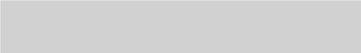




Dear Inspector-General of Emergency Management Tony Pearce,

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

Name: Kaye Jones

Email: 

Gender: female

Age: 45-54

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

My personal story of the fires:

I don't live in the areas affected by the bushfires of 2019/20. I live in the area impacted by the Black Saturday fires of February 2009.

I found myself unable to watch the media coverage of these recent fires. Too real. Too close to the bone. My partner and I fled in the car in 2009, with our two children, with the fire chasing us. From Kinglake, up the Melba Highway. Meanwhile our friends in Kinglake were literally burning.

The science behind these fires is clear. Our beautiful planet is getting hotter. We need to take responsibility for our actions. Like the Lorax, we need to speak for the trees, the animals and the humans who no longer have voices. Their passing must not be in vain.

These fires are not typical. They are linked to our changing climate. Our decision makers, our politicians, must create legislation that requires us all to behave differently, so that we can make a substantial and lasting difference, NOW.

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:

Our scientists have the answers. Our politicians need to listen.

Just as they have listened to lead medical advice during the pandemic.

The virus shows us we are capable of change, radical change if we feel the heat. Unfortunately climate change is dialling up the heat more slowly than the virus, so we don't feel the need to take such immediate, decisive action. But we must act now, if we are to avoid the worst of what's to come. The virus and its impact on society (and habitat & species) will be pale in comparison.

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":

My response to term of reference: Review of all opportunities and approaches to bushfire preparedness, including different methods of fuel and land management (for example 'cool burning', mechanical slashing, integrated forest management, traditional fire approaches) to protect life and property as well as ecological and cultural values:

I would like to add the following:

I would like to make the following recommendations:

Yours sincerely,

Kaye Jones

Montmorency 3094