



Title	Australian Resident
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I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I/we, live in the NSW post code area of Batemans Bay NSW [REDACTED], in the Eurobodalla Shire. We were smoke affected since about October 2019. The Council and other state authorities were aware of the likely bush fire catastrophic problems then, (September October 2019). Hazard reduction controls is many parts of the shire not being done for many years, perhaps 25 or so. Of course fires won't burn with out fuel, that's very obvious, and they didn't. It was and is inexcusable that those who are employed to manage the public's assets sat back and watched the states forest and national parks to accumulate so much fire fuel over the last 25 or so years. But worse sat back and watched it burn out of control once it started, burning many out completely. Power was off in many places for weeks. Access to money was cut off, same with fuel communications and food. Many having no choice but to throw all food out. The shire had no diesel fuel to run emergency generators either for several days. The shire was on water</p>

restrictions as well telling people not to use the town water to fight the fires. One of the local Councillors from Narooma telling the community to use a bucket and cup put out embers. The smoke was that bad it was difficult to see. The whole thing was a catastrophic, disaster. Now power no messages food or fuel. A watch it burn scenario, not watch and act at all. Power poles burnt down all over the place while the fire fighters watched with no actions. It was was an inexcusable mess and still is. Our decision makers were useless. The

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The cause was very obvious fuel loads on forest and national parks floors were allowed to accumulate to dangerous levels. People being able to develop and live in areas where they shouldn't be. Many not cleaning up around their houses and properties. Highway and power corridors not very well maintained and needing to be made wider with more regular maintenance. Blocking logging tracks and fire trails shouldn't be occurring ever. That wasn't very clever.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Built areas need to include better and more significant asset protection zones more underground power supplies are required. Annual inspections of at risk to fire areas needs to occur along with the necessary clean ups. Better fuel supplies or access to fuel in the case of emergency's is required. Local councils could be required to have supplies .

1.3 Response to bushfires

The whole catastrophic disaster was very poorly handled by the authorities involved. If attitudes of our decision makers and their advisers don't change it'll occur again in a few years. Fire wood should be allowed to be collected to assist with forest floor etc. clean ups and maintenance.

1.4 Any other matters

The experts or expert advisers are those who were involved on the ground with the fires and previous ones. The state fire centre and the fire commissioner advice was useless.

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