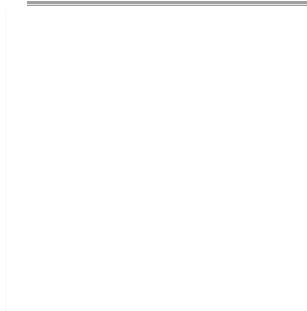




Your details



Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

We live in the Eurobodalla in an area which was thankfully unaffected by this year's bushfires. However with only one road in and out of our very bushy coastal town we were on edge 24 hours a day for three months wondering if we should evacuate or not.

Having a toddler we were not prepared to spend time on the beach waiting for the fire to pass so we were constantly using the thermal heat mapping website and the weather/wind predictions to try to stay ahead of the fire front which sat 6km west of us for weeks.

It was so hard knowing that if you missed a change in wind direction, it could prove very dangerous for your family so my husband and I were constantly watching the weather, listening to the live stream of the and watching the thermal heat map hoping that they were all up to date. Most days, particularly the worst days, they weren't up to date and watching the sky was our best indicator of how far away the fire was. Twice ash rained down on

our roof and the sky turned grey/orange so we left in a rush hoping our road wasn't cut off. But it was hard to know where to go that we would be safe.

We evacuated our family three times to various friends houses - prioritising areas where the fire had already burnt through. Once we evacuated to a town south of us which hadn't burnt through but was more built up than our town so we thought it'd be safe, however while we were there we received a "Too late to leave - shelter in place" notification from RFS so we had to sit outside to watch for the fire in case we needed to go to the beach to be safe, there was no information online to show how close the fire was.

Technology needs to be improved so families can make decisions to protect their lives. Because the RFS Fires Near Me App was so slow to update and didn't give any indication of predictions, we were having to piece together information from three different websites and when that failed, having to look to the skies.

I've never lived through anything so scary and felt so alone in my life.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

Supporting documents or images
