causes and risks of bushfires across Australia are lack of vegetation management and inhibitory legislation** now in place to universally deliver denial of management to native and man made landscapes. Private land conforming to public land stupidity to remove evidence of viable alternatives to landscape and climate changing bushfires.

Fire risk, smoke nuisance, anti grazing, anti logging, anti clearing concepts blanket adoption as the best practice for environmental preservation by legislation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Legislative restrictions are the root cause for abandoning as vulnerable natural resources. Impost of impossible management policies.

**Hazard reduction can come in many forms. Cool fire timely and professionally applied to mitigate risk and impact. There is no ideal time. Randomly timed is risk management.** Small areas at any one time allows biodiversity to move and choose. Frequently as required by fuel build up, cool fire is very reliable, cost effective, biologically beneficial and manageable. If it is left too infrequent then it becomes more unreliable more unpredictable more costly in fire fighting industry time and resources. Most destructive, greater area involved greater impact.

There were false and misrepresentative claims, job creation schemes underlying fire was "over used" in early settlement. Descent creates jobs! Research! As vegetation was stimulated revitalized by European methods of livestock returning etc. emergence from the mini ice age

1400-1800s plant growth recovered and fire applied as required to retain the forests structure Aboriginal fire and natural fire the environment dictated to good effect.

Did Europeans "over burn" were is the proof? Historical reports of personal opinion of Government staff legitimizing their jobs? These opinions then going unchallenged within the halls of bureaucracy??? Brought out again and again as proof undisputable evidence? Boffins invariably recent migrants judging Australia's vegetation needs on that of Europe and environmentalisms yardstick. No idea of our vegetations toxic flammable litter the only way to detoxify it and recycle it is cool fire.

"Over burning" said to be achieved by settlers would not hold a candle to what has been achieved by **"OVER BURNING"** created by environmentalisms policies of fire suppression, harbouring dingoes to destroy grazing, locking up forests for decades to drown in their own refuse. Bigger and better fire suppression equipment employed to build bigger and better fuel supplies, thousands of times beyond what nature would ever contemplate. Our Australian wildernesses are man made concoctions of foreign dogma! Collapsing ecologies on a suicide mission!





Agricultural land maintenance is no longer privy of the farmer. Legislation has locked up his land for city carbon off sets and smoke management. City has taken control of his rural fire brigades for their own industry and vested interest in power and control. The heavy machinery for forestry made redundant. Skills of use in mountainous terrain being lost. No clearing of fire tracks or fence lines thinning flammable undergrowth. Goats are a key threatening process and declared enemy number one in smokeless woody weed control as are camel, sheep, cattle, horses, water buffalo, deer, excess kangaroo targeted for extermination by sniper bullets at the demand of city greens. Agencies can burn down farmers fences chase their stock into national park with packs of dingo and order them shot as "ferals."

The sheep production is presently being mercilessly pursued by dingoes and animal welfare extremists wearing plastic cloths, eating imported foods, paid on the mineral boom. People making no connecting with their rack of lamb for an executive lunch with the sheep producers denied effective dingo control agents of funds, traps, 1080, drought aid, access to traveling stock routes or drought relief grazing in the high rainfall high country to spell their home pastures. Camel, donkey and Brumbies mercilessly and mindlessly gunned down and intended for extermination from sniper blood ships. Packs of dingo turned in on sheep and goat flocks. Tear udders out of dairy and beef cows. These once our trusted fire fighters now hated by a vocal political process!

Foresters have been gutted as someone wanted their well managed forests for city carbon off set, abandoned lifestyle blocks, elite exclusive tourist destination, debilitated wilderness or city water catchment. Junket on the public purse. Foresters heavy machinery sabotaged with Government complicit if not sanctioned anarchy and lawlessness rewarded by locking up the forest at an election. Bob Carr took 65 000 hectare of native plantation for national park. What a good message to send landholders? Bob also locked up the ancient Pilliga to incinerate complete with koala colonies cherished by dislocated foresters. Official insanity! Prelude to bushfire disaster no one is criminally held to account for, for fuel knowingly accumulated! Forestry and farming often very closely integrated as farmers used their renewable wood lots

for superannuation, drought aid or other part of integrated land use stolen by legislative stealth violating property and freehold rights.

Herbicides are polluting and prohibitory expensive as vegetation managers. The environmentalists edicts of trash farming have run down our cropping soils, toxic with chemical herbicides, fertilizers killing off soil biota just wanting instead biochar and grazing!

Someone in a city high rise has more influence on farm land management now than the farmer. Their opinion more valid and apparently more informed. Taken as far more educated than generations of farmers declared set in their ways to see the new future. Management by media and political process by propaganda.

The wilderness society condoned to buzz farms putting stock over fences OK to make a statement of harassment, vilification, illegal flying, industrial sabotage to a community minority. In a world were discrimination is not allowed in the workplace! Thuggery and bullying condoned within Government ranks by the politically upward as selfless behaviour "for the good of the environment." If farmers went to the cities and bulldozed houses and high rise into the lake or harbour to restore wilderness values make an artificial reef for fish how would they be received? Selfless political heroes? Or anarchists?

**Public land is not managed to minimise bushfire risk to minimal, insignificant and the same imposts are being put on Agricultural land to conform** via legislation, intimidation, coercion and vilification of the rural minority denied effective political voice and influence on policy! Hazard reduction tools taken away as is the autonomy of their rural fire brigades bogged down with bureaucracy imposed by unaffected power playing people.



**THESE PEOPLE PUT THEIR CUSHY JOBS AHEAD OF THE LIVES OF OUR BIODIVERSITY & 200 PEOPLE, 10 000 HOMELESS PEOPLE, 4 MILLION HECTARES OF BURNT FOREST & NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY. 400M TREES, 600+M WILDLIFE INCINERATED**

**c. the extent and effectiveness of bushfire mitigation strategies and practices, including application of resources for agricultural land, national parks, state forests, other Crown land, open space areas adjacent to development and private property and the impact of hazard reduction strategies;**

Fire mitigation strategies are becoming more theoretical. \$M Fire plans feeding silver fish and never acted upon because of more legislative restrictions what can be done. No one can poison or trap a dingo because someone claimed it was cruel. No one can use livestock to hazard reduce. Vegetarians say livestock raising is exploitive! What happened to symbiosis?

