

## Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Pamela

Last name

Davis

## 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

We were fortunate that, although under threat for a couple of months, our house and property escaped the actual fires.

We very much appreciated our early morning robo call on our landline on 31 December 2019 advising that there was a fire in the area and to evacuate immediately which we did. We drove to Narooma and were able for the next couple of hours to keep up with the alerts on the ABC radio and to call others to check on them and alert others that we were ok. Then that all came to an end! For the next few days, we did not have any communication. Not only did we as individuals not have communication but it appeared that the local RFS units did not either. Unable to find out anything about our area, I went to the Dalmeny RFS and they advised that they did not have any information about the fires either!

We took a chance on 01 January and came back to our house

which fortunately was still standing. It was a bit disconcerting knowing that we would not be receiving any robo call alerts and not able to find out much if anything about the fires. The only information we could get was by listening to a commercial south coast radio station who would give hourly updates in the car as we did not have a battery powered radio (rectified now!). The station would advise that there was a briefing at Bega that would be live streamed on their Facebook page or to go to [www.rfs.com](http://www.rfs.com) - all of this completely useless when there is no power or reception.

Whether this communication blackout was a result of towers being burned down or as was rumoured, communication cut off to preserve for the firefighters, some long term solutions need to be considered to keep communication lines open as everyone was very much in the dark.

Petrol was also a major issue. We were being told to leave but the only way out was via Cooma and we did not have enough petrol to get to Cooma. As there was no power, most petrol stations could not pump petrol. After a few days, we were fortunate that we happen to hear from a neighbor that one of the stations in our area got a generator and we were able to get enough petrol to get to Cooma. Should there be some kind of regulation that petrol stations should have a generator for emergencies such as this?

We were certainly one of the lucky ones this time around but it highlighted deficiencies in both our individual preparation, which we are addressing and in several areas of the general response which hopefully you will be addressing. Having said that, the response of the firefighters was magnificent and we are truly grateful.

Pamela Davis

## **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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