



## 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** 2 July 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** Jill Rogers
5. **Email** [REDACTED]
6. **Telephone** [REDACTED]
7. **Preferred method of contact** Phone
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
-

- 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	Pyrenees
Town name	Evansford
Post code	3371

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
-

I see it's too late for public submissions, but I cannot download your form & haven't managed to get through on your 1800 number.

My experiences since November last year, trying to get info on fires nearby, highlight some critical flaws. There's a great reliance on tech & systems which simply do not work reliably in the areas they're most needed. People are not getting the info they need to make critical decisions at the time they need it.

I was lucky to see (ABC News 24) a watch & act warning for a fire near Clunes Vic in Nov. Power went out immediately. I rang the Bushfire Info line & started my fire pump.

I can't sit in front of the TV, or rely on power. Much local radio is fm & not readily received on portable radio. So lashed out \$30 a month to access the "free" Vic Emergency App. There are major, disturbing flaws in this.

Do NOT rely on locator- get the odd "unknown" but mostly puts me in a town, 15km away.

Also, in an emergency, it is ridiculous that the app can take 8 -10 mins to download. While waiting, I'd ring the emergency phone line- desperate for info, I often faced more than 8 minutes of earnest health warnings about smoke. Imagine doing that to 000- ridiculous. Minutes count. I tried to email zenmaster @ VicEmerg, no response.

There were times during summer I was able to get info quickly about WA fires (watching for a friend), but not in Vic.

Also checked the national emergency phone system set up after Black Saturday. Have heard lots of excuses, but no reasons this system is not working. At one point, early January, Telstra told me it "cannot offer this service". Did not say why.

I've kept records of calls, even video of app downloading while listening to useless health messages on phone, as fire raged near Lexton (about 15km).

Also, LEAVE NOW difficult if you have nowhere to go, esp with no guarantees the car will start

Would welcome the chance of being part of finding safe ways to stay. Have 25 acres about 150km Melb, southwest fire division, but right near two others; in Pyrenees Shire, but nr border Central Goldfields & Hepburn.

Please fix info systems- assuming people have access to smart phones, social media or websites is dangerous. But so is making people in an emergency, ringing for info about fires within 15km, listen to long health messages. Every time I'd ring for update- 8 mins privacy & smoke msgs. Adds up- hours wasted over a hellfire summer.

There are also issues with vegetation- especially alongside roads & near power lines. Here, council workers dropped 3 sizeable trees on my fence ahead of fire season. In recent weeks, Powercor has been working same fenceline. No coordination & in some cases, clearly unprofessional results. Makes no sense & must be costing a packet.

I am on my own here, I've been lucky, but, like all Victorians, I need timely reliable info to make good decisions. It would be good to know all those responsible for vegetation, roads & power, work together. Have an overall plan, work out an overall management plan, & make sure public money is spent effectively.

And the LEAVE advice, can't be the only option.

As a young social worker, I worked for DCWS after Ash Wednesday, so have some insight- whatever happened to Displan? So many inquiries, so little effective action- I get the impression you want to do better- we really need you to.

Cheers  
Jill Rogers  
Evansford, Victoria  
31 May 2020