Threatened species might be threatened if cool fire or grazing used and definitely not selective logging or clearing to destroy biodiversity which loves disturbance before environmentalism created their own industry of species extinction. Our best national parks have a grazing, cool fire, logging history. How come? **Rescued or lifeline cut off!**

Scientists are paid by bureaucrats not farmers, foresters or fishermen, just their tax and product levy money used for public salaries and allowances. Bureaucrats then spin the science to massage into the agenda. Nothing much to do with national interest or genuine sustainable environmental security. The threatened species that fell out of the scientists pocket when they came to survey is good reason to continue indecision and doing nothing until the grim reaper bushfire comes by accident! "Nothing could have been done" "no one could have predicted it!" "Climate change" "Australia has bushfires!" but mass extinction was avoided until recent times by vegetation and fire risk management! "The fire occurred in a remote area devoid of assets." Once it was accessible conservation icon, pristine water catchment!

Fire access tracks cannot be maintained in case city water is contaminated with silty run off! Fire retardant not use in case of city water contamination. Livestock and wildlife pooh in the water, soot from cool fire get in the water! What about the biodiversity! Around it goes. Has any one got money for fire track maintenance and hazard reduction? Sorry the budget money was all used up in the fire planning process!!!! Motels, meaningless meetings and meals! 'Wordsmithing' to avoid liability!

Crown lands, national park are famous for not budgeting for fire, pests, weeds. The very basic land management obligations ignored or subject to a mere under funded "good neighbour policy." Crown lease, national park replaced, had very defined obligations and minimum policed standards of operation for water way, fuel and fire risk management, weeds, pests, under storey management, buildings, soil disturbance etc. To waver from these obligations was to lose the lease or incur a fine. What protection does public land have today compared to laws relating to comparable private land and water ways?

Computer software to model fire, pests or fuel management, laminated maps, colour coordinated fire pumps with vehicles, yes there is plenty of money spent here. University theorists cannot kick their habit. They have the excuse colong foundation, Australian conservation foundation, wilderness society, dingo preservation society, world wildlife fund for nature, green peace, total environment, national parks associations, tennis clubs have objected to grazing, logging, dingo control, fire tracks, cool fire. It is fine by them if it all burns by accident including the people that live there. There is no one held to account for the consequences. Nothing will change while this remains so. Just more and more of Australia will be incinerated more mass extinction, water crisis, forests destroyed, fisheries filled with algal blooms sediment, rivers and dams dry up. **Conveniently there is no legislation that genuinely protects public and public assets.**

State and private forests are watched from fire towers and insured.



Agricultural land is expected to be insured and volunteer fire fighters expected to deal with the folly they had little say in its creation. Farmers mostly try to be prepared with water, access, fuel mitigation, monitoring for rapid response, avoid potential of using equipment in dry crops pasture and forest. They are the most fire aware in the community usually however there are more rural residents not of that background and are walking fire hazards, dangerous even in local brigades through lack of experience and common sense. Experience can be gained. Common sense is becoming less common as children are removed from farms lacking in local services. Technology and skills transfer is therefore becoming less subtle.

Open space and closer settled areas wont use grazing because of wandering city dogs or lack of fencing, mowing, slashing is becoming more expensive and is of questionable merit in creating fire brands and ember attack. City water is becoming such that green sports ovals, lawns, gardens of ever greens are declared vermin! Natives and pine bark mulch stacked around the gas mains is fashionable next to the pine forest with piles of needles on the ground or the weedy open space for the dog to run. The big red truck driven by Santa Clause or Elvis will come and rescue us from our folly and complacency in the leafy suburbs among the gum trees full of white ants and volatile oils. Dripping candle bark onto the ground and compliant with local Government tree preservation programs.

No one in town can burn their autumn leaves or prunings for smoke nuisance. What about suburban biochar machines to harvest smoke? There should be one on every motor vehicle, factory, smelter, paper pulp mill, coal fired electricity generator to restore rainfall to the south east of Australia from the grips of industrial climate change. Local not global!

If Australia ever gets a carbon trading scheme grazing, cool fire, forestry needs to be put in as mandatory base line emissions for environmental security of our vegetation and city emissions should then be budgeted on the difference. City mulch gardens and greenie wetlands should also be billed for fugitive emissions volatiles of composting and bacterial activity including methane and various nitrous oxides potent greenhouse gasses mulch and swamps produce. As city carbon off sets there is an onus for governments to see to putting rain water tanks on architecturally sound houses, solar power hot water, develop thermal energy, restore railways. To have accidental fire declared carbon neutral, and hazard reduction burning, grazing, forestry a debt is a money grubbing city centric disgrace while the traffic jams grow, imported electrical gadgetry market blossoms in more cement and smelted metal homes requiring increasing air conditioning services, telecommuting remains a myth, unstandardised railways continue to rot beside freeways between capital cities and urban sprawl making no attempt to decentralize for financial gain of the top end of town generating market forces!

Impact of hazard reduction strategies is very dependent on their interpretation and the level of professionalism as to how they are applied. A good bushman can burn out a piece of grossly neglected scrub with sympathy and minimal impact by the way he or she sets the fire, the prevailing conditions chosen. To be good burners throw away the diary. You are working with nature using art and science. Some people will live 15 lifetimes and wont become a university medalist. Good bushmen are born with the right intellect to integrate masses of information and make accurate deductions on his physical environment. Experience just improves them! To take their country will not make you a good bushman! To take a painters brushes will not make you an artist. A professional cool burn can then have its life extended by strategic mixed species grazing, selective logging or other means maintaining fire safety, biodiversity, water yield, community safety, vegetation and soil productivity.

In the days when the bush was in a good state of "house keeping" bare footed kids could safely be set lose with matches to learn about fire behaviour and sympathetic hazard reduction and biochar production after the mobs of sheep, cattle and horses, wildlife have been through mulching the litter, twigs, rotten logs, compressed the fuel to char easily, while pruned and spaced the scrub. Compress the fuel for a superficial biological beneficial cool burn.

A cool fire would crackle through the surface layer with a broken front to let lizards insects etc. escape, keeping humus, soil biota safe to receive biochar and potash application. The stock would have kicked the candle bark off the trees buttress roots. Sound trees fire safe. The more frequent the fire the smaller area, less intense biologically beneficial, fuel at less than 2 tonne per hectare. Live ground cover, shrub pruned, height and density to protect the soil, trees, grasses, seed, wildlife. Green vegetation not likely to burn at low ignition points. "No fuel, no fire" means no active fuel or tinder not a cement path as the cynics project! A cool burn in cool weather that has flames out into the canopy is not a cool burn either.

A mosaic burn is not canopy burnt here subsoil and broken rocks compared to a night burn of singeing the canopy so the trees aren't excited and forced to sucker prolifically aggressively from under bark buds or underground lignotubers. Seed or annual plants rotted in the preceding decades or incinerated off, no longer viable competitors for ground cover reducing woody shrub seedling density. Volatile hostile regrowth. Mosaic burn is where broken fire front meanders around green tussocks. A grassy wallaby or brumby track is an effective fire break. Not the 92 bulldozers working around Melbourne water to take 5 kilometers of hillside back to mineral earth and set 100 000 hectare panic back burn with the wind in the middle of a drought summer! Lunacy and terrorist behaviour!

