



## 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** 18 June 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** Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast Inc
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone**
7. **Preferred method of contact** Email
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:** Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast Inc

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
- 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	---
Town name	Pambula
Post code	2549

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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social justice advocates of the sapphire coast INC.

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18 June 2020

The Commissioners  
Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements  
Locked Bag 2000  
Manuka ACT 2603

Dear Commissioners

We note your hearings during this week(w/c 15 June 2020) and next week will cover “ Cultural burning practices in Australia “. We are not trained in fire management and happily leave comments on such to experts and practitioners. We do however have views on the involvement of indigenous communities in efforts to mitigate damage caused by bushfires and the terms on which they should be engaged in these efforts.

We note the contents of your Background Papers released on 15 June 2020 and put forward the following comments.

We urge you to recommend that the federal government in cooperation with state governments conduct scientifically designed trials to evaluate how cultural burning practices can be integrated with current practices. These trials should acknowledge the ownership of the indigenous cultural practices by the full participation of the indigenous groups in the design, management and evaluation of these trials, and by the indigenous participants being remunerated just as are the permanent employees of the state fire-fighting bodies such as the CFA in Victoria and the RFS in New South Wales. The Ranger programs in Northern Australia provide some guidance, but are unlikely to be a perfect fit.

Such trials would obviously involve cost but we expect the cost of improving outcomes in combatting fires will in the longterm be much less than the cost of repairing the destruction resulting from

less well-managed fires. Your background paper shows that the indigenous people recognise that the integration of cultural practices into existing regimes will take time and effort and, we expect, the exercise of considerable goodwill by all involved as there are many parties with their particular interests.

As an organisation based in a part of NSW severely hit by the 2019-20 fires we have first hand knowledge of the impact of bushfires and of the strong desire of indigenous people to share their knowledge and participate fully in the community's endeavours to manage bushfires. Accordingly we have a keen interest in the work of your Royal Commission and wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Ray Tynan  
on behalf of the Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast



social justice advocates of the sapphire coast INC.

The Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast acknowledge the Yuin People as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We fully support the aspirations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in calling for a Voice for First Nations Peoples to be enshrined in the Constitution

ABN 19 708 992 414

PO Box 352 Pambula NSW 2549