



## Your details

Ms

Title

First name

Simone

Last name

Cassidy

## 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

Firstly, I want to comment on the text message warnings we received on the morning of NYE. I was in a household of 5 adults. Two of us received a text from NSW RFS Bushfire warning around 6am to advise us of the fire approaching Mogo. I contacted a friend who lived in Mogo as I was concerned for his safety. He had already left his home in Mogo and was sheltering in Malua Bay, however, he did not receive the warning text message. I received a second text message a couple of hours later to advise us that the fire was approaching Batemans Bay, Malua Bay, Surf Beach and surrounds. I was on the roof of our house with my partner and brother in law. From the roof we had a visual of the fire burning through the Ridge Road area. Only three of the five residents in our household received the text from NSW RFS to warn of the fire. At around the same time we lost Abc radio altogether and the local radio 2ec was giving vague information. We had no power so could not rely on TV for information. The only means for us to determine what was

unfolding and where the fire was tracking was to actually get in the car and drive to the end of Beach Road or to a high point in Surf Beach. Eventually around midday the mobile towers were affected which meant that we had no phone or internet service. Over the following days our main means of information was the daily updates at the recovery centre in Batemans Bay. They were wonderful.

Secondly, I want to comment on the communication available following NYE. As I said previously, we went to the Batemans Bay Recovery Centre to listen to the updates. We were always advised to access information from Fires Near Me. However, we had lost internet and phone service and therefore this was not possible. At one point on the 1st of January we observed a group of people fuelling the fire on Wimbie Headland by throwing gum tree branches on smouldering trees and fanning the flames. We wanted to call the police but we did not even have 'emergency service only' on our phones.

## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

## **Supporting documents or images**

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