

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 11:53:11 AM

Your details

Title	Mr
First name	Ken
Last name	Thompson
Email	
Postcode	2110

Submission details

I am making this submission as	A member of the general public
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	As an emergency service practitioner & former senior executive with one of the state's major emergency services for many years, I would like to submit that an important part of the emergency/disaster risk management model is Prevention. The other components are Preparation, Response & Recovery. The complete model is known as PPRR.
-------------------	--

Prevention is an area within the context of human-induced climate change that's been sorely neglected for many years - particularly by the federal government & to some extent by the NSW state government. I notice with concern that Prevention is not even included within this inquiry's Terms of Reference.

Without adequate prevention measures, the other components will always be a long way behind the eight-ball. This will lead to continued extreme "natural" disasters of greater frequency, magnitude & intensity as foreshadowed by the world's leading scientific & meteorological bodies for at least the past forty years.

The recent floods & the bushfires that preceded them in 2019/20 are simply a taste of what's to come. This was acknowledged by the 2020 Bushfire Royal Commission, which said, "The summer of 2019-2020 - in which some communities experienced drought, heatwaves, bushfires, hailstorms & flooding - provided only a glimpse of the types of events that Australia may face in the future" (Bushfire Royal Commission, October 2020).

As has been seen with the recent floods & fires, the emergency services are not equipped to effectively manage these new "mega disasters". Nor is the community capable of dealing with events such as these on such a large & catastrophic scale. This is due largely to the absence of political will & leadership on the issue of climate change, as well as the corresponding absence of an effective national policy framework that has a strong emphasis on Prevention. Without this policy framework, it's almost impossible for emergency services to mount adequate submissions to their respective state governments for funding & other resources that are needed to address the increased risk our new environment poses as a consequence

of human-induced climate change.

I should add that I am a member of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA). This is the group of former emergency service Commissioners & Deputy Commissioners from across Australia who sought on several occasions (unsuccessfully) to meet with Prime Minister Scott Morrison to raise serious concerns about the lack of preparation for what we believed would be a catastrophic 2019/20 bushfire season & one that would far exceed previous experience. The PM refused to meet with us & the rest is history. However, I am not making this submission on behalf of ELCA.

I'm available to discuss any of the issues I've raised in this brief submission, as well as the many more that are related to them.

Ken Thompson AFSM
Deputy Commissioner (Ret)
Fire & Rescue NSW.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
