

94. Qualtrics_Maurice Oldis_24Apr2020

I dont have a "story"

I have some URGENT and MASSIVE CONCERNS as a conservationist watching with horror what unfolded after a decade of drying winters and extreme low rainfall and temperature conditions in Nov/Dec/Jan 2019/20

We,our forest and coastal communities and our precious remaining forests and other natural habitats MUST NEVER BE EXPOSED to this level of danger again.

TO AVOID THIS WE NEED TO BE ON A MILITARY LEVEL OF RESOURCING AND PREPAREDNESS and RESPONSE CAPABILITY-air and sea.

THIS SHOULD BE NATIONWIDE IN SCOPE CO-ORDINATION AND EQUIPMENT COMPATIBILITY

1.We MUST have comprehensive LOCAL aerial surveillance by drone/spotter aircraft right through the fire season-and intense monitoring during and action especially after dry lightning storms

2.We must have an Emergency Urgent Repsonse Capability stationed regionally-probably at locl airports and RAAF facilities(eg.Sale)-which has the capability to extinguish detected fires within the hour.This would be fixed wing/Helicopter /Fire tanker or other resources.The tragedy of these fires is that they were able to get too big to handle with existing approaches and equipment.We must be able to target them early

3 We must have fully resourced CFA and DNRC teams at the ready through fire activity season and fire control season.Volunteers need to be financially protected

4.For areas of extreme ecological/conservation value-Fire Drop Teams-similar to the Wollemi pines drop in NSW.These zones should be identified by scientists and designated with drop and escape plans pre-prepared.

5.We must have wildlife recovery teams and safe animal shelters fully resourced fully resourced ad prepared for this level of loss and recovery

Already we face possible functional extinction through lessening of gene pools and fragmentation of remaining animals,habitats and ecological units.

OUR "RESERVE" is now gone-we are in many cases down to the core

Its no longer the case of "just another fire season" but recovering from catstrophic levels of loss and desperatelypreserving what is left

Recovery from this level of destruction is a long and difficult path-but begins with preservatiion of what is left and keeping it safe.

Thank you for this oppportunity

Maurice Oldis

M.Env.Sci.,B.Ed.B.A

