



issues backgrounder

Number 6/June 2014

NSW Parliamentary Research Service

Bushfires in NSW: timelines and key sources

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction | 2 |
| 2. Timeline: NSW – 1926 to 2014 | 2 |
| 3. Timeline: Other jurisdictions – 1998 to 2014 | 8 |
| 4. NSW | 12 |
| Legislation | 12 |
| Parliament | 12 |
| Government | 13 |
| 5. Commonwealth | 14 |
| Parliament | 14 |
| Government | 14 |
| 6. ACT | 14 |
| Government | 14 |
| 7. South Australia | 15 |
| Parliament | 15 |
| Government | 15 |
| 8. Tasmania | 15 |
| Government | 15 |
| 9. Victoria | 15 |
| Parliament | 15 |
| Government | 15 |
| 10. Western Australia | 16 |
| Parliament | 16 |
| Government | 16 |




1. INTRODUCTION

This backgrounder features two timelines; the first includes major bushfires, bushfire inquiries and related legislative reforms in NSW between 1926 and 2014. The second identifies recent bushfires and bushfire inquiries in the other States and Territories, as well as relevant Commonwealth Parliamentary inquiries. Key sources used to put together the timelines include a NSW Rural Fire Service [timeline](#), the 2009 Victorian Royal Commission [final report](#), the [Australian Emergency Management Knowledge Hub](#) and the Insurance Council of Australia [historical disaster statistics](#). Note that a few discrepancies exist between these sources on such matters as the number of deaths and houses destroyed by bushfire.

The inquiries are also listed by jurisdiction at the end of the paper. Note that links to several government inquiries redirect the reader to the Parliament’s Library website, which is only available through the Parliament’s intranet.

2. TIMELINE: NSW – 1926 TO 2014

The timeline has been colour-coded according to the key below. Hyperlinks, where available, are also provided.

| Key | |
|--------------|---|
| Bushfires |  NSW  |
| Commonwealth |  |

A timeline of bushfires, inquiries and legislative developments in NSW

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| October 1926 | Location: Glen Innes, Dubbo, Forbes, Cowra, Parkes, Wagga Wagga, Pambula & Eden [link] Deaths/injured: 8 deaths. Area/property damage: > 2,000,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1927 | Royal Commission of Inquiry on Bush Fires in the State of New South Wales J.B. Cramsie, F. Jackson and N.W. Jolly |
| May 1930 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires Act 1930</i> [link] |
| 1938-39 | Location: Sydney and Southern NSW [link] Deaths/injured: 13 deaths. Area/property damage: 73,000 ha. 50 houses destroyed. 10,000 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| November 1944 | Location: Blue Mountains & Lochinvar Deaths/injured: 2 deaths. Area/property damage: 150 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |

Bushfires in NSW: timelines and key sources

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| November 1949 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires Act 1949</i> [link] |
| 1951-52 | Location: Western NSW, Pilliga, Dubbo/Forbes & Wagga Wagga [link] Deaths/injured: 11 deaths. Area/property damage: 5,467,000 ha. 10,000 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1957 | Location: Blue Mountains & Sydney [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. Area/property damage: > 2,000,000 ha. 158 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1958 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1958</i> [link] |
| October 1963 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1963</i> [link] |
| 1964-65 | Location: Snowy Mountains, Southern Tablelands, Nowra & Sydney Deaths/injured: 5 deaths. Area/property damage: 530,000 ha. Village of Wingello destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1965 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires and Fire Brigades (Amendment) Act 1965</i> [link] |
| 1968-69 | Location: Blue Mountains & Illawarra [link] Deaths/injured: 14 deaths. Area/property damage: > 2,000,000 ha. 80 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1969-70 | Location: Roto & Riverina Deaths/injured: 1 death. Area/property damage: 280,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| April 1970 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1970</i> [link] |
| 1972-73 | Location: Kosciusko, Eden, Queanbeyan & Burrinjuck Dam Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: 300,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1974-75 | Location: Far west, Cobar, Balranald & Moolah-Corinya [link] Deaths/injured: 6 deaths. Area/property damage: 4,500,000 ha. 50,000 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |

