

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Joe

Last name

Walker

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A member of the general public

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

Nightmare started on my birthday 6th Sept 2019.

Guy Fawkes NP & Bees Nest fires kicked off in dramatic fashion.

My biggest criticism of the ensuring debacle is the 'centralised control' by Incident Management Centres far removed from the good field operators and boots on the ground.

Lack of communications, even mobile phone communications faltered.

Heroic action by the small unit at Tyringham save both it's township and Dundurabin.

Command and Control bounced from Armidale to Glen Innes to Ulmarra. With Forestry seemly ruling the roost. Lots

of their failed strategies responsible for many communities under direct threat and sadly in some cases burnt out entirely eg Nymboida.

Specific example was the burning out of conservation zones and habitat trees in failed attempt to save Cloud's Creek Pine Plantation. Lack of staffing to maintain nightly patrols added to the unfolding catastrophe. Local units need decentralized control to respond to the fires reported instead of waiting till actual houses are threatened.

In closing Mr David Owen (well done 35 recommendations Lismore flood 2017) we need a paid RFS similar to Army Reserve. Paid for training, when called out and tax and Centrelink exempt. The hard core old school volunteers stay in local area and region.

Thanks for your time.

Joe Walker



(1/2 a lifetime in EMS when we trained in taking the initiative)

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

Massive 4 month heatwave Antarctica.

Friday 8 Nov 80km winds sweeping the SE quarter of Australia lifting all the moisture up to 40,000 feet and dropping down to Antarctica

1.2 Preparation and planning

Return to decentralized command and control.

Proper local resourcing and paid RFS like Army Reserve.

Paid for training when called out and tax and Centrelink exempt

1.3 Response to bushfires

Locally it was a nightmare with Forestry and S44 Emergency contractors burning conservation zones, habitat trees and communities out

1.4 Any other matters

You ain't seen nothing yet with the loss of aerosol masking effect from planes not flying and lack of pollution.

Temperature spikes already happening. 39.5°C last Saturday in Perth, broke 100 year record.

PS can't attach anything from this 3G dumb phone. Love to though.

Supporting documents or images
