

Submission Number: NND.001.01016

Submission Of: Bek McGarry

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? Wildlife carer, rescuer & Recovery Coordinator for Wildcare Queanbeyan

Where do you live? Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional (A)

Your Submission

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

The fires near you app, was a invaluable resource. The rural fire fighting service, did an amazing job.

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

Even though the fires near me app, was great. However, at times there was a delay in the update, especially at critical times & highteend times of emergency, which is when it is needed most. It could also incorporate the wind direction & speed.

I was disappointed with Nation Park response to wildlife, still to this day 6 months later they have not allowed the local wildlife rescue organisation assist in resuce, feeding of wildlife or provide water when needed. They were contact several times, as I was the recovery coordinator for our local wildlife rescue group, Wildcare, with the Tallaganda NP in our area, it was not nti Feburary that they final repied & then was told we can still not have access. I am sure this contributed to an increase in numbers of wildlife deaths & suffering. The redtape & lack of communication was a disgrace.

I would also like to menetion that the culling of species has not been scaled back, after open season declared at the end of 2018 in NSW. This was not stopped or reduced, even after the massive amount of wildlife loss.

Donations & financial support for wildlife carers & response: Where have all the donations gone? The world was mislead into giving donation to organisations they thought would do what they protrayed to do. Like WIRES, 60 million dollars the public/world donated to them, thinking they were an organsation that supported all wildlife nationally, yet they only did in some areas. With other wildlife organisations residing in heavily affected areas seeing little to none in financial support. Maybe in times of crisis a national collection be sort on behave of all affect areas & moneys given by means of area affected & impact.

A national support veterernarian response could also go a long way to support the wildlife affected by bushfire.

Did the RFS volunteers see anything in the way of donations given? Did any of the money get to those who lost large amounts of income volunteering for RFS? Did they get new boots, equipment, ect? Where is all the millions donated & are they accountable?

Where is the support for those who lost their homes? Are the so called "big charities" giving the money to what it was donated for? Poepel still homeless & without means of support in access a new home, even though the money that was donated could go towards this support?

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

A plan to work with the locate wildlife groups, including a response for the wildlife in the crisis & well as recovery. Consider utilising their knowledge & resources to assist with wildlife, in NP and state parks.

Managing donations given & possibly setting up a national collective for donations with a list of where the donation will go & be utitised for, so those giving money know where is will go & they can make a more informed choice as to where their money is given.

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 in my name