

43. Qualtrics\_Clive Hammet\_11Apr2020

I hope this satisfies your guidelines.as I am not familiar with writing submissions.

I am writing this submission as an apiarist ( registration no H 299) and a resident of East Gippsland Shire . I am a nature lover and keen environmentalist.I have spent most of my life in either South or East Gippsland Shires.

I am a beekeeper who has had beehives burnt in this year's fire at Wairewa.

I will no longer be able to use East Gippsland forests for honey production because most of the trees required for honey production have been destroyed by fire and clear felling.. This in effect means that I'll never get my hives back into these forests as I'll most probably be dead by the time they regrow enough to be productive for beekeepers. .

There needs to be a complete halt to clear felling because all that does is generate a mass of spindly growth which acts as kindling for bushfires. This creates fuel for the next bushfire which inevitably comes through.

The logging period needs to be extended to at least 140 years to allow the trees to develop bigger crowns of leaves to suppress woody growth on the forest floor. thereby decreasing burnable material. This would increase holes in trees for forest animals and birds eg Greater Gliders, Powerful Owls and Black Cockatoos to name a few. The present logging regime has effectively wiped out beekeeping in the Colquhoun and doesn't provide enough hollows for native wildlife.

Cattle need to be allowed to return to grazing in high plains parks and coastal parks eg parks around Mallacoota and Wilsons Promontory. This is necessary to reduce the fuel load on the forest floor. What is the point in having parks which are completely incinerated every few years? eg Wilsons Promontory has most of the country east of the main road into Tidal River completely overgrown and not defendable. When cattle were grazing there , the tracks able to be driven over by a Holden utility. The only line of defense now is the main Foster Tidal River Road when three parts of the Promontory has gone up in smoke killing all of the wildlife in its path.

The whole National Parks and Forestry thinking needs to be changed. The present regime is just perpetuating what has happened in the last twenty years. Each time a bushfire goes through it becomes more intense. Wilsons Promontory is just waiting for another fire event.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Photographs of salient points can be provided if requested.

Clarification of any points can requested on 