

## Your details

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**Title**

Mr

**First name**

John

**Last name**

Bevege

## Submission details

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**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

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**Your story**

We sold our business in 2016, retired to the Batemans Bay region and had enjoyed our retirement here until we were ravaged by bush-fires on 31 December last and have been traumatised and demoralised since the fire and have been left very angry. This has led me to undertake a campaign to ensure that this event is never allowed to happen to the residents of New South Wales or Australia ever again.

Decisions made by all Government bodies, past and present have resulted in death and destruction like never seen before in Australia's history and it has happened many times before but not to this current extent. It is an unfortunate situation that no Government body can make a decision for the future but wait until there is a catastrophe, discuss the position, take no action and then discuss the position yet again when it happens again.

The sheer magnitude of the resources that have had to be brought into play has cost this nation not only financially a figure that would be impossible to determine but also the mental anguish that has been put upon the nation and

more so, those unfortunate families directly affected in the actual fire zones.

The time has come for the people of Australia to stand up against the Governing bodies and direct Government bodies, both Federal, State and Local to implement changes that will ensure this current fire situation can never be repeated.

For a start, the following must be implemented, with no committees formed to discuss the issues and no greens involved.

1. A minimum of a 100 metre buffer zone on both left and right of all roads in forested areas.
2. All electricity must be underground in forested areas.
3. Mobile communication towers on standby for emergency situations.
4. No forestation within one (1) kilometre of any residential zone.
5. Controlled annual back burning implemented for hazard reduction.

This is a small sample of what needs to be done, but the above changes must be implemented forthwith so that our future population is not subjected to the poor decisions from regulations of the past.

If the measures are not taken, every Politician should be charged with dereliction of duties and charged with Attempted Manslaughter.

I was one of the unfortunate Australians that have endured this latest bush-fire at close quarters and had several of my neighbours and friends lose everything, all because of poor management by those elected to govern this beautiful country. We were without power from 31/12/2019 until 18/01/2020, had no water for two (2) days, cold showers, and with limited access to food and necessities for several days. For the exception of Andrew Constance, I believe there was no other Politician and their families that had to endure what so many other Australians have had to endure.

It is time to act now, not talk about what has happened, you must ensure this never happens again.

I have listened to the constant drivel by government employees on and in the media about the situation, but there is no mention of the death and destruction that has resulted by decisions made by Government departments now and in the past.

How many Royal Commissions/Government enquires have been held since 1939 on bush-fires?  
I have been led to believe around 50.

How many recommendations were made in those enquires and how many were implemented? Very few no doubt. How many lives have been lost and assets destroyed by this in-action? Every Politician and Government employee who were part of this in-action should hang their heads in shame as they have blood on their hands.

If this Government is serious about getting our economy going once we are through this current pandemic, what a wonderful opportunity to implement the changes that I have presented above.

## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

## **Supporting documents or images**

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