

Submission Number: NND.001.01157

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:

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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? Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional (A)

Your Submission

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

First responders and the efforts of fire authorities.

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

Channelling and management of donations to those affected directly as quickly as possible. Use of national resources such as the military. No single sources of truth for information sharing or even bushfire management maps for those across different states. A lack of leadership of some top leaders.

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

Ecosystems are interconnected in ways that modern science is yet to understand. In saying that greater research and action into the root cause of fires through our national research agencies such as the CSIRO as well as greater consultation with traditional land managers on traditional practices and understanding of country. In our forests we have seen a huge degradation of variety in our ecosystems, ecosystems need greater protection and restoration so that fire danger is reduced, especially around areas where humans live closely to bush areas. Protection of more land as national parks and more funding into native species reintroduction that may assist in the regeneration of land (see research of Quenda reintroduction and the effect of digging mammals on soil health and reduction of fire fuel by Leonie Valentine and Katinka Ruthrof). Greater management of feral species affecting native floral and fauna as feral species contribute to the degradation of bushland especially hard hoofed animals and animals that prey on native species. Response is of course important in helping to manage and recover from the affects of fire, however greater attention to resilience and balance of ecosystems are required so that response and recovery are less needed in the first place.

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

The Australian Bushfires have been a disaster for our nation. We were warned from scientists to fire chiefs and yet did very little to mitigate. The Governments lack of policies on emissions and responsibilities in relation to climate change have been shameful and Australia can and must do more, instead we are rolling over credits for previous emissions and claiming a win, its simply not good enough. We are the second highest emitter of carbon emissions per capita IN THE WORLD. I'd like to see emissions created by companies and public undertakings either reduced or offset entirely, this must be enshrined into law. Australia must move to 100% renewable sources of energy and find ways to reduce the impact of our agricultural practices on environments and land.

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