



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Bill

Last name

Martin

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

We were one of the lucky residents of the affected area as our town was not impacted by the fires, however the fires came close enough that we were ready to fight any ember attack or to evacuate if that became the best option. Dalmeny was lucky in that the winds during the worst times were favourable to us and were blowing towards the fire from our section. Any time this happened I was acutely aware that it meant that our good fortune meant that someones else somewhere would be on the receiving end.

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

I appreciate that we had an incredibly dry year prior to the fires and this, together with the weather conditions at the time, contributed to the conditions being right for a major conflagration either from natural ignition sources or from human activities. My biggest disappointment is that the government wilfully ignored advice from fire experts and buried their heads in the sand in the hope it would not happen. I also think it is criminally negligent to ignore the scientific advice regarding the impacts of climate change. I was an Environmental Management student in the 1970's and this was a topic we were discussing then and for governments of any persuasion to say (1) it was not expected and (2) It is not human activity driven shows how shuttered the minds of the people who are supposedly acting for the benefit of ALL Australians. It showed the governments attitude to climate change when they continually refused to acknowledge the fire was linked to the impacts climate change was and is having on the environment.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The 2019/20 fires are a wake up call to the politicians that more and urgent action is needed to prepare for the next time such a season presents itself. Unfortunately inaction on climate over decades has led us to this point and has ensured that the Australian public will have to accept that summers of choking smoke, property loss and unfortunately deaths will become the norm.

1.4 Any other matters

I felt that the regular and consistent messages given by Shane Fitzsimmons, the then Commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, was one of the guiding lights throughout the fire season. They will need another person of the same calibre for the seasons to come.

Supporting documents or images
