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## Your details

Ms

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**Title**

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**First name**

Sue

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**Last name**

Norman

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

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**Submission type**

I am making a personal submission

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**Consent to make submission public**

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

We were affected by the border fire on the night of January 4th 2020. I evacuated to Eden then Merimbula while my partner stayed to turn on the sprayer system that saved the house while he sheltered in the bunker we built after the 2009. I have made a submission before the previous deadline but have since thought of some important points that have only recently come to mind. Therefore I'm making this additional submission to cover these points.

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Since the fires we have driven through the burnt landscape on our way to town and have observed the different rates of destruction from all-killed to barely scorched. Initially we thought it could be due to proscribed burning in the last 6 months but it seems to be more complex than that. We have observed that areas that were logged in the last 5 years or less have been killed outright. This led to the idea that there is an important area of study that must be undertaken soon. The area of the border fire has been subjected to wood chipping over more than 40 years. Forestry would have detailed information on the dates and patterns of logging and burning over this time span. These records could be mapped against the degrees of fire this summer as observed from aerial surveys. There have been many planes flying over the forests since the fires and I'm sure this information has been collected. What we could learn from this study would greatly assist in the terribly difficult task of deciding how to manage the forest into the future. This needs to take into account the effects of fire on young regrowth, biodiversity, safety of towns and properties and the potential of further logging to turn areas into heath land as the thin soils are lost. The experiment of logging old-growth forests for wood chipping needs to be properly assessed and honestly used to make decisions for the future beyond just favouring the importance of continued wood chipping.

### **Supporting documents or images**

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