

Submission Number: NND.001.01295

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

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? Eurobodalla (A)

Your Submission

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

Text at 630am to alert us to evacuate but it would have been good to have more warning.

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

Evacuation centre - two storey , no power, disabled, sick & elderly all outside ground level in terrible smoke, on their walkers, in their wheelchair with no way to access upstairs.

Not enough fire trucks for the area.

For a country with a known danger of fires, to rely on volunteers, mostly retired & not enough equipment was not good enough. Army when they arrived too late, help to distribute nappies & water etc where they should have been brought down earlier when we had no power, no shops open, no petrol and people were traumatised, equating it to the apocalypse or a war zone.

Red Cross should have had water & disaster packs with masks etc for smoke

Premier came into evacuation centre with camera crew who had come with her in the helicopter. We had no food, no provisions, no water, no electricity & she came with media?! going past her own govt sign that said NO MEDIA ALLOWED. Traumatized people who had just lost homes had camera thrust in front of. their faces for a photo opportunity for a politician. So disappointing.

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

Mental health team to come earlier and stay longer.

Police should have done a road block to stop tourists coming into town as they all arrived despite warnings. Road block as people panicked to try to leave all at once.

Fire fighters say they knew a huge fire was coming and no one listened.

More trees and undergrowth should be burned off in the traditional owners' way. We need to listen to the indigenous people- burn in circular fashion to control undergrowth without reaching canopy.

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

Our local council were of no help at all. Local volunteers (I and others helped the Salvos for catering since mid Nov in evacuation centre) then NYE - we were were fire affected ourselves.

Ultimately I thank God for protection of my life and my husband's life. I am still dealing with the trauma of the terrible distress in the evacuation centre and the poor way that was organised. No-one who came in knew where to go or what to do - no signage (could all be prepared in an evacuation pack beforehand). One local family told me they entered evacuation centre and due to autism of the child, they had to leave in a hurry due to the noise, smoke etc and had no food for 48 hours. Many slept in their cars.

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