

Submission Number: NND.001.01258

Submission Of: Katherine Bell

Your Details

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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?

The ABC media. Information was quick and reliable. Emergency services updates on facebook pages.

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

Federal politician's response. The Prime Minister's response was appalling and dis-genuine. I'm incredibly disappointed with the Liberal Party and the Prime Minister. He did not display leadership qualities and shunt the blame to state governments and other causes. They clearly do not care about Australians. This was the perfect opportunity for there to be an acknowledgment of climate change and outline some actual policies that address it.

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

Listen to experts in the field. Listen to scientists and rangers - they have studied the land and know what is going to happen.

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

My family and I was very affected by the bushfire smoke coming from the coast. And we could see the Tidbinbilla fire from our house. Although in both occasions we were safe from fire. My daughter turned one in January and it really made me worry for her future. The climate emergency has to be acknowledged by government and serious steps have to be taken to reverse the damage done to the natural environment.

I think it ridiculous that there is another Royal Commission into bushfires when no changes have been made from the findings of the last ones. It seems like another band-aid solution that politicians can offer while not actually doing anything and waiting for everyone to forget what happened. It needs to be acknowledged that we are living in a climate emergency and natural disasters like the January 2020 ones are going to happen again and more frequently. I hope that the Royal Commission is looking at the science and the changing climate and Australia's part in that changing climate. I would also like some answers as to why the findings of previous Royal Commissions into bushfires have been ignored and why government thinks that climate science is not worth believing.

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