

**Submission Number: NND.001.01218**

**Submission Of: Yana del Valle and Simon Orbell**

### 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? I was staying in the area affected, I was not evacuated, and I suffered personal and financial loss

Where do you live? Eurobodalla (A)

### Your Submission

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

At the time, as a volunteer RSF with the Runnyford NSW brigade, I have to say, not many. The FireCom online app was fine, but the information was very poor.

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

Communications was extremely poor not only with the public in general but with the Volunteer RFS brigades. We lost our property as we had zero warning and whilst we had a roster amongst ourselves to watch the fire advancing, we were totally up prepared as to the size and intensity of the fire.

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

More involved and communications with rural fire brigades. Apps that monitor the heat via infrared broadcasting and televised through apps or channels where RFS can access to assess the fire size, heat, intensity, velocity.

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

The entire FireBrigade was totally unprepared for this fire. Community warnings came too late. Houses were lost due to a total under-resourced industry and strategies that are not design to fight in rural and Australian bushlands. The equipment in the south coast area is designed for Streets and urban environments. We need equipment that is designed to get into the bush, we need concrete or buried water tanks place in strategic locations that can be activated as large sprinkler sprayers, to create firebreaks around the skirts of residential areas that back onto bushlands. We need more equipment, more human resources and more and improved strategies. We also need strategies that don't watch and act until a fire become too large to actually attack. We need to realise that wildlife and habitats are just as important as dwelling and equipment.

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