



## Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

# 1. Submission Form

Please complete this form if you would like to provide input or comments about coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from the 2019-20 'Black Summer' bushfires.

## Personal and Background Information

Full Name [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Mobile/Telephone [REDACTED]

**What is your preferred method of contact if we want to follow up with you?**

I am better off been contacted through email or Phone.

**The Commission would like to understand the views of community groups based on their respective experiences and background.**

- a. Please select Option 1 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your personal situation.
- b. Please select Option 2 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation

**Option 1:** Based on your personal situation, please complete the following.

- a. What was your personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Please choose all that apply.

I was not living in an area affected by bushfire

I lived in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss

I lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss

I lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss

I was part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground

I was part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter

I was part of the emergency response as health professional

I was part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member

I was part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee

I assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer

I assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer

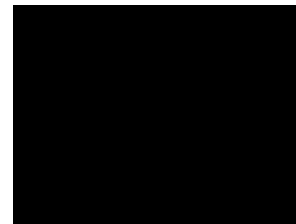
Other

- b. Where do you live? Please provide your Local Government Area, town name and post code.

Local Government Area  
Council.

Town name

Post code



**Option 2:** Based on your knowledge, qualifications or experience, or your role representing a group or organisation, 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

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## Input / Comments

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

Under the conditions people had to work, the response was as good as it could have been.

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

The areas that didn't work that well were: There were too many people 'calling the shots'.  
There were not enough water to use, which led to time being lost refilling.  
People were left vulnerable because they were not allowed to back-burn, thus leaving more fuel for the fire to consume.

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

As per letters attached to this file.

Don't pay so much attention to the 'Greenies'!

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

Read the letters!

**Do you intend to provide supporting material?**

Yes

No

If you are providing any supporting material, please include it with your Submission if possible. If you need to send it separately (e.g. if you make a Submission over the phone), please ensure supporting material can be clearly identified as relating to your Submission by including your name or other identifier so that it can be considered with your Submission.

**Do you agree to your submission being published? (Mandatory)**

Yes, I agree to my submission being published in my name

Yes I agree to my submission being published anonymously

No I don't agree to my submission being published

Once you have completed this form, email it to [rcnda.submissions@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:rcnda.submissions@royalcommission.gov.au) or print the form and post it to the Royal Commission at:

National Natural Disaster Royal Commission

Locked Bag 2000

Manuka ACT 2603

Attached Letters

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Mr S Morrison,  
Prime Minister of Australia,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra. ACT 2600.

Dear Sir,

The first letter I wrote to you was about the drought which mentions about water supply to get it to the farms and towns in the country that have no rain for period of time. In that letter, I stated there could be tapplings taking off the supply for fighting fires which would save a lot of time, running back to the point where they fill up their tankers and go back to the fires. Now what concerns me the most, is the amount of houses and buildings that are flattened by fire.

I can't believe that there has not been any action taken by the governing body who controls the buildings, homes, shops, offices, workshops and farm sheds throughout the country so that they keep using timber in some construction.

I have seen this happen many times and I feel that we can put a stop to losing houses by fire. I retrain myself in engineering starting back in 1974 because I was made redundant by the NSW Railways as they claim we were over staff. This to me was a load of [REDACTED] as I was working 13 days a fortnight doing afternoon and night shift and by the time of the end of the shift I was only fit for sleep.

I was going to TAFE retraining in welding/fabricator and I was unemployed for 3 months when an ad appeared in a local paper for a welder, so I rang them and went straight away for an interview and started on the Monday morning at 6.30 am.

During this time, I kept with my studies at TAFE and they were giving me a go for a day's work as I believe and the same thing to day, I was doing the right things in my studies. After passing this course I then went to the fitting/machining and I did the course, at night for 3 hours, my practical was done and theory was a home study. My studies continued, so I could better myself in doing my work for the company.

During my time, when I went to mechanical engineering and followed that up with structural engineering and I was involved in doing drawings for the fab/machine shop and I did a lot of work for them as well.

I was told by the manager, he didn't want any one at TAFE but after I studied, completing each course I was worked on different projects.

I made a prediction, that I would be sacked within 5 years and it came true because the manager we had, was not going after the work to keep us busy.

Again the manager had another go at me, telling me the following:

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## THAT NO COMPANIES NEEDED OR WANTED EDUCATED EMPLOYEES TODAY

I couldn't say how many times through my studies that I bail them out of trouble with other tradesman were not interested in doing so. This letter, I trust it, you may be ready to throw it bin because it would boring to you and I can't blame you doing so but I soon start on a problem that we can solved but I want you know what I gone through to so I can go on letting you know where I have come from.

