



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Lauren

Last name

Moreland

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

I was in Broulee (NSW Far South Coast) with my husband and 2 young children at my parents house prior to/on New Years Eve when the fires came through Mogo. The expected spread map put out the night before barely covered Broulee and we thought we were fine, however were woken up early NYE morning to the emergency text from the RFS and news that Mogo had been partially destroyed. Our power was out, and mobile phone coverage minimal, so it was very difficult to get information. We could not evacuate to the north due to the fire front, and we knew a lot of people were heading towards Moruya to the south. We decided to stay rather than risk being stuck in traffic along what is a single narrow road surrounded by bush, and my parents live on the beach - so we had an escape route. Around 10-11am we got word via friends who had been evacuated that the fire front had reached the back of Broulee, and we began to get ready to go across the road to the beach. However, then the sand dunes to the north of our position also

caught fire, and the surf club personnel and police told us to evacuate to the Surf Club. Traffic and pandemonium ensued, but we were safe for the moment. Soon after that, the wind changed, and we were told it was safe to go back home. I am aware that the fires were doing their best (and can't thank them enough for what they managed!), but the wind change is the only thing that saved Broulee, and it was a terrifying day for all of us.

We stayed with our parents for the following week, as the traffic chaos (evacuating tourists) and hard to come by information (still due to no power or reception) made it hard to know what to do. As best we could work out, there were fires to our north, south and west (Cobargo had also been hit by then), and we were probably better off staying where we were. Once the following Saturday turned out to be a but of a non-event in Broulee, we came home to Merimbula.

The situation obviously did not get better for weeks after this, but at least we were safe and our house ok. I still can't believe it happened, and I don't think many people even still have processed the enormity of it all. Thank you for opening this inquiry, and allowing people to tell their stories. It helps to get it out. Hopefully we can work on ways to make sure it never happens again.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
