

Resource Guide to the Bushfire Royal Commission Submissions 2020

Introduction

These submission tables have been created to make it a little easier for those interested in the 2019/2020 bushfire story to gain a better understanding of what has been publicly said in relation to the published submissions. The tables are a guide only and I would recommend that the submissions are read to gain a better understanding of the issues being raised. The submissions are biased towards NSW due to time constraints and my personal interests. At this stage I have not included items associated with recovery due to the size of the task and that it is still ongoing.

Overview

- The submissions are a valuable resource for the following reasons:
 - Most, if not all, interested parties have had a chance to have their say resulting in a large amount of information being made available on all aspects of bushfire management
 - In Australia, it is rare for the general public to be invited to have a say and describe their own experience
- The community input into the submissions has been limited by the short time frame available to make submissions and the fact that many people from bushfire effected communities are still facing significant trauma and were not in a position to make a documented contribution
- It is inevitable that there will be omissions and minor mistakes in this guide due to the sheer size of the task and the way in which the material has been published
- These comments would also apply to the NSW bushfire inquiry

The submissions have been broken into the following categories:

- Planning
- Land management
- Cultural burning
- NSW response
- Built environment
- Evacuation

Comments in relation to bushfire planning

- There are a number of submissions that relate to bushfire research including the need for independent research. This suggests a possible issue concerning 'agency controlled' research
- The willingness to seriously embrace risk management is questioned by a number of submissions. This is demonstrated by all government's inability or unwillingness to shift funding from response & recovery to preparation & prevention
- While the importance of the national strategy for disaster resilience has not been questioned, it is seen as a philosophy that has not yet been actioned
- A number of submissions question the usefulness of the NSW Bush Fire Risk Management Plans and whether they work for communities
- There are a lot of submissions making reference to the poor bushfire planning and protection of critical infrastructure particularly in relation to telecommunications
- A large number of submissions question the resolve of all governments to implement the recommendations of previous bushfire inquiries, hinting at a serious issue of accountability and transparency with bushfire management
- A lot of submissions highlight the over reliance on volunteers. This is particularly relevant for NSW where Government decisions have reduced the capability of NPWS, FCNSW and WaterNSW to manage fires. A number of foresters have questioned the suitability of the NSW RFS for forest fires
- A large number of submissions highlight the need for early detection and suppression of remote fires. Based on the submissions the real issue may lie with a lack of resolve to suppress the fires as opposed to early detection
- There is likely to be a large resistance to change based on the submissions from existing organisations associated with fire management as their submissions rarely identified any problems and often made few if any recommendations

Comments on fuel management

- Fuel loads, the cause and the best way to address the issue is very contentious
- While the focus on fuel loads is normally directed at national parks and forestry a number of submissions point out that that the fuel loads on privately owned land is potentially a bigger issue particularly given its proximity to assets.
- A number of submissions have also pointed out that the current processes for managing fuel loads on private land is cumbersome and has resulted in the fuel loads increasing
- A number of submissions also point out, in relation to fuel loads, that the last 500m is the most critical land management zone with respect to the protection of assets

Comments in relation to cultural burning

- A very large number of submissions like the idea of cultural/indigenous/fire stick burning
- A few submissions have made references to possible limitations in southern Australia
- A few submissions make reference to it not being a 'quick fix'

Comments in relation to the NSW bushfire response

- The failure to use local knowledge is the most common issue identified followed by poor communications and slow or inadequate initial response to fires
- The aviation industry has commented on the inadequate initial response in NSW
- NSW Government cutbacks in staff in NPWS, FCNSW and WaterNSW made a significant difference in the ability of land managers to respond to the fires
- The NSW RFS decision to restructure and not to fill vacant positions lead to a reduced capability in IMTs. This almost certainly lead to the decision to run with mega IMTs which in turn reduced local knowledge and impacted on the quality of the response
- The RFS bushfire, and in particular forest fire, capability has been significantly reduced due to a number of reasons. This meant that the RFS could not make up for the loss of capability within the land manager organisations.
- A combination of the reluctance to use local knowledge and to delegate along with the loss of bushfire skills within the RFS has led to significant failures with respect to backburning
- The poor quality of blacking out was most probably caused by a combination of reduced skills, volunteer fatigue and dryness of the fuel. At times an impossible amount of water was required to blacken out completely
- There was a surprising amount of input from heavy plant operators and contractors in general. There was comment that the community should not have to put fuel in fire trucks because the RFS has not paid its bills!
- The poor working relationship that the RFS & FRNSW persists
- The poor working relationship the RFS has with private firefighting resources, as in the farm ute, has not been resolved
- Poorly managed road blocks are a significant issue for rural property owners

