



2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

Preliminary hearing and call for submissions

By Letters Patent dated 16 February 2009, the Honourable Bernard George Teague AO, Ronald Neville McLeod AO and Susan Mary Pascoe AM were appointed Commissioners to inquire into:

1. The causes and circumstances of the bushfires which burned in various parts of Victoria in late January and in February 2009 ('2009 bushfires').
2. The preparation and planning by governments, emergency services, other entities, the community and households for bushfires in Victoria, including current laws, policies, practices, resources and strategies for the prevention, identification, evaluation, management and communication of bushfire threats and risks.
3. All aspects of the response to the 2009 bushfires, particularly measures taken to control the spread of the fires and measures taken to protect life and private and public property, including but not limited to:
 - a) immediate management, response and recovery
 - b) resourcing, overall co-ordination and deployment, and
 - c) equipment and communication systems.
4. The measures taken to prevent or minimise disruption to the supply of essential services such as power and water during the 2009 bushfires.
5. Any other matters that they deem appropriate in relation to the 2009 bushfires.

The full terms of reference may be found at www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au.

Call for submissions

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission is calling for written submissions from any interested persons or organisations in relation to the Royal Commission's terms of reference.

General submissions will close at **4.00pm, Monday 18 May 2009**. Further submissions around specific areas of interest of the Royal Commission may be invited at a later date.

For information about how to lodge a submission, please visit www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au or contact 1800 243 650.

Requests for leave to appear before the Royal Commission

Any person or organisation seeking leave to formally appear before the Royal Commission must lodge written notice of that intention by **4.00pm, Thursday 9 April 2009**. The notice should comprise a brief outline of no more than three pages identifying the term or terms of reference in which the person or organisation claims an interest, explaining the nature of that interest and giving reasons why they should be given leave to appear before the Royal Commission.

These notices should be lodged either via email to enquiries@royalcommission.vic.gov.au or via post to:

Leave to Appear
2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission
GPO Box 4358
Melbourne VIC 3001

Preliminary hearing

Requests for leave to appear will be considered at the Royal Commission's preliminary hearing at Court 3.3, County Court, 250 William Street, Melbourne at 10.00 am on 20 April 2009. At the preliminary hearing the Commission will give directions for the future conduct of its hearings.