Bushmen use cool fire, clearing, forestry, mixed species grazing, dingo control for hazard reduction to secure forests, water supplies, homes, fisheries. If this was identified by Government and restored to our native and man made lands then the bushfire risk, damage, expenditure, would disappear to insignificant again. Authorities in their ivory

towers need to trust hazard reduction land management artisans exist in rural Australia educated outside formal tertiary institutions that are compounding erroneous theories in their remoteness from reality and community accountability. There are astute professionals at their jobs educated from the shop floor.

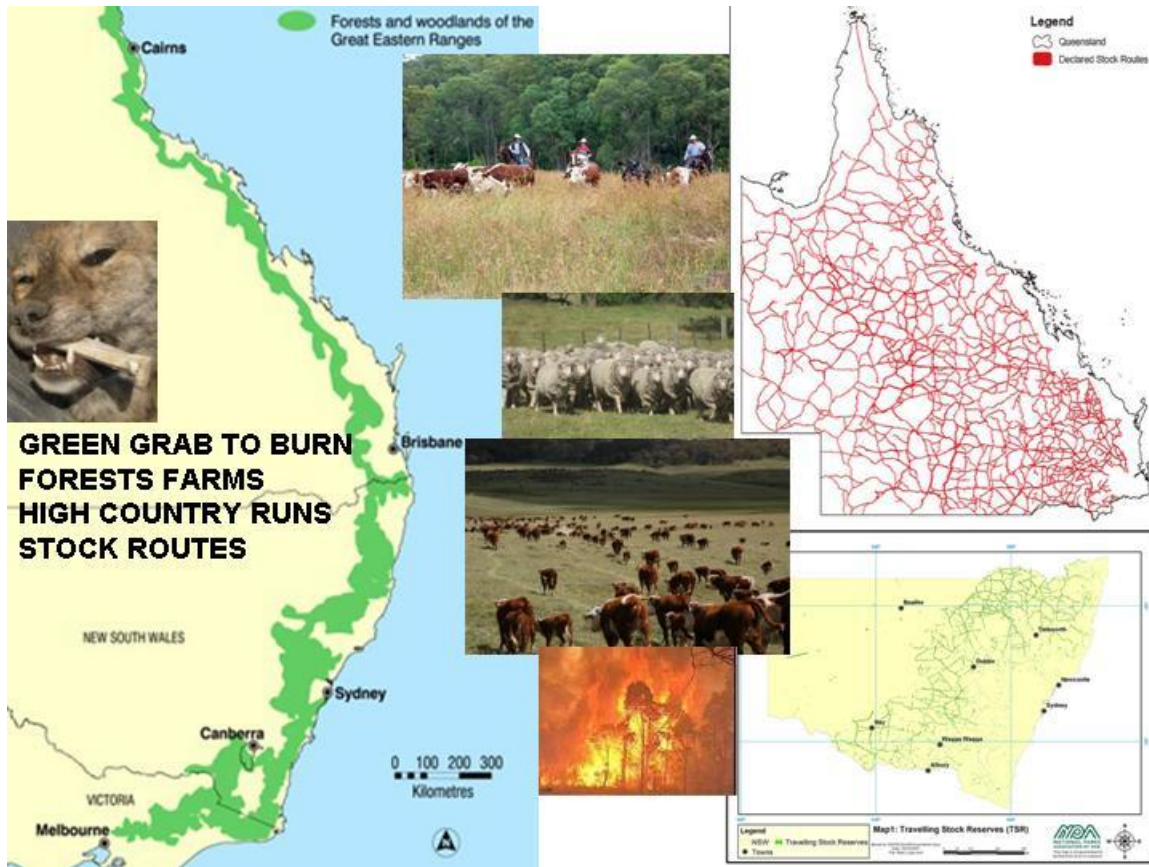
Why have the artisans been actively excluded from the legislative and policy making process??? They are not acknowledged by the town groupies? Not all cool fire artisans may be able to articulate to the naïve what they do or how, or write a two dimensional report on a 16 dimensional issue or give a talk on it, teach just anyone how to do it, but to watch them work and the results of their work is their achievements and strength. It is an art and a science, gift. A lifetime commitment, community commitment. Their pupils are of their choosing. Skills Government has chosen to trivialize or overlook. Advertise for a scientist to apply for research within the terms of reference. Conclusions will define continued funding!

For bushmen to have their bush ripped from their arms for on going political stunts is cultural sacrilege like tearing the Mona Lisa off the wall and throwing it under a train as France looks on. The rot set in during world war two when farmers were dying for the country their high country the weasels were working their way through the bowls of parliament looking for job creation. Science fiction ensconced unchallenged as society busied themselves with survival. Recent migrants welcomed to this country have been recruited to mindlessly join the rats and pied piper.

If there has been over grazing, over clearing, over burning, then let it be looked at rather than simplistically ban it! Can claims be substantiated by peers not opinionated hired science! The decorated groupies from Black mountains foothills the 2003 inferno almost reached its revenge.

If Australia is to secure its native and man made rural assets then dramatic changes made in legislation, rural consultation, policy adoption, payment for produce and stewardship needs to occur for **symptoms like bushfire** to resolve.





***d. the identification of measures that can be undertaken by government, industry and the community and the effectiveness of these measures in protecting agricultural industries, service industries, small business, tourism and water catchments;***

Measures taken by Government to restore fire risk security includes as a matter of priority **repeal of ill informed agenda driven restrictive legislation and regulation**. What is good for the environments security is good for business confidence in Agriculture small business etc. Flow ons all through the economy to export competitiveness! No water in the dams means no food for domestic and export. Nothing to feed or wash the tourists in the yet unburnt eco-resorts! No hospitality industry! No barley, no beer! How long can Australia afford 100 square kilometers of artificial snow making or more among the burnt out snow gums?

**Cool fire techniques need to be revitalized and select apprentices with the aptitude coached by the artisans.** Public perceptions need to be reeducated to see fire as a friend if managed well. A minor inconvenience and investment in long term security.

This includes **modest city water treatment investment** to deal with soot, silt traces or animal waste. Not so greedy on profits and cost savings by avoidance from draconian management by deprivation. Governments preoccupation with water corporate shares. **Government deal with conflict of interest in public land management and subsequent loss of objectivity.** Do suburban houses in the high rainfall zone need 100% drinkable water to use 99% for non human consumption at what environmental sacrifice! Single use throw away flush the sewers into the fisheries and blame fishermen for "over fishing."

