

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Patrick

Last name

McGinlay

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

I am a resident of Eurobodalla Shire which was the most impacted Shire during the bushfire season, losing approximately 500 homes with about 80% of the landmass impacted directly by fire.

Our Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council has provided a submission to this inquiry, which as a sitting Councillor I could not support as it did not identify Climate Change and all but ignored the issue entirely, as an influencing factor in the fires that devastated our Shire and much of NSW. I am therefore submitting a personal response.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

I do not accept the proposition that people have different opinions on climate change as a reality. I do however accept that people have chosen to either accept or ignore world wide reputable scientific evidence that overwhelmingly advises that climate Change is a real phenomenon. I accept said scientific evidence, as provided by such bodies as the IPCC as well as our local BOM and CSIRO and innumerable other qualified bodies and researchers.

One of the common themes that is evident by the science is the prediction of continued increases in global temperature with a consequent increase in the frequency, duration and intensity of extreme weather events. A case in point: Several years of drought in NSW, drying of biomass and soil to previously unrecorded levels, shorter and shorter windows of opportunity for safe hazard reduction burning, leading to the fires that devastated our part of the world in late 2019 and early 2020.

This inquiry should as a key point address the reality of Climate Change, the role of human activities in its creation and acceleration, and acknowledge that as a society we need to be anticipating possible and probable effects. This is particularly important for all three tiers of government.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Unlike some Councils in our locality, our council in August 2019 voted NOT to accept a motion that would have declared that we were in a climate emergency. More unfortunately, it also failed to pass two other related motions. One was that council consider climate change as a factor to be considered in creating any new policies or strategies, and that all existing policies and strategies, upon review were to consider climate change and its possible impacts. Another was that council explore consultation mechanisms that would involve our community in exploring solutions to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

While this would not have prevented the fires, it may well have prompted council and our community to be better focussed and better prepared, as it became apparent that we were going to suffer an extremely hazardous bushfire season.

Supporting documents or images
