



**Royal Commission**  
into National Natural  
Disaster Arrangements

## Submission Cover Sheet

This cover sheet has been prepared by the Commission's public contact team to accompany a submission.

### Person completing cover sheet

1. **Staff member name** [REDACTED]
2. **Date completed** 8/4/20
3. **This cover sheet has been completed based on:**
  - details contained in the submission
  - a phone call with the person making the submission
  - an email from the person making the submission
  - Other (provide details) -

### Submission details

4. **Full name** Brian Williams
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone** [REDACTED]
7. **Preferred method of contact** Email
8. **Is the submission based on:**
  - primarily based on their personal situation.
  - primarily based on their professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation
9. **If the person is making the submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation:**

If the submission based on personal experience:

10. **What was their personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Choose all that apply.**
    - were not living in an area affected by bushfire
    - were in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss
    - lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss
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- lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss
- part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground
- part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter
- part of the emergency response as health professional
- part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member
- part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee
- assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer
- assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer
- Other

**11. Where does the person live:**

Local Government Area	Noose
Town name	Lake Cooroibah
Post code	

If the submission is based on professional experience

**12. What is your area of expertise? Please choose all that apply.**

- Emergency/disaster response and/or management
- Environment/land management
- Land use, planning, building standards
- Impacts of changes in climatic conditions
- Wildlife conservation
- Traditional land and fire management practices of Indigenous Australians
- Community welfare
- Other

All submissions

**13. Does the person agree to their submission being published?**

- Yes, agree to the submission being published in their name
  - Yes, agree to the submission being published anonymously
  - No, does not agree to the submission being published
-



**Public enquiry line – 1800 909 826 / [RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)**

[naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au](http://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au)



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**From:** Brian Williams [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 March 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** RCNDA - Enquiries <[RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Bushfires that destroyed properties in Lake Cooroibah Qld 4565 on 8 November 2019

To Whom it may concern,

I am the owner of a property on lake Cooroibah, Qld 4565

On the 8 November 2019 at approximately 15:00, an out of control bushfire swept through our property destroying everything in its path.

There were no warnings received, my son was on the property and had to run for his life down to the lake.

There were no fire response vehicles in our area, so therefore, there was no attempt whatsoever to protect our properties. Apparently, according to a police officer all the fire response vehicles were being demobilised at this very critical stage, when they should have been assisting property owners. I was witness to this demobilising of fire response vehicles, as I was trying to get back to my property to save my son and I noticed these fire fighting vehicles passing me heading away from the fire. It is no wonder there were no fire fighting vehicles attempting to stop the fire crossing the road at this critical moment.

In my mind, a bad decision was made on the part of the fire control officer, as there were certainly many fire fighting vehicles on standby at the sports ground and they well aware of the fires in the national park. Why start demobilising all the fire fighting vehicles at this critical moment, is the question that has bothered me ever since.

There are a few questions that I would like answered if at all possible.

- The fire was started by a landowner in the area [redacted] and therefore there has been a cover up. The landowners that were affected would appreciate some transparency in this matter.
- Why were the fire fighting response vehicles demobilising at this very critical moment,

when they should have been fighting the fires along [REDACTED]. The fire would have been contained and properties that burned, would have been saved if these vehicles were on the spot. My son was on the property and was witness to this and I am witness to the vehicles demobilising.

- Lack of back burning in the national park. This is very evident in our situation as there was some backburning done down the road from us earlier on during the year and this area was not affected at all. The section of the national park that borders our properties have not been backburned for a about 5 years, therefore there was so much fuel that eventually turns into a bomb.
- It is evident that global temperatures are increasing and our population is increasing as well and having to move further into the bush to find affordable land to build on but our governments are not keeping up with this trend. We need more fire response vehicles as well as trained personnel along with regimental backburning programs around these rural developments.
- Why do local councils play the situation down and bury their heads into the sand after a bushfire has wiped out properties. The lack of support by councils who can't step onto private land to assist in any way. We are ratepayers and therefore deserve some assistance from our local councils. Councils have all the relevant equipment and qualified staff, that can assist with the removing of dangerous trees, emergency water supply, emergency sanitation services, repairs to electrical supply but no nothing.
- Government assistance.....WHAT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Kind Regards  
Brian Williams

 BRIAN WILLIAMS - [REDACTED]

 [REDACTED]

 [REDACTED]

