



Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

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

1. Full Name [REDACTED]
2. Email [REDACTED]
3. Mobile/Telephone [REDACTED]
4. What is your preferred method of contact if we want to follow up with you?

email

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

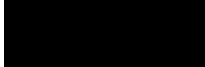

- a. Please select Option 1 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your personal situation.
- b. Please select Option 2 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation

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 Choose an item.
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.

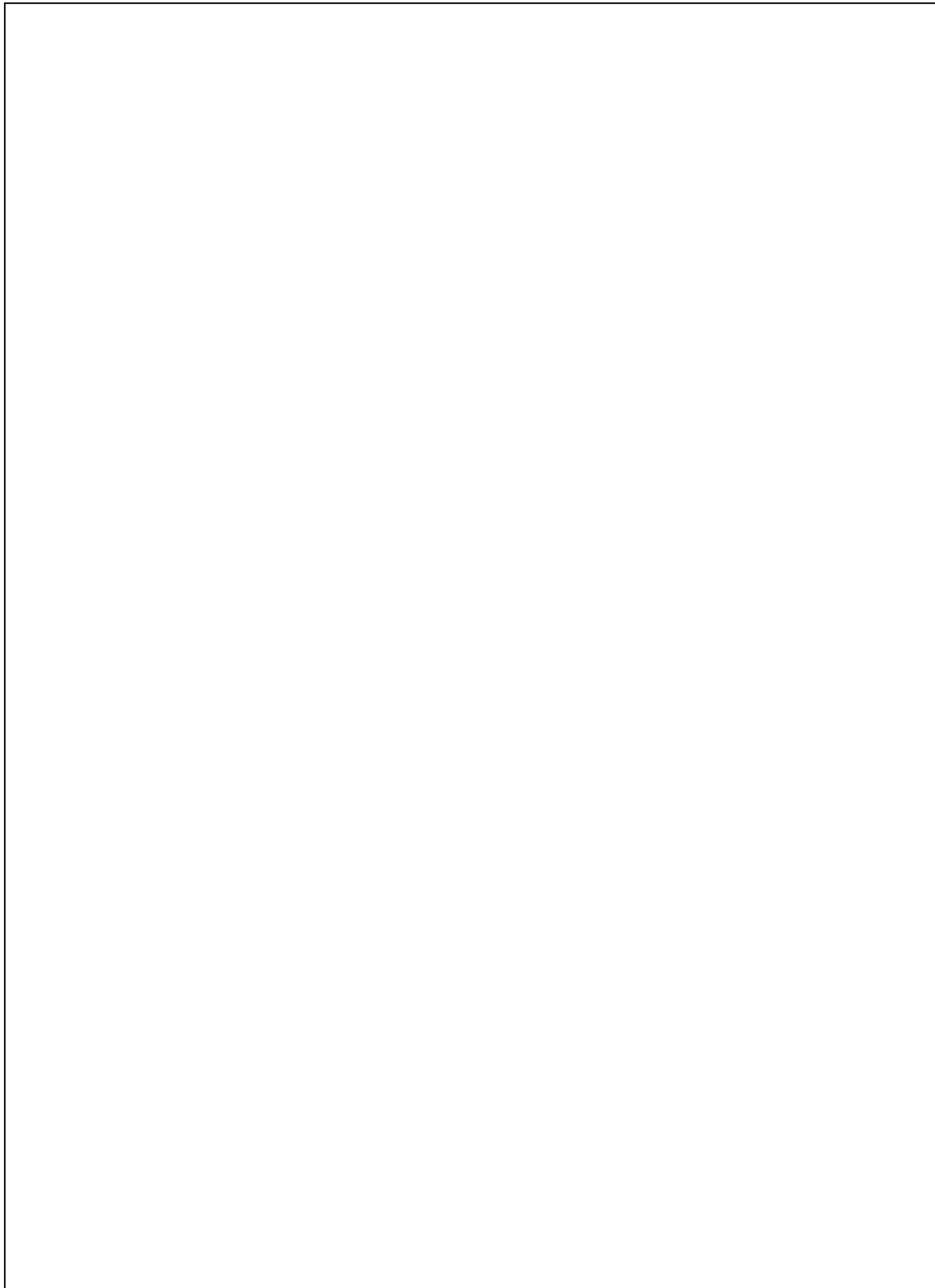
- Emergency/disaster response and/or management
 - Environment/land management
 - Land use, planning, building standards
 - Impacts of changes in climatic conditions
 - Wildlife conservation
 - Traditional land and fire management practices of Indigenous Australians
 - Community welfare
 - Other
-

