| | |
|---|---|
| **Title** | Mr |
| **First name** | Patrick |
| **Last name** | Deprez |

| | |
|---|---|
| **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** | I wish to raise two issues of concern. 1. I live in the Tweed Shire and late last year (2019) we were affected by bushfires in the Border Ranges, Springbrook National Park (Queensland) and Mount Nardi (NSW). We had weeks of fires and bushfire smoke. The issue I want to bring up relates to access to RFS (Fires Near Me) and Queensland QFES web sites. NSW have a really great user friendly web site for the latest information on bushfires. However that information does not include areas in the NSW/QLD border area. The bushfires were in the border areas upwind of where we live. So if you looked at the NSW Fires Near Me app/web site you would not see that there is a serious bushfire coming down from the QLD side of the border. This can create a false sense of security. I suggest (a)the NSW and QLD fire services share information when it comes to State borders. This should be applied to all border areas in Australia. (b) A national Fires Near Me using a standard uniform code/symbols should be created. 2. The second issue I wish to raise is |

| | |
|---|---|
| | regarding the Sugar Can farmers being allowed to burn even on days of Total Fire Ban in this part of NSW (far north coast) ! under a special exemption. We (my local community) had been on Total Fire Ban alert (for the whole of NSW) for days and one early morning a massive plume of smoke erupted adjacent to suburban homes. It created a lot of anxiety and stress you can imagine among the residents. It turned out to be a sugar cane farmer burning off his plantation. Please change this so that it never happens again. In QLD sugar cane burn offs are not allowed during Total Fire Ban days or periods of forecast extreme fire conditions. It is now more common practice in QLD to harvest green sugar cane without burning off. We experience a lot of black ash from the burn offs, and adverse health affects on people with breathing difficulties (asthma etc...). The burn offs also release large volumes of $CO_2$ into the atmosphere. Please legislate so that Sugar Cane is harvested green. |
| **1.1 Causes and contributing factors** | The main cause for the recent catastrophic fires in NSW and other States was a result of numerous factors including long term widespread drought, a narrower period of bushfire hazard reduction opportunities. Overriding all this is the global warming affect resulting in significantly warmer sea surface temperatures and atmospheric temperatures. The cause of global warming is now clearly demonstrated by long term scientific monitoring to be increased $CO_2$ and other green house gases. The NSW Government must now put in place strategies to transition to lower carbon emissions. Time is of the essence and any further delays will only result in greater cost to our communities, economy, environment. |
| **1.2 Preparation and planning** | |
| **1.3 Response to bushfires** | |
| **1.4 Any other matters** | Public communication and advice systems and strategies: I live in the Tweed Shire and late last year (2019) we were affected by bushfires in the Border Ranges, Springbrook National Park (Queensland) and Mount Nardi (NSW). We had weeks of fires and bushfire smoke. The issue I want to bring up relates to access to RFS (Fires Near Me) and Queensland QFES web sites. NSW have a really great user friendly web site for the latest information on bushfires. However that information does not include areas in the NSW/QLD border area. The bushfires were in the border areas upwind of where we live. So if you looked at the NSW Fires Near Me app/web site you would not see that there is a serious bushfire coming down from the QLD side of the border. This can create a false sense of security, stress and unpreparedness. I suggest (a)the NSW and QLD fire services share information when it comes to State borders. This should be applied to all border areas in Australia (b) A national Fires Near Me app/web site using a standard uniform code/symbols should be created. |
| **Upload files** | |