



Title	Mr
First name	Rodney
Last name	Ward

I am making this submission as	Resident
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Submission type	Personal
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Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	
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Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	
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Consent to make submission public	Public
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Your story	<p>I shall begin by saying that I think the RFS did an amazing job under these unprecedented circumstances, and I applaud them for their efforts.</p> <p>My concerne and the reason I'm writing this submission is to highlight the short comings of the Fires near us phone alert system. On several occasions during the fires we did not receive alerts until 8to12 hours after the fire occurrence. One night I was awoken by an alert at 4.20 am for a fire less than 2 klms from my residence. Obviously startled by this I jumped out of bed in the dark (as we had no electricity at the time) dressed as best I could and raced outside to start defending my home as well as mine and my wife's lives. Outside I could not see any evidence of a close fire so paused to re read the alert only to discover the issue time of the alert was 8.20pm the previous evening. The fire had been controlled well before I had received the alert. No harm done then I hear you say. Well had that fire not been controlled and had at some point between 8.20pm and 4.20am raged</p>
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through my property both my wife and I could very well have found ourselves waking to a burning house or worse could have been overcome by smoke in our sleep and not woken at all. So my point is if you are going to have an alert system it must be 100% punctual and accurate. Getting alerts 8 hours after an occurrence is pointless and has life threatening consequences. Part 2 of my submission is to alert you to another failing of the system.

The following day I called the number for the information line listed on the RFS website to inform them of my concerns, at the same time my wife emailed them to inform them in another format of our concerns. I spoke to a lady who after much explaining realised the gravity of what I was reporting and told me she would get somebody from the alerts coordinators to call me back to discuss my concerns. I have never received that call !!!

My wife's email got a response that a response would be made within 21 days if required.. We have never had that response!!! I'm not sure what "requires" a response but I would assume that highlighting a life and death shortcoming of your system probably should qualify.
Thank you.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires See my story above.

1.4 Any other matters

Upload files
