



Title	Mr
First name	Norman
Last name	Moore
I am making this submission as	Resident
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
Consent to make submission public	Public
Your story	<p>I am aged years 90yrs and my wife 80yrs. Our first worry was in losing power-then food from our fridge and no means of communication via TV or landline. The power outage meant no access to get fuel for our generator, batteries for our radio or accessing chemists for medication and replacing our more vital food supplies. Our neighbours were in the same situation. To visit shops in Moruya was to find many others in the same situation and with no one to give advice. There may have been as many as 150 persons & children standing at closed shop doors and a long cue outside our chemist shop. When generators were found for service stations or chemists - no money could be sourced from automatic machines, It was cash only for purchase of items. Elderly or handicapped people could not stand in long cues that formed when shops opened and (like myself & my wife)- when the cues had gone... it was to find the shelved stripped of anything edible. It was sad to see some of the elderly in tears in wondering what to do and where to go next. Some had also</p>

come to get fuel & were wondering how to get home - or if they did... did they have enough left to come back again. We were warned not to go to the evacuation centre (supposed 'safe' house at Moruya) showground- because ESC had not legislated to have all dangerous goods (petrol & gas holding containers etc) handed in & locked in a fire proof shed & receipts issued for same. Caravans should have been inspected to see if compliance plates for gas connections were up to date relevant Registration & safety. as caravan park operators supposed to do.. we chose to shelter on the bank of Moruya River instead! the fire raged to within 300m of our home (and threatened the Hospital) no one told us when it was safe to return home we just guessed it when we found the fireies & police had gone. People in our street were in bed - so we had managed purchase some food and batteries and sat by candle light to listen to our radio. About 10 pm there was an emergency warning on the Bega ABC radio that warned all residents in the South Moruya area & thru to Tuross & Narooma should leave immediately or seek shelter !! We'd been waiting all day for that warning!! We just laughed and went to bed.

Note: I had rang the ABC switch on several occasions to announce information on the fire's progress when it jumped the Moruya River (about Jan 18) - but it never reached the general news alert... let alone an occasional announcement of fires in other more distant areas. We also evacuated around New years eve due to the Kings Highway north Moruya fire. Both impacted our home with half burnt debri.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The ESC has been ignoring appeals for many years for a 7 day access information centre - especially needed for visitors or strangers to the area Their tourism campaign to attract people to the area lacks respect for these people and some that I've spoken with have made this known to me - but Council employees involved here have not the experience to see this.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Residents & business owners have been appealing to the ESC for years to have a dedicated information centre here in Moruya. Their programs that entice tourists to come here don't warn of the lack of facilities that should protect them in cases of emergency. When power outages hit there's no way to get information - no source by where they can access cash -and no where to charge electronic devices. When one travels outback -it's to see warning signs for availability of food fuel or water - it was much the same here in Moruya - at one time- when even the water had to be boiled before use! There must be some source made available & that source triggered by police administration ..not the council, where the employee responsible may be on leave or ill. The police and public safety or law enforcement system operates on a 7 day 24 hour basis and is well able to open information sources and 'kick-start- emergency procedures for help. Any commercial outlet where items such as Food, Fuel, and Medical Supplies are vital to public safety... must be protected by a system for supply of power at all times .. and legislation must be implemented to ensure no Insurance Cover can be given unless a certificate of competency of operation is issued by a qualified mechanical or electrical engineer - each 12 months. Power outages often occur here a various times without bushfires. !

1.3 Response to bushfires

During the lead up to the bushfires - the RFS and the ESC were warning to get well prepared by having house gutters cleaned and removal of all fire prone vegetation. I had asked the maintenance department of the council to clear a laneway adjoining our house, of long dry grass & overgrown trees & shrubbery (it was long over due for mowing) there was refusal and was asked to wait for the end of a 10 day notice from me, the fire danger was imminent - so I rang RFS and was told the ESC would never take notice anyway - they had their own fire control officer ! I e-mailed an urgent message addressed "To all

Councilors" and this was 'eliminated' by staff. Since this was now some 15 days and no action taken - I rang the ESC and was put in touch with a 'senior officer' - who told me their Bushfire officer had inspected the laneway and reported "there was no bush fire danger in Moruya"! I then rang a "more senior officer " and informed if no action was taken in 8 hours - I would report the matter to Aged Discrimination Department... within two hours 2 female workers arrived and on inspection were apalled at the state left by other council maintenance workers. It took them more than a full day to clean the laneway - and was an absolute credit to them. Administration had been the problem !!

1.4 Any other matters

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