

Submission Number: NND.001.00953

Submission Of:

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 professional knowledge, qualifications or experience or on behalf of a group or organisation

What is your area of professional expertise? Water services planning

If you are lodging your submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation?

Your Submission

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

Cannot comment

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

Cannot comment

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

New South Wales (indeed most of the eastern seaboard) were in severe drought in the lead up to the devastating bushfire season. This double 'disaster' occurring at the same time will only occur more frequently in the future.

Greater consideration needs to be given to the current decision framework employed by Sydney Water to assess water management options. There are regulatory hurdles and an unwillingness to pursue novel funding mechanisms that are preventing solutions that would address drought resilience AND bushfire water supplies.

Recycled water, including options for purification for drinking and/or integrated stormwater management are not being given appropriate consideration in areas at greater risk due to bushfire e.g Wollondilly, Blue Mountains and the Hills. This is directly related to IPART lowest cost water and wastewater servicing approach which prevents accounting for other benefits.

The government should consider funding water storages which are usually the outlying cost preventing these integrated systems from being built. It would provide resilience against drought, bushfire and other disasters by ensuring a diversity and available of supply.

seperate from regulation of Water NSW)

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