



Title	Mrs
First name	Esther
Last name	Perry
I am making this submission as	General public
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	I live in North Richmond and had many friends and relatives in the areas that could have been and were affected by the bushfires. Due to the nature of the threat, I welcomed friends who lived in Bowen Mountain to live with us for 2 1/2 weeks to lesson anxiety.
1.1 Causes and contributing factors	
1.2 Preparation and planning	There needs to be more than one access route on and off Bowen Mountain. During the time the residents in this area were asked to officially evacuate, the only route available to leave the area had a car accident on it and was blocked for a period of time.
1.3 Response to bushfires	

1.4 Any other matters

I think the Fires Near Me app is ingenious. This really helped people to have direct and immediate information of what was happening. Helpful improvements would be to shade the back burns different to wildfire and to have burn lines shaded red where active fire was as compared to burnt areas from previous days.

While I appreciate the mammoth task of all the agencies involved and the unprecedented nature of the fires across the country there were two other main issues I would like to raise.

1. The lack of Emergency Evacuation Centres in the Hawkesbury. People were being asked to evacuate with nowhere specifically listed to go. This is an unfair burden on an already traumatised community.

2. When people were directed to the Fires Near Me app, a link at the bottom of the Gosper's Mountain Fire information directed people to the OEM Disaster Recovery information. Although it claimed to have Community Meeting information on it, when I enquired (through the website) about the ones in my area (as I knew there were some) I was told that all of the community meetings weren't listed as they couldn't keep up with the number of them. I was told in an email that I should go to my local council for information instead. These meetings should have been listed on the central information page of OEM and if not then at the very least, information/direction on the OEM website to the relevant Councils hosting the community meetings should have been listed. A person going to the OEM site as directed by the Fires Near Me app would have left the website none the wiser about assistance available in their own area.

Upload files
