



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Maree

Last name

O'Neill

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

Sitting and waiting, knowing the Fire was coming, knowing that Forestry Corp and local logging contractor were out trying to get an advantage by putting in fire breaks but not being allowed to back burn, the Fire went through Mallacoota and then came into NSW - The Border Fire - heading towards Eden - thinking Eden Fishermen's Club was an evacuation Centre boy was I surprised when at a public meeting ai found out that NO it was closed as an Evacuation Centre go to Merimbula, Tura Beach Bega - soul destroying - on the Friday morning we headed to family in ACT - thank Goodness we did, the Fire hit on the Saturday, my home was ok BECAUSE the wind changed near Brandy Creek and went out the back of Nethercote and I felt "lucky" .

Why couldn't the back burning be done before Kiah and Wonboyn were hit, the Fire had several days to get from Mallacoota up through the bush to Kiah and Wonboyn, out to Towamba and Pericoe, I believe thatif the back burning had been

allowed then those areas of a Wonboyn and a Kiah, especially, may not have suffered so badly.

Lessons to learn should include, checking

1. Why was the Victorian fire that ended up taking Mallacoota and spreading west along the border allowed to get so ferocious and travel with no back burning

2. Why was Eden Fishermen's Club closed as an evacuation Centre, maybe this process really look at giving the over 3000 people of Eden their own Evacuation Centre and operation centre for preparedness for the future because with all the dry bush with years of build up of leafy litter still around Eden, Nethercote, Pambula area the 2020/2021 summer season is very likely to burn as fiercely as the Border Fire did

I was lucky but scared and being away from home left me feeling safe but mentally challenged.

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

1. Not allowing back burning as the Fire was making its way from Victorian/NSW border

2. Not enough hazard reduction burning

3. Allow a lot of the bush litter from logging operations to be shredded and used in landscaping away from the bush areas

4. Let the local Rural Fire abrigades do a hell of a lot more hazard reduction burning well before summer hits, let Rural Brigades like Wonboyn, Kiah, Nethercote, Eden and Pambula work together moving from one town at a time - use money from Celest abarber's fundraiser to engage more people to be utilised to help the hazard reduction burns and pay volunteers to take time off work to do Rural Fire Service duties

1.2 Preparation and planning

More hazard reduction all around towns, local badly bushy area

1.3 Response to bushfires

Eden needs its own evacuation Centre fully operational

1.4 Any other matters

Please - don't let this happen again - communities destroyed, Councils almost decimated- look at the fires in the Bega Valley Shire and the costs to the State of NSW if these fires happen in the 2020/2021; or the 2021/2022 - let local Rural Fire Brigades have more paid members to do hazard reduction burns

Please don't let this but just another enquire where we don't learn anything or don't do anything to try to stop it happening again
Please

Supporting documents or images
