

## **Climate Council Report Warns of Increased Bushfire Risk**

In a report issued today, the Climate Council warns of increased risk of bushfires with climate change and calls on communities to prepare for extreme fire conditions.

President of Climate Action Monaro, Ms Jenny Goldie, says the Monaro had already experienced increased fire risk from the spread of African lovegrass and residents should be very concerned about climate change adding to the problem.

The report has six main points:

- Climate change is already increasing the risk of bushfires.
- In southeast Australia the fire season is becoming longer, reducing the opportunities for hazard reduction burning.
- Recent severe fires have been influenced by record hot, dry conditions.
- In the future, Australia is very likely to experience an increased number of days with extreme fire danger.
- It is crucial that communities, emergency services, health services and other authorities prepare for the increasing severity and frequency of extreme fire conditions.
- This is the critical decade for action.

Ms Goldie says the last point is significant, namely, we have to take action this decade and not leave it until later.

"We all have to do our bit in reducing greenhouse emissions by flying and driving less, planting trees and moving to renewable energy where we can," she says.

"It is up to government, however, to bring in effective mitigation policies including a shift away from subsidising fossil fuels towards subsidising renewables such as wind and solar. Globally, fossil fuel subsidies amount to \$544 billion whereas renewables only get about \$109 billion annually."

Ms Goldie says there has to be adaptation as well as mitigation and, in the case of fires, more resources put into the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

**Further information:**

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