

## Your details

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**Title**

Mrs

**First name**

Susan

**Last name**

Plath

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**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

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**Your story**

In December 2019 as the Currawan fire got closer to the village we live in Tallong, NSW we attended the Community Meeting held at our local hall. It was made clear that our village and homes were in danger. My husband who suffers from Dementia and I who suffer Asthma made the choice to leave early as this was the advise given by the authorities. The day after the meeting some local fire volunteers came around to hand out a newsletter, we were asked what our Bushfire Plan was and I told them we would be leaving early. They said that was a wise idea as we have alot of Cassuarinas trees, they would not risk getting trapped here to defend our properties.

We live on a small estate in Tallong, there is a 40 meter restricted area at the back of our block which we are not allowed to clear as it has Cassuarina trees that the Glossy Black Cockatoos feed on. This is nearlyly 50% of our block of land and brings the trees very close to the back of our home.

We feel after having to leave our home for 12 days because of the threat of the fires, that this restriction on not being able to clear trees in order to protect us and our home because of habitat for these birds means that the birds lives are more important than human life. This is crazy.

I feel that this needs to be reviewed in the aftermath of the recent fires and the loss of lives and property. These were the most catastrophic fires seen here so far.

Having been away from home it was very difficult not knowing what we might come back to, thankfully our home was still okay, thanks to the RFS and other wonderful people who risked their own lives. I think it needs to be looked at how hazard reduction is managed and restrictions of clearing trees around your home

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to put forward our story and concerns.

## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

## **Supporting documents or images**

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