

<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Andrew
<b>Last name</b>	Whittaker
<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Resident
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>Hi</p> <p>I've lived in Wingello for over 60 years in that time I have served on the fire brigade from 12/13yrs of age we all joined after the 1965 fire as kids and as Senior Dept Capt and acting Capt of the Wingello fire brigade in the 1980's the town was burnt in 1939 lessons of hazard reduction and fire breaks were learned then the next generation forgot those lessons and we relearned them again in 1965 sadly this new generation has again forgotten them and allowed fuel loads to build to epic proportions Nor has fire breaks been cleared for decades just gated and locked</p> <p>Morton park has had no HR</p> <p>In 1998 my friend David Quinlivan lost his life at a fire out Gulp rd in Morton Park the other crew suffered horrific burns myself and 2 other mates built a monument at the site</p>

Nation Parks Gated the road so much for his sacrifice  
Forestry Com made all local crews redundant after that with the  
exception of Tangles who remained as ranger  
common sense tells you if you stack fuel around your house you  
will have a greater fire danger  
Global Warming or not  
the only one we have any control over is fuel loads  
Hence why people on the coast ran to the beach 7c or 70c no  
fuel no fire  
yes there will still be fires  
but it will limit the change of a crown fire and stop a lot of arson  
attacks  
In the 1980's we burnt off everything in and around town to limit  
the potential for a fire to reach town  
But we also had powers under the then Sec 13 of LG act to force  
people to clean over grown fire traps  
Now I believe you have to go to court

2

Whilst my town was ablaze I saw my neighbor her family had  
stayed with their elderly gran  
that scared me more than the fire  
they have big pines around their house and plastic tanks under  
them and a mains powered bore pump  
there were also many other defending in what I personally would  
consider death traps  
With more city folk in the bush now days and indeed country kids  
that have never seen the ferocity of a major fire let alone a more  
deadly Crown fire. and indeed I'd say many fire fighters today  
have never and hopefully will never see fires this bad  
there needs to be major education of major bush fires  
Around Hilltop people stayed armed only with a garden hose  
when they realized the danger they were in dialed 000  
only to be rightly told its to dangerous to respond  
very very lucky people  
The interesting thing is all the proposals to protect our town being  
discussed now are identical to what was said after the 1965 fire  
Let me ask you a question  
Your told to Prepare for a plane crash  
what would you do  
to prepare effectively you would have to have knowledge of the  
type of crash, how bad the impact was, is there fire, is there  
water entering, smoke,etc etc  
so how can people who think a Crown fire is a fire on Crown land  
effectively plan for a fire

3

Councils to have no knowledge of fire  
And why would they their only young people  
They let people build right on the edge of escarpments ( beautiful  
Views) but even a small fire could be a death trap  
and to add insult to injury the driveways are to narrow to access  
by large trucks

4

As for the rumors of the brigades going encrypted Digital radio  
what a wastes of money  
The only way I got any info on the night was from scanner feeds  
fires near me was useless and the first warning I received was it's  
to late to leave  
besides  
it only takes a purchase of a Motorola radio and program a P25  
card to bypass  
or has no body noticed the tow trucks still listen to police radio  
but if they want to waste donations on that  
I think a lot of support will dry up because a lot of folks were just  
like me  
I'm not as mobile as I was years ago and can't run  
but with info from the scanner feeds i was able to position my  
multiple hoses in various places in the property from the direction  
of a treat

so I just had to move from one hose to the next  
Butt because of the excellent done by everybody in town that  
night I only had to deal with the Ember attacks not the main fire  
Certainly the Night of 1000 Hero's in Wingello  
I don't write this to condemn or belittle it's human nature here  
what was written once People who forget the past are destined to  
repeat it  
and lessons learned by this generation will no doubt be forgotten  
by a future one and relearned by the following  
Thank You  
Andy Whittaker  
Wingello NSW

