



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Graham

Last name

Edgar

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

I'm a long time resident to Batemans Bay, work as a Plumber, and my main job is a Permanent FireFighter. Living on acreage, I was prepared with water spray systems in place, and my property cleared to best avoid damage -hopefully. I was prepared to stay and defend my property, but was actually away at work on New Years Eve when the main front wiped thru my town. We were lucky the wind changed that day and my house was still standing when we eventually got home. One good point that came out of this disaster, I had installed permanent Bushfire Water Spray Systems on several homes years ago, and each of these homes survived the fires while buildings around them were destroyed. So these systems proved to be great investments.

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

Many months with limited rainfall, global warming are contributing factors.
But back-burning (strengthening of containment lines) on hot windy days, lighting up huge area's and driving away by RFS caused area's of fire to expand and loose control of too many fronts. The RFS would drive away and make matters worse. This practice needs a revamp and to be better controlled

1.2 Preparation and planning

More hazard reduction during the off season, better evacuation points during these incidents, underground car parks have Sprinkler systems for protection and are generally not near bush and woodland.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Please, instead of more cover ups. Every possible means of help (Fire and Rescue, NPWS, Forestry and Army) needs to be involved and used in the process right from the start, and not hidden in the background.
Tathra was a recent incident that we didn't learn from, political correctness rather than dealing with issues.

1.4 Any other matters

The whole situation during a section 44 is far from perfect. Someone away from RFS and other Emergency Services needs to stand in and oversee these major incidents, and make sure all services are used to best conserve property and life. Not just the RFS, while other professional services and Army stand on the side lines doing unsuitable tasks even though they are highly trained professionals.

Supporting documents or images
