



Title	Mr
First name	Rod
Last name	Rose
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	resident
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	I am a former Bushfire Controller in the City of Shoalhaven; I have been a leading Bushfire Consultant in Australia for 25 years, since leaving the Fire Controller role. This submission is as a resident at Tomerong NSW impacted by bushfire; however, I hope my bushfire expertise provides a different impacted resident perspective.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	
1.2 Preparation and planning	
1.3 Response to bushfires	What generally worked well 1. ABC media coverage 2. Aerial bushfire suppression and reconnaissance 3. Neighbourhood communication and support

4. Local RFS Brigade 'looking after their patch'

Things requiring improvement

1. Better tactical decisions-making flexibility required when system gets overwhelmed in 'mega-fires'. For example: Brigades assisting at our house ([REDACTED] Tomerong) were instructed to do house protection only. Whilst this is a logical approach when resources are overwhelmed at the scale they were in NSW, it means that other lower risk and potentially life saving and safe options are not even considered. Brigades watched for 24+ hours a fire creep around our 11 acre property through a 50 m wide low risk patch of vegetation too far from our house to be considered property protection. It was also the eastern extent of the Tianjara fire and one of the major threats to the Bay and Basin area. This narrow patch led to an expanse of bushland and initially about 6 vulnerable houses and potentially hundreds further to the east.

I considered putting the 50 m wide 'fire front' out myself to protect neighbours, but did not have a long enough house on my trailer mounted fire unit.

Action required: Bushfire commanders in the field must be given delegated authority to work outside a state wide instruction on priorities where they deem it safe and it offers a highly viable protection of life and property in a locality. (In other words, state-wide priorities are necessary but will always result in unnecessary site specific failures/losses unless exceptions are trained for and implemented.

2. Out of area crews

Whilst I appreciated having brigades in attendance those from Qld and NT were poorly equipped to do anything other than property protection. Therefore the previous suggestion would not be feasible by them as they were too inexperienced in forest fires, even when they were in a lower intensity phase.

Action required: Local tactical capability is required amid out of area firefighters to ensure amid a state-wide property protection edict that a local commanders tactical decision can be implemented effectively. That is, ensure tactical fire control (not only property protection) capability always exists with local commanders supported by a local brigade local brigades

1.4 Any other matters

Upload files
