



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 joined the local RFS a couple of years ago as I wanted to make a contribution to the protection of property and for the protection of habitat, as I believed that there may of been some people in the community that were a bit too liberal with burning in my opinion.

By the time I got qualified to be a firefighter we were in the middle of the driest time most people had witnessed on the North Coast. As a new person on the truck I didnt say much and observed some pretty bad situations and was happy to help protect homes, especially out Nymboyda area on that horrid day.

I am a natural resources professional, with over 30 years of experience advising on land and water use, firstly in South Australia and also Queensland and NSW. I live in the bush in a mud brick house and work now in bushland restoration.

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

Long dry spell, no rain, drought, all made worse by the changing climate.
Some fires were not jumped on quickly enough and got away when they would of been controllable if more resources were put in faster.

1.2 Preparation and planning

There was no extra preparation and planning than for any other year, even though it was well know the risks due to the drought index.

1.3 Response to bushfires

As far as I was concerned our Brigade did the best it could at all times. However some of the back burning we were asked to do was unnecessary and destroyed quality old growth bush, that did not need to be burnt.
The communications was not good, and we had local people who would of been better used in the communications centre, who were trained and had the local knowledge, who were not used because people from out of the area were used and this was a big problem, because of there unfamiliarity with local names and locations. The problem with who was in charge between Clarence and Northern Rivers was a nightmare for us on a couple of nights.
It was scary at times but I felt safe with the trucks and other volunteers I was with.

1.4 Any other matters

There needs to be more training and use of ecological principles in training. Training of fire fighters and the people at the top of the fire service needs to be more professional now climate change is being felt more often.
Some fires were deliberately lit and there needs to be a big effort put into stopping these people as there is in South Australia. Times have changed and so the old ways of firefighting are not going to be good enough going into the future. More science needs to be taken into account.

Supporting documents or images
