

Air pollution Inquiry/

Mr John Whadcoat

Organisation Name:

Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Over the past few years and gradually progressing to these current times DWELP and Forest Fire Management Victoria have been carrying out a vast number of what they call Fuel Management fires throughout my region which has caused me and my wife to suffer in many ways including mental stress and an increase in chronic breathing issues. These fires are completely out of character with nature's needs in managing Native Forest in this region and certainly contrary to past Aboriginal practices as told to me by early local aboriginals.

During the early arrival of my parents here at Lake Tyers in the 1912 years the bush was able to be ridden on horse-back through most of the local forest with little effort but because of the constant burning which is not natural the low lying scrub is gradually becoming thicker and thicker. These fires which are now being lit by management are causing the lower levels of the vegetation to be thicker and thicker. Fires here were often lightning fires which did little harm but the combination of Climate Change with more spasmodic rainfall events is changing the whole face of the natural landscape. These fuel reduction fires are increasing the drying out of the forest, causing air pollution and increasing the likelihood of wildfire in any event. It is almost impossible lately to breathe easy in the morning with so much constant smoke in the air. Our forests are losing much of our native wild animals and birdlife with these fires too. This practice has to be examined by a Royal Commission as soon as possible to see the damage being done to our forests by un-natural fire. There seems a peculiar pattern too that many fires are being lit during the holiday periods and over weekends and public holiday times which means huge overtime payments being forked out for no logical reason other than making high wage bills being paid. It is essential the forest has a covering over the floor to retain moisture, give a food source to the tree roots as the debris is rotted down naturally and give protection to all native creatures. On the one hand we are advised to mulch our gardens for proper horticulture practices but the Forest managers are continually burning off this natural mulch causing health issues to the counties population and killing forests all the time. This does not make sense.

Please bring in a moratorium immediately on fuel reduction burning and have a rethink on these un-natural fires being lit by the management authority here in our district and region. There is good reason to have a Royal Commission into this practice currently which could sort out all this tomfoolery's.

Signature:

John Whadcoat