

**Submission Number: NND.001.01001**

**Submission Of: Pauline O'Carolan**

### 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? Bega Valley (A)

### Your Submission

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

On New Years Eve, only the work of the local bushfire brigades and local residents and the volunteers at the Cobargo Showground.

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

The Commonwealth Government's reaction was appallingly slow. They should have taken steps as soon as it was obvious we were going to be in trouble over summer (this was obvious in winter/spring 2019)

The Prime Minister's visit to Cobargo was embarrassing. He had no idea how to show the necessary empathy.

The sending in of Riot Police to the Cobargo Showgrounds to try and remove us was a disgrace and has not received the publicity it deserved.

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

We don't have enough firefighters or equipment.

It's obvious we need more proactive land management including allowing clearing of natural bush regularly.

People should be allowed to clear around their properties as they wish, including removing trees without red tape.

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

It's obvious we need to change the way we operate around the bush and its management. We should already be doing hazard reductions on a large scale while the weather is clement in preparation for this year's fire season. Indigenous land practices should be adopted if feasible.

All governments should be spending money on disaster management for the future rather than infrastructure in the cities (stadiums!!).

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