



Your details

Ms

Title

First name

Catherine

Last name

Eggert

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A primary producer

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 not burnt out, so we're ok, right? Not really. We remain in grief over the deaths of friends, one by fire and several post-fire. Many of our friends lost their homes, their livelihoods and their health. Keeping our animals and ourselves alive through the drought was difficult and the work and attention required with the constant threat of fire was exhausting. There was no option to stay indoors with the air con, we had to just keep working outdoors in dense smoke. Our health has been impacted. Seeing the destruction of enormous areas of irreplaceable habitat whilst knowing we have wasted decades in addressing climate change confers an overwhelming and very deep sense of grief.

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

Prolonged drought exacerbated by our changed climate, as has been long predicted for the mid north coast, was a major contributor. Look up the work of Mark Howden, for example. The mismanagement of native forests contributed to altered hydrology, exacerbating drought. The prevalence now of young, poorly managed forests contributed to overall forest flammability.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The great Australian inferno was a predicted climate change impact. We have known this was coming for decades now. The FFDI was ridiculously high, but it seems not many people were aware of it. Maybe there's a role for government to keep the population honestly informed of the known long term as well as immediate impacts of climate change. Governments at all levels have failed us by taking too little action to address the causes of climate change. We are woefully unprepared and uninformed.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Our firefighters and community volunteers were superhuman in response to these fires. From November 8, it became quite clear that a natural disaster declaration was in order. It was at that time that we needed to immediately call in the defence forces. A lot of the destruction could have been prevented if we'd acted sooner.

Supporting documents or images