Issues Backgrounder

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| December 1976 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1976</i> [link] Introduction speech (9 September 1976) Second Reading speech (30 September 1976) |
| 1976-77 | Location: Blue Mountains & Hornsby Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: 74,000 ha. 3 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1977-78 | Location: Blue Mountains Deaths/injured: 3 deaths. Area/property damage: 54,000 ha. 49 buildings destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1978-79 | Location: Southern Highlands & South West Slopes Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: > 50,000 ha. 5 houses destroyed. Heavy stock losses. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1979 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1979</i> [link] Second Reading speech (21 November 1979) |
| 1979-80 | Location: Duffys Forest, Lucas Heights, Terry Hills, Ingleside, Belrose, Elanora Heights, Lithgow, Mt Wilson, Mt Tomah & Grose Valley [link] Deaths/injured: 13 deaths. Area/property damage: > 1,000,000 ha. 28 houses destroyed. 20 houses damaged. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| November 1980 | Location: Waterfall [link] Deaths/injured: 5 deaths. Area/property damage: n/a Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1980 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1980</i> [link] Second Reading speech (12 November 1980) |
| 1982-83 | Location: Blue Mountains, Sutherland & Southern NSW [link] Deaths/injured: 3 deaths. Area/property damage: 60,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| December 1983 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1983</i> [link] Second Reading speech (1 December 1983) |
| 1984-85 | Location: Western Division [link] Deaths/injured: 5 deaths. Area/property damage: 3,500,000 ha. 40,000 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$179m |

Bushfires in NSW: timelines and key sources

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1986 | Location: Mt Kaputar National Park Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: 10,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| 1987-88 | Location: Bethungra, Warurillah/Yanco, Kosciusko, Sutherland & Penrith [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. 20 injured. Area/property damage: 180,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| August 1989 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1989</i> [link] Second Reading speech (26 July 1989) |
| 1990-91 | Location: Hay, Murrumbidgee, Carrathool, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Cessnock, Hawkesbury, Warringah, Wollondilly, Gosford & Wyong Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: > 280,000 ha. 8 houses destroyed. 176,200 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| October 1991 | Location: Baulkham Hills, Gosford, Wyong & Lake Macquarie [link] Deaths/injured: 2 deaths. Area/property damage: 14 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$54m |
| December 1993 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1993</i> [link] Second Reading speech (27 October 1993) |
| 1993-94 | Location: North coast, Hunter, South coast, Blue Mountains & Sydney [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. Area/property damage: > 800,000 ha. 206 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$215m |
| March 1994 | Cabinet Committee on Bush Fire Management and Control Interim Report [link] NSW Cabinet Committee |
| May 1994 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Amendment) Act 1994</i> [link] Second Reading speech (14 April 1994) |
| June 1994 [Assented] | <i>Bush Fires (Further Amendment) Act 1994</i> [link] Second Reading speech (4 May 1994) |
| September 1994 | Review of the Funding Arrangements for the Fire Service of New South Wales [link] Minister for Police and Emergency Services |
| November 1994 | Report of the Select Committee on Bushfires [link] NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Bushfires |

Issues Backgrounder

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| February 1996 | NSW Bushfire Inquiry: findings. Inquiry into the cause and origin of the bushfires occurring in New South Wales between 31 st December, 1993 and 14 th January, 1994 and Inquests into the manner and cause of death of Norman John Anthes, Robert Eglinton Page, William John Roach and Pauline Mary O'Neil [link] NSW State Coroner |
| May 1996 | Report of the Coordinating Committee on the findings of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry [link] Phil Koperberg and the Department of Emergency Services |
| July 1997 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> [As made] [Current version] Second Reading speech (28 May 1997) |
| 1997-98 | Location: Burragorang, Pilliga, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Shoalhaven, Central Coast & Menai [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. Area/property damage: > 500,000 ha. 10 houses destroyed Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$8m (Menai) |
| June 1998 [Assented] | <i>Fire Services Legislation Amendment Act 1998</i> [link] Second Reading speech (8 April 1998) |
| June 1998 [Assented] | <i>Fire Services Joint Standing Committee Act 1998</i> [link] Second Reading speech (8 April 1998) |
| December 1998 | Performance Audit Report: Rural Fire Service: the Coordination of Bushfire Fighting Activities [link] The Audit Office of New South Wales |
| June 2000 | Location: Mt Ku-ring-gai [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. 3 injured. Area/property damage: n/a Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| June 2000 | NSW Rural Fire Service [link] NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 |
| December 2000 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires Amendment Act 2000</i> [link] Second Reading speech (17 November 2000) |
| June 2001 | Performance Audit Report: Follow-up of Performance Audits: Coordination of Bushfire Fighting Activities (December 1998) [link] The Audit Office of New South Wales |
| December 2001 | Policy Review Report [link] Interdepartmental Committee on Environmental Assessments for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Proposals |

