



Your details

Submission details

I am making this submission as

Emergency services personnel

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 was ifortunate to sucessfully defend my dwelling in the Currowan Fire.
Although I have retired from NPWS, I was able through work contacts to get a good overview of strategies employed by RFS leading up to the fire reaching my residence.
My main point is the back burning strategies . I agree that backburning is an effective and sometimes the only tool to fight wildfires. However in the recent post drought conditions it can be extremely difficult to prevent backburning from crossing control lines. For this reason backburning should be limited in such conditions to staying just ahead of the fire front so as not to spread the wild fire.
For example the recent Currowan fire in it's early stages was located west of East Lynne but in a misguided attempt to "contain" the fire back burns were extended north and south to link up with fire trails running east west and therefore have the fire "contained" on its east west north and south flanks. In this

particular case the next available fire trail was Mares Hill Rd some 25ks north. Subsequent horrendous winds from the north west caused the fire to make runs to the coast as far north as Tabourie. The original fire would have only run through East Lynne to the coast and thus many properties were endangered and lost that otherwise may not have been.

I have seen this hapoen before during my career as a firefighter and feel that it stems from a misguided preference for backburning strategies that "contain" rather than "limit the spread of" wildfires.

It hapoened time and again during this recent bushfire season but I did notice that in the srea north of Mongarlowe a more sensible strategy was implemented where backburning was limited to staying just ahead of the wildfire front along Charleys Forest Rd.

We should learn from this example and train RFS incident management teams accordingly

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
