



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Rosemary

Last name

Doyle

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

On 21 December my two storey home in Balmoral Village burnt down -across the road from the RFS Fire Station. The RFS, with what little water they had managed to maintain the fire from spreading but had run out of water and could not save my home. The fire came from the south east up through my neighbours property and along a tree line of the neighbours cypress trees that overhang onto my property. In the months following my neighbour had all the tress from the rear of their property removed but left the burnt out fence line of cypress tress -still overhanging my property. What a lovely daily reminder for me of the devastation and the trauma of loosing my home and all the things that represented my life with my husband. When it burnt doen I was a widow of 2 years -my husband died in that house and his ashes and all our belongings went with the house. I had walked across the road to the fire station with nothing more than the clothes I was wearing and my mobile phone. I did not want to

believe that we would be abandoned and left to our very limited resources - I believed help would come. It never came in time - I was locked down in that fire Station while my house was burning and later went outside to see every room in my house on fire -a beautiful house and home -and all that was left was crumpled tin roof, the brick pillars and brick fire place. This was preventable.

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	Terms of reference 3 & 6 Not being able to back burn
1.2 Preparation and planning	Absolutely appalling-we were left without sufficient resources to protect our Village. Those of us locked down in the Fire Station are lucky to be alive. Surviving after that was due to the local and surrounding people/community not the council or state responses that were far too slow and not coordinated.
1.3 Response to bushfires	Lack of response to requests for assistance. Length of time for any emergency response other than immediate and surrounding communities/public. Officials making promises that never materialised. Allowing charities to run emergency relief and total lack of responsibility from our Council. Uncoordinated and ad hoc responses. The disaster was in how it was not managed in the weeks and months that followed. It will 5 months this week end. It took me months to get identification and my block was on partially cleared of debris on 1st April. Despite all the politicians I contacted local, state and federal -no one had any answers or recommendations other than telling me to go to the media. The fact that our Council chooses not to use the money for our Village but give it to an unaffected area to boost tourism is criminal.
1.4 Any other matters	See page 11 and 12 of Attached 2020 Bulletin.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2020_Bulletin_JANUARY_FEBRUARY.pdf
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