



Your details

Mr

Title

First name

Robert

Last name

Reid

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

Monday December 30th 2019, was for me another normal Summer day; though smoke was everywhere from fires around the Shoalhaven region, etc and in East Gippsland, in Victoria. I was on some kind of "alert level" because of fires from early Summer in Northern NSW and the drought conditions but, at the time, I felt I'd done a lot of preparation, including paid assistance from friends.

At around 10.30-11am I walked out to a gate on my driveway where one could get a good view of the mountains to the East, North and West and to the West of Indian Head was a looming smoke plume! I went calmly but urgently back to my house and phoned The RFS in Bega! Immediately, the phone was redirected and a woman at The RFS in Moruya answered! I believed that the fire I was seeing was the one up in the Badgers Creek\Tuross Falls region of The Monaro and the woman replied that it was going East, towards the coast, therefore it was not

coming my way! Possibly we were each speaking about two different fires! - because she was in one region of southern NSW and I was in another!

In hindsight, I have realised succinctly and most definitely that - STAFF NEEDED TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE BEGA RFS! The woman at Moruya RFS did not have knowledge of my local fire conditions! This situation needs to change - The former NSW Fire Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons has said that RFSNSW does not lack funds! - well then why wasn't my urgent phone call answered at Bega RFS? Only The Bega RFS would have known of what is now known as The Werri Berri fire! Only The Bega RFS knew the local Bega Valley fire conditions! I repeat, NOT MORUYA RFS!

Also - I have Chronic Fatigue. My CFS involves chaos and turmoil; in fact that is also one of the causes, (part of stress from abuse, in childhood).

I can say, with complete honesty, that I had never recovered from the effects of the 2018 Yankees Gap fire/fires! This is "my stuff" - to do with me and my life experiences and my physical health\emotional health, and how I process the world - but the effects of (in a panicked state, in part, in late-Winter) of loading and unloading the car with personal effects and possessions, twice (August 15th and September 15th) were disabling - whatever I had left of my adrenals were severely compromised! As far as I know, the person\persons who lit the original fire, were never held to account for their actions! As far as I'm aware, two houses, shedding and fences were destroyed, farm animals incinerated and wildlife; fauna and flora were destroyed! Thank you, for my being able to make this submission! - Robert Reid

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
