



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

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

From my understanding, all authorities have acted as normal, undertaking whatever mitigation was possible, as they would at any other time. Unfortunately, we have had a most severe event, due to climate change, and we were not well prepared. Hopefully the government will now understand the reality of climate change and ensure communities are prepared and protected in the years to come.

1.4 Any other matters

loss of power and phone coverage was distressing and costly. Lost \$1000 of fridge and frozen food. Lack of timely and reliable information was distressing. We spent days in Bermagui not knowing what was happening or what to expect.

No phone was a major issue as I had to cancel travel bookings and couldn't, so that was an extra cost

When internet was back, the social media - conflicting and incorrect messages were a problem - need to decide what you believe. - many of us in our street were told to evacuate one night as there was fire nearby and it turned out to be false.

SES and the fire brigade weren't working together. We had a visit from SES asking for details of who was in the house. He asked for our phone numbers, but this was pointless at the time as we didn't have services for several days and couldn't be contacted if there was a need. The fire people had no idea this was happening or what value it would be.

Smoke hazard. We had dreadful smoke pollution for several weeks. There was no support from health authorities- no masks, limited advice and the best we had was media coverage telling us how dangerous the conditions were to our health. Perhaps all homes should be provided with some basic supplies to protect us from this in the future.

A local street based communication network needs to be organised to help us when there is no power, no phone or internet and limited visibility. This grass roots network is vital for these events.

Supporting documents or images
