



Your details

Dr

Title

First name

Richard

Last name

Marschall

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 give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

I performed a wide variety of roles with the RFS during the fires, from out in the field facing the fires to back-end incident control in command centres. I also have considerable training and background in computational fluid mechanics and heat transfer, including the modelling of combustion processes.

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

Global warming has caused a shift of weather patterns which has resulted in most of Australia becoming much drier and warmer. Scientists have been raising warnings about this for decades.

Excessive land clearing is also contributing to desertification and increasing droughts. The 10/50 laws also contributed to increasing fire risks by increasing ground level dryness and wind speeds, both of which appear (as the product) in the exponent of models of fire intensity and rate of spread.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The fire services were grossly under-resourced both before and during the fire season, despite repeated warning by knowledgeable professionals.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Small fires were allowed to balloon out of control by not deploying sufficient resources soon enough to keep them small and gain control of them. It seemed the focus of the NSW government was to "save money" without regard to protecting lives and the environment.

1.4 Any other matters

All the fire services were (and still are) severely under-resourced in all categories: numbers of personnel (both paid and volunteer, at all levels), numbers and types of aircraft, numbers and capabilities of fire trucks, field communications stations/repeaters/equipment. Only the extreme dedication and efforts by all emergency service workers across all agencies kept the death toll from being much much worse.

Supporting documents or images
