

**Submission Number: NND.001.00973**

**Submission Of:**

**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? I lived in an area affected by bushfires - did NOT evacuate on the day our property burned (though I had evacuated on two previous occasions) - and I DID suffer personal and financial loss . I am confused as to why this option was NOT available above. option

Where do you live? Eurobodalla (A)

**Your Submission**

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

Recovery centre resources

Local community members helping each other in many ways

Local ABC radio as an excellent source of information - UNTIL the transmitter was destroyed by fire on 31st Dec 2019

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

Government ignoring requests of fire experts for needed resources PRIOR to the fire season. ( This may not seem like part of emergency response but if you see masses of enemy troops on your borders would you not take immediate action to respond?)

Inadequate leadership and management at the federal level.

Inadequate resourcing of local RFS teams - some overworked to the point of exhaustion and collapse. (Based on close personal observation of members of our own small local overworked brigade).

And lack of recognition that so many of these were working so hard fighting fires that they were not able to work to earn their normal incomes to feed families, and pay rents and mortgages.

Inadequate back up plans when power and communications failed due to fire damage. I heard some persons speaking on radio recently that they were still waiting on telecommunications to be restored. Our own mobile reception appears to have been restored to the pre fire level in the last week (almost 3 months after our fire on Jan 23rd).

Slow response with emergency financial support payments for many who lost homes to fire.

The promised free clean up services took so long to reach our area that I'm aware of many that gave up on waiting and paid for their own clean up. Those who could not afford this have waited three months and are finally seeing some action.

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

RECOGNITION of CLIMATE CHANGE as a factor contributing to such natural disasters - and ACTION to change policies such as continuing to mine, export and use fossil fuels ourselves. Increase funding for research into and development of sustainable sources of energy.

CONTROLLED BURNING PRACTICES: Attention to the wisdom and learning accumulated and passed on within our indigenous communities - who have successfully managed the use of fire to care for our environment for tens of thousands of years.

Adequate funding for and education of those working in State Forestry and National Parks, as well as workshops for farmers and other landholders, to support appropriate burning practices - following principles learned from indigenous experts.

These are such vital issues that will be affecting us into the future that there must be action from the federal level to plan and implement wise and responsible policies in these areas.

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