83% of Australians live less than 50 kilometers from the coast Brisbane Adelaide in the temperate high rainfall zone displacing farming off high rainfall and coastal river soils. Market gardens, orchards, dairies made into golf courses and suburbs. Storm water runs to waste to flush plastic bags and toxins into the fisheries. Irrigated food is hauled from the dry inland competed against for city water. The average 2 adult 2 children suburban house consumes 6300mm (252") rain a year harvested from rural Australia! Irrigated food, tablelands water and rain storm water run to waste!

Agriculture is publicly vilified and demonized even by Government departments for their water use yet city policy can destroy the nations water sheds with "over vegetation" "over burning," subdivide and sell off high rainfall farmland for frivolous occupation enlarging the nations fire risk liability. More emigration drives the building industry and economic expansion job creation yet where do these people get food, water, building materials? Exploitive farmers, foresters, fishermen, miners? X3 or more productive than the 1950s and now paid less for their produce and who are the exploitive ones? Producers or consumers? Out of this self funded land management has to come fire risk management among other voluntary matters not reflective in produce returns! If the private land is adjacent, on the interface to public land then their liability for escaping fire, weeds, pests, disease, is disproportional.

If climate change has substance then what is happening with fuel management to match the risk? Nothing, get in Boeings full of fire retardant to replace red trucks and rake hoes that were once match for fuel levels? Comparatively cool fire, goats, deer, Brumbies, camel, forest industries are declared key threatening processes? Shut down and shot! Definitely going the wrong way!

Legislation change needs to be both ways facilitate and support hazard reduction adopting the various methods (grazing, forestry, cool fire, dingo control, clearing) also the legislation needs to be put into place to bring Government land in line with obligations to set high standards of management.

***Doing nothing management with native Australia on the pretext of "good for the environment" is a blatant bureaucratic rort, fraud and political stunt to gain Government. In house deals for votes that has become an unacceptable lethal game!***

Government needs to be responsible for public assets, land, water, forests, community, public money siphoned off for in house deals on elite tourism endangered species industry or other good reason.

Accountability to the affected communities is required. Fire debriefings analytical rather than orchestrated cover up.

***e. any alternative or developmental bushfire prevention and mitigation approaches which can be implemented;***

Fuel resolution is the timeless approach to fire prevention. No amount of gadgetry will change this. Fire suppression policies have failed all around the world. Yosemite saved and shut up in 1864 burnt 4000 year old sequoia trees, Yellowstone shut up and saved in 1872

burnt 90 years of refuse 1988, 14 million hectares of Russian and Chinese forest burnt in 1987 with unknown consequences. 2003-9, 4 million hectares of Australian high country water catchment for Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and food bowl of the Murray incinerated with unprecedented fury. Delivery of mass extinction and indefinite water crisis.



Smoke management for city inversion layers is perhaps the issue that offers the greatest scope for advance. Hazard reduction techniques best practice is otherwise the privy of proud secure communities with on going vested interest in securing their families future quality of life. Hazard reduction is about vegetation management by combined methods of best practice mixed species grazing (effective dingo, fox, cat, pig control) selective thinning forest, timely biologically beneficial cool fire to detoxify highly residual litter to biochar and potash to feed soil biodiversity and not horror bushfire.

**f. the appropriateness of planning and building codes with respect to land use in the bushfire prone regions;**

The trend towards 'asbestos buildings or fire proof bunkers with a view,' is to be considered a source of concern to outpace accumulated abandoned fuel. If this is required to match the fuel loads then there is a serious environmental issue were lizards and frogs are not provided with such equipment. Bare footed kids with matches should be safe to do hazard reduction burning if our biodiversity is to be considered secure and fire safe. The mindless race to out pace the fuel that can only be accumulated by chronic neglect and negligence deprivation with fire fighting power has failed in America with 250 million people and one of the worlds most affluent nations their fire fighting effort spirals out of

control with US\$B thrown at it as their fires become bigger and more devastating. Fire suppression has failed. Fire is to be managed risk through fuel and vegetation management such that fire fighting becomes more effective! Fire risk management adopted in lu of mindless fire suppression because no one has the competency to make decisions.

All zones are bushfire prone if they harbour fuel and the vegetation not managed for the conditions. Uncluttered vegetation. Scattered trees, few shrubs, green grazed grass. NSW national park fire expert Bradstock talked about cementing over forests if the Victorian forest fires this February were to be prevented. The man is not worthy to be called a fire expert!

Government and community seek competent experienced people and give them the support required to do their job including training the next generation.

**ROSS BRADSTOCK SAID VICTORIAN FORESTS SHOULD BE PAVED OVER WITH CEMENT IF THE FEBRUARY FIRES 2009 WERE TO BE STOPPED! CLEARLY HIS UNDERSTANDING UNWORTHY OF FIRE EXPERT STATUS**



***g. the adequacy and funding of fire-fighting resources both paid and voluntary and the usefulness of and impact on on-farm labour;***

**Again if fuel was matched to the circumstances required equipment and resources are likely to be more than adequate if redirected to fuel management rather than the folly of indefinite fire suppression accumulating atom bombs worth of fuel trying to be out paced by more equipment three decades behind the challenge of increasing public land neglect, negligence and national fire liability.**

The Australian public has diverted \$Bs into the consequences of Labour Green government environmental policies. Forests water community assets destroyed. This would buy a lot of fire risk management!

The information in the Victorian Parliament enquiry tabled June 2008 is useful here. Department of Sustainability & Environment in 2001 spent \$2M on hazard reduction burning. \$16M on fire plans and \$48M on uncontrolled fire fighting! 2003-9 about 3 million hectares of Victoria were burnt to the cost of \$B State and Federal money and ongoing loss of water, farming, forestry, community trauma. NSW too has lost millions of hectares of forest, city water, farming, biodiversity, business confidence, with an estimated 30 million hectares of forest in a state of **"serious bushfire liability"** Forests once valued for their drought aid, public amenity, productivity of biodiversity, food, timber, water, fiber, tourist appeal.

Presently volunteer rural labour for fire fighting highways covered in dry vegetation or public lands turned into compost heaps is a rort. Public vegetation as forests, high country water catchments, beauty spots, traveling stock routes are being closed down to become more fire hazards.

The incident controllers in bushfire outbreaks are the big wheels that let the fuel build up, the water points, fire tracks abandoned. If the incident controllers likely "paid overtime" were on the fire ground facing the inferno and having their home in its path then fire risk management would take a different turn. Like bare footed kids with matches on supervised routine timely hazard reduction they would learn respect and timely risk management.

