
Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Peter

Last name

Turland

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A member of the general public

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

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

Lack of fire fighting aircraft
Lack of suitable water sources in National Parks and State Forests for fire fighting and fauna refuge
Lack of efficient back-burning methodology a bad decision on back-burning can make a bushfire worse
Lack of early detection equipment to alert RFS of when fires start so control can be implemented ASAP infrared detection from aircraft and/or satellite and cameras to capture suspicious behaviour and arsonists

Inappropriate hazard reduction burning and/or hazard reduction burns carried out incorrectly and/or in the wrong weather conditions I have owned a bush property in Pillar Valley for 35 years and have witnessed first hand irresponsible hazard reduction burns and/or 'agricultural burns' in the coastal ranges east of Grafton comments said to me over the years such as "it'll stop when it hits the coast" and "it all needs a good burn anyhow" reflects a dangerous attitude of some landholders stricter regulations and penalties are very overdue August burning can be very risky as the weather patterns change and the NW winds commence burning should not be allowed in August and ALSO native fauna are starting to nest I don't think the Aboriginals in the northern rivers would have burnt in August as we do

I have observed over the last 35 years how removing organic matter/mulch from the ground layer allows the soil to dry out faster and consequently raises the fuel ignition potential I hear too much talk about the fuel load and not enough about the fuel ignition potential THE FIRE TRIANGLE ALL 3 COMPONENTS ARE IMPORTANT MULCH plays a very important role in retaining soil moisture and in the bushfire landscape this is very important as it tends to reduce the fuel ignition potential TOO MUCH hazard reduction burning removes/reduces this mulch layer this preservation of soil moisture may benefit the fire fighting and may reduce the fire intensity enough to play a role in bushfire control e.g. does the soil moisture value effect the ignition/flammability rate of trees during a bushfire

1.2 Preparation and planning

I propose that big dams be constructed in National Parks/State Forests for fire fighting and fauna refuge I approve of the RFS Hotspots program and have been involved off/on for over 10 years proper hazard reduction burns such as "the cool burn" or the Aboriginal burning/firestick approach should be promoted/encouraged though considering that the bush landscape looks nothing like it did 200 years ago it is impossible to burn the same as the Aboriginals did, BUT the burning/management principles can be applied

For many landscapes in the coastal northern rivers a history of too frequent burning has encouraged Blady Grass to flourish in many areas this grass is a 'fine fuel' (i.e. has a high ignition potential) and as such, can cause fires to spread rapidly and it loves fires because it spreads by rhizomes and can become a dominant species after a fire the regular burning of Blady Grass continues this cycle of promoting a flammable landscape

At home I haven't burnt for 21 years ... I used to burn every 2 Years but since I did an environmental degree about 15 years ago and from observations over that 21 year period, I believe I have 'been educated' in far better fire management ... e.g. I was impressed with what Sir Edward Charles Lane-Poole stated at the Royal Commission after the devastating 1939 bushfires in Victoria he said in essence something like "if the current burning practices are stopped/reduced/managed better, the forest will develop its own Natural Fire Resistance as it had before Europeans arrived" i.e. the plant community will tend to develop naturally into a more 'fire resistant' community e.g. ideally a canopy will develop (closed system) and reduced light will suppress fine fuel plants such as Blady Grass and favor native fire resistant species (e.g. lomandras) the woody ground component (branches, twigs etc) will break down faster due the moister/shady/cooler environment i.e. reduced fuel ignition potential

I have demonstrated this at home and have had many people/students visiting as part of my environmental teachings

and I have been promoting this philosophy for the last 10 years as a part of fire management education

1.3 Response to bushfires

RFS response is good (relative to equipment/resources available) and the notifications/alerts/warnings are good

Supporting documents or images