---

### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Hi  
I've lived in Wingello for over 60 years  
in that time I have served on the fire brigade from 12/13yrs of age  
we all joined after the 1965 fire as kids and as Senior Dept Capt  
and acting Capt of the Wingello fire brigade in the 1980's  
the town was burnt in 1939 lessons of hazard reduction and fire  
breaks were learned  
then the next generation forgot those lessons and we relearned  
them again in 1965 sadly this new generation has again forgotten  
them and allowed fuel loads to build to epic proportions  
Nor has fire breaks been cleared for decades just gated and  
locked  
Morton park has had no HR  
In 1998 my friend David Quinlivan lost his life at a fire out Gulp rd  
in Morton Park the other crew suffered horrific burns  
myself and 2 other mates built a monument at the site  
Nation Parks Gated the road so much for his sacrifice  
Forestry Com made all local crews redundant after that with the  
exception of Tangles who remained as ranger  
common sense tells you if you stack fuel around your house you  
will have a greater fire danger  
Global Warming or not  
the only one we have any control over is fuel loads  
Hence why people on the coast ran to the beach 7c or 70c no  
fuel no fire  
yes there will still be fires  
but it will limit the change of a crown fire and stop a lot of arson  
attacks  
In the 1980's we burnt off everything in and around town to limit  
the potential for a fire to reach town  
But we also had powers under the then Sec 13 of LG act to force  
people to clean over grown fire traps  
Now I believe you have to go to court  
2  
Whilst my town was ablaze I saw my neighbor her family had  
stayed with their elderly gran  
that scared me more than the fire  
they have big pines around their house and plastic tanks under  
them and a mains powered bore pump  
there were also many other defending in what I personally would  
consider death traps  
With more city folk in the bush now days and indeed country kids  
that have never seen the ferocity of a major fire let alone a more  
deadly Crown fire. and indeed I'd say many fire fighters today  
have never and hopefully will never see fires this bad  
there needs to be major education of major bush fires  
Around Hilltop people stayed armed only with a garden hose  
when they realized the danger they were in dialed 000  
only to be rightly told its to dangerous to respond  
very very lucky people  
The interesting thing is all the proposals to protect our town being  
discussed now are identical to what was said after the 1965 fire  
Let me ask you a question  
Your told to Prepare for a plane crash  
what would you do

---

to prepare effectively you would have to have knowledge of the type of crash, how bad the impact was, is there fire, is there water entering, smoke, etc etc  
so how can people who think a Crown fire is a fire on Crown land effectively plan for a fire

3

Councils to have no knowledge of fire  
And why would they their only young people  
They let people build right on the edge of escarpments ( beautiful Views) but even a small fire could be a death trap  
and to add insult to injury the driveways are too narrow to access by large trucks

4

As for the rumors of the brigades going encrypted Digital radio what a waste of money  
The only way I got any info on the night was from scanner feeds fires near me was useless and the first warning I received was it's too late to leave  
besides  
it only takes a purchase of a Motorola radio and program a P25 card to bypass  
or has no body noticed the tow trucks still listen to police radio but if they want to waste donations on that  
I think a lot of support will dry up because a lot of folks were just like me  
I'm not as mobile as I was years ago and can't run  
but with info from the scanner feeds I was able to position my multiple hoses in various places in the property from the direction of a treat  
so I just had to move from one hose to the next  
But because of the excellent done by everybody in town that night I only had to deal with the Ember attacks not the main fire  
Certainly the Night of 1000 Hero's in Wingello  
I don't write this to condemn or belittle it's human nature here what was written once People who forget the past are destined to repeat it  
and lessons learned by this generation will no doubt be forgotten by a future one and relearned by the following  
Thank You  
Andy Whittaker  
Wingello NSW