Comments in relation to built environment

- There were a limited number of submissions looking at how best to mitigate the impact of bushfires on the built environment and almost all of these identified the need for further work

Comments in relation to evacuation

- I cannot recall any submission that indicated that the management of evacuations went well other than when local communities stepped in and organised themselves
- A number of submissions highlighted that the 'leave early' message is somewhat stymied by the late opening of evacuation centres

Mike Gorman
Kangaroo Valley
15th of August 2020

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate to planning 2019/2020

Planning covers issues such as risk reduction, readiness, mitigation, preparation, prevention & community engagement.

Document Number	Name	Background of the author	Some of the issues considered
001.00006	Ron James	Ex QLD Fire Chief Superintendent	5 R's, fire services culture
001.00080	Rodney Weber		Soil Dryness Index SDI
001.00354	Hoa Bui	Actuaries Institute	Pre-disaster funding rather than post-disaster
001.00452	Carol Bartlett	Resident Bermagui	Need for a community specific bushfire plan
001.00471	Crispin George	Resident Shoalhaven	BFRMP
001.00478	Michael Lonergan	RFS Volunteer & ACT Bushfire Council	Mitigation, resilience, AFAC, need a newEMA
001.00527	Glynn Burch	RFS Volunteer Clarence Valley	Community planning
001.00551	Dr Fiona Kotvojs & Alan Burdon	Resident Bega Valley	Lack of accountability with BFRMP
001.00585	Prof Lia Bryant	National Enterprise for Rural Community Wellbeing Uni of SA	Building resilient rural communities
001.00593	David Boardman	Rosedale Association Eurobodalla	Community involvement, early response, mitigation
001.00599	Jo Mackinnon	Upper Murray Incorporation	Matters that particularly relate to rural properties
001.00603	Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valley Council	Need to improve mitigation through better land management
001.00714	Baden Cameron	Resident Bega Valley	BV BFRMP being superficial
001.00815	Gregory Tedder	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven	AIIMS, resource management, EMA
001.00824	Paul Considine	Australia Fire & Emergency Services Authorities Council	Does not include any recommendations for changing the current arrangements
001.00825	Gary Dransfield	Suncorp Group	Insurance resilience & mitigation
001.00835	Anon	Integrated Fire Management	5 R's
001.00847		Tasmanian State Fire Management Council	Planning & programs in Tasmanian
001.00860	Dr Richard Thornton	Bushfire & Natural Hazard CRC	Fundamental challenge to move funding from recovery to mitigation

001.00936	Mike Gorman	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven Kangaroo Valley Ex-Captain	Need for more mitigation and better use of current resources
001.00939	Mike Gorman	Kangaroo Valley Community Bushfire Committee	Focus on community fire planning, BFRMP & EMPLAN
001.00946	Claire Sullivan		NSDR not been implemented
001.00957	Deborah Stevenson	Resident Eurobodalla	BFRMP, EMPLANS
001.00960	Prof David Pannell	Centre for Environmental Economics & Policy UOWA	Cost benefit of prescribed burning & retrofitting houses
001.00972	Cameron James	Air Affairs Australia	Aircraft
001.01003	John McDermott	McDermott Aviation	Aircraft
001.01012	Dr Sarah Waddell	Resident Shoalhaven	National approach to mitigation & early response
001.01013	Peter Harmer	Aust Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience	ABR advocates for community resilience and mitigation to be the first priority
001.01020	R Whelan & others	ANU & CDU	Risk management
001.01085	Adrian Meder	Australian Marine Conservation Society	Impact of bushfires on marine environments
001.01110	Amanda Clark	Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience	More of a sales document of what is currently on offer without any recommendations for the royal commission
001.01136	Grant & Angela Wardell-Johnson	Merimbula, forest ecologist & environmental sociologist	Cover a board ranges of topics
001.01154	Allyssa Hextell	National Insurance Brokers Assoc	Focus on mitigation including for private property
001.01240	Margaret Moreton	Leva Consulting	Need to refresh NSDR
001.01221	Mark Duckworth	Deakin Uni, Monash Uni	High level emergency management planning, community role
001.01264	Catherine Ryland	Catherine Ryland Consulting	Bushfire protection in NSW
001.01269	Ian Crowley	AILDM, AHMC & AIH	Regenerative methodology
001.01293	Bruce Hankinson	Raft Risk Solutions	National & State Disaster Management Arrangements
001.01299	Andrew Moore	Forester Victoria	Need common structures, operations across agencies
001.01304	Mark Drury	FCNSW Divisional Commander	Early detection, Adequate response, mitigation of fuel loads
001.01335		National Farmers Federation	Need to audit national fire preparedness
001.01354	Dr Grahame Douglas	School of Built Environment UOWS	Community protection plans effectiveness & BFRMP not serving communities, Qualifications of RFS staff, bushfire prone mapping

