



Title	Mr
First name	John
Last name	Hill

I am making this submission as	Emergency services
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Submission type	Personal
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Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
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Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
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Consent to make submission public	Public
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Your story	<p>I have been an RFS member in the Lower Creek brigade for over 20 years and the biggest issue for the brigade during the Carrai East November 2019 fire and for many previous fires is communications.</p> <p>Due to the extremely rugged and hilly terrain radio comms via PMR to Fire Control are extremely unreliable and although the Captain has a satellite phone it too wasn't much use.</p> <p>The VHF fire ground radios are sometimes OK for comms between fire units but have a limited range.</p> <p>Lower Creek brigade has a very small group of active members and our area is one of the largest in the state.</p> <p>I feel that our issues are ignored by the bureaucracy and we are endangering lives for want of a relatively simple technical fix.</p> <p>If we could establish a network of UHF repeaters positioned in strategic positions many comms issues would be solved.</p> <p>Some expert consultants should be engaged to assess the feasibility of this idea and funds made available.</p>
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Thanks to many kind donations the brigade has some funds of its own that we are prepared to use to this end.
Any help appreciated.
Regards
John Hill

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires

1.4 Any other matters

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