



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?

This submission was taken verbally.

Email for correspondence, phone if we wished to discuss anything.

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	Meringur
Post code	3496

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

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

-Evacuations procedures - Stay and defend or leave early policys worked well.
 -Victoria Emergency App.
 -Air strike force.

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

The technology for the volunteer fire fighters. They are still using a pager system, this needs to be updated.

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?

With regard to preperation:

-There needs to be a recuitment drive to encourage more CFA vounteers.
 - Upgrade of fire trucks and equiptment instead of creating new national parks.
 - upgrade of communication systems like mobile technology for CFA and its volunteers.

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

I am a farmer and grazier and live northwest of Victoria in Meringur.I would like to say the following;

-Forest management practices - with regard to National Parks there needs to be different levels. They need to be classified in levels of areas of use, eg. Class A - near calpital cities, where lots of people camp to - Class C hardly any visitors and therfore lease land to local graziers. Get rid of too many laws and areas belonging to particular groups.

-Fuel Reduction - this needs to be on the radar and not enough done since the 2009 enquiry, failed in their targets. You need to look at other avenues such as stock grazing, selective timber harvesting (ecological thinning), track maintenance. NSW and Victoria state government are not doing anything.

-Need to get rid of co-management of parks, too many chiefs trying to run things.

- Too many green laws which are too restrictive.

- Believes that climate change is a con and that its more to do with management practices and the name needs to change to 'Climate Cycles'.
- Believes that cleaning up carbon emissions is important.

10. 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.

11. 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
