



To improve the preparedness of small towns and tiny villages in case day visitors from (eg) Melbourne and local residents are caught in future bushfires..

I believe every small town and tiny village should be provided with a FIRE-PROOF place containing a SATELLITE PHONE.

General interest in improving bushfire risk.

During WW-II in Britain, some military aircraft called DVI Wellingtons were equipped with electric generators and large electric coils to create a powerful magnetic field under them to trigger and explode magnetic mines AT A DISTANCE (ie. German magnetic mines under the sea) (1).

I wonder if it has ever been investigated whether such magnetic fields could influence the behaviour of bushfires (eg. reduce their speed of propagation or even extinguish them) ?

For example, an aircraft equipped with a generator and coil FLYING LOW over bushfires and generating a large magnetic field might be able to influence such fires.

If such an idea has never been investigated, perhaps your inquiry could recommend that an organisation such as CSIRO or DSTO could investigate it ?

(1) "The Secret War" by Brian Johnson, Arrow Books, London, 1979, pp.283-284.

I'm concerned about the vulnerability of utility infrastructure.

I believe all critical installations such as power stations, water reservoirs, telecommunications facilities, etc., should be equipped with ON-SITE accommodation for the people working there so they can remain isolated on site TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY when a MAJOR EMERGENCY occurs such as a coronavirus epidemic, a major bushfire, an extreme heatwave or cold, or similar. Such accommodation should include a stored food supply for several months, potable water supply, etc.

Interest in solving some of the related problems

Should UNMANNED, REMOTE-CONTROLLED fire-fighting vehicles be developed containing a watertank and MULTIPLE nozzles for spraying water on a bushfire ?

Perhaps EX-ARMY Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC's) could be converted into such vehicles ?

Controlled by a SINGLE firefighter, they could replace (eg) 2 or 3 firefighters standing within metres of each other (as often seen on tv).

They could probably get closer to the source of a fire than individual firefighters.

Interest in improving Australia's fire-fighting capacity.

During the Normandy invasion in World War II, DC-3 aircraft TOWED wooden gliders behind them. And the wartime Germans had some similar schemes.

I wonder whether the following idea might be worthwhile to be investigated ? :

Develop an aerodynamically-shaped watertank with simple wings and wheels which could be TOWED on a cable behind standard, largely unmodified Hercules aircraft of the RAAF.

The vehicle could either SPRAY its water while being towed LOW over a bushfire or dump it in one go.

Perhaps the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) could look into the feasibility of this ?

Having A NUMBER of such relatively cheap vehicles would allow a speedy EXPANSION of the existing fire-fighting fleet.

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| Would you like your submission to be made publicly available? | Yes |
| Would you like your name (or your business or organisation's name) published with your submission? | Yes |
| During the 2019-20 fire season, were you in an area where fires occurred? | No |
| Where were you impacted by fires? | |
| How would you describe your connection to the area? | |
| Were you involved in responding to the fires in that area? | No |
| How would you best describe your involvement in responding to the fires? | |
| Were you (or do you continue to be) involved in supporting individuals or communities affected by the fires? | No |
| How would you best describe your involvement following the fires? | |
| What is the main reason for your submission? | To improve the preparedness of small towns and tiny villages in case day visitors from (eg) Melbourne and local residents are caught in future bushfires.. |

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| What is your Local Government Area (council)? | Maroondah |
| What is your postcode or town? | 3136 |
| What age group are you in? | 65 - 74 |
| What gender do you identify as? | Male |
| Other ways to be involved in the Inquiry | No |
| | |
| Full name | |
| Phone number | |
| Email | |
| What types of activities would you be interested in hearing about? | |
| Preferred method of contact | |