

Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Norie

Last name

Jones

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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

A grass fire was organised by the owners of a small land holding within the bounds of the village of Coolongolook, sanctioned and assisted by the local RFS, against Mid Coast Council regulation and ignoring fire regulation procedures such as neighbour notification. The fire entered our property. As a result of reporting the incident to police and council, we were then also vandalised that evening, and no charges were ever laid because the immediate police response was, "I wish someone would burn my place", and later, "I have spoken to the fire chief and no charges will be laid".

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

Sanctioned and assisted by the local RFS, rather than the land owner doing land management in the form of slashing, mowing and manual weed management rather than dangerous, in discriminant flora and fauna destruction with fire.
A RFS response to me personally on this occasion whilst mopping up, and obvious to everyone in attendance was, "I don't know who lit it, (the fire) but they are doing a good job".

1.2 Preparation and planning

You cannot prepare for corruption, terrorism or vandalism, other than punishment that fits the crime. Our legal system, and the actions of police as much as our RFS, full of unregistered and unaccountable individuals needs overhauling, they are undermining the GOOD people in these roles.

1.3 Response to bushfires

There is an unwritten, 'wait an hour' before attending a reported fire, and, once lit, 'manage' rather than extinguish a fire, for maximum burn, until human cost is threatened, and only then if you don't live amongst nature.

We need a professional fire crew who are responsible for extinguishing fires, not doing their own 'fire hazard reduction' burns. Fire should NEVER be used as a management tool EVER!!! - we are still burning and polluting the atmosphere as I write, instead of manual weed management and natural composting / decay.

1.4 Any other matters

As a society we seem to be so intent on being politically correct with regard to fire as a management tool that we are blinded to reality, and would rather 'count the bones of it's destruction' than prevent the death of the natural environment that is inevitable from fire.

We have experienced drought and heat in Australia before now, but never fires or pollution as we have seen under the 'fire hazard reduction' practice as we see today - there is no end to it, it continues in all seasons, and under all conditions!

Report and we will burn you is a threat often used in this area, and regrettably it seems to be far more wide reaching, but it is the natural environment that is paying the biggest price, and where have all the fund raised moneys gone - into the hands of the volunteer RFS I hear!

Supporting documents or images
