

Your details

Title

Ms

First name

Vera

Last name

ODonovan

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

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

Climate change - the government needs to seriously deal with climate change eg. zero carbon future, renewable energy. The government has to listen to the experts and act on their advice. It has not been doing this as a result we had the most horrific fire season in living memory. It will happen again if climate change is not addressed.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The government needs to listen to the experts eg. emergency leaders / environmental scientists and act on their advice. Unlike this current fire season. We were therefore woefully unprepared.

Hazard reduction is not the silver bullet. Currently it is used as a political point scoring exercise. You do not achieve anything by forcing various agencies (RFS, NPWS) to burn a set number of hectares (that increase year after year).

To achieve these hectare numbers huge tracts of land are burnt in remote areas which serves no purpose in protecting the community - there is no strategic thought behind it rather it is just a way to reach the required hectares. The most effective use of hazard reduction is APZ work around vulnerable assets eg. residential areas. We might not hazard reduce so much land but it is more efficient and effective.

This also allows for better education possibilities.

1.4 Any other matters

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service are a highly trained and professional firefighting service. Their remote firefighting skills are unmatched. However they very rarely get any public recognition. Most people in the general community are unaware that they are even firefighters! This needs to be rectified.

Supporting documents or images
