

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Geoff

Last name

Greentree

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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

Home is at Rocky Plain near Berridale NSW. The whole family are members of the Rocky Plain brigade and were involved in fighting and mopping up after the 2019/2020 fires. The Adaminaby Complex fires burnt to within 8 km of us getting to Eucumbene Cove before a fortunate change in the wind blew the fire back on itself and toward the lake. My wife and myself were in Tasmania when the fires started to endanger our home. It took us a number of days to get home with many detours due to closed roads. Our son and a few of his friends held the fort until we got home.

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. The land in and around Rocky Plain, particularly Snowy Plains and the Kosciuszko National Park are not being managed for fire on an ongoing basis. Controlled burns are needed each autumn and spring to control the undergrowth and sapling growth.
2. This burning needs manpower - the volunteers available through the local RFS are stretched too thinly. Support from other agencies - SES and Armed Forces are possibilities. It doesn't matter if they are trained or not, if they are a part of a crew with an experienced leader, patrolling a controlled burn is not rocket science and the rudiments of operating a rake, drip torch and hose can be taught.
3. Fire tracks need to be maintained regularly - not during the fire but each year between fires. Tracks need to be able to allow access for graders, tractors, water tankers.
4. Fire brigades need to be properly resourced - don't make them fund raise via raffles etc. Each brigade needs a shed that houses all vehicles and resources, an operations room, base radios and fuel. Trucks need to be fitted out with suitable safety equipment. Personnel need proper uniforms, helmets and food/drink.

1.2 Preparation and planning

See above

1.3 Response to bushfires

When a fire starts it needs to be attacked early. We need to throw as many resources as possible. Trained and experienced firefighters - volunteers and paid, fire trucks, water tankers, graders, tractors and aircraft - fixed wing and helicopters. Stop the fire early. Don't wait until it is endangering property, assets and lives.

Supporting documents or images
