



## Your details

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## Submission details

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**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

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**Your story**

We watched the fires come closer and closer from all directions, in the early hours of the morning we decided to evacuate as there was little hope of defending our home due to the trees and scrub along the roadway and not having mains pressure and the tanks being between the roadway and the house meant we would likely lose them before the fire could be put out therefore leaving no water to fight with. And by then the fire would have blocked our exit via the road as that is where all the fuel for the fire was. I also had to consider having to keep animals safe and my son as well. We only got 1.5kms from home and the fire was burning along the roadside and had already engulfed the federation home at the bottom of [REDACTED] hill, we knew then that we would not have a home to come back too. We drove to bermagui with fire on both sides of the road, then we were evacuated to Narooma. We spent 2 days there, not knowing what was happening, no communication with the outside world and no

way of going back to find out. I cannot describe the feeling. When I returned I discovered that the my home had been the meeting point of a fire from all four sides. Had we stayed, we would not have survived. My home was double brick. There was nothing left.

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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

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### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Trees and scrub on road verge beside my property. Had requested a number of years ago, for it to be maintained better due to the damage caused to my fences by fallen tree limbs and scrub overtaking, and the fire hazard, a meter was cleared, sort of, but the rest not even reduced, so much fuel for fire just allowed to be left there. It has never been looked at since, and now that is where the fire took hold and destroyed my house. The main water line from Brogo to Cobargo, there are not allowed to be any more connections, I am not connected, therefore I did not have the water to fight the fires as the fire melted and exploded my tanks. The only real tree and scrub hazard is along the roadside. The rest of my property is cleared land.

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### 1.2 Preparation and planning

as outlined above. The biggest need for preparation was the fire hazard along the roadside, not on my property. Not allowed to touch it.

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### 1.3 Response to bushfires

COOL BURNS AT APPROPRIATE TIMES! so much devastation COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED AND LIVES SAVED if correct hazard reduction was undertaken by authorities and ALLOWED to be done by landowners where appropriate.

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### 1.4 Any other matters

Our lives have been turned upside down due to an unprecedented disaster. I feel a major portion of which could have been avoided with the proper maintenance, more appropriate equipment for firefighters including more personnel and vehicles/planes etc and having them deployed, natural disaster declared long before it was, at a much earlier time therefore slowing or stopping the spread to populated areas. The response to the aftermath needs to be much quicker with far less red tape to get people safe and housed ASAP, not 5 months on only just starting to be attended to. It should just be, this is needed so do it now! The attempt to shut down communities trying to look after their own was appalling!! There wasn't enough help in the right places to deal with the IMMEDIATE needs and trying to shut down community driven areas, (Cobargo and surrounds), by TURNING HELP AWAY, was just deplorable!!! Thank god that help defied the authorities and came anyway!!! Whatever is needed where ever should just be supported NOT hampered and tried to be turned into sheep just overcrowding in corrals! Reality and humanity not political points should be what matters most and be given whatever is necessary. ASAP not after "much deliberation". Peoples lives are at risk not just during but immediately after and futuristically for recovery. Thank god for aussies that have been the ones to drive most of the necessities for this disaster. AND ALL UNPAID!!!! They deserve medals of honour! Do not even want to think about what would have become of myself and many others in our community if it weren't for our community! That still very much applies to this day. Most supplies and funding for necessities is still coming from the public and volunteers.

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## Supporting documents or images

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**Attach files**

- house.jpg
  - house2.jpg
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