Bushfires in NSW: timelines and key sources

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| December 2001 | Inquest into the deaths of Mark Douglas Cupit, Claire Wynne Dean, George Allan Fitzsimmons and Eric Furlan and inquiry into fire at Mt Kuring-Gai National Park [link] NSW State Coroner |
| 2001-02 | Location: 44 LGAs in Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, Mid North Coast, Northern Tablelands & Central Tablelands [link] Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: 744,000 ha. 109 houses destroyed. 40 houses damaged. 6,000 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$131m |
| June 2002 | Inquiry into the 2001/02 Bushfires [link] Joint Select Committee on Bushfires |
| June 2002 [Assented] | <i>Crimes Amendment (Bushfires) Act 2002</i> [link] Second Reading speech (12 April 2002) |
| July 2002 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002</i> [link] Second Reading speech (30 May 2002) |
| 2002-03 | Location: 81 LGAs in Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Northern Rivers, north-west slopes, north-west plains, Central Tablelands, Southern Tablelands, Illawarra & South Coast [link] Deaths/injured: 3 deaths. Area/property damage: 1,464,000 ha. 86 houses destroyed. 11 houses damaged. 3,400 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$43m (October 2002 fires) |
| September 2004 | Review of Fire Services Funding [link] NSW Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee |
| February 2005 | Statutory Review of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> [link] NSW Government |
| December 2008 [Assented] | <i>State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Act 2008</i> [link] Second Reading speech (27 November 2008) |
| April 2009 | Review of Bushfire Arson Laws [link] NSW Attorney General's Department |
| October 2009 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires Amendment Act 2009</i> [link] Second Reading speech (24 September 2009) |
| November 2009 [Assented] | <i>Emergency Services Legislation Amendment (Finance) Act 2009</i> [link] Second Reading speech (10 November 2009) |
| December 2010 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires Amendment Act 2010</i> [link] Second Reading speech (24 November 2010) |





Issues Backgrounder

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| November 2012 [Assented] | <i>Emergency Legislation Amendment Act 2012</i> [link] Second Reading speech (17 October 2012) |
| January 2013 | Location: Coonabarabran, Yass, Cooma, Shoalhaven, Jugiong & Gundaroo [link] Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. 1 injured. Area/property damage: 650,000 ha. 57 houses destroyed. 22 houses damaged. 14,500 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| March 2013 | Enhancing Hazard Reduction in NSW Report [link] Independent Hazard Reduction Audit Panel |
| October 2013 | Location: Blue Mountains, Port Stephens, Lake Munmorah, Hunter, Hawkesbury, Central Coast & Southern Highlands [link] Deaths/injured: 2 deaths. Area/property damage: 118,000 ha. 222 houses destroyed. 168 houses damaged Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$183.4m (early figures) |
| November 2013 [commenced] | Wambelong fire inquiry [link] NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 |
| November 2013 [Assented] | <i>Rural Fires Amendment Act 2013</i> [link] Second Reading speech (13 November 2013) |
| May 2014 [Second Reading] | Rural Fires Amendment (Vegetation Clearing) Bill 2014 [link] Second Reading speech (29 May 2014) |
| June 2014 | Commission of Inquiry Report into the Fire at Marrangaroo Training Area on 16 October 2013 [link] Chief of the Defence Force |

3. TIMELINE: OTHER JURISDICTIONS – 1998 TO 2014

This timeline identifies recent bushfires and bushfire inquiries in the other States and Territories, as well as relevant Commonwealth Parliamentary inquiries. Note that the timeline starts at 1998 and therefore does not include some major inquiries and bushfires, such as the [Ash Wednesday bushfires](#) in Victoria and South Australia in 1983 and the subsequent [investigation](#).

