



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES CALL FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMBINED GOVERNMENT BUSHFIRE ACTION PLAN**

The Australian Progressives are calling on Scott Morrison to unite federal and state governments to implement an immediate action plan to address Australia's ongoing bushfire threat.

Australian Progressives National Policy Director, Nicolle Burt said, "During this catastrophic period of climate change, which is impacting bushfires, drought and other disasters, the last thing Australia needs is another bushfire Royal Commission".

The Australian Progressives echo the comments made by Kevin Tolhurst, Honorary Associate Professor of Fire Ecology and Management at the University of Melbourne, published in [The Conversation](#) January 16, 2020. *'There have been 57 Royal Commissions and bushfire inquiries since 1939. Most of the recommendations were never fully implemented, including the recommendation from the Stretton Royal Commission from 1939.'*

"Given these recommendations have been made for more than 80 years, another Royal Commission seems ridiculous. It is no wonder we continue to face the same problems, risks and issues experienced in 1939" continued Ms Burt. "In our view, the formation of another Royal Commission into bushfires (as announced by the Prime Minister) would be a colossal waste of tax payers money. We assume the Prime Minister will set the terms of the Royal Commission to be narrow and suit the agenda of climate change denial. Under these terms, a RC wont highlight what many academics and experts have highlighted as the known cause - our over-reliance on fossil fuels" Ms Burt added.

The Australian Progressives call for an evaluation and compilation of all the recommendations arising from previous inquiries, including reports generated by various Australian bodies such as the CSIRO, into a consolidated and updated action plan. "This action plan should be tabled at COAG for consideration and implementation. Any bushfire related action plan will have to account for more recent impacts from climate change, must consider more recent assessments from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the long-term climate change impacts outlined by experts such as Ross Garnaut" she added.

"It is difficult to justify the expense of yet another commission of inquiry when there is so much information from previous inquiries. Australians want action now. We want policy now. We want this addressed now. We won't get that with another exercise in bureaucratic naval gazing".

**ENDS**



**About Australian Progressives:**

We believe in the advancement of an empathetic society - one in which all citizens of Australia can reach their full potential and find fulfilment in their lives within a thriving democracy. We will be a government with the guts to advance society through laws, services and infrastructure, for the benefit of all people. We believe government and communities should work together to develop creative and passionate individuals who can improve the world around them, embracing education, technology, science, culture and global leadership.

National Policy Director Nicolle Burt is available for comment.

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