

Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Ian

Last name

Colombet

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A primary producer

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

For your consideration,

Whilst my property did come under ember attack in the 2019/2020 Currowan fire (on five separate occasions resulting in five separate fires) this submission is not directly related to the NSW bushfires of 2019/2020, however I believe the case presented is applicable and relevant.

I am a Primary Producer located at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The 126-acre (60% cleared, 40 % heavily timbered dry sclerophyll forest) property is bordered on my Southern and Western boundaries by Moreton National Park with no other appreciable assets between my property and Canberra.

I purchased my property in 2016 and due to the high ground fuel load contacted my local NPWS office (South Coast) requesting:

- i. a Hazard reduction burn (easily achievable with various fire trails in close proximity).
 - ii. a firebreak on the NPWS boundaries bordering my property.
- Both requests were denied, the local Ranger advised "...NPWS do not cut down trees or set fire to them.."

The Mount Kingiman fire in August 2018 destroyed 2km of fencing, 40 acres of my forest, 15 acres of paddock necessitating fodder purchase during a drought.

What is significant about this damage, is the fact my property was a NPWS fire vehicle staging area. After the fire front arrived No attempt was made by NPWS staff to stop the spread of fire from NPWS property to my property.

Whilst the Environment minister may produce 'glossy' brochures on NPWS being a good neighbour (NPWS Good Neighbour Policy) to private landholders and NPWS should install fire breaks adjacent to all private landowner property, the sad reality is that this is simply not occurring. As it is, NPWS (South Coast) do as they please in contravention to their published guidelines. There is no umpire.

The fact is NPWS (South Coast) (in my experience) is staffed by extreme green environmentalists, whose personal views cloud their public office positions and place private landholders' property in jeopardy. I am not after a 1km hazard reduction burn from my boundary but a simple 200-300 m buffer would be appreciated.

Let me assure you from experience , an ember attack is far more preferable to a fire front combined with an ember attack.

I Concur, whilst my submission is more of a complaint (read whinge) against the (South Coast) green inept NPWS, the valid point is:

Has NPWS acted in 2016 I would most likely have not suffered any losses in 2018, as it was, my neighbours and I were able to control and contain all of the fires in 2018, 2019/2020 without RFS/NPWS assistance. Luckily enough the 2018 Kingiman fire provided me with a required buffer for the 2019/2020 Corrowan fire resulting in an ember attack and resultant fires. Another point to note-review the NPWS fire break (attached jpg.) NPWS did not want to remove too many trees....

As to addressing the Inquiry Terms of Reference my situation would cover most points.

My Recommendation: A NPWS Ombudsman be appointed to oversee and interpret NPWS policy to provide clear direction to all parties on NPWS policies.

Attachments:

- i. NPWS Fire Break. (Post fires, after complaining to RFS, NPWS installed an (untrafficable) fire break. Note-this photo was taken the day the fire break was completed).
- ii. Croobyar 2018.
- iii. Croobyar 2020.

Regards

Ian Colombet

[Redacted Signature]

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	NPWS Refusal to conduct Hazard reduction burn. NPWs Refusal to install fire break.
1.2 Preparation and planning	As 1.1 above.
1.3 Response to bushfires	NPWS staff fail to act.
1.4 Any other matters	Nil

Supporting documents or images

Attach files	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPWS Fire Break_0.jpg• Croobyar 2018_0.jpg• Croobyar 2020_0.jpg
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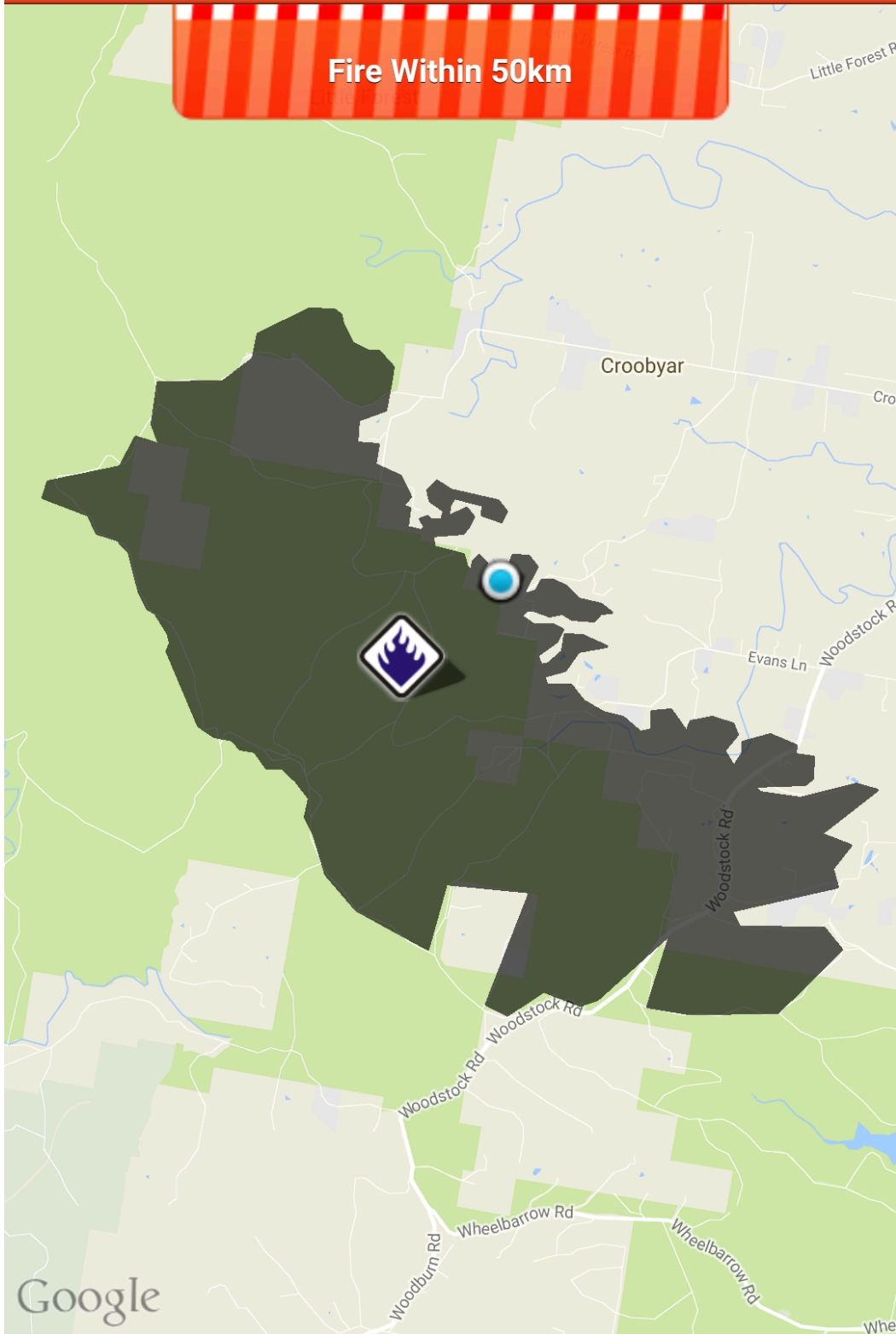
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Search

