



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

mobile, then 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
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Input / Comments

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

As just a member of the urban public, I got the impression that everything worked as well as could have been expected given the extraordinary situation.

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

I am not an expert in bushfire emergency response and so cannot comment here.

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?

Like all Australians I am appalled by the devastation wrought by the recent bushfires.

I am also appalled at the lack of preparedness of the Federal Government to take preventative action and respond to the collective calls for funding and resources to face the known danger.

I want to volunteer to help but the normal channels seem to restrict volunteering to roles outside my competences. Hence this submission to describe my desired contribution directly.

Is it valid to say that effective response to these fires is similar to getting the community and its resources onto a “war” footing? If so, that is my expertise; establishing the foundation for effective coordination and collaboration of all relevant agencies, service providers and resources to effectively address the target objective, ie a national incident management capability.

A national strategic initiative is required to develop the national capability to address any incident that becomes a national threat to lives and property. Having led many coordination initiatives as listed below but the one initiative that is representative of the opportunity before you is the National Counter-Terrorism Workshop that I chaired and brought together all the first response agencies, police forces, intelligence agencies and the political offices of the PM and NSW Premier. It established a plan for national coordination sponsored by the NSW Police Asst Commissioner Nick Kaldas – see attached outline document

My experience in multi-organisation coordination, cooperation and coherence is global and includes the whole ADF including DMO, NSW Police, Qld Police, Crimtrac, NSW Central Agencies, Federal Central Agencies (RBA, ASIC and APRA), Whole Singapore Government (74 agencies), Axa globally, P&O ports globally, Procter & Gamble globally, NSW Transport Management Centre as it moved from just traffic incidents to address all incidents in all transport modes including utility incidents, (and many more large globally distributed organisations),

If you have a chance to glance at my CV (at the bottom of the front page on my website www.quantrans.com) you will see that I have the experience to tackle the required scope of national incident management capability. I also have the expertise to lead the establishment of the necessary foundation. This foundation would be the prime tool for the National Bushfire Recovery Agency to use in its critical work recovery effort and also, to ensure efficient and effective national incident management capabilities coordinated across the full lifecycle from preparedness to recovery effectively into the future. Currently, although retired I am helping a division of NSW Education Department to establish its coordination capabilities.

Politicians and well-meaning bureaucrats tend to address the needs of coordination by meetings attended by Ministers and Department Heads. My experience provides evidence that that strategy is almost a distraction in quickly getting to the necessary nub of the problem for effective coordination. This is best achieved by initially involving those roles that know the organisations involved and their mutual interdependencies, ie the operational people, together with the methodologist who knows how to extract, document and use their knowledge for effective collaboration, coordination and responsiveness. That methodologist is me. Subsequently, policy development and accountability delineations can be built upon this rigorously detailed and comprehensive foundation that could be called the Disaster Response Multi-organisation Architecture.

I would like to volunteer and would be pleased to present my credentials and have an initial discussion on how I might be able to help achieve effective collaboration and coordination across the myriad organisations and services that are needed to contend with national disasters

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

I would gladly work pro bono and transfer expertise, knowledge and IP to others.

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
