



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Greg

Last name

Franklin

Submission details

I am making this submission as

Emergency services personnel

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

We lost our home To bushfires on 31/12/2019. It was the only home in our residential street destroyed. The loss was totally preventable if all levels of Government had ensured bushfire hazard management was enforced both at aGovernment and private level. Fire crews were obviously stretched on the day, and it was apparent that there was little do ordination. It is nothing short of a miracle that lives were not lost. I have since been told that services near my home were tied up battling the fire in a home full of rubbish. The vacant land next to my home had not been cleared of debris despite repeated request to council. I told my wife and children to leave at 6am that morning, as it was obvious that the fuel load that had been allowed to build up in the region was far too high. Everyone here knew that once the fire jumped the Clyde there was no stopping it. This occurred, and it is mine, and so many others opinion that if local advice had been listened to we would have been OK. Submissions will never catch the full breadth of failure by Government. Nor will the few

community meetings. Every person who has taken the time to respond to this enquire must be interviewed if we are to stop this in the future. After the fire destroyed my home I went, and still am, going through a totally lack of co ordinated recovery. The day after I lost my home I contacted a NSW Mental Health Commissioner and literally had to plead with him to send Mental Health services to the Evacuation centre. It was not seen as necessary. Those who were sent were totally inadequate, and even abusive to victims. I also contacted CEO of headspace, whom I know, and went to battle with him to have them brought in early. Mental a Health has, and still is not being addressed appropriately. Having a disability, and 3 other family members with disabilities also highlighted the total lack of understanding then and now of the dire situation we were and still are in. I have met with various politicians, been in media, made many promises from the Politicians only to see every one broken. I have met with the heads of the Charities, who are being scape goatee by the Government. Yes, they could do more, but have done so much more than the Three levels of Governments. Insurance Companies are making things difficult, with many people still not receiving payments. If anything is to come out of this the real experts, those of us involved need to be brought in, not the self appointed, and not those who are gaining public acclaim with pseudo good works.

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

So many causes and contributing factors. Inadequate actions by three levels of Government are number 1. Local council has not assisted residents with having obvious fuel loads reduced. State Government has not ensured fuel loads have been removed following logging in Sate Forests. Federal Government like wise has not ensured the same on Crown lands. The reliance on burning fuel loads sling the winter months has to stop and be supplemented with mechanical clearing over the whole year. Again, local knowledge is required, not the advice of self appointed experts sitting in armchairs in plush offices.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Preparation and planning needs to be local. Independent local teams, funded by the three levels of government. This autonomous local body can then ensure that building standards, land use, urban planning, and so on is done in a proper manner that suits the local environment and community. The current arrangement is not working, and will. It as there are too many shuffling paper rather than actually having plans that will actually work

1.3 Response to bushfires

The response to fires should again be at a local level, via the same independent body responsible for planning. Local knowledge was not used in these fires, and we are now living with the consequences.

1.4 Any other matters

These disasters were avoidable, and can be mitigated in the future if political interests are eliminated by the establishment of local independent authorities overseeing disaster preparation, response, and recovery. Too many have and continue to suffer as a result of the current system that has resulted in the disaster we have now

Supporting documents or images