The timeline has been colour-coded according to the key below. Hyperlinks, where available, are also provided.

| Key | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Bushfires |  | Commonwealth |  |
| Other States/Territories |  | COAG |  |

A timeline of bushfires and inquiries in other jurisdictions

| | |
|---------------|---|
| December 1998 | Location: Victoria (Linton) [link] Deaths/injured: 5 deaths. Area/property damage: 660 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| January 2002 | Report of the Investigation and Inquests into a Wildfire and the Deaths of Five Firefighters at Linton on 2 December 1998 [link] State Coroner's Office, Victoria |
| January 2003 | Location: Canberra [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. 435 injuries. Area/property damage: 160,000 ha. 488 houses destroyed. 4,185 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$660m |
| August 2003 | Inquiry into the Operational Response to the January 2003 Bushfires in the ACT [link] Ron McLeod |
| October 2003 | Report of the Inquiry into the 2002-2003 Victorian Bushfires [link] Bruce Esplin |
| November 2003 | A Nation Charred: Inquiry into the Recent Australian Bushfires [link] House of Representatives Select Committee into the recent Australian bushfires |
| March 2004 | National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management [link] Stuart Ellis, Peter Kanowski & Rob Whelan |
| January 2005 | Location: South Australia (Eyre Peninsula/Wangary) [link] Deaths/injured: 9 deaths. 110 injured. Area/property damage: > 145,000 ha. 79 houses destroyed. 26 houses damaged. 46,500 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$41m |
| November 2005 | Eyre Peninsula Bushfire and Native Vegetation [link] South Australian House of Assembly Environment, Resources and Development Committee |
| January 2006 | Location: Victoria [link] Deaths/injured: 4 deaths. 6 injured. Area/property damage: 160,000 ha. 57 houses destroyed. 64,265 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$28m |
| July 2006 | Debrief Outcomes: Significant Victorian Fires December 2005 and January 2006 [link] Ross Smith, Country Fire Authority |
| December 2006 | The Canberra Firestorm: Inquests and Inquiry into Four Deaths and Four Fires between 8 and 18 January 2003. Volume I and Volume II Maria Doogan, ACT Coroner |

Issues Backgrounder

| | |
|----------------|---|
| December 2007 | Wangary Coronial Investigation Finding [link] SA Deputy Coroner |
| 2007-08 | Location: Western Australia (Boorabbin National Park) Deaths/injured: 2 deaths. Area/property damage: 29,000 ha. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| June 2008 | Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria [link] Victorian Environment and Natural Resources Committee |
| February 2009 | Location: Victoria [link] Deaths/injured: 173 deaths. 414 injured. Area/property damage: 430,000 ha. 2,133 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$1,266m |
| August 2009 | 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission interim report [link] Bernard Teague, Ronald McLeod & Susan Pascoe |
| November 2009 | Bushfire Inquiry (Interim Report) [link] South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee |
| July 2010 | 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission final report [link] Bernard Teague, Ronald McLeod & Susan Pascoe |
| August 2010 | The incidence and severity of bushfires across Australia [link] Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries |
| February 2011 | Location: Western Australia (Perth Hills) [link] Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. 12 injured. Area/property damage: 1,540 ha. 72 houses destroyed. 39 houses damaged. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$35m |
| July 2011 | Bushfire Inquiry (Final Report) [link] South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee |
| August 2011 | A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review [link] Mick Keelty |
| September 2011 | Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce – Final Report [link] Tim Orton, Victorian Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce |
| November 2011 | The Capacity of Communication Networks and Emergency Warning Systems to Deal with Emergencies and Natural Disasters [link] Senate Environment and Communications References Committee |

