

Submission Number: NND.001.00739

Submission Of: Christine Hannan

Your Details

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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? All east coast affected by bushfire - smoke , heat , fear , oxygen
Where do you live? Gladesville , [REDACTED]

Your Submission

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response worked well?
In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?
In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?

Preparation and mitigation - Government needs to de politicise all issues around climate . The Governments reponse to Covid 19 illustrates Governments can act on science and best practice and be very effective. And the citizenry respect action and in general comply. The same methods should be applied to climate. Australia is very exposed to the damaging effects of climate change. We are already a hot and dry nation - taking strong action now - by PRESERVING AND RESTORING our natural environments now - will be economically and socially beneficial.

Please do not marginalise 'the environment' as a side issue - seen as separate, and extra somewhat discretionary. Climate affects everything from food /agriculture production - housing, to urban and regional planning, education and more.

Expertise needed - broad and inclusive fire management strategies. Developing plans and knowledge including indigenous fire practices - eg Firestick

Urban planning around interface between housing and bush environments - cleared areas, vegetation which inhibits fire, grey water dumps

National water plan - develop a comprehensive plan to support and protect regional, coastal populations, decentralise water/ energy distribution , more efficient water collection and re use , solar driven desalination (Kenya example)

Value, preserve and restore nature - reduces local impacts of climate change and act as important carbon stores and biodiversity . Now is the time to regenerate - as temperatures increase it will be harder to regenerate and species to adapt. Create a workforce dedicated to preserving and restoring nature - including a fire and water management regime.

Biodiversity and threatened species increased funding - Australia has one of the lowest OECD percentage of GDP expenditure on threatened species

Create dedicated workforce for fire firefighting , supported by well resourced volunteers . Whilst there is an important community role for volunteer fire service it needs to be well resourced - NOT dependent on donations and fund raising- and should ONLY supplement a paid professional work force.

Exit fossil fuel extraction and export industry - by continuing to mine and sell coal AUSTRALIA IS PART of the PROBLEM . To be a responsible global citizen and to meet and exceed our (currently modest)IPCC targets Australia needs to adopt a carbon emissions trigger in the approval process. By failing to account for global emissions we are costing less developed nations and ourselves - a degraded environment and higher repair costs as damaging climate events become more severe.

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

Whilst not directly threatened by this last fire event, it has indirectly threatened all Australians way of life and the way of life future generations of Australians will inherit.

Experts reportedly widely the significant changes in these fires behaviours burning at temperatures not seen and in regions with no history of burning - clearly evidence of the changing climate.

We cannot view this as purely a national event - this is at a scale which affects the quality of life for all species on the earth now and in the future. Australia emitted 250 metric tonnes of Co2 - half the country's national emissions (Betts , Uni of Exeter), and up to 2% increase in global emissions.

The world witnessed this event with grave fears, as if glimpsing the future. Australia is well placed to reassure the world and become a world leader in fire, water and land management. We must take it seriously , deliver intergenerational equity and take strong action now on the science of climate change.

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

