

# Affect on Economy and Wildlife of Bushfires In Australia

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The most catastrophic fires pave the way by enormous high temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds which combine to create ideal conditions for the rapid spread of fire. Eastern Australia is one of the most fire-prone regions of the world. The fires can cause loss and damage to both the animals and human life.

### Five fire storms that occurred severely

Severe fire storms that are named as are:

- The Gippsland fires and black Sunday which occurred in 1926 in Victoria have killed 60 people over a two month period.
- Black Friday which occurred in the year 1939 in Victoria with 71 dead and 650 house destroyed.
- Black Tuesday that occurred in 1967, Tasmania where 62 people died and almost 1300 homes lost.
- Ash Wednesday 1983 in Victoria and south Australia where 75 dead and nearly 1900 homes lost.
- Black Saturday 2009 in Victoria, 173 people were killed and 2000 homes were lost because of the bushfire.

Other major destructive include 2006 December bushfire, 1974-75 fires that affected 15% of Australia and 2019-2020 bushfires. In January 2020, it was estimated that over 1.25 billion animals have died in the 2019-2020 Australian bushfire season.

## II. BUSHFIRE THAT AFFECTED AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

Bush fires in Australia have killed many animals and also destroyed the local habitats, leaving the survivors vulnerable. Most of the animals died that includes mammals, birds and reptiles. They were burnt to death in the fires and later many other due to lack of food and shelter. Even some of Australia's native species like kangaroo may even become extinct because of the current fires.

Koalas are the slow-moving and during the fire they tend to climb top of the tree and curl into a ball where they become trapped. In January 2020, it was reported that half of the 50,000 koalas on kangaroo Islands are thought to have died in the previous few weeks. Loss of habitat also affects endangered species such as the western ground parrot, the Leadbeater's possum, the Mallee emu-wren (a bird which cannot fly very far), and Gilbert's potoroo. Beekeepers have also lost hives in bushfires.

Kangaroos and wallabies can move quickly trying to escape from fires. However, the Guardian reported in January 2020 that dozens, maybe hundreds of kangaroos "perished in their droves" as they tried to outrun the flames near Batlow in NSW. The most resilient animals are those that can burrow or fly. Possums often get singed, but can sometimes hide in tree hollows. Wombats and snakes tend to go underground.

Goannas can benefit from bushfires. Goannas coming out from their burrows after a fire and picking off injured animals – singed birds, young birds, small mammals, surface-dwelling lizards, and snakes."

## III. AFFECT TO THE ECONOMY

The bushfires also cause damage to the economy through increased air pollution and direct harm to industries such as farming and tourism. The insurance council of Australia says about 4300 claims worth A\$240 million have been lodged. There are 192,000 small businesses and sole traders in bushfire-affected areas, it is not yet known how many will be eligible for funding. Consultancy SGS Economics and Planning has estimated that Sydney's economy loses as much as A\$50 million each day it is blanketed with a toxic haze from smoke billowing in from the fires.



#### IV. CONCLUSION

The bushfires that affected Australia is because of the changes in the climate. An estimated \$500 million dollar was donated by public, international organisations and celebrities for victim relief and wildlife recovery. It's better to 'say no to climate change' by reducing usage of that which shouldn't be used. The Australia bushfires affected the country's economy by its damages.

#### REFERENCE

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