



Title	Mr
First name	Kenneth
Last name	Masters
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>The Badja fire that destroyed Cobargo hit my property 3 hours before. We lost about \$150K worth of property and livestock but we saved our house and came away with our lives and no physical injuries.</p> <p>I want to add to this enquiry because I believe changes need to be made to the Fires Near Me app.</p> <p>All agencies were referring to the Fires Near Me App and the ABC was reporting fire activity and recommended action verbatim from what was being displayed on the app. As the fire approached our property we relied heavily on the app. But the app was wrong, one day it said the fire was 30kms away and the next it was 12kms and the next it was 25kms away. The diamond was moving all over the place. In the end we began looking at the Bureau of Meteorology radar as it showed the smoke, what direction it was blowing and how thick it was. The Fires Near Me</p>

app was completely wrong. It was dangerous because we were unsure how fast the fire was coming, how much time we had to get out. When I questioned the RFS about the accuracy of the app they said that it was at least 6 hours behind. I asked them why they didn't know where the fire was and why they didn't use thermal imaging to accurately display the fire. They said they didn't have the thermal imaging technology. Really..? Why not !!!!!

The day the fire came through I spoke with the RFS and they said "don't worry the fire won't be here until sometime tomorrow. Go to bed and get some rest." WE left at midnight because we could see how big the fire was as it came out of the Wadbilliga National Park. The fire devastated Yowrie at 3:30am and caught everyone sleeping by surprise including the RFS. No trucks protected Yowrie.

I want the Fires Near Me app to be 100% accurate. If we are all told to refer to it it has to be bullet proof. Get thermal imaging in place and feed the data directly in real time to Fires Near Me. This needs to happen now.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors	No back burning = Big fire - now there are no animals or trees, there is complete devastation.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Fix fires Near Me - it needs real time thermal imaging from satellite.
1.3 Response to bushfires	Still working through it
1.4 Any other matters	
Upload files	