Fires Near Me NSW

Fires

Fire Within 50km



18:19

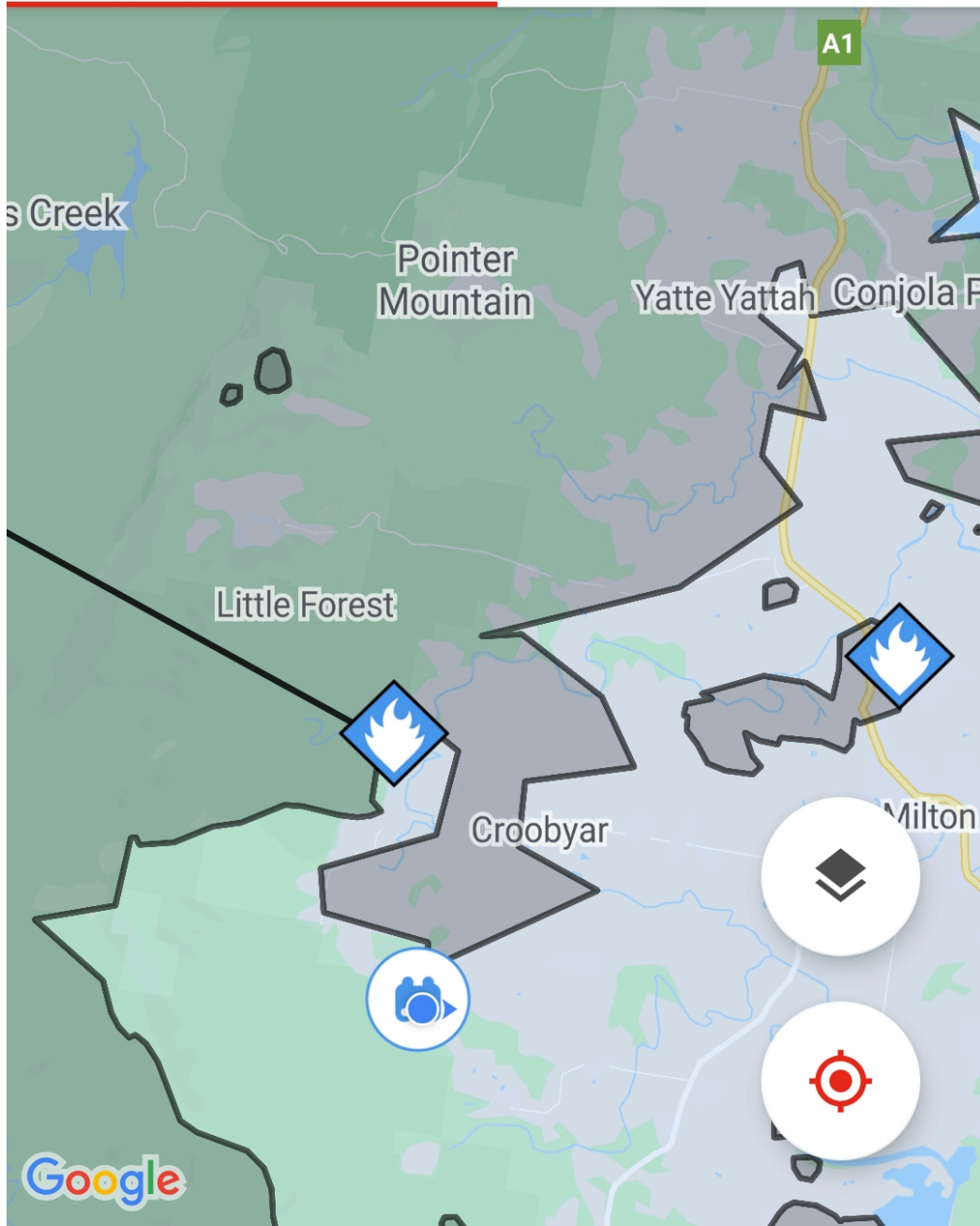


Fires Near Me NSW



MAP

LIST



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