



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Fiona

Last name

Franklin

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

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

On 31st December 2019 we lost our home to the bushfires. In the morning we were keeping a close eye on app an everything going on around us. We had our phones close by waiting to see if we had to evacuate what never got a text. We also don't have a land line. In the end we ended up seeing flames from our window in our next block of land beside us. So then we knew it was time to go. Firstly we went to the beach but unfortunately the driveway was blocked to the car park even though there were plenty of car spaces. So moved to Corrigan's Park and that didn't look safe either mind you i can hardly see in front of me while driving but had to find somewhere safe for the kids. Then headed to the evacuation centre where it was checker block full. Whilst there i got a text saying it is too late to leave. Where was the text that we said we had to leave! We were also just told that lives have been lost. I managed to register with them then was told we can go to Catalina Golf Club which we did. Fortunately it wasn't so crowded. I was trying to stay calm especially for the kids. I have 5

kids 2 who have got autism. They were stressed out and worried to. Whilst there the club got surrounded by fire and we were trapped. We didn't know what to do all we could do was huddle and wait even though we were told we had to evacuate but where to so we just had to wait. Eventually it settled and was ok. Not long after my husband walked in and told me our home was gone.

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

What i fear part of the cause was the factor that we had logging in our are which contributed to a lot of the carnage. They never picked up all the debris that they left behind. Also our block next door wasn't cleared even though we complained to the council a couple of months before hand. Also not far was a carpenter whose house and outside was full of wood and the fires only concentrated on that house.

1.2 Preparation and planning

There wasn't much planning and preparation in our area at all. We planned and made sure we got some valuables out but not a lot. Made sure our property was prepared or tried to anyway.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Response to bushfires was non existent. I never saw 1 fire engine at our home no one told us what to do or where to go not even the app. When we did move to Catalina fire engines were just going up one end and then down the other none that we saw were actually doing anything. The army ended up coming finally and set everything up but there was no point the emergency part was over it would have been better if they were brought in a lot sooner than they were.

1.4 Any other matters

We were scared, petrified and absolutely refined no one knew what to do. When it came to night time we ended up on a cold hard floor no blankets mattresses anything. It was freezing cold and the night moved so slow. No one had a clue what to do.. The response after the bushfires have been shocking. One example was public works came in and destroyed any hope of finding anything in the property that could have been salvaged from the fires. You had to fight for getting anything eg grants and that didn't know what was available to us. Also the people helping eg Red Cross should be more caring especially 1 as she abused me for taking something that i was entitled to. There should be more compassion.

Supporting documents or images