600.00056	Geoff Steel & Cliff Abbott	Bermagui Community Forum	Need a Bermagui Disaster Response Plan
600.00062	Roger Underwood	The Bushfire Front of WA	Need a national bushfire mitigation program
600.00083	Dr Tony Bartlett	Forest Fire Management	Need a stronger national approach, questions the skill level of RFS to manage forest fires
600.00092	Anon	Doctor Eurobodalla	Preparedness of hospitals
600.00093	Anon	Eurobodalla Community Forum	Medical
600.00110	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven	BFRMP and Morton National Park
600.00116	Paul Tyrrell	Australian Helicopter Industry Association	Aircraft
600.00137		Australian Risk Policy Institute	High level risk management
600.00155	Anon	Victoria	Community fire planning
600.00189	Davina Rooney	Green Building Council Australia	Nationally consistent suite of policies required to address the risks
600.00199	Karleen Gribble	School of Nursing & Midwifery WSU	Infants & children
600.00218	Damian Crock	Nillumbik Pro Active Landowners Vic	Land management controls
600.00231	Anon	Forester & Ex RFS Assistant Commissioner	Land managers to be responsible for fire management
600.00237	Lisa Cornthwaite	Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance	Eurobodalla BFRMP & EMPLAN, failure of council to prepare
600.00246		Centre for Disaster Management & Public Safety UOM	National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
600.00248	David Jochinke	Victorian Farmers Federation	EM is fragmented, value of agriculture not being considered
600.00269	Greg Mullins	Emergency Leaders for Climate Action	Climate, aircraft, ADF, need a national COP
600.00280	Stewart Little	Public Service Association	Need a central coordinating authority for national disasters
600.00284	Shaun Walsh	Australian Institute of Landscape Architects	Need for enhancing resilience through better planning of landscapes
600.00367	Dr Kim Maund	School of Architecture & Built Environment UON	Planning for the built environment
600.00341	Dr Robert Glasser	Australian Strategic Policy Institute	Risk reduction
600.00388	Richard McDonald	R Mach Aviation	Aircraft

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate to land management 2019/2020

Land management covers issues such as fuel loads, hazard reduction, prescribed burning, APZs, ecology.

Document Number	Name	Background of the author	Something of what they are saying
001.00006	Ron James	Ex QLD Fire Chief Superintendent	Mitigation programs with a consistent and well-funded approach
001.00020	Anon	Resident Kyogle	HRs on private land
001.00076	Prof David Lindenmayer	Fire & Forest Ecologist	HRs close to infrastructure
001.00101	Graham Griffin & Sarah Dunlop	RFS Volunteer Richmond Valley CSIRO Fire Scientist	Fuel loads on private land, private HRs, RFS risk averse, Stay or go policy
001.00108	John Evans	Bushfire Planning Consultant WA	Private hazard reductions
001.00156	Tony Pedro	Farmer volunteer firefighter WA	Prescribed burning is contributing to the fire danger
001.00159	Chris Cunningham	Ret Ass Prof of Geography & Planning Uni of New England	Prescribed burning is a tool of limited effectiveness
001.00219	Brian Williams	RFS Volunteer Kurrajong Heights	Mosaic burning
001.00238	Ian Kealley	Forester WA	Outback fires in Australia
001.00242	Derek Morgan	Resident Clarence Valley	HRs on private land
001.00250	Harley Smith	Farmer Clarence Valley	Road side HR
001.00262	Philip Zylstra	Professors from various universities	Funding transparency & independent research
001.00292	Clyde Alchin	Resident Yass	Vegetation clearing rules in NSW
001.00293	Mick Holton	Volunteer Fire Fighters Association NSW	Red tape
001.00295	Justin Williams	Forester NSW	Mitigation
001.00319	Ian Davidson	Resident	Open Canopy Management
001.00369	Gail Spina	Ecological Society of Australia	HRs close to infrastructure
001.00565	Dr Neil Burrows	Ex WA Parks Director of Science	The case for prescribed burning
001.00631	Prof Michael Clarke	La Trobe Uni Fire ecologist	Hazard reduction is most effective near the asset with short cycle