Bushfires in NSW: timelines and key sources

| | |
|---------------|---|
| November 2011 | Location: Western Australia (Augusta and Margaret River) [link] Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. Area/property damage: 64,000 ha. 47 houses destroyed. 23 houses damaged. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$53m |
| November 2011 | Western Australia's Readiness for the 2011-12 Bushfire Season [link] Western Australia Legislative Assembly Community, Development and Justice Committee |
| January 2012 | Appreciating the Risk: Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire [link] Mick Keelty |
| October 2012 | Report on the Post Incident Analysis of the 2011 Margaret River and Nannup bushfires [link] Western Australia State Emergency Management Committee |
| November 2012 | Higher Risk. Better Prepared? WA's Preparedness for the 2012-13 Bushfire Season [link] Western Australia Legislative Assembly Community, Development and Justice Committee |
| January 2013 | Location: Tasmania (Dunalley) [link] Deaths/injured: 1 death. Area/property damage: > 36,000 ha. 203 houses destroyed. 212 buildings destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |
| August 2013 | Recent Trends in and Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events [link] Senate Environment and Communications References Committee |
| October 2013 | 2013 Tasmanian Bushfires Inquiry [link] Special Investigator Mal Hyde |
| November 2013 | Bushfire Preparedness of Properties in Bushfire Risk Areas [link] South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee |
| January 2014 | Location: Western Australia (Perth Hills) [link] Deaths/injured: 1 death. Area/property damage: 52 houses destroyed. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): \$15m (early figures) |
| February 2014 | Location: Victoria [link] Deaths/injured: 0 deaths. 3 injured. Area/property damage: 40 houses destroyed. 29 houses damaged. 10,600 stock. Normalised cost (\$2011 AUD): n/a |

4. NSW

LEGISLATION

The Second Reading [speech](#) of the *Rural Fires Act 1997 (as made)* ([current version](#)) provides three reasons as to why it was introduced to replace the [Bush Fires Act 1949](#): modernization of the content of the legislation; modernization of the language of the legislation; and implementation of the Carr Government's legislative response to the January 1994 bushfires. Substantial amendments have since been made to the Act on a number of occasions. Many of these amendments have been introduced in response to a significant bushfire and, in some cases, the subsequent inquiry into the bushfire. This is true of the most recent proposed amendments. Introduced to Parliament on 29 May 2014, reforms contained in the [Rural Fires Amendment \(Vegetation Clearing\) Bill 2014](#) were first flagged following the NSW October 2013 fires. The Bill seeks to amend the Act in relation to vegetation clearing work in certain areas and bush fire hazard reduction certificates, amongst other matters.

The [Rural Fires Regulation 2013](#) deals with matters such as the constitution and membership of rural fire brigades, Bush Fire Management Committees, bush fire prevention and the issuance of notices.

PARLIAMENT

Committees

[Wambelong fire inquiry](#)

NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Commenced November 2013

[Review of Fire Services Funding](#)

NSW Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee
September 2004

[Inquiry into the 2001/02 Bushfires](#)

Joint Select Committee on Bushfires
June 2002

[NSW Rural Fire Service](#)

NSW Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
June 2000

[Report of the Select Committee on Bushfires](#)

NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Bushfires
November 1994

NSW Parliamentary Research Service

[Rural Fires Amendment \(Vegetation Clearing\) Bill 2014](#) (2014)

[Bushfires in NSW: An update](#) (2010)

[Arson](#) (2003)

[Bushfires](#) (2002)

GOVERNMENT

[Enhancing Hazard Reduction in NSW Report](#)
Independent Hazard Reduction Audit Panel
March 2013

[Review of Bushfire Arson Laws](#)
NSW Attorney General's Department
April 2009

[Statutory Review of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*](#)
NSW Government
February 2005

[Inquest into the deaths of Mark Douglas Cupit, Claire Wynne Dean, George Allan Fitzsimmons and Eric Furlan and inquiry into fire at Mt Kuring-Gai National Park](#)
NSW State Coroner
December 2001

[Policy Review Report](#)
Interdepartmental Committee on Environmental Assessments for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Proposals
December 2001

[Performance Audit Report: Follow-up of Performance Audits: Coordination of Bushfire Fighting Activities \(December 1998\)](#)
The Audit Office of New South Wales
June 2001

[Performance Audit Report: Rural Fire Service: the Coordination of Bushfire Fighting Activities](#)
The Audit Office of New South Wales
December 1998

[Report of the Coordinating Committee on the findings of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry](#)
Phil Koperberg and the Department of Emergency Services
May 1996

[NSW Bushfire Inquiry: findings. Inquiry into the cause and origin of the bushfires occurring in New South Wales between 31st December, 1993 and 14th January, 1994 and Inquests into the manner and cause of death of Norman John Anthes, Robert Eglinton Page, William John Roach and Pauline Mary O'Neil](#)
NSW State Coroner
February 1996

[Review of the Funding Arrangements for the Fire Service of New South Wales](#)
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
September 1994

