



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Matthew

Last name

Perks

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 live on a rural property about 4 km South West of the township of Moruya. During the fire period we had to evacuate on 4 separate occasions, with 3 major fire fronts coming within 2 km of our place from the North, West and South all at once. Thankfully we were spared and suffered no direct loss from fire. The biggest impact to us was during the periods of refuge that we needed to take in Moruya township away from work and home. For much of the refuge time the town was without power. This had a big impact on the town and is the topic that I wish to discuss below in my submission.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.3 Response to bushfires

The fires caused the disruption to Moruya town power for many days, affecting most homes and businesses. In particular this had an impact on food and fuel supply, but also with the ability to pay for items in the few businesses that were able to stay open (no electronic banking - who carries cash!). Our place happens to have off-grid solar power with a backup generator and, when allowed to go home between evacuations, we resumed life with our own power whilst most of the town was still blacked out (no ice cream was melted). This led us to think that there is an opportunity to have a town contingency for power outages, or indeed even permanent alternatives. Here are some suggestions:

- Financial subsidies/incentives for businesses to install and/or share off-grid solar power arrays (with batteries). These businesses would therefore be immune from mains power outages (just like we were).

- Flexible generator/plug in grid arrangements:

1. Community or State owned commercial grade portable generators to be stored in various caches around towns to be used in time of power outage.
2. "Plug in" points for said generators (just like a powering a caravan) in key community localities, for example, fuel stations, supermarkets, show grounds (our show ground was used as the evacuation/refuge centre) and other pre-determined disaster muster points.

The idea would be that if the power went out that a generator could be quickly towed (e.g. on its permanent trailer) from the part of town in which it was stored, that also happened to not be burning down at the time, to a key 'plug in' point, e.g. the show ground. This would allow the bored fire fleeing refugees to recharge their phones and also stop their ice cream from melting (among many other power related benefits).

Thank you for implementing this fabulous suggestion.

Supporting documents or images
