

**Submission Number: NND.001.00929**

**Submission Of: Tony Peck**

### 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? East Gippsland (S)

### Your Submission

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

Communication was adequate, although when fire was moving seemingly quickly, there were extensive periods without updates.

Emergency workers were amazing.

Council set up significant services quite quickly

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

Slow changes to information and not clear where fires were. This was particularly difficult for people we had staying with us evacuated from across the region. Understandably there were times when no one knew exactly what was happening.

I think the clean up process has been environmentally destructive with excessive destruction of remaining forest and road side verges. Again there are obviously areas that would be difficult due to the extensive fire damage.

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

In the post fire phase we were volunteering for short periods at the Emergency Response area at Bairnsdale Football ground. Each day there were very long queues. While shelter was organised after several days of large numbers of often traumatized people standing waiting for their turn, I felt that a system could have been worked out that allowed people to move around while waiting. Potentially some sort of virtual queue could have been established using peoples phones and SMS contact when they were close to being seen. Those without a phone - pretty few I imagine, could have been given a 'loaner' phone to enable them to have contact.

Overall though the staff were supportive and friendly even under immense pressure. The council did an amazing job in the aftermath.

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

My key concern as detailed in the attached, is that without effective action on climate change, we will have more and more serious fires and other events caused by global warming. We need to have a coordinated approach to managing a rapid transition to fossil fuel free future.

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