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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Resident
<b>Submission type</b>	Organisation
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	Maloneys Beach Residents Association
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	President
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>Maloneys Beach is a small community of just over 250 houses on the northern shore of Batemans Bay surrounded by bush, forest and national parks on the other sides. Our community was completely isolated when the Princes Highway north and south and the Kings Highway was cut. Due to the road closures, residents were trapped in Maloneys Beach or were trapped in other places unable to return.</p> <p>The efforts of the fire services, and fortunate changes of wind direction, saved our small community from being burnt but we were evacuated more than once, without power for days on numerous occasions, and so without communication, smoke affected for weeks, in fear of ember attack and under real threat from fire on three separate occasions.</p> <p>The larger community of Batemans Bay, on which we rely commercially, was very badly affected, shops were shut, supplies</p>

were at times non-existent. Fuel, gas and bottled water and food supplies were exhausted.

Everyone in the Batemans Bay area knows someone or several people in the extended community who have lost everything to fire and we are all affected by the commercial losses that have lead to shop closures.

Previous efforts to have potential fire hazards and dangers to our community reduced have not been successful often due to bureaucracy eg fuel on private land that is not adequately maintained.

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

#### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

- Is there inadequate resourcing and funding of fire brigades and rural fire services to undergo scientific hazard reduction?
- Is there inadequate resourcing of fire brigades and rural fire services including lack of appropriate personal protection, breathing apparatus, spare uniforms, access to fire-protected vehicles, planes and helicopters?
- Is there inadequate resourcing of National Parks, forestry and other land management bodies to manage hazard reduction on their land?
- Has overseeing of forestry lands been negligent in ensuring forest land is maintained as non-hazardous as possible and felled timber is cleared appropriately?
- What part has climate change played in frequency, intensity, profusion and prolongation of the fire season and preventing effective hazard reduction and how is this being addressed?
- Do land clearing rules need to be revised to restrict build up of fuel loads?
- Has effective hazard reduction been fully researched and utilised? What can we learn from indigenous land burning practices and archaeological records of fire prevalence in the Australian landscape?

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

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- How can we guarantee and maintain power supply and communication to isolated communities?
- Are we employing indigenous cultural burning practices well to assist in fire prevention?
- Are there too many agencies involved in processes for reducing the danger of bushfire to small communities? Should the RFS be given authority to identify a potential hazard or threat to any community and have sole discretion and authority to act to remove, reduce, diminish or moderate that threat within newly approved guidelines?
- Should new residential and resort development, or expansion of existing development, be allowed in bushland areas with restricted access, such as one way in and out, or on the edge of escarpments.

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### **1.3 Response to bushfires**

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- As well as human life and property, do our responses adequately protect our incredibly unique, valuable and endangered native animal and plant life from the threat of fire?
  - After a devastating bush fire, what can be done to ensure damaged land is not invaded by non-native plants and animals and to ensure the rebuilding of native species?
  - Are our wildlife rescue organisations adequately funded?
  - Will there be adequate investigation into which native species have become extinct or more endangered and what can be done to aid the recovery of existing species?
  - Should there be a moratorium on state forest logging to assist ecosystems to recover? Can workers affected by this moratorium be repurposed or compensated?
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**1.4 Any other matters**

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- Should volunteer fire fighters be paid? Compensated for loss of wages?
- Were water supplies compromised by ash, smoke, fire retardents in the aftermath of the fire?

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**Upload files**

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