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| Title | Mr |
| First name | Ralph |
| Last name | Hough |
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| I am making this submission as | Primary producer |
| Submission type | Personal |
| Organisation making the submission (if applicable) | |
| Your position in the organisation (if applicable) | |
| Consent to make submission public | Public |
| Your story | Just before the major fires started I found a fire burning close to a neighbour's house. I drove about 300 metres to another neighbour's house. He was a member of the RFS and was just returning home from a RFS meeting. I pointed out the fire which was in plain sight only to be told "there is nothing I can do until someone rings 000 and we get a call from Sydney" (600k away). "I can't even start driving to the station until I get that call". We stood and watched that fire get ever closer to the house for about 35 minutes before that call came. In my opinion this is just stupid. 20 years ago we could just phone our local RFS captain and he would have someone there in minutes. What a terrible regression we have had since then. |
| 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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