There was a problem that another employee was going Tafe in company time and he was getting paid for it, but that I couldn't go to Tafe as it wasn't needed. When I asked him about this other employee going to Tafe in Company time and been paid for it. His reply to me that he was a special case. I asked him, why he was special case?

His reply again that he is a ELECTRICIAN.

I was walking out the door of the workshop, I said to my ex foreman I will see you on the dole within 5 years and 3½ the doors closed for last time.

I am going to put forward that fire loves timber and will burn like crazy but is not going stop houses or small shops been burnt to the grown. It is about time we should be looking at steel but not the cold form steel, rolled out of steel of 2 to 3 mm thickness. This steel will buckle when heat hit it, so we have to discard this type of steel.

What we should be looking at the Steel as is very strong in design and manufacture and this is a Universal Column known as UC, Universal Beam known as UB and type of steel should allow us to consider building our homes and small shops as the fire proofing the frame work with this type of steel.

I have worked with this type of steel in building workshops (factories) and rolling mining supports with tie rods between them and how many we rolled over years I couldn't keep up with them. There are different sizes steel takes lot of punishment and we should be starting to investigate, how it would stack up to fires.

I not happy with what has gone on over the years, I have seen very old warehouses, workshops and homes go up flames because there is no maintenance plan in place for their Electrical system which use over a numbers years are used well beyond there life time as they continue used them as they are drawing many volts and amps beyond their capacity, after for while the junction box will have a connection that can reach a situation to a stage when it starting to overheating, one day it doesn't matter what time of day or night it will melt the junction box and it will catch on fire.

When they hook up power such as 240volt at 10 amp supply and additional power points are required, as there is no check the number of power points are in the circuit and they don't check on the number of appliances being used at once. The circuits can come to be over loaded and hopefully that the fuse will trip.

Take workshops that is construction timber, the company manager doesn't thick about what the workshop was constructed of and they start to do WELDING and OXY/LPG cutting in there, it only takes a numbers of hot sharps to set the workshops on fire, and far as the electrical side is concern, there a lot of strain place on the cables as it draws sometimes more current than stated, we again have fires starting in sub boards.

The houses are today are constructed of timber, and electrical fault will soon bring a houses to ashes, but bushfires don't care about being constructed of timber as I watch a add on tv of a house

been built for client the carpenter had nail 4 pieces of timber on top each other, and I saw stars. As this house if the bush fires came through, then the fire would have been in it full glory.

The design of houses made steel beam, it would started at a Architect level which most of them are, then it have to the Civil Structural Engineer for the design of the steel frame and he would have do all his calculation of the loading on the frame, as well as the civil side been any design foundation and concrete flooring.

What I am trying to say Mr Morrison that steel doesn't burn but concrete doesn't like heat so we would have come up with a mixture of similar to concrete, which doesn't have any reaction to fire. This would be a very important for Australia, to have this as it would save our homes, start to come a fire resistant and lead the world in away the concrete mix that wouldn't burn or crack up with fire.

This type concrete would have from companies that dispatch concrete to the project that needs concrete for the projects they working on and some to then would Universities that would be in situation were they have people that may work on projects this as they would have testing equipment to tell us what works and what doesn't work.

Once the Architects and Civil/Structural Engineers have finished their drawings and it go a number of builders and they would put it out to tender, to various trades accordingly, so they can sort out their part of the tender and go through what the material that they would to have price and work their labour, if crane hire is necessary for site erection and all other costs they may occur during the work.

For the civil side their drawings will go to them, and the Engineering side for the steel work required, would go to a fab shop and would be their side, as I stated before they put their quotation in, there one important thing would need is a quote for workshops drawing to be done. This is a person that has gone through the trades for Fabrication and some of them has done Mechanical Engineering as the drawing are done differently to each other as Structural Steel drawings are to the nearest mm but Mechanical drawings are calculated to 3 or 4 decimal places.

To make it clear, I am a person that take Architect drawing and on the start of the drawing from my side with detail drawing of the floor plan, given the all centre lines of the steel work, plus the detail of all the holding down bolts that go into concrete.

Each drawing is done from there are the breakdown of all columns, cross bracing, rafters, roof cross bracing and all purlins for roof, as if required girts for walls. The purlins and girts are rolled out of 3 to 4 mm in thickness and this would have their thickness would be required be thicker as the fire would them a hiding.

