

NO. 3 FIRE & LOGGING

KEY POINTS

1

The key contributor to increased bushfires is climate change creating more extreme fire weather.

2

Peer-reviewed evidence shows native forest logging makes forest more flammable and leads to elevated fire severity.

3

Data in Price and Bradstock 2012, Taylor et al 2014, and Attiwill 2014 all show the clear relationship between fire severity and logged forest in 2009 after Black Saturday fires.

4

Cruz et al 2012 showed the Murrundindi-Kilmore Fire slowed when it entered old growth forest in 2009.

5

This link between fire severity and logging has been found in global studies such as those in Patagonia and in western North America.

6

Increased fire severity due to logging is likely because removing the canopy allows in sun and wind that dry the forest (including the soil). In addition, densely spaced stands of rapidly growing young trees regenerating after logging may increase the amount of fire fuel.

