

**Submission Number: NND.001.01100**

**Submission Of: Robert Richmond**

### Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

Preferred means of contact: Phone

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? Eurobodalla (A)

### Your Submission

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

RFS did their best

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

The RFS were not able to control these fires because of the terrain, intensity, velocity and the huge area. Many areas were left with no assistance at all because it was impossible for the RFS to be everywhere.

Large areas of bush were left to burn over weeks and when catastrophic conditions occurred it was a disaster. The fire at Merricumbene was left unattended for weeks and it was this fire that destroyed Mogo and many homes in the Malua Bay, Batemans Bay area.

This fire was still left unattended after that event and it caused more damage when severe winds started again.

It is very clear we need more aircraft to attack these fires in difficult terrain when they start.

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

I think we need to do extensive cold burning using our large aboriginal population not RFS.

Forestry roads and fire trails need to be maintained.

We need extensive clearing say 20 metres on the side of all roads to avoid road closures and give an exit for people. On the Clyde mountain road yesterday tree fellers were trimming high branches of trees right beside road. This important road was shut for over 1 month during the fires and needs significant tree clearing of at least 20 metres to give road some chance of being open during fires and provide a fire break.

Our telecommunication tower on Wandera mountain was damaged during the fires

We have been without internet or mobile phone since Jan 1. This also meant we had no ABC radio. There should be a regulation of a prescribed clear area around such important towers.

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