



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the ACT environment's Bushfire preparedness

Submission Number: 3.1

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Supplementary Submission to ACT Bushfire Inquiry/Review 2 February 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to make a supplementary submission.

Reflecting on the submissions and presentations I would like to emphasise the following points, **noting that Bushfire was nominated as the top/key risk by the ACT All Hazards Committee.**

The ACT Government while recognising the risk/consequence it has not publically stated an agreed community risk profile it aims to achieve.

There are many well described gaps in ameliorating the risk to what may best be described as an 'acceptable community standard' by experienced experts.

We acknowledged that the expertise and knowledge to describe and achieve an acceptable risk is available however that too many elements are not currently being met.

Please consider this summary points to Include in your inquiry recommendations:

- Government to publically articulate the 'agreed community risk profile' it is working to (recognize the apparent level of agency and community complacency).
- Government to be provided with a cost/benefit review to assist prioritising Bushfire management.
- Provide some budget context of Bushfire as a priority as afforded alongside other responsibilities, health/transport/education etc, government services.
- Ensure relevant Director Generals prepare publically visible professional standard and costed rolling simple three-year business plans to achieve the stated risk profile with outcomes strategies and actions (supported by updated SBFMP and BOPs.)
- Monitor and report on business plan progress quarterly/publically.
- Emphasize the term Landscape Level Fire Management (inner city through to Brindabellas)
- Government to insist on more public dissemination of relevant information by ESA and EPPSD to compliment the ESA overt disclaimers.
- Triaging – perhaps the most important factor in Landscape Level Fire Management -make the protocol/policy documents public so all citizens can see where they sit on the risk response ladder and therefor plan, prepare and respond accordingly.
- Government recognises that the most critical risk aversion is to ensure a very strong capability for Remote Area Fire Fighting via instant detection and instant response – that means flying directly behind storms and dropping in instantly – avoid the escape at all costs on these critical fire weather days particularly with the understanding that traditional other state resources may be very limited in critical weather period going forward.
- Report clearly on the percentage of rural properties (via FarmWise) with state of the art self-sufficient property protection sprinkler systems in analysing risk – consider strategies/grants to attain 95% properties to be self-sufficient to significantly reduce risk- (median \$ capital one off price is \$20,000 per property)

- Gregor Manson (BSc Forestry)