

From: Ron Mann [
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2019 12:33 PM
To: AFAC Review (DPFEM)
Subject: Submission to the Cronstedt Review

My submission refers to the stationing of helicopter resources very early in the fire season.

I believe that an Erickson Air Crane should be engaged by the Tasmanian Government very early in the fire season each year in Tasmania and retained for the whole fire season.

I was not aware until one of these helicopters crashed in Victoria this year that there were at least six of these machines in Australia for fire fighting, but none were stationed in Tasmania.

If one had been available when the dry lightning fires occurred its considerable capacity could have been used to great effect as soon as major blazes broke out.

There needs to be an immediate water bombing resource despatched when a fire is detected rather than after an assessment of the threat.

Obviously there is a significant cost to be borne by the State but the use of such a helicopter could reduce the overall cost of firefighting and loss of infrastructure.

Smaller water bombing helicopters also have a place in firefighting , along with assets like the Boeing 737 that was also used this year.

Finally I would like to thank all the firefighters and support staff from many Agencies and community groups that were involved in fighting the fires this season.

Ron Mann