Rural communities that rely on the environment for their direct employment and livelihood make the most motivated fire fighters. Those living remotely securely salaried, paid overtime for fire fighting irrespective of the fires outcomes, are the least motivated to have a fire prepared environment and succeed at early response. Fires are their summer slush fund and media opportunity. Soot and devastation is failure. **'No fire' in a secure environment is success and is not being rewarded as a non event.** Does not attract TV or public attention or public funds. Government can change these perceptions of success and reward!

#### **h. the role of volunteers;**

**Volunteers roll in fire risk management should be restored to local ownership of decisions operational and fire preparedness. It should be declared insurance off set.** The trend towards making community pay exorbitant insurance premiums to match and increased Government imposed risk from enforced fuel loads in vegetation denied management is the ultimate rort and then taking their volunteer labour to risk their lives. This is double dipping.

Some communities declared headless and lacking in experience from the wholesale removal of established experienced community will need professional support to get on their feet to be effective volunteers and the best way is through an integrated fire risk plan and action grazing, clearing, logging, cool fire, fire access tracks, water, fire breaks etc. Return local ownership and onus!

**Volunteerism is felt by many to be paramount to exclude corrupt behaviour.** Large fire inevitable bushfire incidents are referred to in rural communities cynically as "hazard reduction on overtime pay" as fire fighters are stood down or engaged in photo opportunities as hell fires burn unopposed. Yes they are infernos often unfightable due to fuel accumulations, scrub, ground fuel, no access tracks, no variable fire history, no vegetation management to maintain an ideal fire tolerant structure. Remote areas with no assets except its Australia's public land once political burley as "conservation icon, pristine water catchment" destined unaccountable incinerated wilderness.

Public land management agencies should not be the paid overtime incident controllers in the unprepared neglected environment. Why should they not be put on the same level as farmers foresters fishermen losing their job if fire destroys their business through their own neglect and negligence. Volunteerism has a powerful self interest to hazard reduce, fire prepare, fire risk manage, effective rapid response. This self interest incentive is missing in paid fire fighting. Ask any volunteer fire fighter attending a park fire! Sat down while Rome burns! OH&S or overtime pay being the biggest driver of **how long a fire burns is a solid topic of conversation in the informal debrief when the real debrief was quashed.**

### ***i. the impact of climate change;***

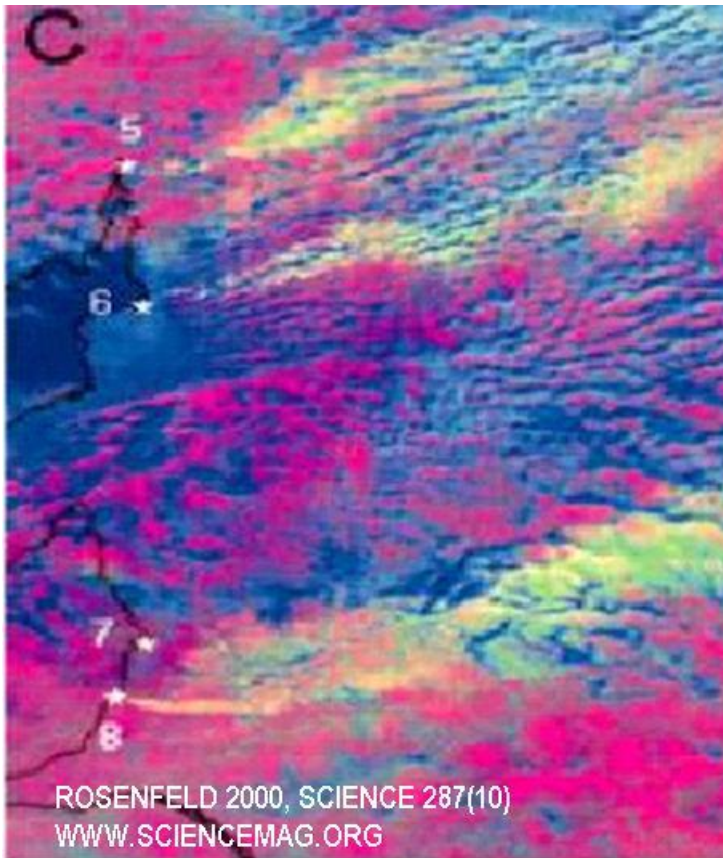
On a global scale climate has never stood still reacting to earths orbit and axis around the sun and continental drift, sun spots etc. We are still subject to a 2 million year old ice age and are believed to be in one of 20 odd such interglacial periods. We are just emerging from a mini ice age 1400-1820 which may account for increased fire frequency and plant growth since European settlement including often quoted fire scare data of Banks declared indicative of fire frequency changes instead of merely fire scaring frequency of trees due to scrub growth or other factor! Was settlement coincident or causal to tree fire scare frequency?

Man has adapted and survived these major ice age climate changes to date based on a versatile omnivorous diet and innovation for tools and shelter. Human induced climate change is not a convincing event except particulate industrial pollution localized effects inhibiting snow and rainfall. This exacerbates drought and drought is exacerbated by vast canopy burn on the high country destroying up to 50% of the Murray river flows by in the order of 40% or more reduction in run off due to regrowth or more if rainfall is seriously compromised by pollution and rain shadow from the vastness of canopy burn. A matter of 5500 giga liters of water per year or more reaching the Murray system burnt Canberra to Melbourne with unprecedented fuel loads!

***Governments have chosen to ignore these matters of pollution inhibited rainfall and vegetation management for run off yield brought to their attention. Will it continue to be not their agenda?***

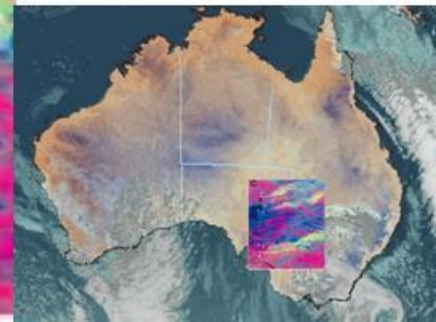
The following graphic shows a satellite photo of the atmosphere across southern Australia pollution points. Yellow cloud is polluted cloud influencing drought and bushfire risk.





**SATELITE PHOTO SHOWS INDUSTRIAL PARTICULATE POLLUTION (YELLOW SMOKE PLUMES) FROM**  
 \* URBAN SPRAWL  
 \* PAPER PULP MILLS  
 \* METAL SMELTERS  
 \* COAL FIRED ELECTRICITY

**INHIBITS SNOW & RAINFALL ACROSS SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA MURRAY BASIN MAINTAINS DROUGHT & BUSHFIRE RISK MAXIMAL**



If in fact climate change is more global as Australia moves north into the tropical high pressure zone then fire /fuel management becomes more imperative not less so. Are the greens in government going to let Australians risk and impact manage or are they going to remain on their idealistic high horse for undefined political careers riding environmentalism into ruin?

