

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Roger

Last name

Hilton

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

Having to evacuate several times as the bushfires were forever getting closer, did help my and my wife's mental state, never knowing if we had a home to go back to. Fortunately, Narooma survived.

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

1. Causes of, and factors contributing to the frequency, intensity of bushfires this season are, severe drought, climate change, high fuel loads (especially in national parks), extended fire season and insufficient

hazard reduction in the winter due to various factors which include, RFS head quarters bureaucracy, slowing down the process, pressure from “Green” groups, wet weather etc.

NSW locked up the national parks to stop farmers from grazing their animals on the undergrowth. We removed the power of local fireys to burn in the cooler months. So the fuel loads steadily stacked up, year after year. The government ignored the advice of no less than five previous royal commissions into bushfires. Their key recommendation? Reduce the fuel load – reduce the intensity of the bushfire, give our fireys a fighting chance.

1.2 Preparation and planning

2. Use of fire retardant paint on existing and new houses in fire prone areas. (If this paint very effective in preventing a house from catching alight), more stringent building codes. More clearance around houses of trees close to properties.

Long delays in restoring power to some communities partly due to reduced number of people available from Essential Energy, and plans to make more cuts of staff. This situation has to be reversed and government to take appropriate action, e.g. subsidy to cover costs extra costs in employing more people.

Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers and more durable and resistant to fire, m towers with several hours of battery backup.

1.3 Response to bushfires

3. More resources are needed including more fire trucks, water bombing aircraft, drones and personnel. The Early detection of fires in remote areas per drones, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, per thermal imaging, and hopefully, be able to extinguish them before they are able to spread.

More hazard reduction burns in national parks and forest to be done whenever there is favourable weather during the winter months, and piles of timber waste in forestry areas to be removed. Where and when to do hazard reduction by RFS crews to be decided by local people and not have to go through to RFS headquarters, which slows everything down. Seamless communications between various agencies are essential and I hear they are now being addressed, but this should also apply across NSW to Victoria and Queensland borders as well.

Consideration to have to be given to have permanent fire bans throughout the fire season rather than just on extreme fire dangers days and in just some areas. Fires don't recognise times and district boundaries.

1.4 Any other matters

5. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

6.. Use of fire retardant paint on existing and new houses in fire prone areas. (If this paint very effective in preventing a house from catching alight), more stringent building codes. More clearance around houses of trees
Long delays in restoring power to some communities partly due to reduced number of people available from Essential Energy, and plans to make more cuts of staff. This situation has to be reversed and government to take appropriate action, e.g. subsidy to cover costs extra costs in employing more people.

More intensive hazard reductions by RFS, National Parks and Forestry, is a must, and include indigenous methods of burn offs and include use of drone, thermal imaging, satellites, aircraft, etc to spot early signs of fire in remote areas and endeavour to extinguish before they get too much of a hold
Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

9. Yes.

10. Safer fire trucks with ability to switch on water sprays from within the truck, and better masks
Better communication system between each agency.

11. Public warnings during the recent bushfires per phone, were inadequate, with only Telstra sending them out on the mobile network, Optus didn't. Also, for some reason, Telstra only sent out to PTSN landlines and none to VoIP, seeing as all landlines where there is a NBN optical cable network, will eventually be phased out, it is essential that any technical problems be fixed.

The problem with VoIP is that if the internet is down or there is a power outage, there is no phone, and perhaps thought should be given to roll back the phone system to the old copper cable and extend the NBN network to FTP, so it will no longer require the cable.

More robust and fire retardant mobile phone towers with large capacity back up batteries if feasible, also satellite phones available at cheaper rates to use if everything else fails.

5. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

6.. Use of fire retardant paint on existing and new houses in fire prone areas. (If this paint very effective in preventing a house from catching alight), more stringent building codes. More clearance around houses of trees. Long delays in restoring power to some communities partly due to reduced number of people available from Essential Energy, and plans to make more cuts of staff. This situation has to be reversed and government to take appropriate action, e.g. subsidy to cover extra costs in employing more people.

