


21 Oct 2020

The Secretary,
Inquiry into Biodiversity Decline
epc.council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Request to add annex to previous submission by David R. Packham

Dear Secretary

In the light of two very recent contributions to the question of bushfire induced environmental and biodiversity decline due to bushfires in Victoria I request that an addition be made to my submission to the EPC Inquiry on biodiversity decline.

This request is made to assist the Inquiry.

1. ***Jason Wood "A proposal for the Creation of a Victorian land Use Commission."***

The first contribution is comments on a submission by Jason Wood. I have had two requests to pass an opinion on Wood's submission on administrative arrangement to provide a path for returning the Victorian Environment to the pre-colonization, healthy and safe condition known as "Victoria Felix".

Jason Wood has suggested in his submission to this Inquiry that the major reason behind biodiversity decline due to bushfires is the malfunction of the Victorian Environmental Advisory Committee. This he claims is the result of the advisory committee being stacked with environmental and academic post modernism activists, and manipulated by party political forces that puts both sustainability and conservation at peak risk, contrary to the desirable aims of conservationists and the green movement itself.

I have been fortunate in my 58 years of being involved at both research and policy development in a multitude of the bushfire and disaster phases of Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery that I am able to make the following observations.

In the last 150 years there have been approximately 800 bushfire deaths in Australia and 600 have been in Victoria.

In the last 50 years (1962-2020) there has been only an average of 1.6% of the public estate prescribed burnt in Victoria and 312 bushfire deaths .

In similar forest and climate in the South West forests of Western Australia the average prescribed burning has been 9.2% but only 2 bushfire deaths. (John Cameron Response to Royal Commission into national natural disasters, ref NND.600.00145).

I note that this seems strangely similar to the COVID "disaster" in Victoria where there has been (at 20/10/20) 905 deaths in Australia and 817 in Victoria.

Is there a message here about Victorian public policy?

Jason Wood's analysis is very accurate, perceptive, courageous and his proposal has paramount merit. In fact, until there is reform in provision of advice to Government, we will just stagger on to more environmental disasters. The next bushfire disaster within the next three decades will probably be more extensive with around 1500 deaths.

Yet another case of social manslaughter.

My support for Jason Wood's proposal is based upon witnessing the decline in Victorian Forest Land management and subsequent loss of the independent Victorian Forest Commission (a triumvirate). There is centralisation of tactical and strategic policy to an inexperienced urban cohort with insufficient fire front experience and understanding.

The Victorian Forest Commission was moving slowly but reluctantly towards "Firestick Ecology" as the solution to the bushfire threat that has been shown beyond reasonable doubt to be the healthy and safe solution "The "Sneeuwjagt" curve. (Cameron, page37. Google NND.600.00140)

2. Jennifer Marohasy "Climate Change: the facts"

The second contribution relates to the publication this month of a book edited by Dr Jennifer Marohasy "Climate Change; The Facts 2020" published by the Institute of Public Affairs which contains a chapter addressing the relationship between climate change and bushfires in Victoria (Chapter 15 p224-241, attached).

" In Climate Change: The Facts 2020 twenty scientists, economists and other experts in their fields critique the current climate science while advancing our understanding of climate change and reveal the failings of key national and global climate organisations."

Chapter 15 "Wildfires in Australia :1851 to 2020" in my opinion is an accurate account of the bushfire-climate change delusion. It contains only one slight error as the author claims that, "There is no consistent Australia-wide methodology for determining the severity of fires," Dr Jennifer Marohasy can be forgiven for not knowing that the Byram Line Fire Intensity Index" is an absolute measure of a fire's ferocity, and easy to calculate; Jennifer is a climate expert not a pyrologist.

A reading and understanding of Dr Marohasy's conclusions is simply essential for any formation of critical environment policy and administration. Sadly, I do not see that understanding among Australia's emergency and environmental managers.

I have attached a copy of the whole chapter. For the sake of Victoria Felix, read it.

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