



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

Email

Verbal submission recorded by [REDACTED] 28/04/20

### 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	Snowy Valleys
Town name	Numeralla
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

**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?**

The biggest issues for disaster management in our region are communications infrastructure:

1. There is Insubstantial cell tower coverage in the Valley. Eg the hinterland to the East has no cell coverage.
2. We barely receive ABC radio coverage: 1602AM, ABC radio. We're 22km from Cooma and barely receive it. ABC claim they're emergency broadcaster but not good enough. A transistor radio (which may be all you have in an emergency) is not good enough to get reception. Insubstantial transmitter in Cooma under contract from Broadcast Australia. Not good enough, 1950s tech. Need AM with much more powerful transmitter. It only broadcasts 10-15km currently outside Cooma.
3. After the Yarabee fire in 2016 it seems there were no lessons learnt at either State or Federal level. Local opinions were disregarded completely - Vision Stream delivered NBN and Telstra service, but they just deliver walk away.
4. The 4G Telstra tower give coverage to maybe 50 people, if they put it up the mountain (as locals suggested) it would have covered thousands. As the 4G tower was delivered under black spot funding there was no commercial decision making so it seems they just wanted to build it and not care if it was the best way of delivering.
5. Government must engage with stakeholders

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

**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](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

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