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| Title | Mr |
| First name | David |
| Last name | Post |
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| 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 live in Moruya. Our area has had plenty of scheduled burning. No one could say it was not. How can you burn everthing every year? You can not and living in the bush comes with the danger. We were lucky our shop in Mogo and our house in Moruya were saved.</p> <p>I met the Premier in Mogo the day after with Andrew Constance. She was visibly upset and overwhelmed by what she saw. There is no words I can say to describe the eerie feeling of timelessness; no power, roads locked down, the fire threat looming as you pray it would end.</p> <p>But almost everyday more stories of loss, for every turn favorable, a turn worse for somebody else. People on holiday with nothing and other people who lost everything.</p> <p>We think we are invincible with our technology, our phones, our big homes. Simply turn off the power and poof you are left to survive. Community saves lives: together we stand a chance.</p> |

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Terms and references are the popular tool to avoid things that matter in Government inquiries.

All I want to say is take soil samples from any remnant forest in the Moruya area and test for chemicals left in the leaves and soil from Cloud seeding. These will include aluminium, barium, and strontium. There could be other chemicals as well, that contributed to the fire intensity left from atmospheric weather modification programs operating over Australian skies for the last ten years.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Give back control burning to local authorities. They have better knowledge of fire hazard conditions.

Local Councils were overwhelmed, even in larger towns.

Thousands of people stranded on beaches as a last resort.

Evacuation centres need to be better prepared for Flood, Fire and rising sea level storm surge and wave height events, ie: (Tsunami's). This help could simply be water, blankets, food packs. Once the power goes off there are no more supermarkets. If this means the Army has to be brought in then do it early. Other countries do this to help in emergency events.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Do not throw the baby out with the bath water. Initially in our area, the fire danger was unforeseen as the effect of chemical properties of cloud seeding caused never before seen temperatures and speed of fire travel. In our area a later fire covered thirty kilometres in two hours down a river valley. The RFS had good coverage in all media's internet, phone, radio and personal visits. The biggest trouble was people's response to saving they're homes. Some saved homes, some died, some left at the last second thinking they could save a home. I suggest having a minimum standard of Training, equipment, access to water, and a safe place to shelter. Before giving people the decision to stay and fight, have an audit system of the physical surroundings. RFS fought brilliantly to keep casualties and loss to a minimum. Some lost their lives doing so, they train year around,

what about a shorter less frequent training with videos showing what it is really like to defend. I bet most would decide to leave early.

1.4 Any other matters

I am amazed at the community level response. This kind of response should be highly praised and promoted. We have a safe house program for child safety. People are very generous and if we initiated a natural disaster Safe House program the load of accommodation and material needs may be shared by communities assisting all level of government support.

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