

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

I have lived through 3 bushfires very close to properties that I have owned. 2 in the Sydney basin, Rouse Hill and Kurrajong and 1 in central NSW, and at present live in Ku Ring Gai national park at Cottage Point. Where the residents are well equipped and on high alert all the time and the small community here is very conscious of the danger. I have known a lot of volunteer firefighters over the years and to be quite frank I worry about the level of enthusiasm to fight the fires, and to light more fires to fight the fires. During the huge fires over January-February period I got to talk to a number of firefighters that were sent to various places to fight fire with fire, and the level of enthusiasm was palpable (some of them were way too excited about the whole goings on).

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

What I think would be incredible helpful would be a truthful account of how these fires originally started, in what manner, and by whom. A timeline from the start to the finish. How these fires originated, how many were left to burn themselves out, how many of them were back burns gone wrong.

1.2 Preparation and planning

I believe in small controlled areas of back burns during the off season. I also believe that allowing citizens in an area to gather firewood from the side of the road is a good initiative even if they have to buy a permit to do so with the money being put in to clearing undergrowth fuel through our forests. By getting a permit in certain areas could be assigned to these people so this is done in a balanced manner.

1.3 Response to bushfires

I think there should be a mandatory 5-10 years jail for any person convicted of lighting a fire, and possibly make this a 15 year jail term for people who are in the RFS and associated fire brigades. I don't think people who join the army to fight are pacifists and I don't think people who volunteer for firefighting always have good motives, otherwise we would have a lot more volunteers feeding homeless people. Don't get me wrong I know we need these people but maybe a better screening process of the people that join would go towards helping things. Maybe trying to actually put out the first fire using all the resources when you have the conditions that we had would have better served us in putting out the fires not letting them burn or lightning back burns.

Supporting documents or images
