

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Frank

Last name

Minutello

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A primary producer

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Your position in the organisation (if applicable)

Add a new delivery address

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 was hit three times by the Dunn's Road Bushfire. On New Year's Eve, where a minor part of the property was affected, on Saturday the 4th January where over 95% of the property was burnt and my house, sheds and vineyard were also under threat, and the following Friday where, again, the house, sheds and vineyard and the remaining sliver of pasture were under threat. I lost 300ha of pasture, all the attendant fencing and all of my hay on the 4th January. I fortunately saved my house, shed and vineyard, as well as all my stock. I received no help from anyone for the 4th January event. We remained to defend what we could, and at least my house, with the help of my younger son. My wife and I are 70 years old. It is extraordinary that we were left to our own devices. We are bounded on 3 sides by National Parkes and Hume Pines. It was pretty scary to be in such a ferocious fire with no help. The flames

were 30 or 40 metres high above the pines on our northern boundary and spot fires were starting everywhere. The paddock closest to the house was one I had cut for hay and where the hay was stored. 280 round bales. If we'd had at least one other fire unit apart from our own, we would have at least saved this paddock and the hay. We had to fall back to the house to defend it and watch everything else burn. I know there were units available. So, no RFS, no National Parks, no Hume Pines. No one! In such a horrendous fire.

On the following Friday, with the fire returning from the south west, we had help. You have no idea how reassuring this was, even though there was nothing much left to burn. I wish this help was available on the Saturday.

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

- 1) Proximity of Pine Plantations to agricultural land
- 2) Fuel loads on the forest floor. (I have lived here for 40 years. Hazard reduction burns of any consequence have not occurred for about 30 years on one section of bush, and about 15 years on the rest with little burn as it was done too late)
- 3) Not to mention from all reports it could have been stopped at the source

1.2 Preparation and planning

- 1) Fuel reduction burns
- 2) Adequate and wide fire breaks between hardwood forest and pine plantations and pasture land, well maintained.
- 3) Adequate resourcing, particularly air support.

1.3 Response to bushfires

- 1) Immediate response with ALL resources at the source. No waiting to save money!

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- IMG_1705.JPG
- IMG_1647.JPG

