



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** 10.06.2020
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** John Hoare
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone** [REDACTED]
7. **Preferred method of contact** not stated
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:**

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
-

> Hi folks

> I understand these are closed but I wanted to be sure you are aware of the failure to get campers out of Mallacoota from Sunday afternoon until as I understand it morning of Tuesday. 31st December We were staying in Mallacoota at the hotel on Saturday 28th December and Sunday 29th December planning to return home to Narooma on Monday 30th December. My son his wife and two children were with us and in a separate vehicle.

> We were watching the bushfire situation slowly unfold and we had downloaded both the NSW and Victorian apps. Until Sunday lunchtime the main fire danger was in Cann River area to the south of Genoa. When a fire suddenly appeared at Wingans Inlet on the Sunday afternoon I suspected Malacoota was in danger. On consulting the Victorian app the warning was explicit "too late to leave" and advice was not to leave Mallacoota. The advice was correct if you planned to travel south from Genoa towards Melbourne. It was not correct if you were to travel north from Genoa into New South Wales. We decided to leave immediately and left Malacoota at 4pm on the 29th December and had a clear run home to Narooma in NSW. No problems. No closures.

> Our son and daughter in law were planning on travelling to Jindabyne on the 30th December and again on checking the app there was no problem heading north from Genoa into NSW. They travelled to Cooma and onto Jindabyne via Imlay Road turn which is south of Eden. Again no problem whatsoever.

> The fact of the matter is that anyone wishing to leave Mallacoota and return to Melbourne were fully able to do so for a period close on 48 hours after the "Too late to leave" notification. They needed to go via Cooma. Imlay Road or Brown Mountain and then over to the Hume Highway and turn left to Melbourne.

> If that advice had been available a lot of the numbers of campers in Mallacoota could have been reduced and the evacuation would have been a far simpler exercise. The Victorian app needed to tell people they could get home but needed to leave Victoria to do so. I think that was a gross failure. I am sure someone else has bought this up but if not it might be worth including for consideration.

> john Hoare [REDACTED]