



<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	John
<b>Last name</b>	mckay
<b>I am making this submission as</b>	
	Emergency services
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	j&p mckay
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	Owner of property in area threatened by fire and was out with the local Copmanhurst RFS Brigade fire fighting
<b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b>	The climate is changing with longer dryer periods increasing lightning events and an increase in wind speeds and very dry fuel loads. The drought has contributed to the dry conditions.
<b>1.2 Preparation and planning</b>	The fire trails need to be maintained so the fire trucks can gain entry quickly to contain fires while they are small. The local brigades do not have the money or resources to do this and a lot of trails get cleaned up at the last minute. I know of one instance where brigade members paid to get materials delivered to a site to build a bridge to access water holes and link up fire trails. I have photos to prove it.
<b>1.3 Response to bushfires</b>	Containment of fires as quickly as possible all ignitions in inaccessible areas of local brigades should be addressed quickly

and not allowed to grow into large uncontained fire areas but sometimes this is not possible. Any fire which is not accessible immediately by a brigade, should be addressed by other means/aerial or remote fire fighters if possible.

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#### **1.4 Any other matters**

All fire trucks should be fitted with small fridges for cold water for the crew. Local crews work a lot longer on the fire line than strike teams as they are usually checking on the local people or following dozers trying to get containment lines in and by the time they finish work drinking water is not cold. More trucks are needed. Plan for additional trails that are required to protect communities. Basic fire training maybe school course. Trial indigenous practices in conjunction with conventional hazard reduction burns/slashing etc. Bush lands cannot be burnt yearly without risks to the ecosystem hazard reductions can be mowing/slashing as well as fire and indigenous burns in the ideal conditions but the window for burning is getting shorter an some of the fire trails are in no condition to do these burns from them or contain them. Emergency responses to bushfires seems to be good we do not have enough trucks to have one on every house. All government departments should be involved once an emergency alert is declared. Some of the fire and rescue trucks are not equipped for bushfire conditions but I do not know were we would have been without there help. As a former senior deputy captain with 25 years service I hope this helps in your inquiry. Cheers John McKay

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