



Your details

Miss

Title

First name

Kara

Last name

Woodward

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

Hello there I'm a survivor of the Canberra fires in 2003 at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. I was trapped whilst fire raged in the visitor centre

I moved to the Mid North coast in 2010 and felt safe until drought hit us hard. Living in the village of Elands meant I am part of a small and special community.

There were intermittent logging trucks encountered on a road that is deemed too small for many other large vehicles. Frequently they drive dangerously and I have been run off the road by them.

Fire was burning in Tapin tops National park in 2019 for quite some time, in the forestry region where logging was taking place.

In the recent fires of 2019, on the Friday the 8th of November I think it was I drove home from Taree and was prevented travelling through Bobin as the fire was jumping the road.

I managed to get home after going through Killabakh and coming along Colling Rd. That night I didn't sleep a wink with my heart beating hard all night.

The next day a group of us left to go to a safer property, taking my dog, cat and some chickens and a car packed to the hilt with my gear.

We stayed at this location two nights until we were told to evacuate to Taree.

I had let my chickens and ducks into my house yard, filled extra water into containers for my two cows.

I was away for about 2 weeks and luckily was able to get some very brave souls to feed my animals after a few days. During this time I lost about 5 kg due to stress and worry about my animals I had left behind.

I returned to my property and had to deal with a disgusting mess in my freezer, fridge. Cows just out of water and dying plants.

I had no income during this time and was lucky to stay with a lovely couple I garden for. I did my job for free as a thank you.

After the danger had more or less passed I went to help a friend who had broken down near Tapin Tops and I drove past the Rumba Dump trail, what I saw is burnt forever in my memory. Piles of burnt wood still smoking, trees having been logged and the mess less behind what I was looking at horrified me. (See attached pictures)

Now more logging is happening in areas of significant animal habitat like the Greater Glider and Koalas.

I worked with native, exotic and domestic animals for over 15 years so I feel very connected to where I live and fed a lot of wallabies and birds after the fires on my property.

Thank you

Kara Woodward

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

As written in my submission I feel the Rumba Dump fire led to Bind downfall.

I also feel overlogging and land clearing in general have added to bushfire risk as we had far less rain.

Water from Great Artesian Basin being over used by greedy companies and the Government allowing this is just unforgivable

1.2 Preparation and planning

Bobin certainly did not have the needed resources. Luckily Elands did.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The fact the fire wAd burning for so long in the Rumba Dump area is of concern. The fact it blazed through Bobin is horrific.

1.4 Any other matters

The attached pictures are after the fires around late Jan i think and are in the Rumba Dump area of Tapin Tops or Dingo Tops.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- IMG_20200130_180023.jpg