[Cabinet Committee on Bush Fire Management and Control Interim Report](#)

NSW Cabinet Committee

March 1994

Royal Commission of Inquiry on Bush Fires in the State of New South Wales

J.B. Cramsie, F. Jackson and N.W. Jolly

1927

5. COMMONWEALTH

PARLIAMENT

[Recent Trends in and Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events](#)

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee

August 2013

[The Capacity of Communication Networks and Emergency Warning Systems to Deal with Emergencies and Natural Disasters](#)

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee

November 2011

[The Incidence and Severity of Bushfires Across Australia](#)

Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries

August 2010

[A Nation Charred: Inquiry into the Recent Australian Bushfires](#)

House of Representatives Select Committee into the recent Australian bushfires

November 2003

GOVERNMENT

[Commission of Inquiry Report into the Fire at Marrangaroo Training Area on 16 October 2013](#)

Chief of the Defence Force

June 2014

6. ACT

GOVERNMENT

The Canberra Firestorm: Inquests and Inquiry into Four Deaths and Four Fires between 8 and 18 January 2003. [Volume I](#) and [Volume II](#)

M Doogan, ACT Coroner

December 2006

[Inquiry into the Operational Response to the January 2003 Bushfires in the ACT](#)

Ron McLeod

August 2003

7. SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENT

[Bushfire Preparedness of Properties in Bushfire Risk Areas](#)

South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee
November 2013

[Bushfire Inquiry](#) (Final Report)

South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee
July 2011

[Bushfire Inquiry](#) (Interim Report)

South Australian House of Assembly Natural Resources Committee
November 2009

[Eyre Peninsula Bushfire and Native Vegetation](#)

South Australian House of Assembly Environment, Resources and Development
Committee

November 2005

GOVERNMENT

[Wangary Coronial Investigation Finding](#)

SA Deputy Coroner
December 2007

8. TASMANIA

GOVERNMENT

[2013 Tasmanian Bushfires Inquiry](#)

Special Investigator Mal Hyde
October 2013

9. VICTORIA

PARLIAMENT

[Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria](#)

Victorian Environment and Natural Resources Committee
June 2008

GOVERNMENT

[Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce](#) – Final Report

Tim Orton, Victorian Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce
September 2011

[2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission](#) (Final Report)

Bernard Teague, Ronald McLeod & Susan Pascoe
July 2010

[2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission \(Interim Report\)](#)
Bernard Teague, Ronald McLeod & Susan Pascoe
August 2009

[Debrief Outcomes: Significant Victorian Fires December 2005 and January 2006](#)
Ross Smith, Country Fire Authority
July 2006

[Report of the Inquiry into the 2002-2003 Victorian Bushfires](#)
Bruce Esplin
October 2003

[Report of the Investigation and Inquests into a Wildfire and the Deaths of Five Firefighters at Linton on 2 December 1998](#)
State Coroner's Office, Victoria
January 2002

10. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENT

[Higher Risk. Better Prepared? WA's Preparedness for the 2012-13 Bushfire Season](#)
Western Australia Legislative Assembly Community, Development and Justice Committee
November 2012

[Western Australia's Readiness for the 2011-12 Bushfire Season](#)
Western Australia Legislative Assembly Community, Development and Justice Committee
November 2011

GOVERNMENT

[Report on the Post Incident Analysis of the 2011 Margaret River and Nannup bushfires](#)
Western Australia State Emergency Management Committee
October 2012

[Appreciating the Risk: Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire](#)
Mick Keelty
January 2012

[A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review](#)
Mick Keelty
August 2011

Author: Daniel Montoya

Last updated: 18 June 2014

For further information please contact the Research Service on 9230 2356

Issues Backgrounders are prepared by the NSW Parliamentary Research Service for Members of Parliament on Bills or subjects of topical importance.

This Issues Backgrounder provides links to parliamentary material, journal articles, media articles and interest group web sites to provide Members with detailed information relating to matters under consideration by the NSW Parliament. Although every attempt is made to ensure that the information provided is correct at the time of publication, no guarantee can be made as to its ongoing relevancy or accuracy. This Issues Backgrounder should not be considered a comprehensive guide to this particular subject and is only a representative sample of the information available. This Issues Backgrounder does not constitute a professional legal opinion.