

Your details

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A member of the general public

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The intensity of these fires was mainly due to the build-up of fuel caused by insufficient cool burns. Many access tracks into forests were barricaded off or closed many years ago. This made access for fire-fighters more difficult and dangerous. Too much consideration has been given to those with a loud voice and little or no experience in

either managing land or fires. Reduction in NSW Forestry staff has also impacted. Not listening to long-term local landowners at times caused poor decision-making. A particular fire needs to be controlled by those who reside in the local area of the fire or by those who have first-hand knowledge of the area of the fire, or, at the very least such a person must be consulted and his/her advice heeded. Local fire = local knowledge.

1.2 Preparation and planning

There was a general need for cool mosaic burns. A major need for those with experience in land and fire management in their local area to be listened too. Original firebreaks in forests need to be re-opened to allow access. Mosaic cool burns need to be implemented.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Fast response times and local knowledge is imperative. Lack of local knowledge causes major problems. Respect shown to, and consultation with, local long-term landowners will improve outcomes if they are listened too. Local ABC radio gave good coverage of the fires.

1.4 Any other matters

Hot uncontrolled fires, especially crown fires cause massive damage. These fires caused the loss of life to millions of native animals, birds, invertebrates, insects and other creatures, as well as the loss of their habitats. Some species in some local areas will never recover - ie, they will be extinct in some local areas. Native grasses, shrubs, perennial plants and trees have suffered and many have died. There is nothing green about these hot fires. Australia or NSW needs to purchase or lease more fire-fighting planes as our fire season continues to expand. If fire-fighting from the air begins earlier, fires may be brought under control earlier. Fire-fighters should not be required to risk their lives to save those who have chosen to build in almost inaccessible areas, surrounded by bushland or forests. Country roadways should all be kept clear of weeds, including camphor laurel and other fuel loaded species, to allow safe community exits in times of major fires and safe access and exits for fire-fighters. Fire is a living phenomenon and grows to the conditions of its environment at the time of the fire. Each fire is different and needs to be managed as such. Perhaps a combination of fire observation towers and drones would be effective fire spotting tools. Many more cool mosaic burns are needed -now! National Parks and NSW Forestry need to work together with local communities to obtain a better outcome. .

Supporting documents or images
