

Submission Number: NND.001.00777

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:
Phone:
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?
Local Council's ability to rapidly set up emergency evacuation centres; Bega Valley Council communications with the community during the emergency period.

In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?
Fires Near Me App - suggested we evacuate the following morning - if we had done this, we may have lost our lives - as the fire came through our home in Upper Brogo the night before we were told to evacuate. A phone call from local RFS advised us to leave earlier.

Lack of clarity around which "app" to use for most up to date information regarding the fires.

In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?
Better climate adaptation and land management policies to improve resilience of Australian landscapes - particularly in areas degraded by forestry practices and land-clearing; increased use of cultural burning programs across multiple tenures in necessary; education for landowners in regenerative agriculture to increase water held in landscapes and reduction of future forestry activities due to the devastating impact of poor forestry practices on our landscapes. These fires are clearly caused by centuries of poor land management by colonial powers - it's time to put First Australians in the driver's seat for land management and caring for Country.

Increased mental health support - we are still living without running water, life feels very difficult and we have not been offered any ongoing support.

Early deployment of PPE - e.g. P2 masks - as our health has been significantly affected by the poor air quality during the bushfires and we were unable to source equipment to protect our health.

Is there anything else you would like to tell the Royal Commission?
Do you agree to your submission being published? Yes I agree to my submission being published anonymously