



Title	mr
First name	David
Last name	EDEN
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>Our 66 ha farming property was burnt out (except for the house, sheds , garden and orchard) on 2019 December 6.</p> <p>We were insured, prepared but devastated by the fire and the damage done to the natural environment surrounding where we live. We had time to water our gardens and the house surroundings for two weeks before the fire before we decided to conserve our stored water in our largest dam. We also had time to observe the native wildlife using our garden as a refuge for the two weeks before the fire hit. We observed wildlife fleeing the flames and after the fire we saw injured and returning wildlife coming back to take advantage of our garden sanctuary.</p> <p>Months since we were burnt out, we have seen much less wildlife. We have seen dead animals which did not survive their fire injuries.</p>

We felt terrorised by the 50 dumped cars on the property next door (used as a tip) exploding and burning when the fire ripped through their 40 ha property.

Wollondilly Shire Council was very helpful with removing damaged fencing, a burnt power supply to a pump and burnt farm supplies. That help has encouraged us to struggle on. Our community and family has been a great help too.

Our preparation consisted of having an adequate water supply, both dam fed and fed by water tanks full of rainwater which we use for drinking. We use waste water discharge from our aerated waste water treatment system to wet the garden to the west of the house. We have drinking water sprinklers on the roofs of the house, garage two sheds and chook cages.

Our house is built to BAL 19 standards, is passive solar and thermally insulated so it is a pleasant place to live and comfortable. To be independent of the electricity grid, we have 7.65 kW Peak solar power generation and a 13.5 kW hour battery. The battery which is integrated with the solar photovoltaic panels served us well during the four day blackout when the grid was being repaired after the fire. The NRMA insurance paid for our fencing repair four days after we submitted our claim. We felt good that we were able to lend our petrol 6 kW generator to neighbours who weren't as well prepared as we happened to be this time.

We attribute our survival to to some extent to the way we have tried to make living where we do as sustainable as possible. The fact that all the fire services contributed significantly was also an extremely important factor. We want to acknowledge and thank them profoundly.

We really want lessons to be learnt from this bad experience. We must acknowledge Climate Change and do something better about surviving Climate Change.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

I attribute the cause of the fire to the increased temperatures caused by climate change and the greater weather variability also caused by climate change. I think all three levels of government could have done more to tackle climate change earlier and more aggressively. Such action would have mitigated the worst effects of the current fire season.

1.2 Preparation and planning

I attribute the cause of the fire to the increased temperatures caused by climate change and the greater weather variability also caused by climate change. I think all three levels of government could have done more to tackle climate change earlier and more aggressively. Such action would have mitigated the worst effects of the current fire season.
See "your story" above.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The most important bad news is that our response to this bushfire failed. If instead of trying to put the fire out when it reached our place, the effort had been to put the fire out in Green Wattle Creek within a day of its ignition, much less damage would have occurred. The remote access fire fighting team fighting the fire at Yerranderie had to be airlifted out because of injury.

My suggestion is that we replace half the firefighting appliances with remote access teams and helicopters in order to increase the chance of putting out fires within a day of their ignition. Such a reallocation of resources will be difficult but the "business

as usual" alternative, we now know, does not work - it is unacceptable.

1.4 Any other matters

The most important "other matter" is how New South Wales should respond to the fires next time.

We must take advice from ecologists and researchers who can advise on the basis of knowledge rather than economics and political expediency.

Upload files
