

Submission Number: NND.001.01222

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? [REDACTED]

Where do you live? Snowy Monaro Regional (A)

Your Submission

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

Local fire fighting responses to the bush fire at the time of emergency level fires were responsive i.e. Forestry Corporation and Rural Fire Services

Visiting fire service were responsive.

Timber Industry workers and their privately owned machinery played an essential part in maintenance and putting out of the bush fires in Southern NSW and Victoria

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

Communication was at times non existent and at other times very poor.

Throughout January our property was under consistent fire threat from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fires, exact location of fire during this time was unknown unless we were prepared to drive into bordering forest and find exact locations of fire to enable us to gauge imminent risks to the property for the purpose of moving cattle etc.

Black spots in mobile communication leaves most of our property without means of communication, the same is to be said for the Rockton area where houses were burnt to the ground 3/1/20 and residents were unable to be notified of the fire approaching due to it being a mobile black spot.

Lack of communication and collaboration between states around intersection of border areas - Vic and NSW,

Vic emergency not updating fire status when Vic towns not threatened but rather risk was to NSW land

Victorian fire practices prevented fires being put out, rather containment lines were shifted back as a non effective preventative measure rather than direct fire fighting to put out fires particularly throughout Nov/ Dec when they had good opportunity

Local personnel fighting fires were subjected to long and relentless shifts to ensure safety of local community inclusive of rural fire service volunteers and forest industry workers

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

National Park and Land Management

- Reduction to the size of National Park land as it is currently unmanageable and has caused detriment and death to human life, flora and fauna

- Reinstate vehicle access to National Park and forest areas to enable resources/ vehicles to attend at fires

- Consistent management practices such as fuel reduction burns, reinstate cattle grazing permits in suitable areas

- Private land holders have the right to manage their land, especially when bordering forest and National Park in the way that minimise the risk to livestock and property i.e. clearing of trees, placement of dams

- Utilisation of our forests as an economical and renewable resource i.e. a thriving and sustainable timber industry

Please note -Timber Industry workers and their privately owned machinery played an essential part in management and putting out of the bush fires in Southern NSW and Victoria

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 anonymously