

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Andrew

Last name

Butson

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

After learning of one of the fire fronts off the RFS scanner we went about our home to try and prepare it for the fire .We had our son who is 10 with us at the time and thankfully our daughter was in town at the time .From the time we heard where the fire was on the scanner to the time it spotted on the other side of the lake was less the 40 minutes. They had a chopper water bombing near us and we thought that's great then it disappeared.We had a fire plan to head to the lake but with fire ball and thick smoke every where my son and wife left in the car to try and head to town , they were in a line if traffic at the conjola turn off when she rang me to say they weren't moving and smoke was coming across them , they then turned around and went to head along the entrance road and the fire was already burning around homes they then went to go down havland street but it was already on fire , they then drove 7 terrifying kilometres down the entrance road which was already burning, my son was on the phone to me the whole time , they were screaming and in total darkness at some stages , it was only when they made it through I could go about trying to save my house. There was no water available and no communication , we were totally alone and had to fend for ourselves, the only water I had was from a blow up swimming pool my son got for Christmas, it

essentially saved our home , over the next 3 or so hours I bucketed water out of it and put out fires around my home and worked together with the few neighbors that remained, it got so bad I fled to the lake at one stage then went back to my home to keep fighting for it . Hearing and seeing all the houses going up around me is something I'll never forget. After a considerable amount of time I borrowed a boat to go to the entrance to find my family as there was no communication available , upon returning home it was like walking through a battle field...nobody knew what to do and that feeling stayed with us for days , the only thing that held everyone together was the small gathering of people that had stayed through out the ordeal, not one official person knocked on our door to see if we were ok or asked us our story ,we had no power or ways of letting family know we were ok , endeavour energy did a fantastic job considering the damage they had to deal with but other than those guys there was no one else on the ground. we still have our house but went through hell on the day to fight for it , there's a lot more to the story but that's pretty well what happened on the day, it doesn't hit you till months later trying to put it into words how terrifying the day was and that it it could have ended very badly for us not just loosing our home but not knowing the other fire fronts (off little forest) were upon us as well .

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

Dry hot winds along with drought conditions

The fuel load around national parks was enormous from lack of management during winter months

1.2 Preparation and planning

fuel reduction burning in the cooler months

1.3 Response to bushfires

There was no warning on txt or mobile app

The mobile app gave misinformation

No evacuation points

1.4 Any other matters

Better water resources for when the power is cut off

Emergency evacuation points

Appropriate emergency services after the fire came through

Supporting documents or images
