

<b>Title</b>	Ms
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<b>Last name</b>	Walker
<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Other
<b>Submission type</b>	Organisation
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	Pappinbarra Progress Assoc
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	President
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>On November 8th 2019, I looked out of my front window and realised that I couldn't see my neighbours paddock because of smoke and the sky had turned a scary red colour. I immediately checked my phone App "fires near me"</p> <p>, the nearest fire was at Stockyard Creek which was a long way away, I felt somewhat reassured but kept checking the App every 15 mins, but there was no change. I hadn't received a warning phone call or text either. Suddenly several fire trucks went tearing past with sirens and lights, still no change on the App. I was very frightened but felt there was no imminent danger as I hadn't had a warning and the fire was still listed as Stockyard Creek. I later heard that 3 houses had been burned up this Valley.</p>
<b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b>	1.1 The valley was in severe drought with consistently high temperatures and strong winds.

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**1.2 Preparation and planning**

1.2 Our local hall, "Hollisdale Hall", is set up as a refuge and is Disaster Ready. It was used as a staging place during the fires and was manned by Committee members and displaced residents and provided a safe space to be.

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**1.3 Response to bushfires**

1.3 No public warnings were given.  
"Fires near me" was not updated and many residents relied on this for information.  
One resident could see flames and called 000 and was told there was no fire in the area.  
Many residents have no mobile phone coverage and if the power goes out, there is no means of contacting anyone.

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**1.4 Any other matters**

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