



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
2. Email
3. Mobile/Telephone
4. What is your preferred method of contact if we want to follow up with you?

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?

Due to rapidly changing conditions, bringing people into town ships that could be defended rather than trying to spread thin resources across a wide area

My daughter, her husband and my Grand daughter live in Candelo

They sought shelter at Merimbula and Bega

I ventured down in one of the respite periods in late December 19 to pick up my granddaughter who stayed with us in Wollongong for 6 weeks whilst my daughter and husband defended their property

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

The RFS performed brilliantly in the unique circumstances that they confronted

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?

There has been a proliferation of national parks and wilderness areas over the last 30-40 years

At the same time we have limited prescribed burning at a fraction of what's required

The fuel load has built up over these 30-40 years and was a time bomb waiting to happen

The perfect storm of conditions just so happened, commencing in Dec 19.

Without a shadow of a doubt there is a need to increase prescribed burning to between 7 and 10% per annum

Also turn much of these parks back into state forests

Further clear either side of the Princes, Snowy Mountain and Monaro Highways 40 metres to provide a natural fire break. (note I was the RTA (now RMS) Asset Manager for 30 years until I retired in 2010 as Regional Manager

Our internal environmental sections made it difficult to carry out any clearing of the roadside
In hindsight this was a poor descion as prior to that, clearing to provide a fire break was part of road manintenance practices.

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

I have seen a lot of television reporting focussing on climate change as a major factor

I consider there are 3 issues here

1 Climate change is Natural and is happening all the time . There is nothing unprecedented in this event when considering climate on a GEOLOGICAL time scale

2 Is Climate change man made. Globally evidence suggests that man made climate change is very limited and mainly localised if it can be identified at all

3 Can Australia do anything about Global warming or Climate Change.

THE answer is NOTHING.

We are irrelevant in global scheme of things. Australia produces 1 Molecule of CO2 in approx 6-10 miliion parts of the atmosphere.

This has ZERO, ZIP, NIL impact on temperature and/or Climate.

There is a plethora of supporting material in circulation on this matter.

Pls bring in some climate scientists into the royal commission who arent funded by Environmrntal Lobby groups, Investors in renewable nergy supported by investment banks and Big Govt to provide a balanced view on this matter.

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
