

**Submission Number: NND.001.01055**

**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?

Where do you live? Kyogle (A)

### Your Submission

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

In 2017 we were burnt out by National parks. We had for years and years and years asked them to do some hazard reduction, but it was either too wet too dry too windy too much trouble, so when the fire came it burnt the park as well as 1/2 our property including our boundary fence. They took water from our dam to put it out. Lots of money was poured into something that could have been prevented. So, when last years fires came through, we had a good area of previously burnt land that worked in our favour. (though at the time, we were not happy about the loss of grass and water going into a drought and the cost and time of replacing our fence line) it showed us how even unplanned hazard burning worked extremely well.

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

\*The lack of maintained fire trails and access roads for firetrucks, making it very dangerous for emergency workers.

\*Roads, boundary lines and internal fences are not allowed, under the vegetation laws, to be large enough to be effective fire breaks

\*The idea of a government internet hotspot was good. (but they were not updated, we had no idea what was happening in our area)

\*ABC radio did not give out information about the fires here, only seemed to concentrate on the Sydney area.

\*There was no consistency in the information that was given and no follow up.

\*Having a control center not based in your area does not work. Each area have different needs and should be treated as such.

\*The media hype was ridiculous, the drama that was created by them, panicked people and when the time came for evacuation, the media had called wolf too many times and people ignored the warnings.

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 need more hazard reduction burning in national parks and on private land.

Landowners should be encouraged to do hazard reduction.

We need to educate people on the benefits of fires, and not panic every time some one sees smoke.

The fires need to be controlled not extinguished in certain areas.

We need to have a set website to go to, which is updated daily for every council area.

The media need to get rid of the sensationalism and go back to just reporting the facts.

Every house in the rural sector should have a good sized area cleared around houses and infrastructure, for a fire break and for OHS reasons.

Towns should have a well cleared area around them for a fire break.

All roads and highways should be cleared on either side acting as a natural firebreak. (safe for evacuation as well as emergency vehicles)

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

Fires can be a good thing.

Don't blame it on climate change, we need to take responsibility. The lock up and leave it approach does not work, it brings with it problems that far out way the benefits.

The most important thing to remember is we have had bad fires in the past and we will have them in the future, it is how we respond that makes a difference.

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