



Report on Christmas 2001 Bushfire Event

Prepared by: -

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For: -

Chief Coroner, ACT

Mr Ron Cahill

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Crews remained on the Bruce Ridge Fire overnight and under difficult conditions, managed to patrol and mop up through until morning. While the perimeter looked good around 0900 hours, problems did develop as the day warmed up.

The Red Hill Fire was attended by crews throughout the night who directly worked the fire edge with hoses. Once again during Christmas Day, as the winds came up and temperatures rose, this fire broke away.

Day 3

On day 3 the fire edges on all fires were consolidated, assisted by units from both New South Wales and the Country Fire Authority, Victoria. That extra assistance enabled local crews to have a rest but the following day the Victorian and NSW resources were withdrawn to assist with other fires in New South Wales.

The fires did not extend their boundaries from this point in time.

Coordination

Paragraph 72. The report indicates that operational planning meetings were conducted twice a day from Wednesday the 26th December to the 28th December. Copies of minutes of the previous meetings and copies of the 'Incident Action Plans' have been sought, but these have not been forthcoming. Field personnel, with the exception of 1 person, indicated that they did not, at any stage, have access to an 'Incident Action Plan'.

Community Impact

All reasonable steps were taken to keep the public informed of the progress of the fire fighting effort, and to alert the community when the situation warranted.

Evacuations

The Chief Fire Control Officer, in his report, indicates that improvements could be made to the bushfire evacuation procedures. Principally, the evacuations lacked a measure of coordination. A review of procedures will undoubtedly overcome this concern.