

Submission Number: NND.001.01247

Submission Of: John Wilkinson

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What is your submission based on? I am making this submission based on my professional knowledge, qualifications or experience or on behalf of a group or organisation

What is your area of professional expertise?

If you are lodging your submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation?

Your Submission

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

Setting up of emergency evacuation centres transitioning to recovery centres

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

Failure of large zones of telephone and data networks, wire, cable and mobile towers.

Failure of power grid

Inadequacy and failure of emergency radio networks in NSW and across Victorian and Queensland borders.

Lag in providing/acquiring Commonwealth funded water bombing aircraft.

Difficulty in determining competing demands for water bombing aircraft within local government areas and across State borders

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

Hardening of power supply lines and putting them underground where feasible.

Fireproofing mobile phone towers and their power supplies. Moving to solar power systems with ample battery backup and emergency petrol powered generators.

Improved communication protocols across geographic zones, shires, State borders and developing a national standard between all government and voluntary agencies at State and Federal levels.

Upgrading radio communication systems, perhaps moving to satellite based systems

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

Summarised it involves:

Stronger safeguarded communication systems, phone, mobile, radio and backed by satellites.

Improved standardised communication protocols across all agencies, Federal, State, Territory and Local Government and all voluntary agencies.

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