

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR, THE AUSTRALIAN, SCIENTISTS WARN OFF OAKESHOTT,
FROM LOIS KATZ. 29.02.2012**

Dear Editor,

There have been many studies documenting how logging changes the character of our native forests. Logging in the south eastern section of Australia over the years has changed those moist native forests to becoming drier and more fire prone. One reason that these forests are drying out is that the removal of tree canopies lets in more sunshine and this dries out the soil and kills off the moist undergrowth.

Because of the horrific bush fire experiences of the residents of Victoria and their tragic loss of life and property, we now have a new fire danger rating: It is called catastrophic. Bush fire intensity has now increased dramatically. Fire fighters said that they had never seen anything like it before. This is not a fluke. It is the result of the continued and reckless logging of our native forests.

How much longer are people going to have live with the madness of letting a few make a short term profit with the treasures that really belong to all Australians? We must stop this silly and dangerous practice of allowing our water storing, carbon storing, climate moderating, tourist attracting native forests to be used in such a wasteful and ignorant manner.

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