



Title	Mr
First name	John
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I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I have lived in the Tathra area for 19 years and run a business locally</p> <p>Previously President of Tathra & district Chamber of Commerce and member of BVSBF for 5 years ,now retired..</p> <p>Owned property in Mogareeka and Bournda park.</p> <p>The Tathra fire of 2018 should have been a wake up call but the response was limited, changes must be made and responsibly taken...</p>
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	<p>NATIONAL PARK you can,t have fire without fuel, hazard reduction had not been done for 16 years to the North , Mimosa park,the last time was instigated by myself and to the south Bournda ,no evidence any has happened in last 40 years..loss of experienced staff a contributing facor..</p> <p>ASSET PROTECTION ZONE ,the APZ was inadequate this has ranged from 10-50metres in last 20 years,every time there is a</p>

fire it gets larger and materials upgraded,a ridiculous and knee jerk reaction ..
 POWER LINES ,,These are not resilient enough ,the Tathra fire was an electrical fault., 60 homes lost Over 900 poles were destroyed in th Bega valley this yearand loss of power in fire situation hinders ability to fight a fire front, Bermagui lost power for 10 days
 recently.. ROADS ..these are often lined with trees sometimes right up to tarmac and fire jumps easily. Consquently access roads are the first to close..

1.2 Preparation and planning

PARKS Bi annual reduction burn near towns and localities, Access roads should be doubled in size and fire trails increased along with strategically placed containment areas..
 Recent fire could have traved 40 k unabated to the north of Tathra.
 Take on more staff and earth moving equipment to enable this..
 APZ All properties should have a apz of at least 60 metres.
 The Planning instrument should reflect this and should be retrospective . This should not be influenced by Unelected Green leaning officials or Councils , charging \$75 to cut a tree down is crazy and a obstacle to good asset protection
 POWER LINES these need to be more resilient poles fireproof where possible and larger proection zones ,say 50 metres either side ,Pressure brought to bear on Essential energy to enact this..
 ROADS essential for access, clear 25metres either side of road. In recent fire roads were blocked very quickly hampering RFS and emergency services. TATHRA is exposed to this failure as main access road is surrounded by trees that often overhang. Also this is a school bus route everyday so it is negligent to leave the roads in this condition. I had cause to mobilise Bvsc to adress this near Tathra when presibent of C of C.

1.3 Response to bushfires

As i have eluded too the respose in my opinion falls into 4 main areas..that need urgent attention .
 NATIONAL PARK - Fuel reduction and Containment lines
 APZ households to have an adequate zone say 60 metres
 POWER LINES to be made more resilient , (Essential Energy
 ROADS made safe and robustly secure from fire

1.4 Any other matters

REBUILDING.. two years ago Tathra lost 60 homes ,to date less than 10 have been rebuilt , the process is taking too long and most insurance policies only cover 12 months assistance.
 The clearing ,approval and build has to be achievable in 1 year. Last i checked a standard DA took 89 days to approve.
 This is outrageous and shows no compassion for the hardship. Red tape needs to be reduced in this area.
 In conclusion the mental anguish and distress caused by fire events is emence and was clearly visible in January . Residents were fleeing all over our valley with evacuations regularly activated by the RFS.
 We must minimise this risk to life and property
 Communities will pull together but previous complacency is unforgiveable..Things must change ,we have had 2 large fires in 2 years , the next one is round the corner.
 Finally i would pay tribute to the RFS we need to do more to support them .thankyou...

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