

Title	Mr
First name	Greg
Last name	Broad
I am making this submission as	General public
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>My story comes from past experience with fire management. I am quite aware that fires are let to 'run' - especially in remote areas. These fires almost always turn into uncontrollable 'mega' fires. Then we have wind changes, taking out many communities at a time. This happens time and time again. A good example is the recent Canberra Mega fire. This fire started as a small incident which became uncontrollable within days. It took 3 days after the initial fire before 16 water bombing aircraft were deployed. My submission is to address this problem. The management of fire control has to change from the 'Let it burn' attitude to act quickly and extinguish. Fire control has to take some responsibility for what just occurred. Please see 1.3 Response to bushfires.</p>
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires

In light of the devastating bushfires I feel compelled to write to you to express some ideas that could be implemented for bushfire management processes. I have had some experience with bushfire fighting procedures in the past. I was employed as a noxious weeds/fire control officer by the Blue Mountains City Council during Phil Koperberg's time as Blue Mountains Fire Chief. These are some practical ideas I would like to put forward. All aircraft, including private, commercial and defence could have mandatory reporting of bushfires. Through this surveillance we would identify bushfires early and be able to initiate a rapid response. Additionally, this surveillance could be used to report suspicious activity in our bushland such as spotting potential arsonists. Therefore, fires could be prevented or extinguished before they become too large to handle.

"The Illawarra Aerial Surf Patrol, in times of high fire danger days, would patrol along the escarpment looking for fire outbreaks or suspicious human activity. Then they would report to the relevant authorities".

We have shark patrol - we should have bushfire patrol, considering the number of lives lost, health impacts, destruction of property, loss of unique flora and wildlife as well as the cost that these fires cause. Fires running through the bushland out of control must cease.

Australian Defence aircraft are flying in airspaces above the ranges and populated coastal fringes already on a daily basis for training etc. It makes sense that they could be utilised to identify and report bushfires or suspicious activity whilst in the air. These aircraft should be put to use in this way for our national security. Reported bushfires need to be extinguished immediately with whatever means necessary. In remote areas water bombing techniques, on a scale that are appropriate for the threat, would be very effective to prevent fires becoming "mega fires".

This would mean having water bombing aircraft on standby. California has 1000 water bombing aircraft on standby at a cost of US \$250 million. While I am not suggesting we have this many, it would be advantageous for us to have an extra 100 medium to large water bombing aircraft on standby. These could be used as the first line of attack to completely extinguish the fire. The enormous costs of "mega fires" will continue in the future if current outdated procedures are not adjusted to suit the changing climatic conditions.

Maybe we could actually purchase or convert our own fire fighting aircraft. These aircraft could be under the control of the armed forces and used for other duties in the off season. In very high fire danger days these aircraft could actually be used for surveillance while carrying water, responding to a threat immediately.

Current procedures that have resulted in catastrophic fires, which cannot be controlled, must be altered. Therefore, our current practices, in regards to controlled burning, should be that only an extinguished fire is a controlled fire otherwise we are at the mercy of the weather, political debates and ideologies that are not in keeping with the changing conditions.

I feel a proactive approach such as "patrol, identify and act" would be far more effective than the current practices. We have to adapt to changing conditions, the same old school of thought towards fire fighting during previous decades must change and quickly.

I am certain there will be resistance to change when we read headlines such as "NSW's bushfire woes cannot be fixed with more planes and firefighters, former RFS chief Phil Koperberg says" (Johnathan Hair, Abc News. Posted 26 Nov 2019). Nevertheless, I feel that extinguishing bushfires immediately is the most responsible and sensible action to take.

