

Submission Number: NND.001.01152

Submission Of: Peter Ross Simons

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Preferred means of contact: Other Both are acetable

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 and impacted by fire. i self evacuated. I assisted in my role as a mental health professional to help others. ie i was and still am providing responses as to such. i i am still are impacted and affected both financially and personal loss due to said fire on period of December 4th to current time of this submission.

Where do you live? Shoalhaven (C)

Your Submission

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

None. except some hard descion making was taking place were made.

And will accept this as fact, I self evacuated and could understand the situation. classified as the Currawon Fire, that no controls would be in place.

If so fire crews would be endangered.

I have been through three lived experiences where flame heights could be managed.

By local RFS and property owners

Not so this time.

If the local area commander/ RFS Cpt put a crew in on OLD COACH ROAD, lives would have been lost.

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

Based on past experiences, same being non trained emergency crews from areas not suited to mountainous terrain.

Lack of communication.

Non direct support via ariel water bombardment directed elsewhere.

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

For any future responses, if the need arises, have an Australian based aircraft manufacturer who can build , supply and maintain our own water "bombers", suppression support to aid ground crews.

These aircraft should be able to work within closer radius of crisis area.

This could be a new industry for us, only problem is , where is the water going to come from.

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

Please do not blame anyone for this national disaster.

Where I live, Not only did the State forest burn to the point that they are not sustainable for logging, not only did the National Parks loose habitat Flora and Fauna, local dairy farmers lost pasture. Houses were burnt that did not have one single tree around them for kilometres.

Thanks for listening.

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