As mentioned before climate change is being delivered by Government departments imposing policies such that the forests incinerate repeatedly, stopping rain and run off in deformed vegetation. Drought cycles may occur but the troughs deepen with local industrial pollution and when the big fires burn large areas of catchment vegetation creating further and continuing rain shadow. If policy changes are not put in place to address the particulate pollution, the vegetation management and ongoing drought the vegetation repeatedly burns continues the drought and down the spiral goes Australia's water, biodiversity, community security, business confidence.....etc.

**The circuit breakers are very clear to many rural Australians.**

**\* Deal openly with industrial pollution.**

**\* Allow best practice vegetation management to resume to restore what has been lost before it is too late to do so.**

**\* State of the art best practice remedial rainmaking has a definite place in retrieving rain and snow fall across denuded scorched mountains and dusty paddocks.**

**Foot note on rainmaking.**

This has to be a Federal Government initiative, publicly owned but possibly secondary industry levied. Suitable legislation in place were states and territories are unsuitable controllers of rainmaking as various cross boarder airspace has to be used perhaps several 100 kilometers away from the target area. Aerial cloud medication is required to take

advantage of variable cloud and moist air conditions. Ground seeding is considered crude, 11 hour too little too late and at risk of being inhibitory rather than stimulatory or restorative in the case of "medicating" polluted cloud. Seeding agents proven effective are strategic small doses of frozen carbon dioxide ice crystals, silver iodide salts and brine, and or natural ice forming bacteria *pseudomonas syringae* used routinely in artificial snow making.

Internationally acclaimed rainmakers assure us that suitable cloud is readily available passing us by and the technology has been enhanced by advances in satellite technology and instrumentation since the Hawke Government terminated rainmaking in 1983 when Australia were world leaders in the field of cloud physics. Why was this research terminated on the cusp of the computer and satellite revolution in one of the worlds driest nations?



**BOB HAWKE GOV 1983  
SHUT CSIRO CLOUD PHYSICS  
RAINMAKING SINCE 1947  
MEDICATING DIRTY CLOUDS  
POLLUTED SO NOT RAINING  
WHY? VOTES?  
TO SAVE HIS UNION JOBS  
TO SHUT DOWN FARMS  
FORESTS RIVERS  
PRODUCE BIG BUSHFIRE  
& MORE DROUGHT?**

It begs the question whether polluting industries should be levied not only for drought aid, remedial cloud seeding but also the cost of increased fire fighting. Are city polluters paying their fair share of fire fighting fire risk management? If water catchment wants 10+ tonne per hectare dead ground fuel to produce quality water requiring little or no treatment costs devoid of soot silt or trace of grazing animal waste then are cities paying enough for their water given it generates an unacceptable community fire liability? There is argument to levy environmental groups for fire fighting if they persist in publicly obstructing hazard reduction measures of grazing, dingo control, logging, clearing and cool fire! Detectable bias and liaison of commissioned science with extreme environmental groups, lobbying for legislation, regulation, policy changes while shirking the consequences is of increasing community concern forced to deal with the unwelcome and predictable outcomes.

Who pays, who subsidises cheap city water, cheap pest control by dingo massacres in public land? Who pays for city carbon off sets and smoke management? Why is Governments scientific advice so exclusive to the public and peers? Do city polluters, environmental activists and city water users pay their share of fire fighting risk they generate? If climate change exists what has Government done to compensate for the



projected increase in fire risk? Many in the community believe climate change is the cover up for the consequences of management change of our forests and grasslands open and thrifty or overgrown and rank. Fire safe or fire susceptible.



### ***j. fire - its causes (accidental, natural and deliberate) and remedies;***

Fire can ignite for all manner of reasons accidental Act of God, someone's hazard reduction takes a runner, someone flicks a cigarette out the window into a meter high stand of dry grass the council hasn't mowed, a slasher hits a rock next to a wheat crop, a cross arm falls off a powerline. Have fuel, sparks could light a fire. Do we vilify the spark or the fuel risk ignored? Most people consider the arsonist in the bush is the state of land management chronically accumulating the fuel not the mental health basket case scapegoated to distract the public attention from the real issues of fire risk and abandonment of hazard management. Agency staff and Government taking the easy way out commissioning science to legitimise neglect and conceal incompetency or indolence!

Remedies are fuel management, fire risk management, fire preparedness of community. Ignition source is generally irrelevant. Fire does not occur without available fuel! Fire fighting is feasible in low fuel and areas of variable fire, grazing and forestry history.



***k. the impact of bushfires on biodiversity and measures to protect biodiversity;***

Biodiversity is living plants and animals arguably the soil, air, water being part of their lifeline. As mentioned if fire cannot be put safely into the bush by barefooted kids with matches then biodiversity is at risk. A high level of housekeeping is required and community commitment to bring about this level of fire security.

The following graphic attempts to summarise the relationship between fuel and fire intensity impact on biodiversity, recovery and fight ability. 10+tonne per hectare fine ground fuel required by scientists for quality water off a dead ground cover is beyond reasonable fire fighting in summer weather as fuel in terms of scrub is usually able to double this by the time 10t/ha accumulates on ground. (1 centimeter deep of gum leaves is about 5 t/ha where ground covers begin to 'sour' in the toxic leachates). 10-15t/ha is getting beyond fixed wing bombers and bulldozers to contain summer lightening and well beyond rake hoe and fire tanker capacity alone to quell or influence its direction or destiny. Biodiversity 'killing and trapping back burns' will 'damage control' fire spread if weather conditions and topography are conducive. Fire fighters are left with little choice but to sacrifice some biodiversity to salvage what remains at risk if the fire spreads in unprepared neglected vastness. This is "war" in over growth and chronic neglect. Environmentalism has left no choice!

Beyond 1-2 t/ha lizards frogs etc. are being affected seriously as is soil, essential soil biota and seed especially in up hill burns in dry fuel. Thick smoke and canopy burns kill birds and possum glider etc. Flame heights of a meter or more and continual fire fronts do not allow wallaby, bush rats, snakes, echidna ground birds easy escape back onto cool burnt

ground. Large similarly hard burnt areas starve survivors for weeks and months likely starved by prefire conditions of chronic neglect and vegetation stagnation.

