

Submission Number: NND.001.00820

Submission Of: Lynne Jones

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? I lived in an area affected by bush fire and was not evacuated and I suffered personal or financial loss.

Where do you live? Bega Valley - Verona

Your Submission

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

ABC Radio - RFS phone messages

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

Early messages the day prior to the Bush Fire on Monday 30th December. The fire was in the area of Wandella and scant messages were relayed to the community of pending fire for that evening. Previous reports were that the fire would not be in the Verona Area till Wednesday or Thursday 1-2 January.

On 31st December I woke at 5am to find my home was surrounded by fire we are on 25acre farm, no sign of people or fire service assistance. I could not leave, so I stayed to defend my property with my husband.

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

I have had experience with bush fires over 40 years, but most rural areas had RFS volunteers who trained in fire fighting while hazard reduction burning in our rural areas - mountains - local bush areas - roadside areas. Government departments need to work with RFS groups to reduce the risk of severe bushfires. I have experienced a bush fire in a National Park and the local RFS volunteers were told to stay out of that area, consequently the fire was out of control impacted the rural town. The people who went to control the fire were from National Parks staff and were not experienced fire fighters.

On rural properties in grain growing areas there has to be a firebreak of approximately 3-4 m wide on their northern and eastern boundary to prevent fire escaping into Travelling Stock Reserves and neighboring properties.

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

There needs to be corridors in National Parks so area can be accessed when an area has an out of control fire.

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