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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	I lost my house that I was preparing for my retirement in The Bilpin deliberately lit "backburn" that went forward at the end of last year. see 3rd picture roof pealed back by fire generated wind. 2nd picture shows the house on the skyline. This was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald as an example of how dangerous ill advised and poorly managed "back burns" are. I will outline these aspects below.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	With a 2 degree temperature rise and no rain leaf moisture was reduced allowing easy ignition. The fire was ignited by the Sydney Northern suburbs RFS. The Bilpin fire brigade opposed this action. The threatening Wollomi fire never came. Central command overrode the local advice. LESSON: Central command

should never override local knowledge and experience. The prevailing wind would take the fire to Skyline drive a site regarded as undefendable by the local RFS. Did central command know this?

1) Please answer this question.

2) Why was I not advised before the fire was lit?

3) Why does the RFS not report adverse incidents and as such prepare a corrective action report.

1.2 Preparation and planning

See above. Back burns should be lit so they can be extinguished, so they burn back to a road etc which is manned and not allowed to travel into open forest.

2 years ago a back burn was made by the local RFS below my property at 44 Skyline drive. This did not reduce the intensity of the fire which burnt living gum trees to a white ash mark on the ground (see attached image).

1.3 Response to bushfires

1) Skyline drive is a dead end road and is a fire trap. This road should be extended to Bells line of road at the Botanic Gardens.

2) Local RFS brigades should report adverse incidents and as such prepare a corrective action reports.

3) Local residents should be advised before a back burn is lit.

1.4 Any other matters

Better communication with RFS could have avoided this fire. I understand pressure from Mt Wilson residents may have led to the decision to "Back burn". If so why were Mt Tomah residents not notified so they could be part of the decision making process. This fire was lit 3 days before it consumed Mt Tomah so there was plenty of time to avoid a poorly conceived panic decision.

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191224-44-and-46-Skyline-SW-view-gulley-Drone-Mt-Thoma-Bushfire-1154-copy.jpg - [Download File](#)

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