

# INDEPENDENT BUSHFIRE GROUP

## MEDIA RELEASE – 30 October 2020

### **Bushfire group says the Royal Commission has confirmed that it is time to radically reshape how we deal with more dangerous fires in a warming world.**

The Independent Bushfire Group has welcomed much of the Bushfire Royal Commission's final report. The Royal Commission acknowledged that climate change underpinned last year's fires and more dangerous fires are likely as our climate warms.

"The severity and intensity of bushfires is influenced by various factors such as the type of vegetation, the topography of the landscape, and weather conditions, which are becoming hotter and drier over the long term due to climate change," said Geoff Luscombe from the Independent Bushfire Group.

"We are pleased that the Royal Commission took a *lessons learned* approach. In their words *unprecedented is not a reason to be unprepared for the future*. Many past practices did not work last year and we need to rethink many aspects of how we will combat future fires. For example, major gains can be made by significantly upgrading our capacity to be able to put out lightning fires within an hour or two of the strike when the fire is very small."

"We are pleased the Royal Commission recognized that fuel management is not a panacea and support their call for more research on the role of fuels in extreme fires. We would like to see sensible adjustment to how and where we undertake prescribed burning. We think more effort is needed closer to houses where the risk actually located. 50ha burned near communities is worth more than 5000ha in remote bushland. This is one measure to build community resilience and we welcome the Royal Commission's range of recommendations in this direction", said Mr Luscombe.

The Royal Commission called for strong adaptation measures to respond to the impacts of climate change. Also Federal, state, and local governments must act swiftly and decisively to invest in solutions that bring down emissions and accelerate the transition away from coal, oil, and gas, which are fanning the flames of worsening bushfires in Australia," said Mr Luscombe.

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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 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.