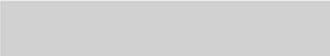


Dear Inspector-General of Emergency Management Tony Pearce,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian fire season. My personal details are below:

**Name:** Lynne Corboy

**Email** 

**Gender:** female

**Age:** 65-74

**Privacy preference:** I would like the Inspector-General to make my submission publicly available

**My personal story of the fires:**

My sister and her family were very close to the fires in Gippsland....very frightening.

A niece has three children and is also a licenced wildlife carer; she had to move her family and all her animals, baby kangaroos, wombats etc numerous times during these horrific fires.

My brother was severely affected by the smoke from the fires when it blanketed Melbourne. My sister also experienced breathing issues as she lives in Gippsland. Members of my family suffer from asthma.

My niece broke her leg as a direct result of the enormous amount of fuel load across Gippsland when she was camping prior to the Gippsland fires. This is a major issue in Gippsland.

A very worrying time for my entire family due to the affect on our family members, who are spread across Victoria in fire zones.

**My response to term of reference: Consider all challenges and implications for bushfire preparedness arising from increasingly longer and more severe bushfire seasons as a result of climate change:**

I am not convinced Climate Change is exacerbating the extreme drought, dry fuels and soils, record-breaking heat that are increasing bushfire risk and making it harder to prepare for challenging conditions like floods. None of these conditions are new to Australia.

As an example, scientists the world over expressed doom for humanity due to the hole in the Ozone Layer protecting earth. However, the Ozone Layer in 2020 is now the smallest it has ever been since 1982 and as scientists know, it increases in size slightly during the Southern Hemisphere Spring and shrinks during Autumn and Winter.

Although we are living in an extremely arid country, it should also be remembered that Australia is not in the top ten most drought stricken countries globally.

Australia's water resources management is of vital importance to the nation, and should be the first priority in the need for it to be managed efficiently from now on.

There is nothing new in living through Australian drought which affects every aspect of our lives including soil conditions; to date nobody is talking seriously about water conservation into the future.

The Murray-Darling is a perfect example. The Federation drought caused the Darling River to dry up at Bourke in New South Wales for over a year from April 1902 until May 1903. During World War 11, Eastern Australia suffered drought for ten years from 1937 - 1947.

Water Conservation in all its forms needs to be addressed immediately.

I do not believe anyone can do anything about the existing increasing temperature levels. The sun's UV rays and plasma blasts have increased in intensity - scientists do not know why. I have never seen or heard any scientist when discussing this major Solar concern, referring to it in terms of Climate Change. The sun reaction on the earth must affect global surface heat temperature, however, there is nothing scientists can do about this situation.

It does suggest the earth will see a future where temperatures continue to increase across the planet. This could perhaps be addressed by building improved fire resistant housing in bush areas. This would require the use of smart building materials, fire resistant/retardant materials for use inside and externally within country homes, UV ray resistant material for clothing and other materials.

Smarter use of solar panels for a much broader range of uses needs to be investigated. Green energy for a broad range of other uses should be investigated and pursued. Bench mark off other nations that are using coal efficiently, whilst creating a clean and non pollutant environment for their own countries.

**My response to term of reference: In considering effectiveness of Victoria's operational response to the 2019-20 fire season, IGEM should particularly consider, "planning and response mechanisms to protect biodiversity threatened by bushfire":**

Use success stories by farmers for other farmers, of improved methods for water storage, how to use Australian natural and man made billabongs and dams, and the use of Native Australian Plants and trees around them. This allows for the frogs, water beetles, insects and birds to return to their natural habitat. Our Australian trees can also be used for natural windbreaks and shelter for cattle, sheep, etc.

Soil Biologists need to find fast methods to regenerate radiant heat tainted soils to ensure the soil microbes can be reintroduced fast. Radiant Heat not only burns the trees, it burns all the tree roots underground and destroys all the microbes within the soil to the depth of the tree root system, killing the soil. This issue needs to be addressed urgently in the recent fire zones.

Removal of old growth forests and habitat used by native Australian animals which have now become endangered, should not be allowed to be stripped/logged for commercial uses in future. Old growth forests cannot be replaced for hundreds of years.

I would suggest Government Departments use Aboriginal expertise to manage the land for bushfire preparedness.