

Submission Number: NND.001.00317

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? Bega Valley (A)

Your Submission

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

The evacuation centres outside of Bermagui run by Red Cross were fantastic

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

Bermagui was not at all prepared. No community warning system. Evacuation centre in Bermagui could not receive messages from outside or from fire fronts. Our communication was cut off along with water and sewage failures but the biggest impact was lack of funding for years to stakeholders such as national parks and RFS which meant they were not able to have the standards in place that were required. As a result backburning had not been carried out sufficiently due to lack of staff and resources and the poor resources of RFS were overwhelmed despite their tireless efforts. We really need a water bombing chopper or plane located on south coast. We also need backup to assist communication systems like generators to run when power fails.

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

Each rural town should have an early warning system in place for evacuation notices. Excellent communications need to be set up with backup resources. More resources for fire fighters.

With these things in place residents should not have to drive through fire grounds in the middle of the night with last minute panic going on.

The recovery process here is abysmal with many still living in tents etc and there burnt house not removed. Recovery money very slow to trickle down. Many people feel let down by federal government. Our local member

Andrew Constance was brilliant.

The reserve army being deployed was also very useful and without them- blaze aid and world central kitchen cooking and providing free meals for 7 weeks along with community volunteers we would have been lost.

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

It seems obvious to most of us that the environmental situation is worsening year to year. We on the south coast feel we are stuck with ongoing wildfires.

We implore you to look at the underlying cause- climate change and encourage our government to step up to the challenge. There is no use applying a band aid to a gushing artery.

Thankyou for your kindness in offering this opportunity.

[Redacted]

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

NND.001.01317 - Addendum

Add to question 9 - Telecommunication was a struggle and from New year they had nothing for 4 days. The coverage was intermittent.