

Submission Number: NND.001.01270

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?

Where do you live? North Parramatta

Your Submission

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

Shane Fitzsimmons coordinated an effective response on an unprecedented scale.

He communicated clearly and fairly with both emergency crews and the public and we would have been lost without him.

He did not engage in misinformation, sensationalised media practices or confusing messages.

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

The government response to mitigate against poor public health outcomes was a disaster.

Face masks and appropriate subsidy for air conditioning/filtration units for vulnerable and at risk communities should have been a priority.

I have experienced ongoing bronchitis and asthma-like symptoms since the start of January (today is the 28th of April).

I have sought medical assessment and treatment and have no respite from a persistent cough.

I am not an elderly person and did not suffer from respiratory illness before now.

I do however live in rental accommodation without air conditioning or a safe ventilation alternative.

Our windows do not close properly and the fly screens do not fit the window frames (despite attempts to address with our real estate and landlord.).

During the past summer when bushfire smoke was thick and air quality was atrocious, we had no choice but to have windows open, and had toxic particles throughout the air in our home even with them closed.

Ours would not be an isolated case.

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

Priority of safe and effective backburning in line with environmental concerns and traditional owner practices.

Reduction in fossil fuel production (with an aim for elimination), prioritisation of renewable energy sources and an equitable transition for workers from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy and sustainable food production.

Public health as a priority, encouraging and educating prevention of chronic illness.

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

Follow the science and expert advice.

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