001.00652		Institute of Foresters of Australia & Australian Forest Growers	Need to move focus from fire suppression to prescribed burning
001.00787	Alastair Woodard	Wood Products Victoria	Covers a broad range of issues
001.00842	Dr Jeremy Little		Localised, mechanical, understory fine fuel hazard reduction
001.00860	Dr Richard Thornton	Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC	Role of fuel loads private land
001.00863	Howard Charles & others	Volunteer Firefighter	Bring back the Hume-Snowy Prevention Scheme
001.00872	Vic Jurskis	Forester	In NSW it is illegal to manage land sustainably using mild fire
001.00945	Prof Jason Sharples	UNSW	Behaviour of extreme fires
001.00977	Dailan Pugh	North East Forest Alliance	Logging & burning increases flammability
001.01044		Victorian Association of Forest Industries	Range of tools required including planned burning & mechanical. Large scale fuel reduction burns required
001.01052	Prof Rod Keenan	UOM	National coordination
001.01079	Anon	NSW/ACT	Better programs for prescribed burning
001.01088	Anon	Forester & RFS Captain	RFS HR process & forest management
001.01115	Mevagh Clarke	Lyndfield Park	Farm practises
001.01192	Ross Hampton	Australian Forest Products Association	Need more active land management across all land tenures
001.01206	Melissa Haslam	Forest Industries Federation WA	Tenure blind, mechanical fuel reduction
001.01239	Stephen Dovey	Bega Valley, retired fire manager	Broad scale hazard reduction did not reduce fire spread
001.01252	Dr David Holmgren	Victoria	Permaculture concepts applied to land management
001.01277	John Kotsiaris	Victoria	Need for an independent ecological investigation
001.01279	Janet Stein	Snowy Yaouk	Property owners experience
001.01312	Ian Christie	AFSM Forester Victoria	Recommendations across a range of topics
001.01317	Maree McCaskill	Timber NSW	A very direct submission highly critical of the NSW Government
001.01389	Gary Dunnett	National Parks Association of NSW	Land use planning has not evolved in NSW
600.00017	John O'Donnell	Forester	Increase in amount of hazard reduction & shorten cycle time
600.00025	Robert Williams	Forester	Restoration of fire trails & increase in hazard reduction
600.00041		Australian Forest Products Association	Mechanical fuel reduction
600.00051		North Tura Beach Residents Association Bega Valley	Local community approach to hazard reduction

600.00059	Anon	Bilpin	Private hazard reductions
600.00229	Robert Raison Partap Kumar Khana	Ex CSIRO Chief Research Scientist Ex CSIRO Senior Research Scientist	Support a comprehensive framework for effective fire management
600.00253	Dr Carole Peters	Western Australia Forest Alliance	Hazard reduction around towns & infrastructure
600.00262		Australian Forests & Climate Alliance	Impacts of logging
600.00345	Alastair Falconer	Mogo Architect	Effects of logging and fire mapping, historic buildings
600.00359	Rolf Poole	RFS Staff?	HR targets
600.00402	Prof Stuart Hill	UOWS	Soils
600.00413	Dr Jeff Taylor	Earth Systems	Biomass

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate to cultural burning 2019/2020

There is a very strong interest in cultural/indigenous/firestick burning. This strong interest is reflected in many of the submissions made to the royal commission. This list captures some of those submissions.

