



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

My story ? OUR Story.

From [REDACTED].

My wife and I hand built our home in the pise mud style, 14m X 16m plus wrap around verandahs which were 2.5 m wide.

Perimeter walls were 3 m high, roof height was 5.5m. We paid for and supplied our own power, water and heating.

This was from solar panels and batteries, roof collected water, combustion heating and cooking.

We moved in there in 1996, 24 years ago. In that time we have paid all taxes and rates required of us even for the minimal services provided.

Our world is destroyed now and any shallow sounding platitudes don't ameliorate the grief felt. The feelings of despair and confusion of our displacement are constant.

They shadow you all day and long into the night.

I believe it is due to my State govt and my Federal govt in

ignoring the needs of we rural communities and the services that they should have provided to us have been grossly neglected. State govt would rather spend money on stadiums for the city dwellers or prop up tollway operators at our expense. The Fed govt would rather ignore our climate catastrophe whilst the P.M. would prefer to spruik coal in the house of parliament or holiday in Hawaii while the fires raged across our coast line. Our Deputy p.m., the hapless McCormack, said at the time in Bega ..." to just stop panicking and ignore the smoke,it will blow away ",well it didnt it blow away it ruined lives.

Where is the leadership in a crisis?

My greatest anger is at the tiers of government who were telling us on the local media that they had enough resources in hand to protect us. Even refusing offers of water bombing planes from Canada as late as November 2019. The fire commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons was standing beside our Premier Gladys Berajeklian (spelling) telling me he had enough RFS resources to protect us. What a balled face lie. Although when Turramurra was threatened they spared no expense on planes to protect the city folk.

When the fire that took our home was just a wisp of smoke in December 2019 out the back of Wadbilliga Nat Park or what ever they changed the name to as it was moving so quickly towards us it took on a different identity, When it was a dot on the app they should have sent a fire water bombers and put it out, What was the Fire Commissioner, the puppet of politicians, thinking. We had no news or info on the status,the fire app was incredibly incorrect,we had no mobile coverage.

We had no radio coverage.

The blaze that took our home has been called a once in a lifetime event, even unprecedented,we now have to pretend it is the new norm.

What is it unprecedented or the new norm. Hard to find that out until you want to rebuild.

Now I am told we cant rebuild unless we put in a dual access road to our property for emergency services. The bloody services were told to stand down by the boffins in the head office and not to venture out to Wandella so whats the freakin point of a dual access and why isnt the council/ state govt building it for the use of their service vehicles? It has been o.k for the decades since our area was subdivided through the council. `They let me pay for the right to build there let me pay my rates for two decades but now they change the rules on me.

my property is only 14 k's from the township of Cobargo hardly in the bush.

We tried to get RFS advice about prevention but its not something they would advise us on.

The dry fuel load that has built up and the climate conditions being so dry should have sent out warning signals to the RFS to prepare.Why was there no preventive action over the last decade?

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

lack of forest management
lack of human resources in the rural communities
lack of facilities to combat fire in rural communities

1.2 Preparation and planning

No preparation was done in preventive fire damage. State Govt was caught out unprepared. Like the Scotty form marketing they played the media like a fiddle.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Community response was outstanding, heartfelt and moving We got only assistance from the locals. The govt was playing catch up . playing politics while we burned.

1.4 Any other matters

nothing else matters.

Supporting documents or images
