

**Submission Number: NND.001.00911**

**Submission Of:**

### Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

Preferred means of contact:

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? Ku-ring-gai (A)

### Your Submission

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

I think that the emergency response was effective in evacuating the residents of the bushfire affected areas, and was able to do lots in the short period of time and warning that they had. I think the tracking apps for the bushfires allowed citizens to get up-to-date information on the status and size of the different fires, as well as it showed warning areas so people could be prepared to evacuate. I believe that the app was able to subside fears of not knowing what was happening, and worked very well.

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

I think that the response was not ready in preparation for the bushfire season, and therefore fires were often out of control for long periods of time. I think that earlier warnings can be given to people before emergency level, so preparations can be done. In terms of different fires, everything was not very coordinated, and more co-ordination of army and other patrons other than firefighters to help with the fire. I believe it could have been earlier, and more organisation of people to make sure no fire went without.

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 think for preparation and mitigation, instead of the usual backburning procedures, other procedures can be used (for example, asking for the help of the aboriginal people in their methods), in able to contain and stop the spread of bushfires. This was because of last season. The fires could be seen jumping containment lines and not being deterred by the backburning, however the aboriginal and their knowledge of the native plants would be highly helpful and could hopefully be used more. [REDACTED] could have been seen using helicopters to spray biodegradable natural fire retardant, and I believe that this could be adopted by the fire service as it is non-intrusive and would not harm the flora and fauna unlike the traditional retardant.

For recovery coordination, I think that more awareness should be portrayed about media for the governmental help and insurance help of bushfires and what to do, if we get affected by these fires. I think a back-up plan should be encouraged in the citizens. Recovery can be given to those whose croplands/source of income were affected by the fires, as the fires would impair their ability to work and grow crops.

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

Thank you so much for stepping in, and giving a place for people to voice their opinions, giving an unbiased place for reviews and taking it onboard.

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