Document Number	Name	Background of author	Some of the issues considered
001.00006	Vanessa Cavanagh	UOW Indigenous PhD Student	Need indigenous voice
001.00086	Dr David Ward	WA	Violinsa & Bidi Burning
001.00130	Dr Chris Hayes	Arnhem Land NT	Long history of studying cultural burning
001.00160	Rodney Carter	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Victoria	Requires work by all parties to implement Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Strategy
001.00262	Philip Zylstra	Various professors from different universities	Appropriate use of cultural knowledge
001.00280	Rowan Foley	Aboriginal Carbon Foundation	Development of a forest fire credit as an agribusiness
001.00327	Michael Fox	North Coast NSW Architect	Overview of supporting material for cultural burning
001.00595	Anon	Yuin Fire Practitioners	Long term resourcing of Aboriginal caring for Country
001.00636	Jeremy Russell-Smith	Charles Darwin Uni	Northern Australia Indigenous Land & Sea Alliance
001.00694	Daniel May	ANU PhD student	Policy & cultural frame work must be locally & ecologically based
001.00789	David Williams	Planning Institute of Australia	National Land Use Planning Guidelines for Disaster Resilient Communities
001.00928	Dr Tim Neale & others	Deakin Uni & WSU	Introduce agency accountability, increase research, implement a indigenous policy group
001.00960	Bhiamie Williamson	ANU Indigenous PhD Student	Need indigenous voice
001.01039	Gareth Catt	10 Deserts Projects NT	Increase focus on preparation & mitigation
001.01061	Lauren Tynan	Macquarie Uni Indigenous PhD Student	Aboriginal-led caring for Country, Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation
001.01091	Roger Fenwick	Gunaikurnai Land & Water Aboriginal Corporation Victoria	East Gippsland increase indigenous involvement in fire management

001.01156	Matthew Shanks	Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations	Cultural fire is long term management of country not a quick fix. Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Strategy
001.01174	Ian Frape	Wiradjuri man & former RFS crew leader	Aboriginal fire management must be based on local knowledge and is not an instant answer
001.01281	Michael Fletcher	Cultural Burning Research Group	Expand working for country program
001.01309	Kristina Koenig	Kimberley Land Council WA	Improve fire management across Australia by including indigenous knowledge & skills
600.00273	Peter Yu	Indigenous Reference Group to the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development	Need a national approach to land management that includes a indigenous prospective

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate mostly to matters of response for the 2019/2020 fires in NSW

Key Points for “what didn’t work”:

- **RFS** refers to the NSW Rural Fire Service
- **FRNSW** refers to Fire & Rescue NSW
- **FCNSW** refers to Forestry Corporation NSW
- **NPWS** refers to National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW
- **Community** refers to farmers, residents, landholders, property owners
- **XXX/XXX** refers to a poor working relationship between the parties
- **IMT** Incident Management Team also covers where submissions have referred to Fire Control Centres (FCC) and their administration
- **Local knowledge** possibly the most common reference in submissions relating to matters of response. Overlaps a little with poor coordination but mostly refers to the disregarding of local knowledge by a IMT located in a FCC
- **PFR** Private Firefighting Resources mostly refers to community members with a “slip on”. White truck brigade, black swan brigade, mosquito army, pod squad, men on utes are some of the local names to semi organised groups of private firefighting resources
- **Initial response** generally refers to comments about fires not being attacked and suppressed whilst they are still small
- **Poor coordination** generally refers to poor delegation & firefighting resources not being used effectively as in no tasking or appliances waiting for orders while watching properties burn or refusing requests for assistance while awaiting “orders”
- **Poor Communications** generally refers to physical radio, mobile & landline communications
- **Poor Engagement** generally refers to the inability to communicate in an effective way. Would also include 2-way communication as in listening to the community or locals rather than just the transmission of a message
- **Poor WHS** covers areas such as fatigue management, roll over protection, PPE, cab protection
- **HR** hazard reduction also known as prescribed burning and fuel loads is a very big topic in itself and is mostly not being addressed in this particular summary
- **Backburning** refers to the use of fire to contain an out of control fire. The terms Hazard reduction & Backburning are often confused by the general public
- **S44** refers to section 44 being declared
- **Heavy Plant** generally refers to the poor use of bulldozers, graders and bulk water carriers
- **Road Blocks** refers to issues associated with landholders going to and from their properties to access supplies often while still fire fighting

The key points for what didn't work are a guide only. The submissions will often contain very detailed information about a broad range of issues and it is recommended that they are read in their entirety rather than rely on the summary provided in the table below. The purpose of the table is to help make it a little easier for those interested to gain an understanding of what has been said in the published submission in regards to what didn't work during the bushfire response in NSW.

