



Title	Mrs
First name	Sally
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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>Our area was affected by the Carrai East fire which was burning for many weeks before the extreme weather events arrived. Our local RFS, including my husband, worked hard putting in containment lines etc along with National Parks.</p> <p>All to no avail when the extreme weather arrived on 8th November it just took off jumping creeks, rivers and roads. Our small isolated area lost one house and many other assets, and the fire burnt around us for many weeks.</p> <p>The Armidale Kempsey Road is a long road with no other exit roads. We were cut off by fire in both directions and the road was unsafe to travel on to leave.</p> <p>We had no power or communications from 8th November for many weeks. Emergency messages did not get through. We could not contact neighbours to warn them of approaching fire or to check on them.</p> <p>Our RFS members could not ring to let family know they were OK. Community could not contact emergency services, RFS etc</p>

at all and we had to either drive for help or use UHF radios. A few people were able to run wifi calling but only if we had enough fuel to start a generator.

Our RFS equipment failed on several occasions and truck radios were also a big issue. We requested a communications trailer to be set up to assist but it didn't arrive.

We had more fires start in our area from lightening strikes which were reported and checked but because they were at the top of mountains/hills inaccessible to fire trucks nothing could be done. The extreme weather just spread these causing large areas and assets to be burnt out when something should have been done by aerial crews before this happened.

It was an extreme event and we need to have more services and equipment available for the future. We need communications that work. We need RFS equipment that isn't old and been passed down the line from another bigger brigade. We need RFS volunteers to have as many days off their usual work from day one and be paid for every day by the Government. Not all employees release workers and personal leave has to be applied for.

Local councils should be held more accountable for providing ratepayers with increased road maintenance during and after disasters. Road conditions were atrocious in our area and could quite easily have been improved by Council. We are still waiting for our main road to be fixed up since the bushfires and it is currently closed to all traffic even though our community lives here.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

1.2 Preparation and planning

1.3 Response to bushfires

1.4 Any other matters

Upload files
