

**From:** Bob Hawkins  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 April 2019 7:47 AM  
**To:** AFAC Review (DPFEM)  
**Subject:** Review of 2019 Tasmania fires

Hi

I have no expertise in the field of bushfires, but I did experience being holed up for nearly a fortnight downwind (on the east side of the Huon) of the fires that travelled through the hills on the west side of the Huon as far as Surges Bay: a very unpleasant experience watching a blood-red sun attempting to penetrate the smoke haze.

Our fire-fighters (professional and volunteer) fought seemingly tirelessly to contain the blazes.

As is normal, strategic mistakes were made, so I believe it is essential that the Tasmanian Government takes seriously the need to ensure that many of those mistakes are not made again.

I was especially concerned at the progress of the Riveaux Road fire, which, it seems, should have been nipped in the bud when it began on an old clear-felled forest coupe now embraced within a conservation boundary. Instead, for various reasons, it was allowed to build in strength and travel to become a threat to a much wider area.

One of my lasting impressions is that unnecessary costs were incurred as a consequence of firefighters and machinery sitting around waiting for something to happen.

This led some to wonder whether certain elements in our society may have been exploiting the crisis for unreasonable gain at a time of severe crisis. I hope this was not the case, but

certainly it is important that the efficiency of our fire-fighting services be lifted.

My submission is simply to encourage those conducting the review to leave no stone unturned in seeking means by which bushfire events can be dealt with more appropriately.

Thank you

Bob Hawkins