

Submission Number: NND.001.00124

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:

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Preferred means of contact: Email

What is your submission based on? I am making this submission based on my personal situation

What was your personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires?

Where do you live? Bellingen (A)

Your Submission

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response worked well?

When towns were threatened.

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?

When environmental assets including World Heritage areas were threatened. In September when isolated properties and areas were threatened on the north coast. The availability of water bombing aircraft and Remote Area Firefighting Teams in September and October would have helped restrict fires from becoming much larger. The deployment of large numbers of volunteers from out of area.

In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?

Much better deployment of out of area strike teams. Better availability of up to date fire maps for crews. Fast moving Cat 9s for each strike team with a local firefighter who knows the foreground well to guide each strike team. Better Comms. Better triage of assets. A World Heritage Rainforest with species such as Antarctic Beech with links going back 80 million years has to be worth more than a pine plantation, a paddock of blady grass or abandoned farm sheds. Teams need to be on the ground at critical times to conduct backburns. If this means getting up at 4.am to have breakfast then this needs to occur. Day shifts should not leave until there is a handover. Catering needs to be contracted to meet the time of operations not the other way around.

Is there anything else you would like to tell the Royal Commission?

The remaining patches of unburnt country need to be protected as refugia for biota to re-colonise the burnt areas. These should not be subject to logging as they may be the only populations remaining. Clause should be built into the Forest Agreements for this. An insurance fund to compensate timber and other workers during this time should be created.

Do you agree to your submission being published? Yes I agree to my submission being published anonymously