

Submission Number: NND.001.00887

Submission Of: Melanie Rogers

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?

Where do you live? Creewah NSW

Your Submission

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

Coordination at a local level mostly RFS.

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

MOBILE COVERAGE AVAILABLE AND BACKUPS . POWER BACKUPS

As the fire headed to our property the power went out then the landline went out. Leaving us with no communication as there is no mobile reception. Blind to Fires Near Me. Emergency SMS

As i drove out of the forested valley i received the too late to leave sms.

Which was received too late obviously.

EVAC CENTERS

Drove south to Bombala to be greeted with no support as the evac center was closed down, noone knew what to do other than a vague expectation that people would drive 1.5hrs north to Cooma. Pass

Pitched a tent at the caravan park at Bombala at my expense waiting for the clear to see if our horses and alpaccas were alive. Partner risked the drive out to bring the caravan.

Spent a 49 degree day with no telecommunications in the whole town, in a caravan alone with two dogs. Partner had gone overseas for week. Nearest support 6hrs drive.

Creewah RFS is under resourced if other RFS werent here everyone would have lost their homes. Our main truck broke doe

AN APP FOR FIRE WIND WEATHER and STAFF TO UPDATE IT

Citizens had to rely on social media to work out whether they were at risk because apps werent updated fast enough. The tech savvy tried to piece together what was going to happen from 3 different apps.

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

Mobile coverage for rural communities. Fire proof towers

Paid RFS

Underground power and landlines

Evacuation centers at every community hub and 3hrs drive apart.

Resources to enable mobile coverage.

Planning for fuel load reduction in forests

Commonwealth funded rfs

An app that is useful

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

Dont let this be just another royal commission where nothing changes.

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