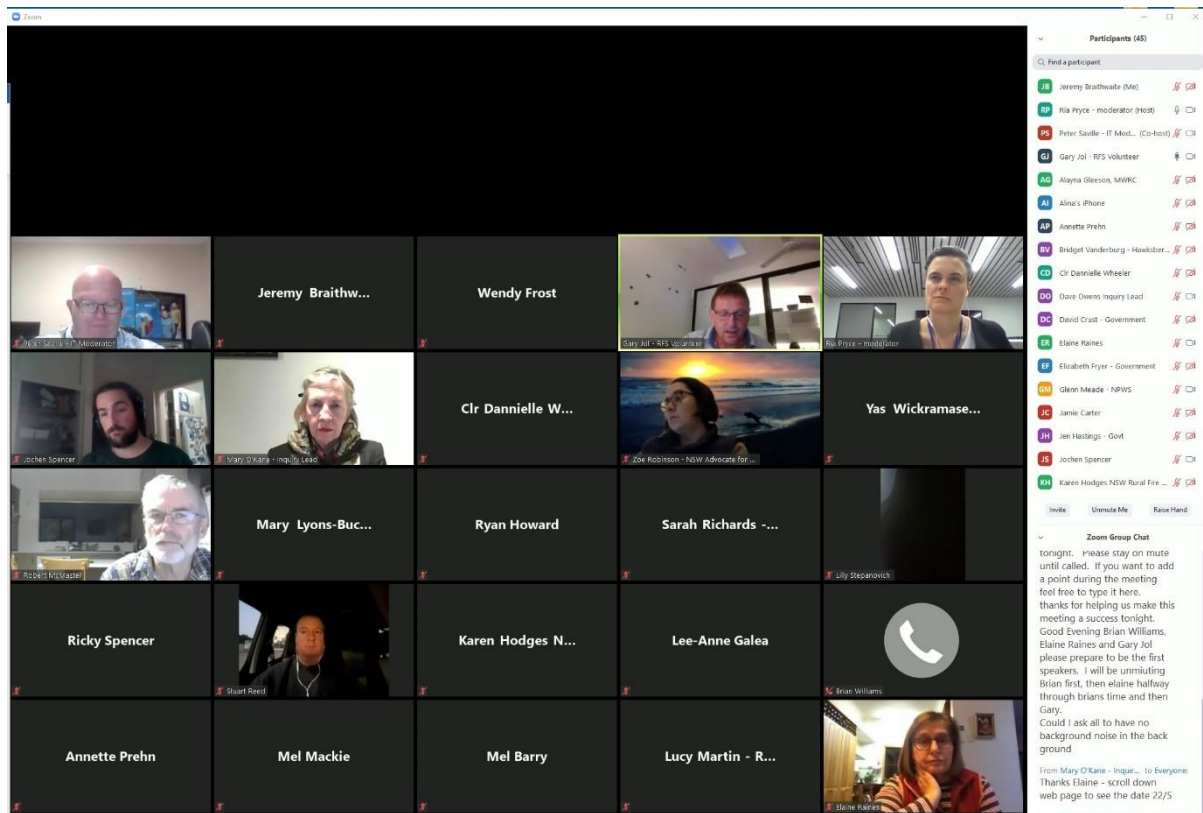


GARY JOL SUBMISSION TO THE NSW ENQUIRY ZOOM MEETING



RESPONSE

This was excellent as far as I am concerned, the district office was exceptional given the work load and the resources were exceptional.

CONDITIONS

The drought conditions and available fuel presented perfect opportunity for fire ,the devastation caused is indeed tragic and heartbreaking ,having said that, the Hawkesbury district was very fortunate not to have extreme winds from the west at a constant, day in and day out . (The days we had were bad enough) Had we seen more high constant wind? This would have seen- (although hard to imagine) devastation far beyond its present state.

THE WAY FORWARD

Land management must become a way of life for us that live in the bush environment. Before the European and foreign man came to this land, there was no fire truck or aerial suppression. Fire moved through the landscape regularly, this meant that the fire was less intense ,produced less smoke and the sustained protection of the canopy ,kept the fire hungry undergrowth at a minimum.

This should be replicated as best as possible if we don't want to go through this in another 10 years time. The present structure to support this management process is restrictive and given the outcome, failing.

At present the management of land area's and patches are voluntarily put up to the bushfire management committee for consideration. This is done through community concern or land manager concern. This is random, and leaves large sections of land unmanaged.

Hence our excellent responsive ability is undone by our lack of preventive ability!

We hear a lot about window of opportunity, we need to take out all stops to widen this window, the narrow window is caused by -

- High fuel loads , which requires a narrower prescription (this will get better, once we have reduced fuel loads)
- lack of community understanding
- landholder permission
- smoke restrictions
- reliance on individuals for planning
- Hazard reduction certificate inconsistencies
- prioritising-so called for availability of resources
- too many moving parts in the present management system.

Basically the land management system needs overhauling or rebuilding. In the meantime, we really need to use every opportunity to lower those high fuel areas in order to protect the environment.

Notes on the picture below-

Parts in the attached comparison picture will never recover to tall forest, it has constantly received wildfire ever 15 to 20 years. Areas in here will be reduced to heathland or grassland, which will burn harder again and destroy more wildlife (if there's any left ?)

