



Royal Commission
into National Natural
Disaster Arrangements

Submission Cover Sheet

This cover sheet has been prepared by the Commission's public contact team to accompany a submission.

Person completing cover sheet

1. **Staff member name** [REDACTED]
2. **Date completed** 02.04.2020
3. **This cover sheet has been completed based on:**
 - details contained in the submission
 - a phone call with the person making the submission
 - an email from the person making the submission
 - Other (provide details) -

Submission details

4. **Full name** [REDACTED]
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone**
7. **Preferred method of contact** not stated
8. **Is the submission based on:**
 - primarily based on their personal situation.
 - primarily based on their professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation
9. **If the person is making the submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation:**

If the submission based on personal experience:

10. **What was their personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Choose all that apply.**
 - were not living in an area affected by bushfire
 - were in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss
 - lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss
-

- lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss
- part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground
- part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter
- part of the emergency response as health professional
- part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member
- part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee
- assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer
- assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer
- Other - was in an area affected by bushfires

11. Where does the person live:

Local Government Area

Choose an item.

Town name

Post code

If the submission is based on professional experience

12. What is your area of expertise? Please choose all that apply.

- Emergency/disaster response and/or management
- Environment/land management
- Land use, planning, building standards
- Impacts of changes in climatic conditions
- Wildlife conservation
- Traditional land and fire management practices of Indigenous Australians
- Community welfare
- Other

All submissions

13. Does the person agree to their submission being published?

- Yes, agree to the submission being published in their name
 - Yes, agree to the submission being published anonymously
 - No, does not agree to the submission being published
-

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, NATIONAL DISASTERS FIRES

1 ..You cannot control a fire like they have had in the Eastern states ,and we all saw on TV where the poor fire fighters are pulling a hose along on the ground to put out the fire on the edge of the road.

They were probably doing 5 or 6 kph and according to the tv the fire was doing up to 20 kph guess who is going to win ,and who will be left behind.

You need to have a large nozzle mounted on the back of the units and a spray system on the front them, at about bumper height to be able to be used together, so they can drive along the edge of fire and put it out This will need a larger motor and pump to give sufficient pressure for this set up to work.

2..There should be more heavy duty units, like the ones that were replaced at the Broome airport a couple of years ago.They can blow a window out a plane from about 25 meters shoot water over 80 meters away.

This would help subdue a fire before it came out of the edge of the trees by being able to shoot water over the top outside trees on to the fire before it came out of the bush, We did this in South Australia, as the fire unit had large motor and pump on it when we fought scrub fires

3..Why were not large Bulldozers used earlier, to give better access to some areas ,and widen roads etc,and put breaks in between buildings and the oncoming fires.

4..Where were the big planes to drop water and retardents on fires too early ,coming later.

5..You need more access into the towns like the ones that were burnt out and more places to be able to turn around in them

6..The towns need to have large firebreaks around them, to give them more protection from fires.

7..Houses and buildings should have at least 5 meters between them and the scrub

8..Why didn't they put in fire breaks around small towns when they could see the fire was coming their way,

9 Who stopped doing prescribed burns to reduce the build up of fallen material on the ground ,and a lot of the undergrowth in the forest .From what I can glean from the media I believe the greens have a lot to do with this stupid and dangerous decision. This turned the blue mountains into the black mountains and burnt millions of trees

So I will say make some of cfs people permanent staff let them do prescribed burns and give them experience at working as a team this would be far less costly than the recent fires have been. . Then when I came to Esperance from South Australia and took up a partly cleared new land block, and after a large fire, started in the scrub, by a lightning strike, and we had to put it out, along the back of our place.

This fire burnt an area of about 100 klms by 50 klms and came out into the settled areas behind our place. The temperatures were in the 44 to45 degrees for several days in January of that year.

As we could see it was coming for us, I knocked down the scrub on the side of the road behind us.

We had the units, plus a shire grader, and a lot our near neighbours ready to help.

As it came towards us it made a lot of noise, like a big freight train coming at us and the heat of the fire caused the eucalyptus in the leaves to vaporize into the air build then it would catch alight and would send an enormous cloud of fire into the sky ,about 200 meters high with a large bang , then to do it all over again. This happened several times as it came towards us.

When it got within about 200 mtrs of us, we started to back burn, using burners and ran along to set the scrub alight. The fire created its own wind and sucked the backburn into its self. We then guided the fire front into a string of salt lakes, to get it to go out in there.

There were burns being carried on new land blocks around my area ,so I decided to come up to Perth ,

And do a course on fire control and prevention. This was held at the E.C. University when the students were away on holidays. So you can see I have had some experience at what I am writing about.