Scrub and blackberry taking over creeks, destroy fire safe havens for plants and animals and destroy stream bank stability and ferny wet ecologies, fish, frogs, bog plants taking an unacceptable and avoidable toll. Some animals can escape down wombat holes and hope a dingo or venomous snake has not thought of the same hole to shelter in. Stockmen created spring, autumn, cool summer patch burns of a few meters diameter among variable grazing histories. Vegetation from perennials and singed annuals was back to feed plants and animals within days independent of rain as soil moisture was shared and more available retained by biochar. Seedlings appeared within weeks to take advantage of the potash and lack of intertussock competition. Biochar is destroyed by hot fires 400°C or more with nutrient loss. Valued at \$620/tonne how does the loss of 50-100 tonne a hectare across 4 million hectares sound as compensation to what environmentalism owes the Australian high country in lost complete fertilizer and 1000s of years worth of biochar accumulations now gone? Yes mass extinction and climate change delivered!

Water catchment authorities, create 'mosaic burns' day or night varying by decade or more between fires and many square kilometers in dimension. Invariably biodiversity has to recolonise if that is feasible given the seed, soil, soil biota and cover losses rendered sterile sub soil for months or years. Dry creeks loss of rainfall, shade and humidity. With a loss of animals and birds generally regionally seed, soil biota, soil nutrients are unlikely to return significantly if at all, between holocausts. Fuel loads of 20- 250t/ha are unforgivable mobilising 2000 tonne/ha or more tree fuel now or next burn when the forest skeleton is dead and dry! The roots burn into the ground for weeks as do the peat bogs smolder under the snow. I shudder to acknowledge this is what science has advised devoid of insight to the consequences. A discipline I had respect for once with faith in a system of peer review.



People experts on 'green one liners' are apparently unaware of the compromise reached for maximal biodiversity security and fire risk management. Bradstocks cement forests analogy is really a disgrace from a public salaried figure.

Areas since confiscated for political chips national park, exclusive tourism, city water were historically once abundant in biodiversity from the smallest soil fungi, microflora, wildflowers millimeters in diameter through to the largest Buck kangaroo and his mob, a stately Mountain Ash tree to a gnarled 400 year old snow gum, biodiversity was there working its way around choices of cool fire regimes, grazing regimes from no fire, no grazing to a heavy mix of both. As the above illustration shows whether it be a 100 tonne dinosaur or a forest gadget phasic disturbance drives biodiversity. In comparison chronic large scale stagnation and man made holocaust destroys biodiversity most effectively aided by exotic dingo thriving with rabbits, pigs, foxes, cats to hunt and hunt with among the blackberries used as stockyards for the kill. Blackberries to wick up hill fire from the once wet fire safe gullies. Thank you Ferdinand von Mueller trained chemist hobbyist botanist plant collector Victorian Government Botanist 1852-98! Without sheep and wallaby in the mountains blackberries and scrub have become lethal competitive and fire agents!



Intense bushfire over vast areas has been the greatest biota adjustment to deliver mass extinction and destruction of water catchment values ever in modern Australia since settlement and geologists say well beyond there is nothing detectable to equal it. Cataclysmic event, similar to a volcanic eruption or rise in sea levels to inundate the land.

This has been a **bureaucratic induced biota adjustment** a kin to a mini dinosaur extinction which led to repeated fire in grazing adapted vegetation coevolving for millions of years (240-65 million). When grazing ceased abruptly, when dinosaur suddenly died out, repeated fire destroyed plants and animals until chaos was overcome by the rise of

large mammals as the vegetation and fire managers. Biodiversity and evolution resumed in the regained stability.

Environmentalism through underhand Government has denied our fire and grazing adapted, dependent vegetation both fire and grazing and mass extinction inevitable through massive fire incidents. The anger, disgust, sadness is palpable among rural families that have fought to have their voices heard. Fought to prevent such tragedy.

**History will judge environmentalism as worse than colonialism, acclimatization and other fads in delivering species extinction.**

If Government is genuinely concerned about retaining and progressing what biodiversity has been left us then there are still people around that genuinely know how to provide it with the support it needs to persist even if contemporary science can't provide the answers.



***1. and insurance against bushfires.***

**The best insurance against bushfires is fuel management.** After this is a knowledgeable committed fire fighting organisation. Fire preparedness to react quickly and effectively in bad weather. Anticipate the bad weather. Apply managed fire then in cool sympathetic weather to deliver biological and ecologic benefit. **Fire is risk managed not suppressed indefinitely to inevitably occur uncontrollably in the worst weather conditions possible.** Insurance against bushfires in the absence of fire risk management is unacceptable community impost.

Why should community pay for more and more levels of fire fighting capacity through their fire insurance premiums or their taxes when Government largely imposes fuel liability and mindlessly obstructs hazard reduction through logging, dogging, grazing and cool fire? At last count in NSW landholders had to answer to at least 8 State Acts largely opposing layers of red tape and bureaucratic mumbo jumbo written by the ill informed to cool burn toxic eucalypt residues. Charring and detoxifying these litters is the only feasible cost effective manner to return tied up nutrients to the system to feed biodiversity not inferno. The dominance of t tree, eucalypt, bottle brush, paper barks in Australia's vegetation adapting to a drying climate the last 45 million years has coincided with an increased fire frequency long before man evolved muchless arrived here 60 000 years ago.

Government has effectively stopped cost recovery conservation land stewardship from selective harvest through grazing, timber or fire wood sale! How do landholders afford increasing insurance for up grading their box of matches, rake hoes and knapsacks, box trailers and pumps, fire tankers, to hire of sky cranes and Boeing jet tankers? Evacuating, collecting the insurance and rebuilding! Migrating to a new country not so tied down with 3 layers of bureaucracy and Government!

Where crops forest etc. is in the process of management then fire fighting needs to be combined with strategic localized fire insurance if all else fails. In a good state of fire risk management, fire insurance premiums should be affordable and the risks such insurance companies are prepared to share the risk. Insurance companies in future will be less inclined to contemplate insuring property around national park and abandoned unprepared landscapes and quite frankly why should the Commonwealth Government for example wade in with the publics section 44 disaster money if the states have not come to some community accepted standard of fire risk management? Public money spent on fools.

If local communities are not satisfied State or Territory authorities have done enough on ground to satisfy their risk assessments then they should be able to alert the Commonwealth to question coming to the rescue for disaster relief for the state or territory. State or territory government departments should be held to account for neglect, negligence and incompetence.

Acceptable fuel loads, accessible water points, maintained suitably viable fire access tracks, aircraft on standby, committed early response or let it burn if safe to do so. Community must decide on these issues and live with the consequences. To have city lobby groups impose danger on other affected or implicated communities is unacceptable. Smoke nuisance has to be negotiated in risk management. Viable alternatives sort logging, dogging, grazing, clearing thinning etc. smoke free hazard reduction.