I know that there is more to bushfire fighting than what is

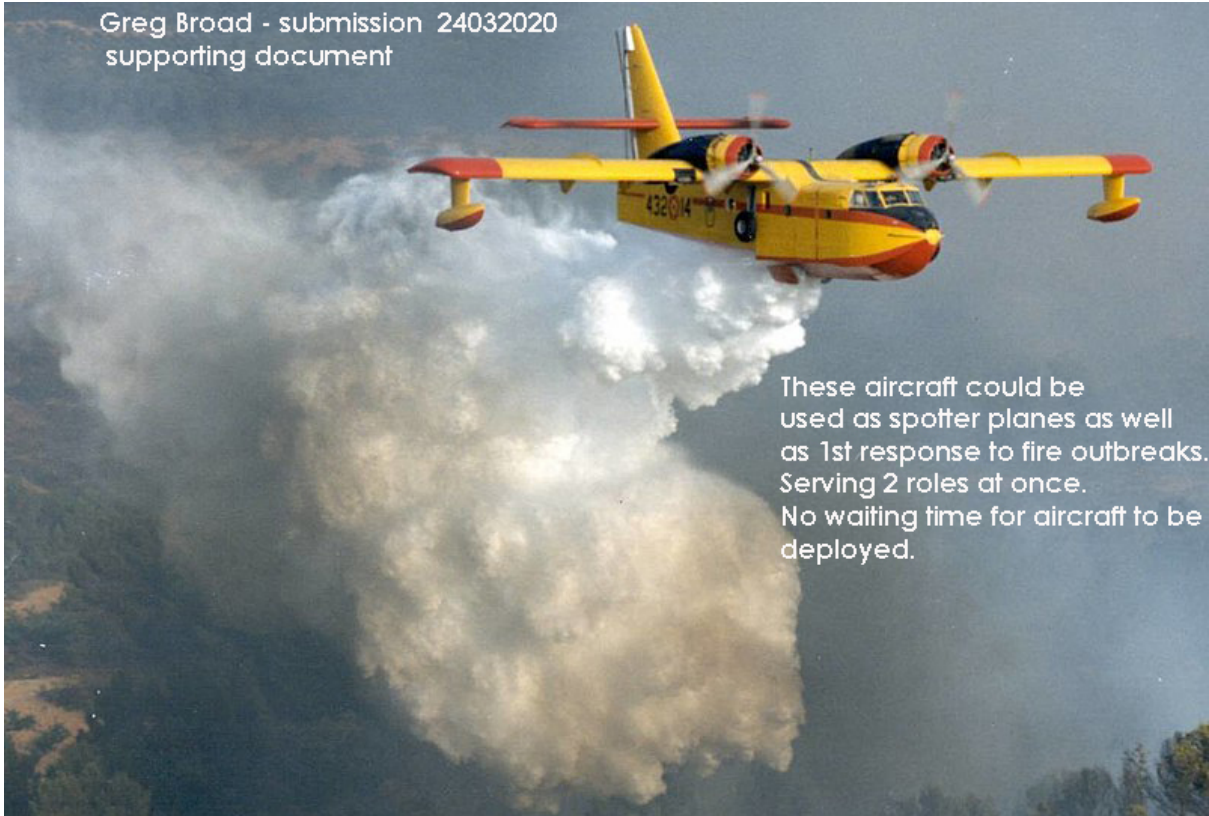
suggested in these pages. However, these changes can make a difference and should be at least discussed and tried. Considering there are numerous aircraft available worldwide, perhaps we should be arranging for many more. This would enable us to have a full concentrated onslaught to douse the fires and stop the run of fires before we let all our country burn. In effect, making it rain on the fires would be a good place to start. It is evident, with the recent fires that we have to change our responses to bushfire events. We cannot afford for more of the same. We cannot go through another season of the same. Somehow, the "patrol, identify and act" to completely extinguish bushfires must be implemented immediately while all the discussions and inquiries are going on. Thank you for taking the time to consider these ideas and I hope you can see your way to discussing them with those who can make a difference because we all acknowledge we need to do things differently to defend our country from the threat of bushfires now and into the future.

1.4 Any other matters

Upload files

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bushfire-inquiry.docx - [Download File](#)

Greg Broad - submission 24032020
supporting document



These aircraft could be used as spotter planes as well as 1st response to fire outbreaks. Serving 2 roles at once. No waiting time for aircraft to be deployed.

Greg Broad - supporting document submission 24032020

. Updated at 2.02pm AEDT

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Wed 29 Jan 2020 14.02 AEDT Guardian

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ACT FIRES KEPT IN CHECK BUT DANGEROUS FIRE CONDITIONS LOOM

Let's do a quick recap of what we know.

- Despite weather in the mid 30s, benign wind conditions on Wednesday mean the ACT Emergency Services Agency has been able to downgrade the Orroral Valley fire from watch and act to an **advice level** bushfire warning.
- The blaze began on Monday when a defence helicopter landed in the Namadgi national park, south of Canberra, and accidentally sparked what authorities have called the city's "most serious" bushfire threat since the city's devastating 2003 fires.
- Tuesday saw dramatic images of the fire approaching Canberra's southern suburbs, but conditions eased throughout the evening and the fire was downgraded from emergency level to watch and act just before midnight.
- The fire has now burned through 10,492ha, and earlier the ESA's incident controller, **Matthew Shonk**, warned conditions are expected to deteriorate in coming days.
- Friday and Saturday are expected to be especially challenging, with temperatures due to reach 42C and westerly and north-westerly winds increasing.
- Dangerous weather conditions will hit much of the east and south-east of Australia. In the coming days temperatures are expected to exceed 40C in Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne, while some places – such as Cummins in South Australia, Echuca in northern Victoria, and Griffith in inland NSW – are expected to reach 45C.
- ACT emergency service personnel, police and defence force members are door-knocking residents in the southern Canberra suburbs of **Banks, Gordon** and **Conder** to remind them about the importance of having a bushfire survival plan.

Updated at 2.02pm AEDT

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