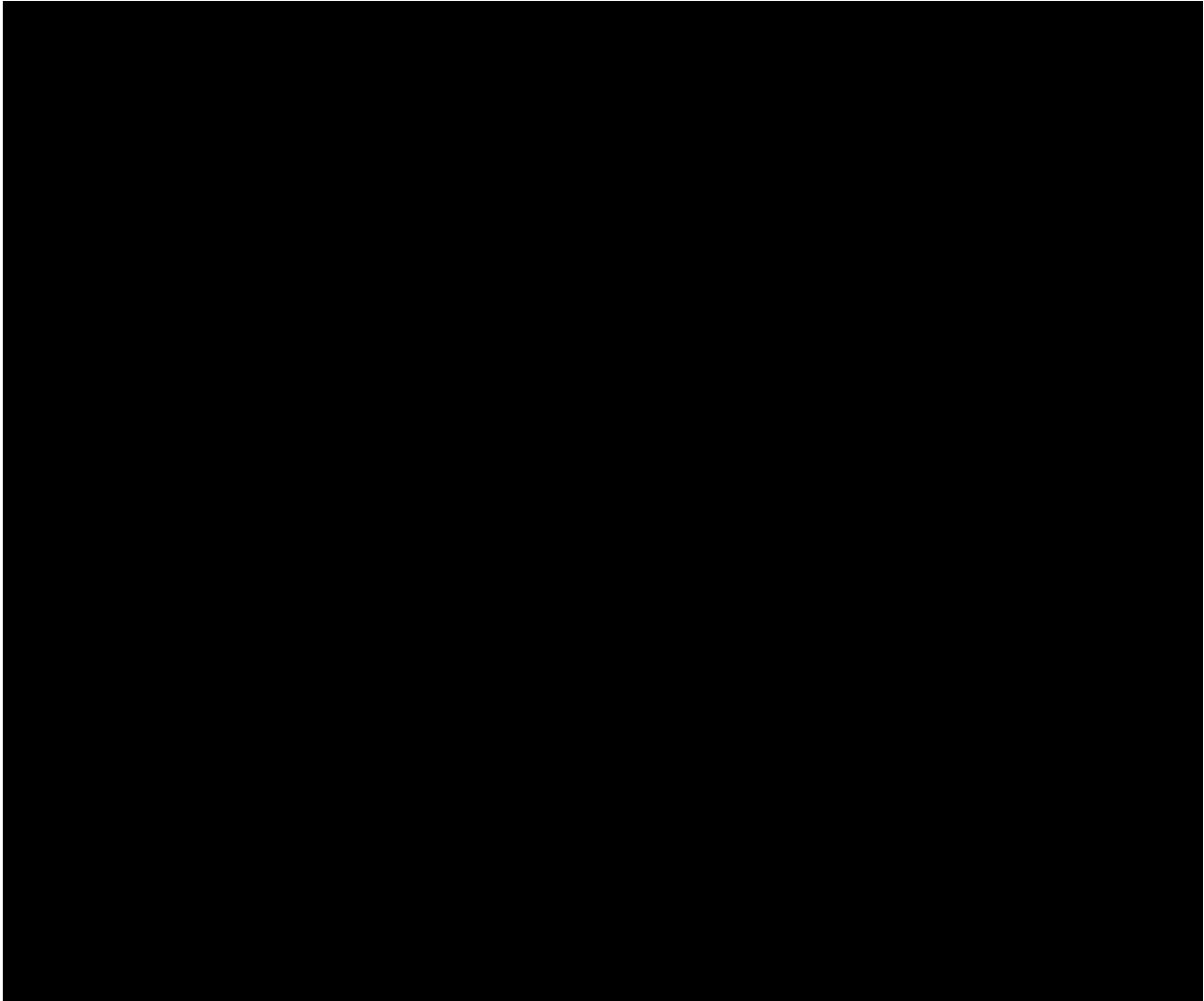
After this I became the local fire controller and would write out perscribed burning permits for new land burns and had to take into consideration which way the wind should be blowing etc.

Then one time I got called into Esperance when a fire was getting into the back of the town, and as it was close to the large gas tank at Wesfarmers and they were getting ready to evacuate the area. When I arrived I got them to get out several sprinklers and put on top of the tank to stop that being a thre at

Then there was the time that we were in the scrub trying to put out a fire but I had made arrangements with the weather beauro to let us know if there was a sea breeze coming in, we nearly had it out when they told me there was a strong sea breeze coming .I got us all out much to the owners disgust and he came up to me and said 5 minutes ago I thought you were the biggest barstard in the district but you just saved all our lives .I made it a policy of always take the twoway radio and a box of matches when you go to a fire so if you get caught you may be able to burn a patch to get onto to save yourself.

ALL I WILL SAY IS TOO LITTLE TO LATE ...AND THANK GOD FOR THE RAIN.





[Redacted]

