



I am making this submission as	Other
Submission type	Organisation
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	Ku-ring-gai Council
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	Sustainability Program Leader
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>Ku-ring-gai Council while not impacted directly by the 2019/20 bushfire season, worked to prepare the community by promoting a multi-hazard resilience building tool for use by residents at risk of being impacted by extreme weather events. This tool is called 'Climate Wise Communities' and it is freely available to any Council in Australia to adopt for their own needs. In the lead up to the 2019 season Council sought out a companion to the CWC in the form of 'Simtable'. Council and applied for and received a NSW Government grant to purchase a 'Simtable' from the USA. The Simtable is a tool used by the American fire fighting agencies to plan operations to combat wildfires, floods and other disaster types. Council is using the Simtable to demonstrate to the community how a 'mega' fire such as those seen in the NSW 2019/2020 fire season might ignite, develop and impact Ku-ring-gai. This tool allows Council to provide an aerial image of the local area in a 3D format. Loaded into the Simtable's ambient</p>

computing system is Council's vegetation types and densities, forest fuel data, and fire behaviour characteristics when influenced by temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and speed and topography. Council 'ignites' a bushfire on the simulated 3D projection surface and shows how the bushfire behaves under different weather and terrain variables. The combination of the Climate Wise Communities resilience planning program combined with the visual impact of the Simtable at community workshops has produced excellent results over the past six months both in terms of engagement with the community and in converting their interest in adaptation into action on the ground. If this combination of tools was available to more Councils and other land managers such as National Parks, engagement with the community could be much more effective. Climate Wise Communities promotes the 'shared responsibility' approach to extreme weather events and graphically demonstrates the limitations of the short term fix in the form of hazard reduction burns when the Simtable shows how the far ahead of the fire front spot fires can occur and how spotting behaviour is influenced by vegetation type, topography and wind speed. It gives people a comprehensive and realistic assessment of the risks they can face in an extreme event and how to minimize those risks by strengthening the resilience of their physical, psychological and social vulnerabilities and to make their homes resistant to ember attack and to a lesser extent radiant heat. Much of the CWC content is based on the findings of the Black Saturday Royal Commission and the subsequent work at RMIT and the Bushfire CRC.

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#### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

#### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

Climate Wise Communities and the Simtable program at Ku-ring-gai has demonstrated its ability to engage communities at risk of bushfire in building resilience to their properties, improving their understanding of the risks and how the many ways those risk can manifest themselves. Planning for bushfires has much in common with planning for other disaster types and at most workshops there will be a least one opportunity to demonstrate how one single action can lead to positive outcomes for several different risks arising from separate hazards.

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#### **1.3 Response to bushfires**

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#### **1.4 Any other matters**

#### **Upload files**

photos-and-video-to-support-KMC-Bushfire-Inquiry-Submission.docx - [Download File](#)

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Submission from Ku-ring-gai Council to NSW Bushfire Inquiry – March, 2020

Council youtube video of Simtable in September, 2019 newly purchased

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_L5KygUb5o&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_L5KygUb5o&feature=emb_logo)

Workshop photos showing combination of Simtable with Climate Wise Communities program.







