



Title	Mr
First name	Craig Andrew
Last name	Bethune

I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public

Your story	<p>I live in a residential area and at no time did we come under direct threat, but over the period that the Green Wattle Creek fire was active was quite stressful for my family especially considering my wife's parents lost their house in Duffy during the 2001 Canberra fires.</p> <p>The evacuation from Thirlmere on the 19th December was terrible the roads were blocked Picton was gridlocked and many of the people told to evacuate were never in danger and it should have been staged evacuation notices. The social media fake stories were also very distressing to many people and the fires near me app was very basic and frustration with lack of information.</p> <p>I know a dozer driver who pushed the big fire break from Oakdale to Balmoral he said at some stages there was around 6 foot of fuel on the ground in some areas and another fire person told me there are spots in the catchment that havent had a burn since the 2nd world war, thats just mismanagement by the governing</p>
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bodies. Our bush need fire to regenerate and to be healthy gum trees drop leaves so there is fuel to burn they have evolved that way so by us not burning like the indigenous did we are going against nature?

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

When I first moved into the area 40 years ago there was a lot more back burning done with a lot less people in the shire.
1, Lack of back burning giving the community a safer buffer zone
2, Being locked out of the water catchment and un maintained fire trails
3, Lack of resources in the especially water to RFS trucks

1.2 Preparation and planning

We need to embrace cultural burning throughout the shire and state it could be a great opportunity to gain some respect and understanding for our indigenous community.
Local indigenous community members could be trained to be Cultural Burning Officers and be part of the RFS station.

With increased cultural burning there would be more RFS members I know lots of people have dropped out or just haven't joined because there isn't a lot to do during the good times. This would help with RFS fatigue, I know one bloke from Oakdale who went out every weekend from the fires at Wallaby Point till Canberra plus working it was a lot for him and his young family.

The evacuation on the 19th December needs to be improved Staging evacuations would be better in towns with poor road access such as we do. Large sprawling towns like Tahmoor should be broken into zones ie: SW (South West) NW SE NE Tahmoor, so not all Tahmoor leaves at once and blocks the road. SW and SE should have been evacuated first then NW but NE would have not had to evacuate.

The radio scanner app was great it should be improved to be like a radio station that people can hear a real voice in real time it was quite calming and informative same as the flight path app you could see where the water bombers were and knew that if they are not near you its safe. People craved information so if you had a radio station for each region it would help even a live stream tv channel talking about relevant information with a tickertape on the bottom of the screen.

1.3 Response to bushfires

We live in Australia is not a matter of if there is going to be a fire that effects each and every one of us its when its going to happen it might not be this year or next but it will happen and the longer between them the worse it s going to be. Government controlled land needs to be managed better in regards to fuel loads.

1.4 Any other matters

Our defense forces should be used for aerial water bombing and also for securing areas, my uncle lives in Batemans Bay and there was looting he was scared to leave his house and went 2 weeks with no power and wouldnt leave. Its a disgrace know one would complain if the army patrolled areas in those circumstances

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