



Royal Commission
into National Natural
Disaster Arrangements

Submission Cover Sheet

This cover sheet has been prepared by the Commission's public contact team to accompany a submission.

Person completing cover sheet

1. **Staff member name** [REDACTED]
2. **Date completed** 27.05.2020
3. **This cover sheet has been completed based on:**
 - details contained in the submission
 - a phone call with the person making the submission
 - an email from the person making the submission
 - Other (provide details) -

Submission details

4. **Full name** [REDACTED]
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone** [REDACTED]
7. **Preferred method of contact**
8. **Is the submission based on:**
 - primarily based on their personal situation.
 - primarily based on their professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation
9. **If the person is making the submission on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation:** Animal Wildlife Shelter

If the submission based on personal experience:

10. **What was their personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Choose all that apply.**
 - were not living in an area affected by bushfire
 - were in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss
 - lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss
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- lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss
- part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground
- part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter
- part of the emergency response as health professional
- part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member
- part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee
- assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer
- assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer
- Other

11. Where does the person live:

Local Government Area

Choose an item.

Town name

Post code

If the submission is based on professional experience

12. 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

All submissions

13. Does the person agree to their submission being published?

- Yes, agree to the submission being published in their name
 - Yes, agree to the submission being published anonymously
 - No, does not agree to the submission being published
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To whom in may concern ,

As a wildlife shelter I was advised the day before the submissions closed as to the enquiry and I am deeply distressed that wildlife shelters and rescuers were not given a proper time frame to contribute.

I feel this was done very under cover and we in Victoria are less than happy with the response or lack there of towards wildlife rescue, we were told if we were found on fire sites we would be arrested.

This meant that animals were left to die a slow agonising death in fact some animals were found 6-8 weeks after fire activity with wounds so bad they had to be euthanased.

If they had of received the rescue and care they needed within the first few weeks after the fires they could have been spared suffering and at the very least received pain relief and treatment.

I like many others in this state are very angry over the lack of inclusion in response by our DELPW. Although we are in the AIMS framework we were left out and told we were not allowed to participate, that it was too dangerous.

I myself have been on fire grounds leading rescue teams for in excess of 20 years, never once has any of the thousands of trained volunteer rescuers been injured in the line of what we consider to be our duty on a bush fire site.

I actually teach respond to wildlife emergencies as a Trainer and Assessor for the TAFE system.

We do not seek to go in to rescue whilst the fires are underway, in fact we believe we need to wait for fires to be out. This year however we couldn't even do that.

At every point whilst trying to work with the dept and contacting the dept we were told they had it under control ,they were rescuing.

In fact WE FOUND OUT THEY WERE NOT.

Members of the public were out there barefoot with NO PPE with no knowledge, with NO TRAINING. we were trained and supplied with PPE by our dept (DELPW) some 2 years ago and since we have been locked out at every turn.

I was told by a twenty something year old officer THAT I HAD NO CLUE HOW BAD IT WAS THAT I COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

When I was in charge of the recovery effort for Marysville Taggerty Triangle for 2009 Black Saturday fires

Such an insult and condescending attitude from someone who themselves would not have seen it but I had.

I want to know you will accept more emails from other wildlife rescuers and shelters to bare witness to this.

I am very disappointed with the lack of communication to wildlife rescue and stakeholders - it appears very divisive.

Sincerely with disappointment

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[REDACTED]

Endangered Species were common once, Only man's selfish greed has caused this, my humanity compels me to change this - Michelle Thomas