The 2003 fires cost \$200M of public money to fight. About \$2M per day. The Victorian fires cost about \$11M per day with the on going indefinite cost of dealing with 10 000 homeless and traumatized. Fire retardant apparently costing \$50 000 a kilometer! These fires lasted 70 days or more. Cities out of water, fences, pasture, infrastructure to repair for the next 10 or more years. Who pays the insurance? The obstructive greens ecotourists wanting a vista, anti logging, anti grazing, anti cool fire, anti track access..... the people forced to live in a fire time bomb and cut out of the political negotiations as their landscape taken for tourism or political chips?

Canberra insurance bill was about \$700M. How much was paid and homes rebuilt on the payments? What about the 2050 homes in Victoria? Does the local tree preservation group in the Shire pay? Who digs out the Glen Maggie dam so some water will fit in it? Gippsland irrigators insurance company? Who pays for the toxic algal bloom sterilizing fisheries? What of the Murray irrigators paying for water they don't get off the rubble or siphoned off for Canberra where all the Snowy land management policies that have failed were formulated in the untouchable halls of learning in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide first cut of the cake to keep their water with agriculture and farming families the expendable minority again? Rural Australians stand as volunteer fire fighters, volunteer

land management and continue to be the biggest unheard losers with no recourse, no input into preventing lethal policy setting!

I and many thank you for this opportunity to speak to this vexed subject. We hope we get a national approach to this now very lethal eventuality. The fire liability across Australia is growing unacceptably as more land is deprived fuel and vegetation management by those boffins in boxes not involved or held to account for the consequences.

This matter of public land management joined at the hip of winning elections and doing deals for environmentalists must be held to account. Public assets and money, protected from such legislative loopholes double standard that exists. Private land managers forced to conform to stupidity by the same invalid assumptions on best practice neglect. My expose has given attack to Labour Green governments however the conservative coalition has been known to also do deals to compromise responsible Governance and have certainly been complicit with madness in harbouring fire risk. They have certainly not addressed the particulate pollution fiasco and flawed water catchment management advice.

If nothing else comes of this enquiry but holding states and territories accountable for fire preparedness before qualifying for Commonwealth assistance disaster relief then it is very useful. **There should be no rewards for failure.** Overtime pay, media heroics, money for rehabilitation if negligent policies are not changed. Public paid media should be compelled to give equal time to rural communities refuting misleading information to the ill-informed paying public.

Soil conservation told government to get rid of grazing and cool fire to generate 10+ tonnes dead ground fuel per hectare to protect the soil and deliver quality water. Stockmen said this is "over kill" and no one listened! "over kill" has been the under statement as species die through starvation choking for decades in their own refuse and weeds contributing to unsupportive habitat, fed to exotic dingo populations harboured deliberately to deliver the no graze policies then the ultimate holocaust. It is a national embarrassment to call this science! This game is over! **Science has been abused lost credibility and needs public peer review and scrutiny to be accountable before recommendations are adopted to be the basis of policy! Much of the adopted so called irrefutable science needs revision for what it has delivered. The same old show ponies brought out to defend persistent and serious official failure. Knowingly and predicted failure and ruin repeated ignored warnings. Will this enquiry deliver finally before any more needless carnage??**

The dilemma for insurance is when tree crops are planted by private entities or state forests. 2000 trees per hectare planted to replace traditional forests of 50-100 mature trees per hectare. What of the run off denied in deep ripped plantings replacing open forest or pasture? Who pays the fire liability insurance and dictates the changed risk to neighbours constrained in hazard reduction methods and flexibility for error in unforeseen circumstances. Do those dictating terms pay the extra premiums for risk? This includes environmental lobby and government. This dilemma must see a viable way forward if fire management is to be addressed at a community level. Government has a responsibility to facilitate a solution to mixed land use in adjacent titles if fire risk management is to become adopted. Are 2000 trees to the hectare acceptable or "over stocked" unacceptable community liability. Animal population densities can be classed as "over stocked" why not vegetation liability for fire risk, water run off, soil fertility loss, loss of biodiversity niches?

The other special and controversial case is vegetation management under power line easements. Fire risk to it and from it. The man made built infrastructures that in a genuine biodiversity conscious management should be equally safe. Under modern concepts of water catchment management not so complacent. Who pays? Who has the say? More indecision waiting for the inevitable accident or do we return to risk manage?

It is also clear to communities volunteering as their insurance to try and salvage and survive stupidity of government public land management policies that **bushfire debriefing** is a hoax and very corrupt cover up of agency inadequacies. Volunteer fire fighters are allowed to comment on the quality of the sandwiches not operational failures and inequalities!? Fearful to stand up to be vilified, slandered, discredited, stripped of their fire fighting capacity ineffectual as it is becoming. Worst case, threatened with being left to burn again. A gorilla war waged by agencies complacent they will not be held to account for actions and inactions or misrepresentation.

Local brigades spending weeks facing the red devil and years fixing up the impact are being denied an objective impartial debrief where operational policy, allocation of resourcing or resource succumbment is subject to manipulation such as the 92 bulldozers working on the Melbourne water catchment while rural communities were back burnt into and abandoned with a box trailer if anything to defend themselves. Farms are being chainsawed down, water stolen, tracks bulldozed up and down hills, fences and buildings leveled to put out the fire in national park not allowed to be entered. Section 44 declared, anything goes at the will and revenge of agencies deaf for decades about fire risk management.

Women were abandoned with their family to defend home, stock, farm as best they could while their local brigades were defending a ski resort with all trucks, skycranes available! Whose insurance premiums are the most valued by whom?

Legislation needs to be put in place to have a debrief in a manner where people are allowed to explore the facts fearlessly and these be documented and made public, accountable and transparent!

I would take pleasure in being invited to explore aspects of this submission that may be unclear to your committee. I have researched this area in the contemporary literature, conferred with scientists and among my community across south east Australia.





ROGER GOOD WANTS \$15M TO FIX WHAT HIS ADVICE BURNT. HE SAYS 15% BOGS OVER BURNT CANT REHABILITATE. REST PLANTS OFF BRUMBY RUNS TO REPLANT, RICE STRAW SHADE CLOTH SUPERPHOSPHATE "COW MANURE" TRAMP IN TO KEEP WET



**GOOD IDEA TO BURN & BANDAGE ALPINE BOGS 10+ TONNE/HA FUEL**



.6 Shading of *Sphagnum* hummocks using shadecloth



**NO GRAZE, FIRE SUPPRESSION  
ADVICE COSTIN THE ALPS  
SOIL BIODIVERSITY WATER**



The committee invites written submissions, which should be lodged by 31 July 2009. Electronic submissions can be lodged at [agriculture.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:agriculture.sen@aph.gov.au) or sent by mail to:  
The Secretary

Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Please note that submissions become committee documents and are only made public after a decision by the committee. Persons making submissions must not release them without the committee's prior approval. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not.

Following consideration of submissions, the committee is proposing to hold public hearings. The committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.