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20th October 2003.

Director Ms. Nicole Matthews,
COAG Bushfire Inquiry,
Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet
3-5 National Circuit,
BARTON ACT 2600.

Inquiry into Bushfire Mitigation and Management

Dear Ms. Matthews,

We now use two ways of putting out a Bush Fire:-

1. Get close enough with equipment and personnel and pump water with pressure limited by a canvas hose and sometimes water shortage.
2. Drop water from the air a scoop at a time.

Here are two more methods that would:-

1. Allow an unlimited attach from a number of different directions.
2. Be independent of water on site but taken from Pools, Rivers, Dams etc. within the firing range.
3. Avoid close contact and risk from the fire by personnel and valuable equipment.
4. Not handicapped by congested roads or inaccessible areas.
5. Lower cost of equipment.

In other words propel slugs of water by cannon or catapult. The cannon could have an explosive charge or act like an I.C. combustion engine in reverse with a piston forcing water out instead of down against a crankshaft.

To prevent dispersal in the air a thin membrane could be used or with chemicals used by crop sprayers for this purpose.

This idea was submitted by two local firms who help develop ideas and inventions, the only criticism from one that water might fall upon anyone already in the forest, but it earned a prize from the CSIRO in their 1994 ideas competition and so I submit this suggestion for development in tackling the problems of Bush Fires.

Yours faithfully

SIGNED

Fred Rich