Document Number	Name	Background of author	Key Points – what didn't work
001.00012	William Hanna	Resident Richmond Valley	RFS/Community, IMT, poor coordination, backburning
001.00027	Martin Mountford	RFS Volunteer Nambucca	Poor coordination, RFS/Volunteer, backburning
001.00032	Graham Brown	Farmer BFCC rep	RFS/Community, local knowledge
001.00037	Anon	RFS Volunteer Bilpin Brigade	RFS/FRNSW, IMT, HR process
001.00062	John Hawkins	RFS Volunteer Group Officer Greater Hume	IMT, poor coordination
001.00069	Phillipa Holenkamp	Resident Shoalhaven Conjola	FNM, poor coordination, RFS/Community, RFS/FRNSW, road blocks
001.00079	Alma Anderson	RFS Volunteer Wagga	Poor Communications
001.00087	Robert Joshua	FRNSW Bundanoon	RFS/FRNSW, S44, FRNSW not being utilised
001.00088	Anon	Resident Blue Mtns, Mt Tomah	FNM, backburning
001.00098	Anon	Farmer Richmond Valley	RFS/FRNSW, poor coordination, RFS not putting fires out
001.00100	Anon	Wingecarribee Balmoral	RFS/Volunteer/Community, poor coordination, backburning
001.00101	Graham Griffin & Sarah Dunlop	RFS Volunteer Richmond Valley CSIRO Fire Scientist	Fuel loads on private land, private HRs, RFS risk averse, Stay or go policy
001.00105	Roger Anderson	Farmer Snowy Valley	Local knowledge, poor coordination
001.00110	Annameka Gillespie	Resident, Shoalhaven Conjola	No support, when RFS arrived they had no idea what to do, backburning, no water
001.00112	Deirdre Greenhalgh	RFS Volunteer Farmer Snowy Valley	Road blocks, local knowledge, RFS not putting fires out
001.00113	Anon	RFS Volunteer Putty	Training, community prep, NPWS not putting fires out,
001.00136	John Muldering	Farmer Clarence Valley	RFS/FCNSW/Community, backburning
001.00145	Ian Stewart	Resident Shoalhaven	RFS/NPWS/FRNSW, backburn, lost home
001.00154	Anon	RFS Volunteer Blue Mtns	IMT, poor coordination, carrot & sultana sandwiches!

001.00161	Marilyn Schoonderwood	Resident Shoalhaven Conjola Park	FNM, backburning, water supply, poor coordination
001.00168	Peter Bagshaw	RFS Volunteer Tamworth Ogunbil Brigade	Heavy plant, backburning, communications
001.00175	Andrew Divall	RFS Volunteer Goulburn Towrang Brigade plant operator	Disorganisation, profiteering, initial response
001.00177	Jennifer Hackney	RFS Volunteer Blue Mtns	Poor communications, WHS
001.00208	Ian McArthur	Resident	RFS lack of skills with forest fires, over reliance on aircraft
001.00215	D & L Gaudron	Farmer Mid Coast	Initial response, RFS not putting the fire out, RFS/Community
001.00224	Debrah Novak	Clarence Valley Food Inc	Poor coordination, road blocks, local knowledge, city centric
001.00236	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven	Initial response
001.00242	Derek Morgan	Resident Clarence Valley	Poor RFS skills, backburning, FNM
001.00254	Robert Blomfield	RFS Volunteer Armidale Mooma-Winterbourne Brigade NSW Farmers Rep	"white truck brigade" RFS/Volunteer, IMT, poor treatment of contractors, heavy plant, ashamed to be part of the RFS.
001.00265	Aaron Smith	Resident Blue Mtns Mt Tomah	Backburning, detailed maps
001.00278	Trev Hames	Resident Clarence Valley	Poor engagement, backburning, poor coordination
001.00285	Simon Curry	RFS Staff	RFS restructure
001.00293	Mick Holton	VFFA NSW	Initial response, poor coordination, WHS
001.00295	Justin Williams	Forester FCNSW	Poor communications, initial response
001.00308	Tom Reeve	RFS Captain Orara brigade	IMT, risk averse, local knowledge
001.00310	Jon Holcombe	Resident Nambucca Utungun	No warning, RFS/Community
001.00316	Charmaine Tracey	Resident Shoalhaven	Lack of local property knowledge
001.00346	Doug Bell	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven	Initial response to Currowan fire, WHS
001.00347	Marcus Lyons	Queanbeyan-Palerang	"mosquito army"
001.00351	Anon	NSW	Initial response
001.00360	Anon	RFS Volunteer Blue Mtns Ex-Captain	RFS/FRNSW/Volunteer, poor coordination, no regard for volunteers
001.00361	Anon	Shoalhaven IMT?	Initial response, lack of fire preparedness, backburning
001.00363	Peter Dunn	Ex-ACT Fire Chief, Conjola	Local knowledge, backburning, initial response, water supply
001.00375	Rob Bevear	Resident Shoalhaven	Road Blocks, RFS unable to cope
001.00380	Trypheyne McShane	Resident Mid Coast	Fire ground decision making
001.00397	Timothy Wainwright	RFS Volunteer Fire Support NSW	WHS, local knowledge, poor coordination, PFR,

