

## Your details

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**Title**

Mr

**First name**

Darryl

**Last name**

Drake

## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

A member of the general public

**Submission type**

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

**Consent to make submission public**

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

Although my main home is in Epping which is unlikely to be involved by major bushfires I also own a holiday house North Arm Cove which is in a bushfire prone area with only one road in or out. Consequently my wife and myself have had to plan what we should do if a bushfire occurred in the area whilst we were there. I am a now retired Engineer and have been involved in planning, design and construction of some quite large projects as well as for many years being a member of several Standards Australia Sub Committee's.

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

## 1.2 Preparation and planning

It seems evident that it is not possible to predict how severe a bushfire might become in particular locations and that rural residents have to sometimes make a choice between (a) "leaving early" or (b) "staying and fighting". From the point of view of personal safety option (a) is currently obviously the safest, however in regard to minimising the loss of houses and livestock etc option (b) has proved much better than (a).

The severity and frequency of bushfires in Australia seems to be increasing and if no way is found to reverse this trend it would seem that we have to either abandon much of rural Australia as far as residences is concerned or find a way of making it safer to choose option (b), ie "to stay and fight the fire".

It seems to me as an older person who was growing up during WW2 that there are similarities to this bushfire situation and what was happening in the UK to millions of people during that war. Even though these people were subject to relentless bombing nearly every night they did not abandon their homes but in effect they "stayed and fought". This was largely made possible by the British Government who provided more than 2 million hundreds relatively cheap but quite effective mass produced air-raid shelters. These were usually called Anderson shelters and consisted of some curved sheets of corrugated steel forming the walls and roof of the shelter which was partly buried in the ground with an external covering of earth.

I believe that a somewhat similar bushfire shelter system should be developed by the CSIRO and Standards Australia before the next bush fire season if at all possible. If those thousands of bush fire vulnerable rural properties in Australia had such a bushfire shelter (ie "fireproof bunker") suitably located near their house to which people who choose to "stay and fight" could safely retreat to if the "worst came to the worst" it might save many lives whilst significantly reducing the numbers of properties destroyed.

It would seem to be a good opportunity during this current corona virus induced economic crisis for State and National Governments to provide much of the funds for these bushfire bunkers as one of their economic stimulus measures.

## Supporting documents or images

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