



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Andrew

Last name

Brough

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 give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

On the afternoon of Saturday 4th January, I, along with my brother and son completed the final preparations for my quarter acre block. At 1601 the bushfire warning came through, this quickly followed by the sound of my neighbours panicking and leaving their houses. As a one of the local fire fighters in my town I was planning to join my fire truck when needed and delegate the task of property protection to my brother and son. Now we had three properties to defend and the likelihood of me attending any fires in town was much diminished. The fires came at 2100, a large blaze beginning out the front of the house behind my home. We rushed down through woody weeds to access the block, rapidly prepping the unprepped house, removed the gas cylinder and wet down the entire house. This was achieved with garden hoses in poor condition we spent the next three hours wetting down the borders of my property and into the undefended neighbour's yards, hose length access and

water pressure permitting. During this time multiple fire trucks drove past my house, I flagged them down and requested assistance but they were fully committed elsewhere, however they summoned others to the area. At around midnight fire fighters eventually arrived that could deal with the blaze. It was only then that I could join my fire truck, could have made all the difference if I got on it earlier, four houses were lost, would've be five were it not for my brother and son. I didn't sleep for 36 hours. Almost six months have passed, my neighbours still haven't done anything about the trees or the fuel loads. If these trees were gone, it would greatly enhance my property, I could plant vegetables and install solar panels. But the precious 'village atmosphere' of large flammable exotic weeds cluttering the landscape trumps all!

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

The planting of flammable exotic vegetation both historically and present day on neighbour's property.
Failure to remove said vegetation and the fuel they drop.
Neighbours did little or no preparation of their properties.
Neighbours left large fuel loads on the borders surrounding my property
Neighbours panicked and fled the area, leaving hoses running, depriving all residents of a much-needed fire-fighting medium.
Neighbours cluttering their yards with shrubs and trees both native and exotic that drop large quantities of fuel on theirs and my property.

1.2 Preparation and planning

All emergency agencies did well in prepping the town but were let down by many resident's lack of preparation.
Many residents seemed to care little about the consequences of their actions. It's all about their precious 'village atmosphere' to them.
Some residents claim they don't have the resources to manage their properties, however they seem to have the resources to renovate and travel overseas.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Emergency services performed well. Some residents were fantastic many others panicked and remain in denial to this day. General apathy and denial among many residents.

1.4 Any other matters

I do not wish to have extra rules and regulations applied but something needs to be done about the large trees that impinge on other's safety and quality of life.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [REDACTED].PNG
 - radiata pines.jpg
 - [REDACTED].jpg
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MY SON (L) & BROTHER (R) DEFENDING ABANDONED
HOUSE WITH DAMAGED GARDEN HOSES. BUNDANOON,
2300, 04/01/2020.

● ○ ○ SHOT ON UMIDIGI A5 Pro
WIDE ANGLE TRIPLE CAMERA

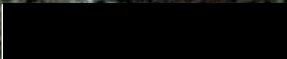
A photograph of two tall, mature Radiata pine trees standing side-by-side on a boundary. The trees have thick, textured trunks and dense, green foliage. The sky is a clear, bright blue. In the foreground, there are some green bushes and a white fence post. The text 'TWO 20 METRE OVERHANGING RADIATA PINES ON THE BOUNDARY' is overlaid in white in the upper right quadrant.

TWO 20 METRE
OVERHANGING RADIATA
PINES ON THE
BOUNDARY

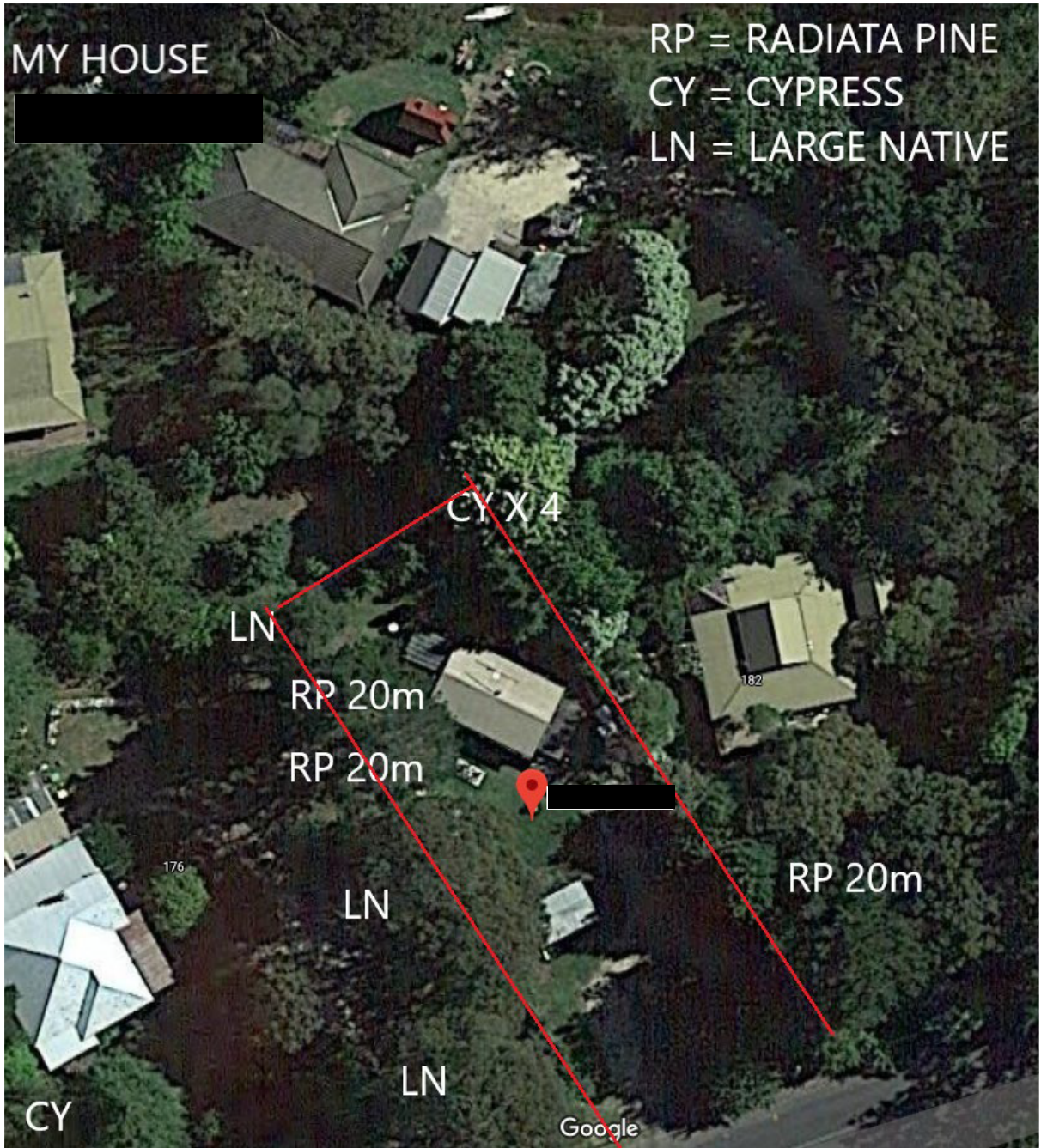


SHOT ON UMIDIGI A5 Pro
WIDE ANGLE TRIPLE CAMERA

MY HOUSE



RP = RADIATA PINE
CY = CYPRESS
LN = LARGE NATIVE



176

182

Google