



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Mark

Last name

Johnston

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

I was a public servant in 2 states nsw & qld working both for forestry and news in qld and news in nsw. I had been an active fire fighter and was on many occasions a Incident controller and or D I C on many fires. I was awarded the Public Service Medal and the National fire medal with 3 bars.

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

The climate was a major contributor there is a lack of climate policy in both state and federal govt. many agencies were are under resourced to carry out their

responsibilities eg the npws has lost staff numbers and does not have the capacity to conduct the burns or maintenance of breaks. Many agencies are in a similar position.

The general public are quick to point out the lack of controlled burns on govt lands but the same can easily be said of private lands there needs to be more responsibility of private land owners to manage fire risks the RFS need to do more in this area.

There are many land planning instruments that should be updated to more fully incorporate fire management. Ensuring that developers fully incorporate fire mgt into their plans. Many developments are inadequate in fire mgt I think there needs to be a ring road around all new developments which will ensure a break between house and vegetation this will also assist fire fighting and fire fighter safety.

While much has been said about a lack of mgt it needs to be highlighted some of the constraints eg water quality issues sometimes water managers want burns delayed also weather issues and smoke that might impact public health etc

1.2 Preparation and planning

All agencies should have their records reviewed and made public on

Numbers of fire plans they have

Numbers of burns they have conducted per year for the last 10years

Number of fire fighter per year for the last 10 years

RFS to show fire causes for the last 10 years

Number of burns stopped by councils,activitists or any other reason.

All these numbers are needed to be made public to stop the often false accusations made against agencies. I sure the agencies would have this info

1.3 Response to bushfires

The state response was adequate though the agencies are under resourced to carry out their responsibilities.

The federal involvement was totally inadequate and poorly led by our leaders. They must be embarrassed to have forced hand shakes by the PM.

Defence need to be used more quickly.

Defence helicopters need to be deployed quicker they are highly trained pilots with the skills to carry water bucketing etc. Defence can be tasked independently to tasks and they have the support mgt already in place.

1.4 Any other matters

It has been suggested that those involved could get a medal or similar this is not required has there is the National fire medal etc.

Supporting documents or images
