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**From:** Lisa McKenna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 August 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** ClimateChangeInquiry  
**Subject:** Climate Change Submission.

To whom it concerns,

First of all I would like to commend your efforts thus far in setting renewables and emissions targets. Now I would like to see these ideals put into action.

We have seen the devastating deforestation of the Arctic and the Amazon, yet many Victorians do not realise another deforestation hot spot is in our own back yard. High conservation old growth forest are being harvested for timber and paper products, and may be exported for bio fuels. There is a push for timber to be used for biofuels in East Gippsland. This would be a disastrous move for the environment. It is not clean energy, by the time trees have regrown to absorb the carbon emissions, it will be too late to avoid 2 degrees of warming. Now more than ever, we need every tree in every forest to absorb emissions and produce oxygen.

What is not harvested in logging, is being burned in hazard reduction burns, an antiquated policy from a gut reaction to Black Saturday. It came from indigenous practice of northern Australia, a vastly different ecosystem. Present climate conditions and our understanding of the fire resistant properties of old growth forest, as well as the hotter and bigger than optimal burns currently being performed shows this policy to be hopelessly flawed. A study by the University of Sydney showed that the scubby undergrowth that comes back after these fires is actually 200% MORE fire prone, than the old growth fire resistant forest that was there pre burning. These fires are hot enough to cause pyroclimatic clouds, leaving smoke in the atmosphere and surrounding towns for days. Ironically these emissions are contributing to climate change which causes the catastrophic fire conditions, and increases the stress of rural property owners.

I live in the East Gippsland forests, the trees are already dying. Burnt by heat waves during Summer, then hardly any rain in Autumn means they are struggling enough without the added pressures of logging and burning. The resources of DELWP can be much better spent in preserving and restoring these precious forests, our only defence against climate change, without further destruction.

I ask for an immediate moratorium on future logging and hazard reduction burns. (Even a local popular flora reserve and tourist attraction with high conservation value, The Cabbage Tree Palms, has been partially logged in preparation for burning.) A transition to plantation logging and higher yield products like hemp be transitioned to.

The plus of this is there is a huge opportunity for ecotourism projects like the Emerald link. Getting communities involved in forest restoration, and supporting organisations like Landcare. I am so frustrated about the lack of recycling infrastructure, I would like access to all communities for as much recycling as possible.

Also what is the deal about having a coal to hydrogen plant in Westernport, with the plan to dump waste in 90 mile beach, one of the most pristine coastlines in the world. This is not clean energy. Hydrogen can more easily, economically and cleanly be distilled from water. The age of coal is dead, we need to leave the rest in the ground so it can store our carbon there. Thankyou for your attention.

Lisa McKenna  
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