



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Jenelle

Last name

Gorsch

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

Six weeks of waiting for bushfires to arrive. First fire 2km from home 30-12-19, [REDACTED] Road, second fire Border Fire six weeks travelling towards Wyndham, Third fire Big Jack Mountain Fire travelled to Mount Darragh and then down towards Wyndham on 01-02-20. Friends and locals not so fortunate. Lost houses and property.

In a lot of aspects, community awareness of approaching fires was good. Radio and phone messages to evacuate. However once the fires approached, very poor information regarding actual location of fire fronts. Locals actually provided the best information on a Facebook page. Not RFS and especially not the fires near me webpage. Which was ridiculously slow to update.

The RFS did their best and they did save a lot of homes and lives. However, I noticed here at Wyndham that the controllers were not actually on the ground. Some were at Moruya. As a

result there were times when direction was lacking for the RFS. Confusion and poor coordination was the result. Other interstate personnel needed a regional brigade member with them at all times, instead they were alone when the back burn went out of control on the 04-02-20 on Myrtle Mountain (Fire Two). They did not know the local terrain.

Where were the regional leaders of the RFS. The Queensland brigades did their best but?? Very stressful without leadership and direction and it could have ended very badly. A preparation suggestion for future fires will be listed below.

thank you for your time.

Mrs Jenelle Gorsch

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

Lack of low impact burns in National Parks and Forestry. Every year it should be divided into sections and certain amount needs burning. Other wise we see the result. Black Summer.

1.2 Preparation and planning

A preparation suggestion is to clear along the roads, each side of the road for at least 20 Metres. Road examples locally, Big Jack Mountain Road, Mount Darragh Road, Myrtle Mountain Road, Tantawanglo Mountain Road, Princes Highway. These are in the Bega Valley.

But this principle could be applied every where. 20 Metres or a safe distance that if one tree falls it does not reach the far side of the road. Expensive yes. Worth while yes. Better areas for RFS to work from. Contractors could be employed and funding would need to come from State and Federal Governments. Work for some unemployed folk. A win win situation. Effectively this would make areas into grids. Please make this work.

The experiences of this summer will stay seared into our memories. The smoke, the daytime blackness and the fear. My parents are in their 80's and they have never experience anything that compares to this summer. Is global climate change happening, the droughts, the heat I sincerely believe that it's here. What do you think?

1.3 Response to bushfires

After a short time period, when the fires were getting worse, the government should have pulled more resources to help the RFS. Such as Army troops and equipment, not just the army reserve. The navy did a good job with chopper support and evacuation.

1.4 Any other matters

Better communication of fire front locations, not always possible, however it could be improved.

Supporting documents or images
