



Title	Mr
First name	Paul
Last name	Frank
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	My property, a small hobby farm, is about 3km from the Wadbilliga National Park. There is open farmland between us and the park. It should not have burnt. I lost 2 buildings, fencing and most of my stock in the New Year's Eve bushfires. In my opinion this Event was entirely preventable. I was fortunate not to be home on the night of the fires however I listened to the RFS response to the fire via an iPhone scanner app. Given the drought conditions I did not have the water to fight the fire in any case. My primary residence survived through sheer luck. No RFS resources were available.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	As per 1.3 below in my view the contributing factors are very clear. Firstly a lack of will and or resources to undertake any sort of meaningful fuel reduction. I'm sure "experts" will say that hazard reduction has limited affect, however I think it's pretty clear that fires with more fuel burn harder and hotter than those with limited fuel. More hazard reduction needs to be done on a more

regular basis.

2. Attempts need to be made to fully extinguish fires as soon as they start. Letting them burn as we seem to do until they get closer to urban or rural areas runs the risk of leaving it to a point where the fires become unstoppable, as was the case in NYE. It's not rocket science. This was preventable.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Had I been home I could possibly have done things that may have prevented or limited the destruction of my property. However I should not have been in this situation in the first place. Houses 3km from the Bush should not be at risk from firestorms such as that on NYE. Nothing was going to stop that fire except weather.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The RFS did the best they could in the night/morning Of the fires with the resources available. I commend them for the job they did. The simple fact is that the fire should not have been allowed to burn for so long Beforehand. That Badja Fire was ongoing for weeks. More resources should have been put into it when it first started. It seems that there is a let it burn until it reaches rural areas before we try and put it out policy. Clearly this is a dangerous way to deal with bushfires. All attempts to extinguish the fires should be made as soon as they start. Sure this might be difficult and expensive but it must be cheaper than dealing with the situation we now face.

1.4 Any other matters

Thanks for the opportunity. I hope someone actually takes note of this event and that things change. I really don't want my kids to experience anything like this again.

Upload files
