

Title	Mr
First name	Peter
Last name	Richer
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	<p>li reference to the green wattle fires of 2019/2020 . I run a small business from my residence. I am a former volunteer with Buxton Rural fire service , my service was from approx 1990 - 2001.</p> <p>I've lived in Buxton NSW from Jan 1988 to Sept 2019, I moved to [REDACTED] in early Sept 2019. I have attended many major fires during my time and have spent also many hours in training and fund raising for equipment.</p> <p>I am writing this submission in the hope of a fair and public hearing , the people of Balmoral need to be heard.</p> <p>I attended public meetings at hilltop , bargo and balmoral leading up to the 2019/20 fires.</p>

The rfs maintained the best form of information was the fires near me app.

ITS NOT ACCURATE and takes approx 6 hours to update.

I preferred to listen to the radio scanner which did not tell the full story but gave you enough accurate info that you could sleep at night.

THE RADIO NETWORK SHOULD NOT BE ENCRYPTED.

This proposal is so the public will not catch the RFS out with there mistakes. there is already radio code for various incidents.

After the hilltop meeting we started our fire plan , put sprinklers around the colorbond fence lines around the back 2/3 of fence line , Made sure the firepump attached to our 60k lt tank worked , used our gerni pressure spray until the power tripped out, but also had a 25mm fire hose as main defense .

we had solar and battery back up as an independent power supply and discussed safe refuge areas.

after attending the bargo meeting i was shocked at the rfs incident controllers attitude towards question time, he ducked about and would not answer residents concerns directly but rather gloat on about his vast experience fighting California wildfires. The US aerial team were arriving shortly.

I watched and videtaped the controllers response, it disgusted me. Just like a true politician he would not give a straight answer however assured the residents the Seabrook road burn would be successful , of course it wasnt , this became the fire front that nearly wiped out balmoral, both buxton and parts of tahmoor and bargo were affected by this seabrook road burn.

Whoever it was that thought this would work should not be a member of the RFS in my opinion.

the bulldozer trail that was put in running behind all the residents houses and skirting the bargo conservation area was in for at least a week and a half.

This was not utilised by the RFS controllers or group captains. WHY ??

On the afternoon of the 19th of dec as fire trucks patrolled Wilson drive , along with Group captains i asked one of them as they slowed down to look at our place , i said mate im an ex volunteer with Buxton Brigade , ten years service , im at my wits end trying to fathom WTF were the controllers of this fire thinking putting in the Seabrook Rd burn into place . this was a disaster waiting to happen??

His response was SILENCE !!

The fire hit us approx 11am on the 19th dec.

Luckily picton 421 and macquarie fields pumpers were helping us and our neighbors house next door

A lot of media footage featured our place , the crowning fire was spectacular in the background and media were hungry to interview us. They were amazed the grass was so green but never reported the grey water that i used for a month before hand.

Why is the Media allowed into burnt areas within half an hour of the fires , yet residents who stayed and saved there houses are not allowed back into their places when its in lockdown afterwards ?

We are concerned about the asbestos in the air and ash falling on our roof, we have tank water and would like some sort of filtration device fitted to the sink in our kitchen.

The two houses south of us were built in the 1920's and contained asbestos , one house was sprayed by a contractor however im sure they use a pva based product that would have dissolved in the hreavy rain since , spreading fibres into the

catchment area.

There is so much i need to write however time frame of this enquiry is not long enough to gather your thoughts and write them down in a proper context .
im really dissapointed in the RFS response to the management of these fires , i believe local fire controllers allowed the green wattle fire to develop from approx 8 hectare lightning strike in the catchment area to the massive blaze i became. Ive spoken personally to mant firefighters who were taken off the firefront at 8 hectares , it was allowed to grow by incident controllers. Balmoral Burnt because the controllers wanted a state of emergency declaration , at what cost to peoples lives?
i have alot more to say but would like the chance to look the fire controllers in the eye and hear their excuses for what happend at balmoral was unjust.
The bulk water carrier located at buxton should have been moved to the village on friday 20th dec but wasnt.
Balmoral burnt again on the saturday 21St Dec, again we were under ember attack but this time from long distance.
My water carter mate on the south coast described the fires as a giant clusterf**k , he spent two weeks delivering water to many firetrucks.
i apologise for the disjointed way this is written but thats how im thinking currently.
I hope they will set up submissions at Balmoral in the near future , alot of the village needs answers and feel they were abandoned in their time of need

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

severe lack of hazard reduction by the state mitigation fire teams and NPWS , water catchment areas around thirlmere lakes / Bargo state conservation area.
1. it should not be left to volunteer rfs teams to maintain a first response level during bush fires when they do not hold keys to locked gates.
2. government sell off of the water rights has been an issue in drought affected areas. THIS WATER SHOULD NEVER BEEN SOLD OFF .
3. UNITED NATIONS 2030 agenda.
Anyone with an ounce of common sense knows this 2030 agenda is destroying the land and the management of it , you cannot pull the wool over peoples eyes for so long they will wake up to the masquerade of climate the change agenda and hysteria supported thru both major political parties.

1.2 Preparation and planning

our house was BAL rated 29 with high incident of ember attack. We made sure our 60k water tank was nearly full before the fires hit us, if we had not had sprinklers on fence lines directed at our danger areas and a firefighter pump attached with 25mm hose we would have struggled to defend our house.
We have now fitted metal gutter guard to house and workshop.

1.3 Response to bushfires

I have installed metal gutter guard to my residence , i am trying to work out the best roof sprinklers both for my workshop and residence. Being on tank water i need to be able to recycle thru the guttering and pumps without too much evaporation loss.

I am hopeful of the government solar rebate being approved for my business so that i can update my power requirements to have an extra battery, in the event of future fires.
a gerni water sprayer may be used more effectively and not trip the power with the appliance spiking.

i am awaiting asbestos testing to my tank water still from the EPA
We seek solice and support at the fireshed sometimes while i debate in my mind if i should volunteer again

1.4 Any other matters

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