

Your details

Title

Mrs

First name

LYNDALL

Last name

Browne

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A primary producer

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Organisation making the submission (if applicable)

CONJOLA STATION PTY. LTD.

Your position in the organisation (if applicable)

CONJOLA STATION PTY. LTD.

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 own approx. 140arce of farming/bush land boundaries being Conjola Creek south and Deodar Rd Conjola to the west and [REDACTED] to the North.

Fires started mid Dec in the western ranges, the northern slopes of Tianjarra which joined the Currawan fire in the south

We monitored it for weeks from the west and south

28th Dec 2019 RFS and NPWS backburnt along the powerline containment line with Bulldozers and backburning.

31st Dec 2019 weather conditions became catastrophic and turn the fire direct east towards Fishermans Paradise and Lake Conjola

We own [REDACTED] [REDACTED] holiday park in Lake Conjola, we left that property at 10.30am leaving our other business partner there to defend the property. By the time we got to the highway it could be seen that it was a raging monster heading toward us and the Lake. By the time we got to the Fisherman Paradise turnoff we could see the Lake Conjola Entrance Road was well alight

We banded together with 22 other homeowners within our area consisting of Martins Ridge Road, Murrays Road and Properties on the Eastern side of the Highway south of Bendalong Road.

With Utes and bulky bins containing our own tank waters we supplied most of the men with UHF radio we tried and managed to defend our properties, Unfortunately we lost 1 home on the eastern side of the highway.

We continued to fight the fire for another horrendous week until another firestorm came on the 5th January 2020 which we lost livestock and water/feed and fencing but we have our lives. Which is such a cliché.

31st Dec 2019 we unfortunately lost our home/business and office at [REDACTED] holiday lifestyle ready to open for our 1st holiday season 1st Jan 2020.

It has been noted by authorities including Gladys Berejiklian, Patricia White and Shane Fitzsimons that our under scrubbing and maintaining the majority of the heavy tree'd canopy we have saved the rest of Lake Conjola including Ingenia Community/ Big 4 caravan, causing the fire to head southeast of the Lake Conjola tip and toward Paddimores lagoon.

Unfortunately with the recent clearing we had large mulch piles that we used to establish our newly landscaped garden

We can supply footage of the tree canopy reduction and clearing helped that out the intensity of the fire.

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

- * RFS have tried to do planned back burning on ours and surround properties for over 5 years only to be held up by continuing red tape.
- * Forestry and NPWS not enough continual maintaining around residential satellite communities
- * Lack of maintenance of forestry and NPWS road systems for Fire access

1.2 Preparation and planning

Coastal towns do not have a secondary evacuation road (doesn't need to be a super highway) just a maintained rural road.

Use local knowledgeable police to be assigned within the areas.

Better communication services

Lake Conjola Bowling club needs to be better prepared for larger evacuation area. the bushland behind the club can be utilised for this purpose and maintained incorporating Paddimores Lagoon.

A walking/cycle way to link up Narrawallee area with and usable access for evacuation

1.3 Response to bushfires

RFS is NOT to be blamed as they are limited by the man power and people on the ground.

- a) many volunteers are elderly or retirees (due to more time to dedicate to the service)
- b) most small communities station are short of members
- c) RFS red tape from head office do not listen or trust the local knowledge of their rural captains whom have been in their area for many years.
- d) not listening to the indigenous community for how to managed bush reduction
- e) under a section 44 fire any person who has the capacity to assist RFS either via a 1 tonne bulky bin on a ute or large privately owned water tanker, should be given some form of allowance to be used via vehicle registration, and names person within the area, that could quickly add to a electronic area mapping command
- f) private landholders or persons assisting to be allowed access to water mains for fire fighting purposes

g)

1.4 Any other matters

Lack of support for primary producers.

Jumping thru hoops to get assistance.

Reporting to the disaster relief to be better managed for registration. EG: link up to your Medicare No. to all agency so less trauma is caused due by repeating your situation. Hardest part reporting that you are alive. This is not great for all mental health.

NSW services were given brand new printed shirt at the disaster relief centres costing \$\$\$\$

Maybe a lanyard with your information via a barcode given to each person would have been better money spent.

Fair Payment to the RSF volunteers NOT RED TAPE PAPERWORK, Our son worked all his xmas holidays with RFS but was unable to received the rfs benefit because he was paid holiday pay from his employee. But he was absolutely traumatised, as a 21 year old he endured death, fear, abuse but never gave up working as a RFS volunteer.

Hope our information helps the inquiry

Supporting documents or images