---

## 1.2 Preparation and planning

Hi  
I've lived in Wingello for over 60 years  
in that time I have served on the fire brigade from 12/13yrs of age we all joined after the 1965 fire as kids and as Senior Dept Capt and acting Capt of the Wingello fire brigade in the 1980's  
the town was burnt in 1939 lessons of hazard reduction and fire breaks were learned  
then the next generation forgot those lessons and we relearned them again in 1965 sadly this new generation has again forgotten them and allowed fuel loads to build to epic proportions  
Nor has fire breaks been cleared for decades just gated and locked  
Morton park has had no HR  
In 1998 my friend David Quinlivan lost his life at a fire out Gulp rd in Morton Park the other crew suffered horrific burns  
myself and 2 other mates built a monument at the site  
Nation Parks Gated the road so much for his sacrifice  
Forestry Com made all local crews redundant after that with the exception of Tangles who remained as ranger  
common sense tells you if you stack fuel around your house you will have a greater fire danger  
Global Warming or not  
the only one we have any control over is fuel loads  
Hence why people on the coast ran to the beach 7c or 70c no fuel no fire  
yes there will still be fires

---

but it will limit the change of a crown fire and stop a lot of arson attacks

In the 1980's we burnt off everything in and around town to limit the potential for a fire to reach town  
But we also had powers under the then Sec 13 of LG act to force people to clean over grown fire traps  
Now I believe you have to go to court

2

Whilst my town was ablaze I saw my neighbor her family had stayed with their elderly gran  
that scared me more than the fire  
they have big pines around their house and plastic tanks under them and a mains powered bore pump  
there were also many other defending in what I personally would consider death traps

With more city folk in the bush now days and indeed country kids that have never seen the ferocity of a major fire let alone a more deadly Crown fire. and indeed I'd say many fire fighters today have never and hopefully will never see fires this bad  
there needs to be major education of major bush fires  
Around Hilltop people stayed armed only with a garden hose when they realized the danger they were in dialed 000  
only to be rightly told its to dangerous to respond  
very very lucky people

The interesting thing is all the proposals to protect our town being discussed now are identical to what was said after the 1965 fire  
Let me ask you a question

Your told to Prepare for a plane crash  
what would you do

to prepare effectively you would have to have knowledge of the type of crash, how bad the impact was, is there fire, is there water entering, smoke,etc etc  
so how can people who think a Crown fire is a fire on Crown land effectively plan for a fire

3

Councils to have no knowledge of fire  
And why would they their only young people  
They let people build right on the edge of escarpments ( beautiful Views) but even a small fire could be a death trap  
and to add insult to injury the driveways are to narrow to access by large trucks

4

As for the rumors of the brigades going encrypted Digital radio what a wastes of money  
The only way I got any info on the night was from scanner feeds  
fires near me was useless and the first waning I received was it's to late to leave  
besides

it only takes a purchase of a Motorola radio and program a P25 card to bypass  
or has no body noticed the tow trucks still listen to police radio  
but if they want to waste donations on that  
I think a lot of support will dry up because a lot of folks were just like me

I'm not as mobile as I was years ago and can't run  
but with info from the scanner feeds i was able to position my multiple hoses in various places in the property from the direction of a treat

so I just had to move from one hose to the next  
Butt because of the excellent done by everybody in town that night I only had to deal with the Ember attacks not the main fire  
Certainly the Night of 1000 Hero's in Wingello  
I don't write this to condemn or belittle it's human nature here  
what was written once People who forget the past are destined to repeat it

and lessons learned by this generation will no doubt be forgotten by a future one and relearned by the following  
Thank You

