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Do you want your submission marked as confidential? *	No
Do you want to receive future notifications and updates on the PNF Review? *	Yes
Which of the following best describes you? *	Landholder
Which draft PNF Code are you providing a submission on? *	All Codes

My comments

Bushfires MUST be the number 1 consideration in developing the code of practice around caring for our land whether it is private, state or national.

We must listen to, and learn from the Aboriginals, but we must note that our Australian bush is no longer what it used to be 250 years ago. This is because many new species of plants as well as animals have been introduced and many of which have spread into the bush especially close to towns and cities. Plants like lantana, blackberry, bamboo, Scotch thistle, S. African white daisies, orange hawk weed, to name just a few exotics, have spread throughout Australia as well as forests of pine trees and many other species being planted.

In learning about bushfire management from the Aboriginals we must also remember that they had no means of extinguishing a bushfire so the bush just kept burning until a change of weather or until the wood totally burnt.

By extinguishing our bushfires now, we are leaving a lot more half burnt timber both standing and lying down in the bush after each fire which makes the next fire in the same area a lot more severe. Added to the rotting wood after bushfires, our eucalyptus trees shed their bark annually, drop thousands of gum nuts and leaves continually, as well as dead branches which also adds more fuel for the next fires.

I understand the importance of dead, hollow-bearing trees to ecosystems and as habitat features for native fauna but we do not need more of these dead trees either standing of lying down after each bushfire. There needs to be a certain number in each sector of land and the rest MUST be salvaged to reduce the severity of the next fires.

The PNF Codes of Practice MUST allow, actually mandate or at least encourage the salvage harvesting of this excess rotting wood plus the wood left on the forest floor after storms and after clearing for fences and roads to reduce the severity of future bushfires.

This extra rotting wood produces CO2 continually making the forests neutral with respect to CO2 sequestration. Growing trees remove CO2 from the air, store the carbon in the wood and release the oxygen back into the air. The older forests become carbon neutral because of all the extra rotting wood everywhere and rotting wood produces CO2.

Animals need some of this dead wood both standing and lying down but they don't need an increased amount of deadwood after each bushfire. By leaving the rotting timber there, we are not only increasing CO2 but increasing the severity of the next bushfire, killing more trees and more animals.

The excess dead trees in the forests producing CO2 should be turned into biomass and used to produce electricity. This would solve 2 problems, reduce the severity of bushfires and produce renewable electricity 24/7 rather than burning coal.

Land must be allowed to be cleared beside fences, fire trails, roads and homes but the trees taken out, must be salvaged or burnt in a cold fire, so that this timber is not left there, to make the next fires more severe and to continue producing CO2.

In salvaging the dead wood we must be careful not to cause erosion and while removing this dead wood the erosion caused by the bushfires can also be repaired.

Also by salvaging the dead wood from the bush, the cold hazard reduction burns which must take place, won't produce as much toxic smoke. If this salvaged wood is turned into biomass and burnt in a power station to generate electricity instead of coal the toxic particles are filtered out so the total amount of toxic smoke is reduced.

When we plant more trees and more forests we must manage them so that the annual dead branches and bark plus any dead trees resulting from storms must be salvaged so that when the bushfires come again, they won't be as severe.

Also there must be one organisation, who oversee and manage all these problems and not the many interest groups with their own agendas and legal requirements. All legal restrictions on forests must be in one document and not in a series of interested groups' documents.

Eg The new Koala SEPP must also follow the bushfire mitigation procedures and not lock up more forests to increase the severity of bushfires therefore it should be in a section of the forestry SEPP and not in an individual document.

All the work done to look after various plant species, to solve erosion, to look after our Koalas, other animals, insects, reptiles and birds is undone every time we have a bushfire.

However if we salvage the excess dead wood, the fires will be less severe. Salvaging is expensive but it is far more expensive to restore the community, the infrastructure, the ecosystem and animals' wellbeing.

Trees are the natural batteries for the sun's energy as they store the carbon from the CO2 in the wood. They are a renewable resource and should be used for as much as possible, for building material, for paper and for electricity in the form of biomass. They should be harvested, then replanted and managed. The dead wood must be salvaged and also used for as much as possible including exporting, and generating electricity. Biomass made from trees is used to generate electricity in many countries. In the UK they actually import Biomass to generate electricity.

The bushfire season will be here again before we know it, with more fires, as there is still a huge amount of land that didn't burn this last summer.

If the PNF Codes are done properly we can solve many problems. We can reduce the severity of our annual bushfires which reduces the devastation of communities. We can produce electricity from a renewable resource which reduces the amount of toxic smoke.

Bushfire mitigation must be the number one consideration in developing the code of practice around caring for our land.

Attach your submission

bushfires_fuel_photos_pnf_review.docx
967.33 KB · DOCX

The photos below show the huge amount of dead wood both standing and on the floor of the bush.

These photos were taken just before the bushfires in December 2019. They are just one example of the bush all along the east coast of Australia. This excess dead wood must be salvaged and should be turned into biomass and used for generating electricity 24/7 to reduce the severity of the next fires.

Thousands of dead standing trees burnt in 2003 and 2006 fires at Mt Buffalo Victoria.

Dead branches on the national park floor near Mt Buffalo.

Fuel on the forest floor near Mt Buffalo.

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My comments

1. Small scale harvesting must be allowed but the number of trees per hectare should be governed by the size and type and terrain of forest on the property and not a fixed number per hectare. This should be decided at the PNF approval plan. Bushfire mitigation MUST be part of this plan to reduce the severity of future bushfires.
Trees are a renewable resource and should be used for as much as possible, for buildings, for paper and for electricity. They should be harvested and re-planted and managed. PNF should not be locked up.
Trees are the natural batteries for the sun's energy because they store the carbon from CO_2 in the wood and release the oxygen back into the air. Trees should be used to generate renewable electricity 24/7.
2. All forest regeneration MUST have as its number one aim to reduce the severity of future bushfires. It doesn't take many years before the bush is again full of dead branches, dead trees both standing and lying, shedded bark, leaves and gum nuts. This rotting wood must be allowed to be salvaged and turned into biomass to reduce the severity of future bushfires. This will also reduce the amount of CO_2 going back into the air from the rotting wood and reduce the amount of toxic smoke created during fires.
The trees should be planted because young trees sequester more CO_2 because they don't have dead rotting branches on them.
3. We recognise the importance of the dead, hollow-bearing trees and forest ecosystems but we don't need to increase the number of these after each bushfire because that will increase the severity of the next bushfire thus killing more animal.
4. By increasing the number of habitat trees in the new Koala SEPP we are actually going to end up killing more koalas in future bushfires instead of saving them. Looking at the new map showing the increase of Koala forests it looks as though most of the east coast is now classified as Koala forest resulting in more forests being locked up. This will result in more really severe bushfires which will result in the opposite outcome for koalas. The good intensions have not been thought through.
5. Salvage harvesting must be allowed and actually must be encouraged in PNF as well as being done in state and national forests.
It doesn't matter what we legislate we will never be able to stop bushfires as a large number of them are started be

lightning which we can't control. However we can control the amount of dead wood we leave in the bush after storms and fires and the amount we leave there around road and fence construction. By removing the ever increasing amount of dead wood in the bush we can reduce the severity of future bushfires.
Salvaging dead wood from the bush must be done. This will bring jobs to the country. It should be turned into biomass to produce electricity instead of burning coal. Biomass is actually imported by UK to generate electricity to earn carbon credits.

Salvage harvesting in PNF MUST be allowed and cold burns done in those areas where salvaging can't be done.