



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** **Josephine & Jonathan Haste**
2. **Email** [REDACTED]
3. **Mobile/Telephone** [REDACTED]
4. **What is your preferred method of contact if we want to follow up with you?**

Mobile Telephone or 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?

No Comment



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

No comment



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?

This submission is based on our experience of recently building a residential dwelling in a municipality that is exempt from the state wide 10/30 rule. This rule was introduced after the 2009 Royal Commission in to the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria.

The State wide 10/30 rule was recommended by the 2009 Royal Commission to allow residents to manage vegetation and trees surrounding their property for bushfire protection. The 10/30 rule allows residents to clear land within 10 meters of their dwelling.

The '10/30 rule' applies state-wide except for in 21 metropolitan municipalities and allows residents to clear:

- any vegetation on their property, including trees, within 10 metres of a house and
- any vegetation except for trees within 30 metres for bushfire protection.

The state-wide 10/30 rules apply irrespective of any town planning overlays which apply to land.

Our new dwelling was built in the municipality of Banyule in Victoria. Banyule is one of the 21 councils exempt from the state wide 10/30 rule.

Our land is affected by a low density, significant landscape and significant vegetation overlay. It is also affected by a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL 12.5). The land is located in Lower Plenty which is a suburb of Melbourne, approximately 21 kilometers from the CBD. Lower Plenty is situated along the Yarra River in the leafy, North-Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb has a 'rural' feel with many large acreage, multi-acre and hectare blocks featuring in the area. Many properties agist horses and other small livestock. Although a metropolitan suburb of Melbourne, the area is not densely developed with a majority of the suburb protected by low density overlays.

We experienced the following issues, complexities and inconsistencies with respect to the planning process required to obtain approval to build our family home.

- BAL zone requirements not being linked to Bushfire Management Overlays (BMOs)

Building a property on land which is BAL rated attracts additional complexities and costs which are necessary to provide adequate protection to those living in the dwelling. It is not unreasonable for one to assume that where a BAL is operative, the affected land would be afforded the protections of a BMO. It was perplexing to discover that a BAL and BMO are discreet from one another. While we were required to incur the additional costs relating to meeting the BAL requirements of our land, we were not given the protections or assistance of the BMO to address vegetation on our land. Within 200 meters of our land, there are large reserves of native bushland and parkland all protected by BMOs, allowing the land to be managed appropriately.

Recommendation:

Where a BAL rating applies to a property, a BMO planning overlay be applied to the land.

- Blanket exemptions to the state-wide 10/30 Rule in Victoria.

Our land is located approximately 100 meters from the municipality boundary between Banyule and Nillumbik Councils. Nillumbik is a council which is ***not exempt*** from the state-wide 10/30 rule. This results in the neighbouring dwellings to our east, located in the same street, having different rules applying to the land. In reality, should a bushfire occur in our

street, it is likely that all blocks in the street may be affected in a similar way and face similar danger. The outcomes and level of devastation suffered in this situation may be determined based on the difference between what's allowable with respect to preparing our blocks for bushfire based on the application of the state-wide 10/30 rule – a seemingly unacceptable situation. While we support that exemptions to the state-wide 10/30 rule may be appropriate in certain locations in most metropolitan municipalities, we do not support blanket exemptions applying to entire councils. Blanket exemptions do not afford adequate protections to parts of municipalities which are heavily wooded, such as Lower Plenty in Banyule. We do not support blanket exemptions applying in municipalities that have vastly varied landscapes and environmental concerns.

Recommendation:

- 1) That the state-wide blanket exemptions to the 10/30 rule currently granted to 21 municipalities in Victoria be revoked or reviewed.
- 2) That councils apply for exemptions to the state-wide 10/30 rule based on the prevailing landscape, applicable overlays and neighbourhood characteristics of certain locations in their municipality.
- 3) Where land is affected by a BAL rating and/or BMO, applications for exemption to the state-wide 10-30 rule be declined to allow residents adequate opportunity to prepare and protect their land and dwellings from bushfire.

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

From: [RCNDA - Enquiries](#)
To: [RCNDA - Submissions](#)
Subject: RCNDA - submission - Josephine Haste [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 11:36:26 AM
Attachments: [RCNDA - Submission form - 20200316.docx](#)

From: Josephine Haste [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Att: [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED],

Many thanks for forwarding to me the submission form. I have completed the submission based on our experiences with building a dwelling affected by a BAL rating in a municipality which is exempt from the state-wide 10/30 rule introduced in Victoria after the 2009 Royal Commission in to the Black Saturday Bushfires.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at my private email address should you have any further queries with respect to this submission. Please note that this submission is a personal submission and is in no way connected to the submission made by CPA Australia to this Royal Commission.

Kind regards,

Josephine Haste [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: RCNDA - Enquiries <RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au>

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
To: Josephine Haste [Redacted]

Subject: RCNDA - enquiries - Josephine Haste - submissions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Ms Haste

As discussed on the phone, grateful if you could return the attached form to us at rcnda.submissions@royalcommission.gov.au .

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Community engagement

Public enquiry line – 1800 909 826 / RCNDA.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au



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