



| | |
|---|---|
| Title | MR |
| First name | Colin |
| Last name | Cheetham |
| | |
| 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 was impacted by the bush fire on 31/12/2019, I live on a 25 acre rural property with approximately 4 acres cleared. I implemented my bush fire survival plan and chose to stay and fight the fire, with no assistance from any authorities. While I was able to save my house and our lives, I lost a shed, 6 orchard cages and irrigation systems (not for commercial use), gardens and landscaping and over 500 metres of fencing.</p> <p>I had no power supply for 12 days, no drinking water (in tanks) for 30 days and were blocked in for 5 days without access to fuel (for generators) or food supplies.</p> <p>I have been given incorrect advise from the Disaster Recovery Centre, had no communications at crucial times, suffered protracted and ongoing hassles with Insurance assessors, been given incorrect assurances from Services NSW and local Council and had my application for clean-up assistance from Laing O'Rourke rejected. I have contacted both State and Federal</p> |

Politicians and had no reply to my request for help. I recently gave evidence at the National Natural Disaster Royal Commission hearing in Ulladulla and we like to follow up with a submission to your enquiry.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1.1 Causes and contributing factors | Prolonged periods of drought, and back burns gone wrong. |
| 1.2 Preparation and planning | Wooden Power Poles in bush fire prone areas, the use of aircraft that can't fly in smoke zones, one way in one way out access roads to coastal villages, the Fires Near Me App was too general to be useful, poorly worded warning advise by authorities and no follow up to check on people or properties after the event. |
| 1.3 Response to bushfires | Safety Zones in Coastal villages, more appropriate early warning to holiday makers, the need for local advisers to help "out of town" Police and traffic controllers . Closer scrutiny of charities and donated funds. |
| 1.4 Any other matters | Grandstanding announcements by authorities that are not followed up "on the ground". RECOVERY, you can't recover from a disaster like this without closure, and closure only occurs when the clean-up is complete and your home is cleared of debris and you can start to move on. |
| Upload files | 20191231-141240.jpg - Download File IMG-20200101-WA0002.jpg - Download File |



