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<b>Title</b>	Mrs
<b>First name</b>	Sue
<b>Last name</b>	Stelzer

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Resident
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal

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<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	

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<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
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<b>Your story</b>	<p>As a resident and farmer of this isolated bush town of Torrington for 50 years recently affected by November 8th 2019 fires, I have observed many aspects of fire fighting &amp; prevention (&amp; lack of)over this time. I admit that the extremely dry condition &amp; volatile winds at the time contributed mainly to uncontrollable fires on the day. This fire started 2 weeks before with several fire trails between. We had helicopters going off our airstrip a lot of this time with water bombing gear. However my main concern was that THEY WERE NOT HERE AT DAYLIGHT , WHEN TEMPERATURES &amp; WINDS WERE AT THEIR LOWEST. Also fire crews were the same having to attend briefing first at Glen Innes &amp; not getting out until well into the morning. We CANNOT FIGHT FIRES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. They also did not have suitable MAPS of local area -roads &amp; where homes were. A lot of fires came from other areas so badly needed these guidelines. They did NOT ENOUGH PERSONEL to burn back at night. FIRE TRAILS WERE NOT MAINTAINED NOR WERE</p>
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THEY WIDE ENOUGH. Some COMMUNICATION WAS LACKING with phone numbers not recorded but NO MOBILE SERVICE didn't help. (we are still waiting despite promise from Barnaby Joice. Also ROAD EXITS NOT CLEARED made it dangerous for residents to leave. (They have since been cleared but regrowth now taking over). There was too much RUBBISH, SCRUB & OLD VEHICLES around some homes, & unfortunately TOO MANY TREES. People were too slow at preparing & probably NOT GIVEN ENOUGH NOTICE.

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**1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Too dry & extreme winds. Lack of fire trail Maintenance. Not enough personal. Getting to fires too late in the day. Not enough burning back at night. Clearing of trees around towns. Hazard reduction around homes yearly. Lack of preparation & response by home owners.

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**1.2 Preparation and planning**

Residents need more direction about keeping yards cleared of rubbish & scrub. Maps available at all times with local brigades. Lists of phone numbers of residents & surrounding people. Burning off regularly.

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**1.3 Response to bushfires**

People to phone 000 ASAP. Brigades & helicopters/surveyance aircraft to be out there at daylight. Home owners fire proof homes & be prepared.

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**1.4 Any other matters**

Lack of COMMON SENSE especially from bureaucrats. Too many have come from universities with set agenders & no PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. Let more of the local brigades use COMMON KNOWLEDGE to guide fire fighting in their own area. Directions from city administrators is hampering those WHO KNOW THE COUNTRY.

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