Input / Comments

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



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



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

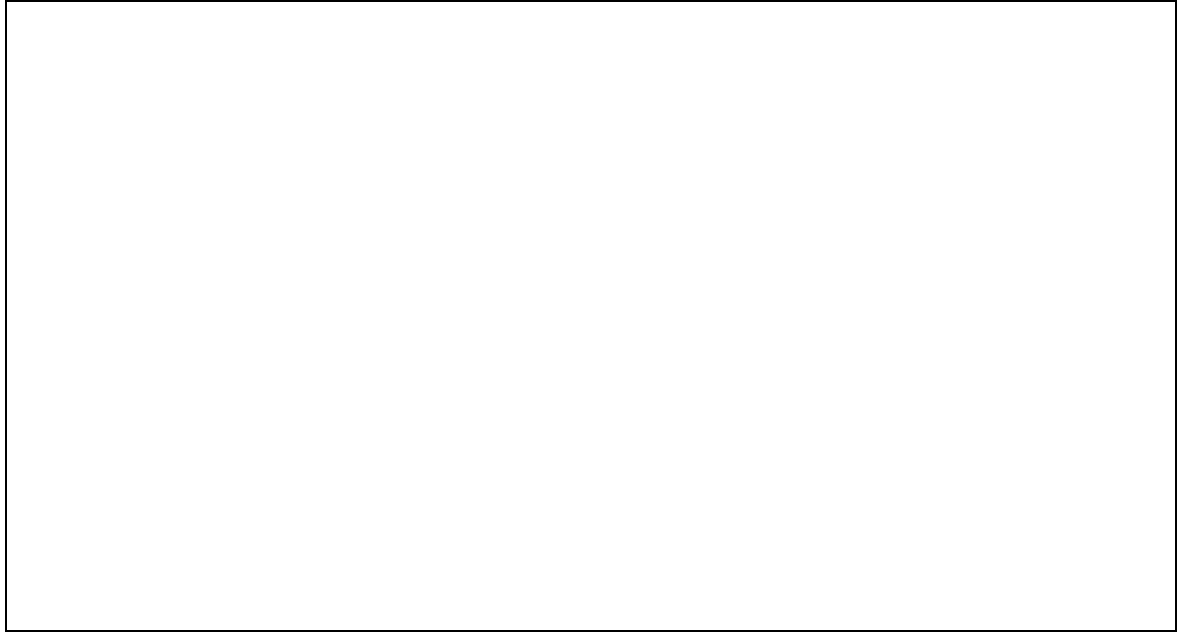
In WA we need to ensure that prescribed burns do not do long term ecological damage. They must take into account the means by which various plants reproduce and the time they require to meet at least reproducibility. They also need to ensure that there is sufficient habitat for various species of fauna. Currently I get the impression that prescribed burns are too simplistic and too prone to escape and possibly need to give more attention to protecting large towns. Small towns probably shouldn't exist in forested areas. Places with only one exit route should probably be locked over the fire season.

In urban bushland, such as on the Swan Coastal Plain, there needs to be a lot of emphasis on weed control as weeds have proved to be a strong influence on the susceptibility to fire, fire temperature and ease of spread of fire. Obviously tall weeds such as wild oats and veldt grass are particularly problematic. Weed control on road verges is probably an issue in the highly cleared wheatbelt where local flora is obviously in a precarious situation. Weed control would also assist with helping local indigenous flora to survive and reproduce.

It has been good to observe a rapid response approach to fire control in the Perth Hills suburbs. It is clearly much easier to control a fire while it is small. Helicopters have proved very useful in this regard.

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





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.

10. 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 or print the form and post it to the Royal Commission at:

National Natural Disaster Royal Commission

Locked Bag 2000

Manuka ACT 2603
