

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Douglas

Last name

Grace

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 live in a bush fire prone area and during the 1994 catastrophic fires in Ingleside my property was one of the few properties to be unscathed by these fires. The reason for this is simple, the practice of using cold season fuel reduction annually. Although the fires threatened my property I was single handed able to avoid fires taking hold on my land. For three days I fought fires outside my boundaries due to spot fire and ember attack, but not on my land. I was prepared and ready and all the preparation paid off. My land has trees and grass but had low ground fuel. Since that time, for most people it has become illegal to practice cold weather fuel reduction with now heavy fines for doing so. Simply put, farmers and residents of bushy properties understand the simple practice of fuel reduction in winter. Indigenous representatives are also advocating this simple practice.

The knee jerk reaction to ban this practice after the 1994 fires has been a major contributor to impact on rural properties. It is not only the indigenous people that understand this commonsense and simple practice, let the farmers and rural property owners to have a return to these simple but effective practices.

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

Cold weather fuel reduction without penalties for land owners has been drastically reduced by authorities

1.2 Preparation and planning

All preparation is done based on location and usual practice. Safe offset of trees and shrubs from dwellings, low fuel level based on cold weather burns

1.3 Response to bushfires

Sufficient water and implementation of fire fighting tools such as fire pumps and suitable capacity water storage in water tanks or swimming pools

1.4 Any other matters

Simple notification process to local RFS to inform them of fuel reduction burns.

Supporting documents or images
