

Your details

Title

Ms

First name

Lindy

Last name

Appleton

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

We live in the Tuross River valley which was hit by fire storm on 31st December 2019. Our house sustained damage but is still standing. We lost our sheds and contents. 80% of homes in the valley burned to the ground. As of 17th April, we are waiting on our insurance company to finalise our claim and fix our house.

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

The cause of the fire storm which impacted our valley in the morning of New Years Eve, was three years of drought followed by the size and scale of the other fires in the region which caused pyrocumulonimbus thunderstorms resulting in lightning strikes which started more fires. The incredible winds then caused those fires to join up.

1.2 Preparation and planning

No amount of hazard reduction would have made any difference whatsoever as is evident at the site of the logging operation west of Nerrigundah which was burned by bushfire in winter 2019.

Due to the extreme dryness of the forests, any fires lit in 2019 had the potential to become uncontrollable and dangerous.

Fires which start must be put out as quickly as possible after they are located and not be allowed to run.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The fires near me app, while essential, must be updated more often and contain current information. The fires near me map for our area was not updated for more than 10 hours on 30th December.

From 8 am to 8 pm on 31st of December we were unable to find out from fire control whether the RFS members in the Nerrigundah Fire Shed were alive or dead. This was said to be due to failure of communication equipment. This caused great distress to fellow RFS members, friends and partners.

1.4 Any other matters

Planning and building standards need to be looked into thoroughly. Our house is on a site which would be unlikely to have gained planning permission if built in the last two decades and yet it is the only house in a seven kilometre radius which survived the fire storm. Our house is still standing because of the pragmatic actions of my husband who is a NSW RFS senior deputy with 22 years' experience. He removed all objects around the house to more than three metres from the house and blew away every leaf from the house as the fire approached. Our house is mudbrick on slab with an 600mm concrete skirt and enclosed eaves.

Other mudbrick houses buildings in the area have coped well.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- Eurobodalla fires not updated 301219 1.JPG
- Eurobodalla fires not updated 301219 2.JPG

← → ↻ rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me 🔍 ☆ 📄 👤 ⋮

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NSW **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE** EMERGENCY INFORMATION 🔍 ☰

Info Incidents 10 Filter Map will refresh in: 1 minutes 28 seconds 🔍 Use My Location

Sort by: Alert Level ▾

- North Black Range, Palerang Bush Fire 18 hours ago
- Princes Hwy, Cobargo Bush Fire 18 hours ago
- Turoos Falls Rd, Countegany Bush Fire 17 hours ago
- Bumbo Rd, Bodalla Bush Fire Yesterday at 09:39
- Cooma Rd, Snowball Bush Fire 19 hours ago

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NSW **NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE** EMERGENCY INFORMATION 🔍 ☰

Info Incidents 10 Filter Map will refresh in: 3 minutes 27 seconds 🔍 Use My Location

Sort by: Alert Level ▾

- Araluen Rd, Deua River Valley Bush Fire 23 hours ago
- B Tree Rd Bush Fire Yesterday at 12:29
- Badja Forest Rd, Countegany Bush Fire 10 hours ago
- Clyde Mountain Fire Bush Fire 21 hours ago
- Good Good Fire

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