

Submission Number: NND.001.01262

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:

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Preferred means of contact: Phone

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? Clarence Valley (A)

Your Submission

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

Generally communication was good. Messages were clear and consistent.

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

Fire locations and fire size reporting was not accurate.

I recognise situations were VERY fluid and dangerous. Colleagues who lost their houses were overwhelmed VERY quickly, and this was exacerbated by being early (November). I have been told the Rappville fire was spotting 20km ahead of the front!! That info was word of mouth, and I feel some form of debrief made fairly quickly afterwards could assist others understand just what could eventuate.

Days later once the fires season actually set in (and then during the early weeks of summer) there were a lot of resources up here. During that time fire locations were not provided very well. I find it hard to believe that better fire location reporting would be difficult. Poor info could be dangerous, but so is NO info. People understand wind and weather apps these days, so better wind info surely would be easy to advise. I used MetEye and found this much more accurate than the ABCs general info.

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

1. Planning and Education, People Learn in different ways, but certainly some detailed information about fire size, travel etc should be taught or prepared for those interested in living near the bush. How quickly wind can change. Worst fire directions etc..
2. Actual fire day information. It just seems that this can be improved. Do all the media reporters understand what they are saying or are they there to tell a good story?
3. Messaging about assistance could be better. Often the ones who really needed help would just not ask for it,

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

Climate change is real, and recognition about this will assist in the planning, and preparation.

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