Andy Whittaker  
Wingello NSW

### 1.3 Response to bushfires

Hi  
I've lived in Wingello for over 60 years  
in that time I have served on the fire brigade from 12/13yrs of age  
we all joined after the 1965 fire as kids and as Senior Dept Capt  
and acting Capt of the Wingello fire brigade in the 1980's  
the town was burnt in 1939 lessons of hazard reduction and fire  
breaks were learned  
then the next generation forgot those lessons and we relearned  
them again in 1965 sadly this new generation has again forgotten  
them and allowed fuel loads to build to epic proportions  
Nor has fire breaks been cleared for decades just gated and  
locked  
Morton park has had no HR  
In 1998 my friend David Quinlivan lost his life at a fire out Gulp rd  
in Morton Park the other crew suffered horrific burns  
myself and 2 other mates built a monument at the site  
Nation Parks Gated the road so much for his sacrifice  
Forestry Com made all local crews redundant after that with the  
exception of Tangles who remained as ranger  
common sense tells you if you stack fuel around your house you  
will have a greater fire danger  
Global Warming or not  
the only one we have any control over is fuel loads  
Hence why people on the coast ran to the beach 7c or 70c no  
fuel no fire  
yes there will still be fires  
but it will limit the change of a crown fire and stop a lot of arson  
attacks  
In the 1980's we burnt off everything in and around town to limit  
the potential for a fire to reach town  
But we also had powers under the then Sec 13 of LG act to force  
people to clean over grown fire traps  
Now I believe you have to go to court  
2  
Whilst my town was ablaze I saw my neighbor her family had  
stayed with their elderly gran  
that scared me more than the fire  
they have big pines around their house and plastic tanks under  
them and a mains powered bore pump  
there were also many other defending in what I personally would  
consider death traps  
With more city folk in the bush now days and indeed country kids  
that have never seen the ferocity of a major fire let alone a more  
deadly Crown fire. and indeed I'd say many fire fighters today  
have never and hopefully will never see fires this bad  
there needs to be major education of major bush fires  
Around Hilltop people stayed armed only with a garden hose  
when they realized the danger they were in dialed 000  
only to be rightly told its to dangerous to respond  
very very lucky people  
The interesting thing is all the proposals to protect our town being  
discussed now are identical to what was said after the 1965 fire  
Let me ask you a question  
Your told to Prepare for a plane crash  
what would you do  
to prepare effectively you would have to have knowledge of the  
type of crash, how bad the impact was, is there fire, is there  
water entering, smoke, etc etc  
so how can people who think a Crown fire is a fire on Crown land  
effectively plan for a fire  
3  
Councils to have no knowledge of fire  
And why would they their only young people  
They let people build right on the edge of escarpments ( beautiful  
Views) but even a small fire could be a death trap

and to add insult to injury the driveways are too narrow to access by large trucks

4

As for the rumors of the brigades going encrypted Digital radio what a waste of money

The only way I got any info on the night was from scanner feeds fires near me was useless and the first warning I received was it's too late to leave

besides

it only takes a purchase of a Motorola radio and program a P25 card to bypass

or has no body noticed the tow trucks still listen to police radio but if they want to waste donations on that

I think a lot of support will dry up because a lot of folks were just like me

I'm not as mobile as I was years ago and can't run

but with info from the scanner feeds I was able to position my multiple hoses in various places in the property from the direction of a treat

so I just had to move from one hose to the next

But because of the excellent done by everybody in town that night I only had to deal with the Ember attacks not the main fire

Certainly the Night of 1000 Hero's in Wingello

I don't write this to condemn or belittle it's human nature here

what was written once People who forget the past are destined to repeat it

and lessons learned by this generation will no doubt be forgotten by a future one and relearned by the following

Thank You

Andy Whittaker

Wingello NSW

---

#### 1.4 Any other matters

---

##### Upload files

83522277-527120267920452-1316741590319890432-n.jpg - [Download File](#)

---



**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

*This is to Certify*

that in accordance with the provisions  
of the **BUSH FIRES ACT, 1949,**

Mr A Whittaker  
(whose signature appears hereon) has  
been appointed by the Wingecarribee  
Shire Council  
as Senior Deputy Captain of the  
Wingello  
Fire Brigade.

Dated at Moss Vale  
this fourth day  
of December, 1984  
On behalf of the council.

Clerk.

Signature of holder [Signature]

(The Certificate may be returned to the council upon termination of office.)