Your details

Title
Mr

First name
Arnold

Last name
McLean

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 give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story
I experienced and fought in the 1968 Illawarra bush fire. In September 2019 it was obvious the 2019 - 2020 bush fire season was to be extremely dangerous due to the extent of forest regrowth, the extreme vegetation dryness , the low atmospheric RH and the increased ambient temperatures.

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
Bush fires must be extinguished as soon as they are identified especially during or with approaching extreme

weather conditions. It is far too dangerous to let bush fires get out of hand and then attempt to control same using existing RFS resources. Life and limb are put at considerable risk.New technology must be adopted. The new technology must include infra red satellite image monitoring 24/7. When a unidentifiable infra red source is located in bush land water bombing drones should be operated and guided to extinguish the bush fire source ASAP. These drones should have sufficient range to access even the most remote locations. Via drones access to a fire source in the most rugged topography will be possible.

1.2 Preparation and planning
Invest in automated satellite imagery technology and monitoring.
Invest in water bombing remote controlled satellite directed drone technology.

1.3 Response to bushfires
Extinguish sources using drones ASAP.
Existing RFS resources should only be used to manage bush fires by back burns to protect infrastructure and property and to control low intensity fires (e.g flames less than 1 metre high and less than say 5KW /m flame front). When intense uncontrolled bushed fire (e,g flames higher than 1 metre or or intense then 5KW /m) RFS resources should simply assist with resident, stock and animal evacuation as best can safely.

1.4 Any other matters
1) Non attached house frames and all residential roof framing in bush fire prone areas should be constructed from hard wood. Reason it is inherently fire proof! Furthermore the managed use of this resource would reduce the vegetation fuel load.
2) All metal roofing should also receive end treatment to permit embers and fuel load penetrating into the roof. Notably my father shaped the ridge caps into the sheet gulleys post kinking the sheet gulleys up at the top edge and closing down the ridges at the lower edge (attracting the advantage of reduced bird ingress). Currently metal roofing is installed excessively rushed totally ignoring necessary end and ridge rap detailing. Foam infills must not be used the same simply add to the fuel load.
3) Gum forest leaf and upper branch load should be controlled managed harvested for use as fuel for bio mass fuelled energy power stations inputting into the grid. Bio mass fuelled energy power stations should be so located with their hinterland protecting significant populated rural areas. The array of stationary bio mass fuelled power stations could be complemented by smaller relocatable power stations and/or mobile power stations. The sustainable controlled consumption of bush vegetation load should be viewed as equivalent to 1st nation person low intensity burns. On the other hand it is a total loss to waste a vast sustainable renewal energy source simply go up in smoke without any benefit. Utilization of bush bio mass should be viewed as sustainable as it will be simply recycling carbon.

Supporting documents or images