

## Your details

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**Title**

Mrs

**First name**

Judith

**Last name**

Winter

## 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**

I live in an area that was impacted by fire on the 4/1/2020 I am also a member of the rfs. Fire entered our community of 49 structures at 1.50 pm and myself and my husband and 2 sons all rfs members including the positions of senior deputy, area deputy, equipment officer all from Rocky Plain brigade watched as the fire came over a nearby hill as expected. We called for additional resources as the approaching fire was a spot over from the doubtful gap/ Dunn's road fire. Our captain declared us undefendable as the fire approached our village a decision that he had made four days before the fire entering the village. In the lead up to this fire State mitigation crews had done extensive hazard reduction works in our area to make our community defendable. National parks who's land borders our village have also run a program of mosaic burning for many years to mitigate the risk to our village. This work greatly contributed to the successful defence of our community by myself my husband and eventually 3

sons ( 3rd son is a raft team member) defending the area from numerous spot fires all which were very defensible thanks to the previous work of both rfs mitigation crews and NPWS. Unfortunately our own RFS crews did not attend during the most critical 5 hours where our family managed to hold the fires from spreading. Had this defence not been achieved I hate to imagine the fire storm that would have engulfed the areas outside our village. The question I ask of this inquiry is was the response to this event adequate of rural fire service as it would appear from areas lost elsewhere NOT controlling fire where we can is detrimental to the adjoining areas. Fortunately we had one family well trained well prepared and well organised who stopped the spread of catastrophic fire to other areas. I also ask the question of rfs response in declaring an area undefensible after the same organisation spending considerable funds to declare the area defensible. At no time during the fire did we feel a threat to our life and I must stress we did not stay and defend to save our property but were very well aware of what the loss of this village would have caused in damage to areas surrounding us. This is the lesson that I feel rfs needs to learn, if you don't put out the fire you where manageable you risk life and property something as rfs members we are meant to uphold.

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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

### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Management of events and RFS response

### 1.2 Preparation and planning

NPWS had provided many years of mitigation and hazard reduction planning in our area prior to this event

### 1.3 Response to bushfires

There was a distinct lack of response to our incident by our local captain due to previous misconceptions to our risk

### 1.4 Any other matters

I would seriously question the qualifications of the rfs members making the decision to declare our community undefensible given the amount of state government money spent on this community to make it defensible which was proven on the 4th January when the village where 49 structures were saved and the surrounding area spared from a catastrophic situation. Thank you NPWS and state mitigation for your support.

## Supporting documents or images

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### Attach files

- 37576C5D-56BF-41D9-9033-96DA981C6F0F.jpeg
- B0393588-9916-4C66-8A78-9C31961E23BC.jpeg
- DAB0C75B-01F5-4DC4-B165-3ACD67100F0D.jpeg





