

Letters

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Cause of fire inquiry failure is all too clear

THE Bushfires Royal Commission was never going to have a good outcome. Its name, terms of reference and choice of commissioners and experts, suggested from the start it would be a failure. Its final report proved that to be the case.

Based on the misleading evidence into the royal commission, we alerted the Prime Minister in this newspaper over five weeks ago, of a bad outcome. We wrote: "Appropriate forest management, initial attack and prescribed burning is diminished to almost nothing". Not only did the commission's final report prove our predictions correct, it also made the absurd statement, "...in extreme bushfires, fuel loads do not appear to have a material impact on fire behaviour".

That statement alone leaves the royal commission's credibility damaged.

Clearly the royal commissioners were chosen and advised by the same people who turned a blind eye to the high landscape level fuel loads which left "three billion animals killed or displaced". The final report's constant use of the words "can" and "may", shows the commission's uncertainty about the science of bushfire.

In the past it has been unclear who to blame for the fires



that prompted the many previous government inquiries. But not this time, because there is no doubt the perpetrator is the federal Liberal Party and its leader, Prime Minister Morrison.

They have had the power and time to reduce fuel loads, based on the bipartisan approved recommendation of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, nine years ago. They abrogated their responsibility to manage our forest ecology and in our opinion, tried to cover it up with a failed royal commission.

This failed royal commission has guaranteed there will be future man-made fire disasters, potentially killing thousands of people.

Tim Malseed,
President, Firestick Estate Inc.

Your diet is in their sights

WE need to wake up to all animal welfare organisations be-

fore they have total control and we are eating grass.

Phillip Adams,
Llandilo

Aussie brands slowly strangled

I REMEMBER back in the 1960s some of these names: MacRobertson chocolates sold to Cadburys, Sennits Ice Cream Holmesglen purchased by Unilever, Druin Cheese Factory Gippsland (possibly the best aged tasty cheese in Australia) purchased by one of the large dairy conglomerates, then soon after closed down ("Who owns Australia's food," WT Oct 28).

Some of these Aussie companies were simply bled to death — they spent little funds in updating their equipment.

I am not in the food business, I am in the leisure industry and my competitors control at least 90 per cent of this particular industry. Our product is Australian made, but the aver-

age Australian does not care, most of the time it is the bottom line that counts.

One only has to do a survey of customers coming out of a supermarket and 90 per cent have not noticed where the product was made let alone whether the product is Aussie owned.

John Feruglio,
Croydon

Campers leave farmers exposed

ALLOWING campers on to grazing leases for crown water frontages will be a contravention of the mandatory livestock production accreditation, so where does that leave farmers? Up the river without a paddle.

Jan Watson,
Rose River

Appreciation for healthier soil

DR Edmeades no doubt has

many supporters of his views in this article, but for a growing number of his colleagues it is becoming more widely recognised that the long-term productivity of the present high input intensive farming systems and potential profit is being eroded to maximise short term production ("Regenerative agriculture labelled 'pseudoscience' by NZ expert," theweeklytimes.com.au Oct 6).

The soil is the foundation of every farming enterprise but under conventional modern farming systems, scientific research is showing a subtle annual declining ability of soils to mineralise and hold nutrients as well as water holding capacity.

Dean Belfield commented accurately that arguments such as Dr Edmeades is "short term reductionist thinking"; a barrier to the desire of most farmers to leave their soils in better health to the next generation.

Brenton Byerlee,
Managing director Soil Management Systems

PIECE OF MIND

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OUTRAGEOUS, it is not up to the banks to tell their customers what they can or cannot do with their own business, especially when that business is well run and profitable ("How climate concerns will change banking for farmers," theweeklytimes.com.au Nov 2)

Faye

VOLUNTEER numbers are falling in our neck of the charred woods because we have an ageing population, (youth have all moved away to seek employment) and those remaining are fed up with onerous red tape and not having "local knowledge" respected on the fire ground ("Fire services costs blow out," Oct 29). If the culture doesn't change, I can see farmers equipping themselves and fighting fires that threaten their assets by themselves.

Janice

EACH country should supply their own people with fruit and vegetables, that way we don't get diseases transmitted from one country to another ("US apples one step closer to Australian shelves" Oct 28). Besides, Australia has enough of our own. We should be supporting our own farmers first and eat what's in season. Tastes better.

Lesley

HAS the Government learnt nothing from all that has gone on 2020? Australian growers need to be put at the top of the supply chain, and Australians should try as much as possible to demand Aussie grown and produced product.

Dawn

POLL RESULTS

SENTIENT BEINGS

Should farm animals be recognised as sentient beings?

Yes **31%**

No **69%**

279 votes to noon yesterday

THIS WEEK

Would you eat fake zebra meat?

theweeklytimes.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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