



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

Email Follow up: NSW Govt neglect of Land LOT [REDACTED] DP [REDACTED] 20 YEARS
 Sorry I do not have the training to send this by Email
 I am 88yo. and because of my 82yo wife's Lung
 capacity (on Oxygen) we are isolating - no mail pickup
 at Maloney's Beach. JACK FORDYCE.

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

Because of wife's Lung, got out early :-

- 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	MALONEYS BEACH
Post code	2536

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

Input / Comments

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

Having fought fires in the Blue Mountains and Menai I was shocked by the intensity of the fires these firefighters were put up against, a lot worse than I experienced. I'm very proud of them.

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

Loss of power to homes
Loss of information and advice sources
Loss of food and fuel locally
Blocked roadaccess

22/1/20

Sent 22 Jan 2010



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

Mr Jack and Ms Mandy Fordyce

D09/4298

20 JAN 2010

Dear Mr and Ms Fordyce

I refer to your emailed correspondence outlining your concerns with the legislation relating to fire hazard reduction within State listed coastal wetlands (SEPP14 Wetlands). I apologise for the delay in my response.

I note your frustration that the Rural Fire Service (RFS) does not have the authority to circumvent legislation which requires a development application for clearing within a SEPP14 wetland boundary. I note that in your particular case the situation is exacerbated by the wetland being in private ownership, with the owner unwilling to initiate the development application process. I have been advised that your understanding of the interaction between the relevant legislation is correct and that clearing for fire hazard reduction within the wetland would require a development application to be lodged with Eurobodalla Shire council.

I have also been advised the RFS has contacted the Department of Planning to discuss options for addressing a similar situation to the one you describe. During these discussions it was acknowledged that a development application is required in circumstances such as this and that this situation needs to be reviewed. It was agreed the two Agencies should continue discussions to determine how best to improve and streamline the process in cases where the RFS deems the clearing is required. While this does not provide an immediate resolution to your situation, the Department and the RFS are addressing this situation.

Should Mr and Mrs Fordyce have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for [REDACTED], Acting Regional Director, Southern Region, of the Department of Planning, to assist. He can be contacted on telephone number [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning

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?

The NSW Government SEPP14 policy, changed to the Coastal Wetland Act, controls Eurobodalla Land at Lot [REDACTED], DP [REDACTED] which is a strip of land extending its length behind the residences along the northern run of Maloneys Drive at MALONEYS BEACH with only a narrow Council reserve as a fire trail between. My wife and I have resided at [REDACTED] for Twenty years with no Fire Mitigation observed on that Coastal Wetland.

We have reported its growing-Height and Density to the Government and Rural Fire Service but, as it is Privately owned by a Ratepayer to Eurobodalla Shire Council, under the law, he must submit a Development Application to the council for mitigation to occur. He is not replying to the RFS correspondence and so nothing has been done to protect Maloneys Beach from a cataclysmic Bushfire.

The residents were evacuated three times this fire season but luckily the strong southerly wind-change saved the Hamlet.

I have written to Minister Matt Kean about the situation but nothing has been done to obtain protection for the hamlet of MALONEYS BEACH.

The Rural Fire Service can't act until it is burning unless a DA is submitted to council by the unresponsive, absentee land-owner.

I explained this situation to the Hon. Tony Kelly, Minister for Planning and Lands and he replied on the 20th Jan 2010 that my assessment was correct that the RFS needed a DA to carry out fire mitigation on the land and that the Department and the RFS were looking into it. *(enclosed)*
That's 10 years ago and a lot of growth has added to the fire fuel with neglect by the NSW Government to sections of their Act that should provide protection to the neighbours; the people of Maloneys Beach.

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

"Safer Places" should be well mowed and water available to put out embers around the cars parked there where people are sheltering.



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 www@ndrc.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
