



Your details

Ms

Title

First name

Susie

Last name

Edwards

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

Miraculously my own home wasn't burnt. Of course I had prepared as best I could earlier.

I live on a Fire Trail ... we maintain it one end (our usual access) however not its full length. We do not have appropriate machinery etc. We frequently ask our council, Wingecarribee, to assist. Their response is it's an RFS issue... however our local RFS doesn't have road graders etc ... which the council does. RFS refers grading/maintenance back to council. "Nobody wants to know" despite this being an alternate access trail for other homes & of course all emergency vehicles.

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

Lack of clarity who & how of maintenance of such Fire Trails ... quite a few in Penrose & Wingello. We all pay council rates, many of us belong to local RFS and support fundraisers etc I'm sure most of us did all we could to prepare for this ghastly summer.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Our Wingecarribee Shire Council appears completely unconcerned about the safety of their Southern villages. If they were surely there would be a response & support to earlier requests for grading & maintenance ... well before any bushfires are threatening. Holding meetings were ok but reactionary.

1.3 Response to bushfires

Once our local RFS had heavy machinery support (much privately owned) they did amazing "last minute, indeed last second" work creating breaks to protect property. They worked in extremely dangerous conditions.

I believe this happened across the State but mostly last minute under huge duress.

1.4 Any other matters

Great practical communication: Full praise to Penrose RFS, & their local messaging initiative. Also NSW RFS & "Fires Near Me" App & ABC radio.

Would it be viable for our armed services, with their heavy equipment, to be involved in early planning & preparation, rather than just "Exercises" in the Forest. We can't afford to keep our institutional silos so isolated but need co-operation between RFS, State & local government, not "passing-the-buck" back down to local volunteers for heavy maintenance.

Supporting documents or images
