



Your details

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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

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

Eden, 4/01/2020. Years of drought conditions leading up to an extremely dry year (no winter rain). The worst fire conditions that I have experienced in 37 years of living and working, 28 years involved in forest research e.g. burn study area, in the bush.
Fires moving towards us from at least 2 fire fronts from Victoria. Years of poorly maintained National Parks, huge fuel loads and lack of access. Slow and inadequate response to initial fires by N.P.s, allowed to burn for weeks and to become so big that they

were unfightable YET AGAIN. Really nothing anyone can do when faced with these huge fires, the drought conditions and howling south westerly wind driving it. Was attention to the global emissions debate overshadowing acting on the fire conditions we are facing NOW? Governments not listening to the warnings from scientists about how severe the conditions were months if not years before -- not prepared, not enough resources.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Lack of consistent yearly maintenance of bush areas in and around towns to reduce risk. Water supply was going to be turned cut off when fire impacted Eden -- how can we try to protect property without water?

1.3 Response to bushfires

Initial response very poor, half a dozen local R.F.S. personnel, only to save lives, no resources to help fight fires and protect property in and around Eden. Some time in the night more resources began to arrive, giving us some small hope. Only fortune saved Eden, a slight wind direction change.

1.4 Any other matters

I have absolutely no confidence in Nation Parks to manage and protect our native ecosystems and to keep communities safe from the bush fire threat. When I hear that a fire has started in a N.P. all I can think is HERE WE GO AGAIN. As an organization they need to change their policies and will around fire management. Fast and decisive action to contain and put out early season fires, not allow them to wander through the landscape for weeks on end. This has been a long standing issue, the Canberra fire January 2003, the August/September 2018 fire near Bemboka, for example. Lack of access, more trails and tracks needed. The use of heavy machinery to create good USEFUL fire breaks are essential, minimal environmental damage verses major raging out of control fires that destroy everything in their path. Need our own water bombing fleet so we can potentially have fast initial response to put out fires in remote, inaccessible areas., stopping the unfightable fires forming in the first place.

Many fires that had started in our State Forests were contained and put out by forestry and R.F.S. personnel leading up to the arrival of the huge unfightable fires, great job by both agencies. The forestry industry has allowed better access, more roads and trails maintained allowing much faster response and workable control lines, the use of heavy machinery, a will to contain and put fires out early. Being near the Victorian boarder with huge N.P.s at our door, it is horrifying to contemplate the outcome of Victoria closing native logging. Not only loosing a sustainable generally well managed natural resource but the impact on future fire events if policies don't change with N.P.s

I am feed up with Forestry bashing and with the lack of credit to Forestry personnel. They are our best and most experienced fire fighters. Please leave politics out of fire fighting, recognize and utilize their years of expertise and experience. Thank you for listening.

Supporting documents or images