More intensive hazard reductions by RFS, National Parks and Forestry, is a must, and include indigenous methods of burn offs and include use of drone, thermal imaging, satellites, aircraft, etc to spot early signs of fire in remote areas and endeavour to extinguish before they get too much of a hold. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

9. Yes.

10. Safer fire trucks with ability to switch on water sprays from within the truck, and better masks. Better communication system between each agency.

11. Public warnings during the recent bushfires per phone, were inadequate, with only Telstra sending them out on the mobile network, Optus didn't. Also, for some reason, Telstra only sent out to PTSN landlines and none to VoIP, seeing as all landlines where there is a NBN optical cable network, will eventually be phased out, it is essential that any technical problems be fixed.

The problem with VoIP is that if the internet is down or there is a power outage, there is no phone, and perhaps thought should be given to roll back the phone system to the old copper cable and extend the NBN network to FTP, so it will no longer require the cable.

More robust and fire retardant mobile phone towers with large capacity back up batteries if feasible, also satellite phones available at cheaper rates to use if everything else fails.

5. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

6.. Use of fire retardant paint on existing and new houses in fire prone areas. (If this paint very effective in preventing a house from catching alight), more stringent building codes. More clearance around houses of trees. Long delays in restoring power to some communities partly due to reduced number of people available from Essential Energy, and plans to make more cuts of staff. This situation has to be reversed and government to take appropriate action, e.g. subsidy to cover extra costs in employing more people.

More intensive hazard reductions by RFS, National Parks and Forestry, is a must, and include indigenous methods of burn offs and include use of drone, thermal imaging, satellites, aircraft, etc to spot early signs of fire in remote areas and endeavour to extinguish before they get too much of a hold. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

9. Yes.

10. Safer fire trucks with ability to switch on water sprays from within the truck, and better masks
Better communication system between each agency.

11. Public warnings during the recent bushfires per phone, were inadequate, with only Telstra sending them out on the mobile network, Optus didn't. Also, for some reason, Telstra only sent out to PTSN landlines and none to VoIP, seeing as all landlines where there is a NBN optical cable network, will eventually be phased out, it is essential that any technical problems be fixed.

The problem with VoIP is that if the internet is down or there is a power outage, there is no phone, and perhaps thought should be given to roll back the phone system to the old copper cable and extend the NBN network to FTP, so it will no longer require the cable.

More robust and fire retardant mobile phone towers with large capacity back up batteries if feasible, also satellite phones available at cheaper rates to use if everything else fails.

5. Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

6.. Use of fire retardant paint on existing and new houses in fire prone areas. (If this paint very effective in preventing a house from catching alight), more stringent building codes. More clearance around houses of trees
Long delays in restoring power to some communities partly due to reduced number of people available from Essential Energy, and plans to make more cuts of staff. This situation has to be reversed and government to take appropriate action, e.g. subsidy to cover costs extra costs in employing more people.

More intensive hazard reductions by by RFS, National Parks and Forestry, is a must, and include indigenous methods of burn offs and include use of drone, thermal imaging, satellites, aircraft, etc to spot early signs of fire in remote areas and endeavour to extinguish before they get too much of a hold
Government to ensure extensive safe zones around power lines and mobile phone towers

9. Yes.

10. Safer fire trucks with ability to switch on water sprays from within the truck, and better masks
Better communication system between each agency.

11. Public warnings during the recent bushfires per phone, were inadequate, with only Telstra sending them out on the mobile network, Optus didn't. Also, for some reason, Telstra only sent out to PTSN landlines and none to VoIP, seeing as all landlines where there is a NBN optical cable network, will eventually be phased out, it is essential that any technical problems be fixed.

The problem with VoIP is that if the internet is down or there is a power outage, there is no phone, and perhaps thought should be given to roll back the phone system to the old copper cable and extend the NBN network to FTP, so it will no longer require the cable.

More robust and fire retardant mobile phone towers with large capacity back up batteries if feasible, also satellite phones available at cheaper rates to use if everything else fails.

Supporting documents or images
