



## Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Ian

Last name

Dixon

## 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

I am 77 so left early to the local showgrounds, a climate refugee for five nights.. But my younger neighbours and community in the Tuntable and Terania valleys stayed put and fought the fire successfully with the support of our trained RFS members and some RFS equipment. No houses were lost!

Our fire was early in the season - the Nightcap Mt Nardi fire - so equipment was not overstretched. Our own community striker was invaluable though we wish we have more of these small nimble units. Many weeks of patrols on the lands and our Nightcap Park were given.

I am also a member for the Nature Conservation Council NSW of the Northern Rivers BFMC and was a volunteer with the Nimbin Brigade for over 20 years.

I reported to Northern Rivers BFMC last meeting, as quoted from the draft minutes here:

"

NCC – Two things I would like to add to the Assets Register – Koala and rainforest. Whether it is Gwandana or Rainforest Reserve, it is precious. Would like to give credit to the RFS Office and volunteers who did more than they were asked. Great credit to the locals in Terrania and Mt Nardi who put in countless hours and their work as defenders and stewards should be honoured and congratulated. It is a third layer of support and I think it needs to be acknowledged. Would also like to thank the RFS for not insisting on evacuating people. It is appreciated that Police didn't drag people out. My thanks for not forcing an evacuation.

RFS – The community defender program spoken of was developed after the flood. Councils have been given \$1M from the Federal Government. Council is unsure of where to spend it and we have suggested the better options would be to spend the money on better education for land shareholders. Places like Tuntable. We could look at this in two minds – either get them joined up as members or set up community defenders and Council supply them with equipment. We will have more discussions on this. There were some unique things that happened up there, defending the rainforest. Putting them into a Brigade is not necessarily a good idea. It would be more like providing them training, some tools, community protection planning assistance.

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Quote ends even though this form seems to hold selection...?

For your Inquiry, I like to make the point that the RFS grew over a century? from the efforts of local land managers pooling their resources, knowledge and equipment to defend themselves in advance and under attack of fire.

So now we have in the State three levels of fire management; the RFS, their local volunteers brigades, and if the community is lucky or well coordinated, a Defender level of part trained, self funded, self supporting volunteers.

I am asking that this third level be acknowledged and better supported....

I also make the point that we should evolve and encourage the use of small abundant patrol/strikers. I am working on my old Daihatsu F10 with 100 litres of water, 15 m of hose and an electric pump. Better might be the newer diesel ATVs with 100 m of 13mm hose, a petrol or diesel pump, and more hand tools and soft water packs. The water payload is questionable but any water is better than none if in the right place and time. Slipon units for the many light utes around these days are also flexible and desirable and to be encouraged. Perhaps this kind of tools could also be subsidised or supplied to appropriate land carers. Thank you for reading.

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

## Supporting documents or images

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