

From: [REDACTED]
To: [RCNDA - Submissions](#)
Subject: Alternative Bush Fighting Method
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Attention ; RCNDA

Dear Sir Madam

18 April 2020

Hopefully by putting our personal views into this email we can help in some way

Firstly we believe early detection of bushfire with [24/7](#) hi tech surveillance is key using latest technology Satellite Google Earth and Drone or whatever tools we can access to detect fire in its infancy then raise alarm for a fast organised response

Do we have or can we obtain the Hi tech Surveillance Technology to have a central

Command Control facility say based in Canberra which could be manned [24/7](#) during fire season with maybe some military people who could authorise drones and helicopters from regional facilities or bases for surveillance in fireprone areas.

Could it be an idea to involve military helicopters as first respondents as well as the current civilian helicopters which could be despatched immediately a fire is detected to respond to fire in its infancy before it has time to get out of control.

We have an idea of recycling and modifying old 44 gallon steel drums by slotting lids and locking 4 drums onto an engineered steel tipping pallet/cradle then to fill drums with an eco friendly retardant and loaded onto the centre of semi trailers say 10 pallets of about 8000 kilo per trailer and driven in convoy behind helicopter

to as close to firefront as is safe for continual supply for helicopters to work .

If you can envisage an A framed harness suspended on steel cable and when the helicopter pilot hovers above semi his winch operator then lowers and

attaches

with truck drivers assistance to hook onto pallets outrigger lugs then winches pallet off back of truck then pilot flies to firefront .He then ascends to a safe height

above fire while the winch operator lowers pallet down to tree tops and target area

he then triggers trip release mechanism thus tipping drums upside down and re

leasing retardant freeflowing onto firefront . Also if lightweight alloy domeshaped

strong turbine fan which is interchangeable and fitted by truck driver to the top of pallet of drums prior to lift off is activated thus blowing retardant deep into fire

When the pilot feels he has quelled fire sufficiently with retardant he then starts the water saturation process to mop up using same technique but with water

An idea would be to modify old 1000 litre plastic spray irrigation cubes again on an engineered tilt tip steel pallet with some fireproofing if needed . A spray bar rose would attached by truck driver to inlet /outlet housing on top of cube prior to lift off from back of trailer by helicopter . Again same method as retardant pilot hovers over truck then with truck driver assistance hooks pallet off and flies high and safe above target area then tips cube upside down releasing water as rain

If truck carries 10 cubes that relates to 10000 litres of water in convoy behind the helicopters giving unlimited water in mop up with fire trucks to assist to extinguish

All participating trucks to be fitted with onboard generators and water pumps to be able to convoy from local water sources and creeks for continuous supply of water and generators used to light up trailers for after dark helicopter work.

Also maybe all the trucks involved could be subcontracted to local farmers and bush truckies who are familiar with their local terrain and local water sources.

They would be on call during the fire season and could park fully loaded trailers

on their farms in yards or at homes waiting for call just to hook up truck and go.

Maybe the federal government could look at owning all the drums cubes and

trailers as they would be generic and interchangeable and could be driven across

borders or outback regions to exchange full trailers for empties in emergencies.

Another idea would be to source all 44 gallon drums and cubes and possibly any

idle trailers in regional and outback Australia and to modify the drums and cubes

and weld pallets in local and regional engineering shops then kept for local use.

The prime movers involved would be privately owned and maintained and leased

or subcontracted to local or state governments on call during bushfire season.

Also in regards to where helicopters are based inclusive of military bases that a full pallet of retardant plus harness as helicopters will be the first respondents.

If the retardant filled drum idea has merit ,could it be applied to extinguishing chemical or oil fires by dropping drums into fire and triggering retardant release

Maybe the idea of using Lime Powder as an eco friendly fire retardant could be used as against chemical . If so vast amounts would be required as Australia has

large reserves plus the infrastructure and limetankers to freight to regional filling

stations or pumped on site into drums .Also lime would wash into soil as nutrient

with water saturation or rain ,also pumice stone powder maybe considered.

In finishing what we are trying to point out is importance of hi tech surveillance

To spot fire in infancy then despatching a participating helicopter with its on site retardant to be first respondant and using 75/80 percent retardant with 20/25

percent water for mopping up with ground crew assistance if required.

Also if cubes susceptible to heat can use 44 gallon drums for both application

Plus the turbine fan would blow a fine mist to penetrate embers using less water.

If we could state that in writing our ideas to you is that we have no engineering

or like qualifications to substantiate any of the contents of this email to you.

Only claim we can make is many years ago we designed and had built various plastic insulated bins pallets etc for long distance road transport and storage.

Our original letter we wrote late Sept/October last year and finally mailed and emailed [on 19 November](#) last year to Aust Gov to see if any of these ideas could

warrant any merit or help in anyway in alternative ways of looking at bushfires.

If what we have written is hard to follow we also have diagrams and sketches of above.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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