001.00400	David Williams	Resident Shoalhaven Termeil	Poor coordination RFS headless chocks, FNM
001.00410	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven	FNM
001.00430	Paul Michael	Resident	RFS/Volunteer, initial response
001.00432	Anon	Farmer Tamworth	Local knowledge, IMT, backburning, risk averse, contractors
001.00435	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven Conjola Park	Forward planning, water supply, poor coordination, backburning
001.00438	Anon	RFS IMT multiple locations	RFS region restructure, mega IMTs, backburning
001.00446	Adam Richards	FRNSW Shoalhaven Ex RFS Volunteer	RFS/FRNSW criminal, WHS
001.00454	Alastair Breingan	RFS Volunteer Taree Lansdowne	WHS, poor communications, RFS App
001.00460	Richard Millar	RFS Volunteer	Private HRs, sprinklers, strategic control lines
001.00468	Anon	Resident Bega Valley	FNM, no support, poor communications
001.00478	Michael Lonergan	RFS Volunteer Ex Captain & Group Captain ACT Bushfire Council & ACT Volunteer Association	Swollen bureaucracies, poor coordination, experience over training, resilience and leave message
001.00486	Rodney Bridges	Farmer Tenterfield	IMT, poor coordination, RFS/Community, PFR, backburning, local knowledge
001.00498	Garry Owers	RFS Captain	RFS at breaking point in terms of volunteers & equipment
001.00503	Anon	Farmer Richmond Valley	Heavy plant, PFR, RFS/Community
001.00514	John Scattergood	Farmer Northern NSW	Poor coordination, IMT, local knowledge, poor engagement, "pod squad"
001.00515	Ben Hanna	Resident	S44, city-centric loss of local knowledge, RFS not stopping the fire, local felt threatened when acting to stop the fire
001.00517	Elizabeth Montano	RFS Volunteer Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Brigade	Mitigation of critical communication infrastructure
001.00518	Anon	FRNSW	RFS/FRNSW, highly critical of RFS, backburning
001.00520	Doug Urquhart	RFS Volunteer Farmer Nambucca Utungun Brigade	IMT, local knowledge
001.00527	Glynn Burch	RFS Volunteer Clarence Valley	Land management and community protection
001.00528	Terrie Adams	Resident Shoalhaven Parma	No support, FNM, poor coordination
001.00530	Peter O'Brien	Resident Shoalhaven	Age of RFS volunteers, age and capability of equipment
001.00542	Dennis Plink	Ex RFS Volunteer Mt Wilson	Backburning, local knowledge, road blocks, RFS/Volunteer, IMT, RFS/FRNSW