Unfortunately, in both trades of Structural and Mechanical, there tradesman that can't read a drawing, which it means that I could call to workshop to define what is on drawing for them. Reading of drawings is about 50% of our work and each drawing is set of instruction, to do what is required to fabricated the components. In our trades we have tradesman that can't a drawing and how they their trades papers, it is any one guess how they got them. I was call out on many occasions to the work shop because they were unable to read a drawing.

With this in mind, I have written about using the steel in houses instead of timber, as the industry should be looking for way to stop houses from burning to ashes in a bush fires areas and there a number of ways they burn down in cities.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

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I am concerned that the choice for building houses or small shops out of timber again we will have problem with the building industries using timber will gives us a large out cry as the builders can't work with steel, as it not normal building material.

If we could come up with the solutions where houses can't be burnt down, they should be a good reason for going to make sure that house doesn't burnt down again. It may be more expensive to go this way but I feel strongly that we can't afford to be rebuilding houses that burnt down every time we have a bush fire.

The next step is for the companies that manufacture the cladding for houses that we can use as a fire resistant as much as they can be. It may mean that the bricks made from fire resistant concrete, that they come up with, could be used in the manufacture of fire resistant bricks and we could add a different colour to make them in other ways with a number of patterns. If we went the way with existing bricks we would have homes burning to the grown.

Cladding of a plastic or aluminium type material wouldn't be accepted for cladding any houses or business premises as wouldn't be acceptable under the Australia Building Code or the Australian Standards which would have to be change if we can come up with fire resistant materials.

The next step is for the other or the same companies to come with roof cladding that wouldn't buckle and again what we look at. Do we go with roof tile that made a fire resistant cement and sand again, but what do we do the sheeting we use on walls and roofs at present. I am wondering if this sheeting of a much thicker than than the sheeting we are using now, so it be rolled out, so the fires in the future willn't sure come to fires.

In Australia, I am under the impression, that we have capacity in companies to produce nearly everything we need and requiring the machines in here we can say we are a national that should self supportive to meet our needs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr S Morrison,  
Prime Minister of Australia,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra. ACT 2600.

Dear Sir,

I would like this opportunity to thank you for been our Prime Minister of Australia as your members and you are leading the way. You have done a lot more in your time as the Prime Minister than the Opposition would have done for us.

There no doubt that you and members really have had your hands full with drought through Australia for many years but under no circumstances can you wear what mother nature dishes out, the shocking events that occurred.

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The water supply we have to wait for rain to come but no one can predict when it is going to rain to meet our requirements that we need on a on going bases. This is a going concern how much we use is day as people living in cities which a lot of people don't understand what is going on in the big dark world out side their offices and homes.

The drought has caused a large problem for the for the farmers and a constant headache for them and unfortunately your government because every thing falls back at your feet. It is unfortunately for you Mr Morrison you have been given a large can of worms and all we can do is to wait rain to come as mother nature don't care about us.

Doing this Mr Morrison, I know I shouldn't do any thinking on my part because it is dangerous. What I could say is away that we could over come any further droughts in the future.

You can depose this letter if you think what about tell you is stupid, as it may be to costly to impermanent as it would very big project to do.

My thinking has brought me is strange, as mother nature cause problems with our water supply for framers we could try to stop it happening again.

All states would be required to take a part of this, as each state would take a tapping/s from the sea an pump it to a deceleration plant to remove salt etc from the water and then pump it through pipes to farm/s and they would be take a tapping/s off the supply and this would be metered to cost their usage and then they would connect to the tapping/s supplied at them to meet their requirements.

They could if they wished to put their own pumping arrangements to irrigate their farms. This water system when connected to the farms, if the water was tested and if approved could supply their own water to their house, so they could have a supply which shouldn't run dry.

There is a great chance to supply water to towns that are subject to drought and this supply to them would keep them in water all year round. This water towns wouldn't to been metered as it would be metered the normal way at the house or business.

I don't wish this to happen again, but tapings could placed at curtain place where the Bush Fire and Fire Barges as they have to cart water in tanks on the truck and if tapings were available to them, I feel it would extremely be helpful to them, to take their water from these tapings as it would be quicker to get their equipment out to fight the fires as they wouldn't have the trouble in getting a constant supply of water.

I realise that this letter you, may have to wait for while as you would have your hands full with the virus and you wouldn't have the time to worry about the drought as present.

I don't have the virus but I a diabetic fighting the excess sugar they put into food and I am trying my best to reduce it so I can live at normal live.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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