



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Robert

Last name

Boag

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

The village of Wingello in the Southern highlands was impacted quite severely by the 2019/2020 bushfires. We live 5kms on the northern outskirts of the village and suffered from a massive ember attack which started a number of fires on neighbouring properties and our own. Due to sensible vigilance these were controlled quite quickly.

I am an 83 year old earthmoving contractor, farmer and grazier with a more than healthy respect for the environment. On 6 March, 1965 I was caught along with my bulldozer in the middle of a roaring bushfire which devastated country in the Southern Tablelands north of Goulburn, Southern Highlands and on to the South Coast. Using all my initiatives I survived and was able to continue saving property in the fire's path.

Australia is prone to bushfires, nothing is going to change that. All levels of Government, National Parks along with farmers and graziers have a moral obligation to do their bit to alleviate the disastrous impact on all forms of life, property and the

environment in the event of fire. We as a nation were unprepared for the infernos that ravaged the Eastern States during the summer of 2019/2020.

WHERE ARE THE STRATEGIC FIREBREAKS?

WHERE WAS THERE ANY HAZARD REDUCTION

WHERE ARE THE FARMER AND GRAZIER FIREBREAKS?

Let us all be honest - the implementation of any of the above on the East Coast has been a near "NON EVENT".

The cost of implementing the above measures under the right management and weather conditions and in a manner with due respect for the environment would be but a fraction of the cost of the State's firefighting efforts. Some of the costs would be borne by private landholders on their individual holdings.

Strategic firebreaks are those constructed to provide access wide enough for two heavy vehicles, minimal disturbance to the land and environment and constructed in such a manner as to NOT run water they must be situated so as to provide maximum benefits for bushfire diversion and backburning operations. If you want to burn the whole of a National Park - don't have a firebreak near it!!

Hazard reduction must be implemented in the cooler months.

Preferably with a little bit of risk and again in the most strategic areas.

Australia will catch alight somewhere when conditions are right - hot, dry summers, fierce winds, lightning, human error or arson - we have to be prepared for these events.

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	As above
1.2 Preparation and planning	As above
1.3 Response to bushfires	As above
1.4 Any other matters	As above

Supporting documents or images
