



## Your details

Dr

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**Title**

**First name**

Anastasia

**Last name**

Dalziell

## 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 give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

Dr Anastasia Dalziell  
Resident of Winmalee (2013-2019) and Bullaburra (2020+)  
Studied the superb lyrebirds of the Blue Mountains since 2014

Re: Personal/family risk

I was pregnant during the 2019-2020 fires and gave birth at Hawkesbury Hospital on the 3rd Jan 2020

The fires were just one of three extreme events this spring/summer that had the potential to kill or seriously injure me and my family, including by unborn baby. They were:

Fires  
Extreme heat  
Extreme smoke

Each day I had to work out where was the safest place for me and my family. Some days the likelihood of smoke exposure or certain exposure to extreme heat in Richmond/Penrith was so high – with the very likely risk of a loss of power and so loss of air conditioning in building unfit for high temperatures – that the safer option was to stay in Winmalee/Bullaburra and risk the fire.

It was very very difficult to know what to do. It seemed like there was nowhere safe to go.

In the end, the help make my decisions, I used the fire near me app, the facebook pages from the local fire brigades, the Mayor's daily summary, the BOM weather forecast, and the arcgis NSW fire map. I also sometimes consulted my knowledgeable neighbours.

I strongly suggest that any future planning for extreme bushfires incorporate these other, dangers of smoke exposure and extreme heat that come with fire.

Re: Ecological Grief

I would also like to say that I am horrified about the impacts of these fires on the Blue Mountains NP that I love so dearly. I am very worried that the Australia I love will not be experienced by my sons.

For my work, I study the breeding behaviour of lyrebirds – particularly their song – and before the fires it was already difficult to find patches of forest that was old enough for lyrebirds to breed there. Recently burnt land excludes lyrebirds – whether or not it was a natural burn or a controlled burn.

I fear that fire is silencing the lyrebird's song.

## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

## **Supporting documents or images**

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