

Submission Number: NND.001.01318

Submission Of:

Your Details

Email address:

Phone:

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? [REDACTED]

Your Submission

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

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

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

I live in the far western NSW. It is my experience that governments in this country have only deaf ears to imminent natural disasters in the making. There is no preparedness as they blindly strive forth to make good short term gain, as if they are a financial institution relying solely on high risk equities.

Failure to listen to community members of the imminent risks for both the Murray Darling Basin and the bushfires of 2019-2020 resulted in disaster, from limited preparation and mitigation.

The government has been told again and again, for years and years what the consequences of reducing flows from the rivers will result in. And it is more obvious since 2019 than ever before. The river was put into a drought 3 years before the rest of NSW and QLD experienced the large drought of 2019-2020. As a direct consequence, many smaller family farmers on the Murray river have no legal access to water for irrigation for food product.

The govt has refused to acknowledge the national disaster status of this river system, the Murray Darling Basin. I do believe this is due to it being a disaster in slow motion, rather than a short term horrific fire.

There has been a natural disaster occurring, (yet not formally recognised as yet), in the Murray Darling Basin. The Barwon-Darling River has run dry, whilst upstream agricultural commodities growers have been (legally) allowed to use the small flows that would have otherwise have replenished some of the waterway downstream. Townships have run out of water. Babies have had to be washed using expensive bottled water to avoid toxic blue-green algae contaminated water. Older humans suffered the consequences of bathing in the contaminated water. At no stage in written history, or verbal history have these rivers been dry for anywhere near as long.

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

Climate change is just another natural disaster in the making, happening to slowly for short-sighted governments to act upon. If these people who are supposed to keep us safe are not focusing on the long term future, they are not doing their job. Nobody can survive well when the natural world about them is destroyed. We need air, food, clean water, shelter. And what we continually see is govt placing more emphasis on spreadsheets. It is not working.

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