

"Major bush fires around the world have resulted in concern both in the community and fire industry. This has been of particular concern in Australia where the Canberra fires generated one of the worst urban/rural interface wildfires in the nation's history.

Terrorist attacks in recent years and continuing threats to the community's safety have necessitated greater emphasis on security and unprecedented changes in emergency services, worldwide.

Government measures in Australia to protect the community and enhance safety, as well as recommendations from various coronial inquests and extensive national and state inquiries have required changes in operational preparedness, response and recovery across all fire and emergency services agencies.

These issues and ever increasing community risks present significant service delivery challenges for emergency services across the world. We need to be able to demonstrate to the community that we have learnt from these lessons and that we can unmistakably address the question ... Are we prepared for future challenges?"

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