



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: Anthony Owen

Email: 

Gender: male

Age: 25-34

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

My personal story of the fires:

I spent Christmas holidays glued to the Vic emergency App. I couldn't believe how the little Wingan River fire got so out of hand. I can't understand how we let so much burn. I expect the low priority of environmental regard illustrated by pitiful funding and management of environmental agencies is part of the story.

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:

The solutions to the combined climate and ecological crises are known. It's critical that the State get out of native forest clearfell and rapidly transition away from fossil fuel energy supply. Mitigating more widespread societal habitat destructiveness falls within the realm of increasing appreciation, priority, and education about our place in nature. Ignorance is our major challenge.

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":

Again the writings on the wall. Without an elevated appreciation and priority given to "outside" - apart from extraction- our states actions and inactions contribute inevitably to the crises we witness.

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 believe Parks Vic, DELWP and local government are hamstrung due to inadequate priorities, funding and expertise.

Increasing weediness and over-shrubby native regrowth conditions need far more attention to recover systems to a more stable old-growth condition. Most outdoor systems need far more attention to sympathetic maintenance, as the traditional locals would have had it: "country needs people."

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Owen

Warrandyte 3113

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Best regards,

Ant

