

# INDEPENDENT BUSHFIRE GROUP

## MEDIA RELEASE – 9 November 2020

### **The Independent Bushfire Group today urged the NSW Government to help volunteer fire fighters by implementing the Royal Commission finding on continuous improvement**

IBG spokesperson Ian Brown said “the Government owes NSW volunteers the best review systems possible so that their efforts to protect communities are as safe and effective as they can be.”

“NSW should recognize the benefits of independent accountability and just do it. The Royal Commission echoed the NSW Bushfire Inquiry who affirmed the value of an independent role.”

Also from the NSW Inquiry, their very first recommendation called for a ‘*central accountability mechanism*’ to track all the inquiry’s recommendations. Even this has not yet happened.”

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements looked closely at independent review mechanisms for bushfire and other disasters and recommended that every state should establish such a mechanism to “*promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements*”.

“The Royal Commission found the Inspector Generals for Emergency Management in Victoria and Queensland are doing valuable work. Critically, they are independent, take a holistic approach and report direct to parliament. This is what we need for NSW,” Mr Brown said.

The Royal Commission said that independent accountability was important to “*encourage the best use of resources, and best possible outcomes for our communities*”.

“Last fire season we saw numerous examples of where traditional firefighting practices did not work and in some cases made the situation worse for communities and the fire fighters trying to protect them. With climate change and escalating fires, we need new ways of learning from past fires.”

“The Royal Commission said that ‘post-event analyses are vital’. We need to identify and do more of what worked last season and avoid what didn’t work. Objective and independent monitoring will mean that volunteers and other firefighters can work more safely and more effectively on the best bushfire strategies,” Mr Brown said.

“Firefighters and the whole community need transparency, so everyone can be confident that bushfire agencies keep building on past advances for better results – smaller fires and more resilient communities”. Mr Brown said.

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**The Independent Bushfire Group’s report to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry is available [here](#).**

The **Independent Bushfire Group** is a group of non-aligned bushfire practitioners, fire managers, land managers, fire researchers and ecologists with over 450 years of collective experience across a wide range of landscapes. The IBG advocates for better fire management with a focus on practical firefighting, science and evidence-based practices so we can adapt to our worsening fire climate.