001.00551	Alan Burdon Dr Fiona Kotvojs	RFS Volunteer Farmer Bega Valley	Local knowledge
001.00564	Kate Hughes	Resident Hawkesbury St Albans	Backburning, local knowledge, RFS is a law unto itself
001.00574	Anon	Farmer Bega Valley	Local knowledge, no help of any kind
001.00577	Gary Nairn	Chaired Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into 2003 Australian Bushfires	Local knowledge
001.00580	Nina Balas	Farmer Bega Valley Cobargo	FNM, RFS needs more people and equipment, a dad's army, poor coordination
001.00584	Brian Ayliffe	RFS Bega Valley	RFS regional restructure, mega and distant IMT, no briefings, poor communications, heavy plant, local knowledge, resilience and leave message, no use of LGA operational plans
001.00593	David Boardman	Rosedale Association	Poor communications, initial response
001.00594	Anon	FRNSW Conjola	No water, WHS, poor communications
001.00595	Anon	Yuin Fire Practitioners	Backburning
001.00600	Anon	RFS Volunteer	RFS/FRNSW/NPWS/FCNSW, turf wars, RFS regional restructure, poor coordination
001.00625	Matthew Maude	RFS Captain Ilford- Running Stream Brigade	IMT, PFR, RFS/NPWS
001.00630	Brian Tornalin	RFS Volunteer Farmer Nundle	Heavy plant, WHS, poor communications
001.00645	Donald Nott	RFS Volunteer	IMT, RFS risk averse
001.00647	Anon	Resident	IMT, Local knowledge, poor coordination,
001.00648	Anon	Resident	Local knowledge
001.00658	Gordon Davis	Farmer	PFR
001.00676	Anon	Farmer Bega Valley Quaama	No support, farmers need their own brigades
001.00678	Rhonda Ayliffe	Resident Bega Valley Cobargo	More resource & autonomy for local RFS units
001.00685	Peter Davis	RFS Cooma	Critical infrastructure protection
001.00691	Anon	Resident Mid Coast	Poor coordination, lack of local property knowledge
001.00711	Anon	Resident Blue Mountains Berambing	Local knowledge, fire crews not putting fires out, PFR, backburning
001.00714	Baden Cameron	Resident Bega Valley Tura Beach	Poor coordination, RFS/FRNSW, RFS/Community
001.00718	Peter Redman	RFS Volunteer, Blue Mtns, Bell Brigade	Backburning, poor coordination, local knowledge, IMT, lost own property

001.00722	D Fletcher S King	RFS Group Captains Snowy River	IMT, local knowledge, RFS Sydney centric, heavy plant
001.00730	Jennifer Capel	Resident Oberon	IMT, local knowledge, initial response
001.00732	Chris McIntyre	Resident Snowy Valley	Initial response, road block, RFS/Community
001.00734	Melissa Adams	Farmer Clarence Valley	Poor engagement, FNM, RFS/Community
001.00748	Anon	Shoalhaven	FNM, PFR "men on utes"
001.00752	Charles Saul	RFS Volunteer Farmer Eurobodalla	Initial response, poor communications, no assistances from outside
001.00753	Michael Scholz	RFS Captain Hawkesbury	Heavy plant, over reliance on aircraft, poor coordination, PFR
001.00770	Virginia Young	Resident Eurobodalla	Initial response
001.00775	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven Conjola	No support, road blocks
001.00778	Ross Hitchcock	RFS Volunteer Kulnura	WHS, FRNSW hindrance rather than help
001.00783	Anon	Resident Clarence Valley	Local knowledge, IMT
001.00785	Blair Leslie	Resident Mid West Ilford	IMT, local knowledge, poor communication
001.00810	Anon	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven Conjola Manyana	WHS, poor communications
001.00814	Anon	Resident	Property burnt out by FCNSW actions
001.00815	Gregory Tedder	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven Broughton Vale Brigade	Backburning
001,00817	Greg Franklin	Resident Eurobodalla Surf Beach	Poor coordination, local knowledge
001.00821	Fiona Franklin	Resident Eurobodalla Surf Beach	No support, firefighters had no idea what to do
001.00831	Anon	Sutherland firefighter	Backburning failures, poor coordination
001.00834	Anon	Resident Bega Valley	Initial response, no support for days
001.00838	Lucy Henderson	Farmer Snowy Valley Ellerslie	Initial response, RFS & FCNSW failing to put the Dunns road fire out, property destroyed
001.00857	Anon	Farmer Mid West	RFS/Community, PFR, backburning
001.00868	Prudence Woods	Resident Mid-Western	Local knowledge, IMT, backburn
001.00870	Anon	Resident Hawkesbury Mt Wilson	Backburning, poor communications, poor coordination
001.00875	Allan Douch	Resident Bega Valley Bermagui	Poor communications,
001.00893	David Philip	RFS Volunteer Fire Behaviour IMT	Backburning, forecasting
001.00894	Simon Trinca	Farmer Greater Hume	RFS/community, initial response, heavy plant, poor communications, poor coordination, backburning
001.00895	Anon	Resident Clarence Valley	Heavy plant, use of aircraft, RFS failing to put out fires, local knowledge, RFS/Community, PFR

001.00896	George Phillips	Resident Snowy Monaro	Heavy plant
001.00898	Marilyn Mills	Resident Bega Valley	FNM, no support
001.00919	Anon	RFS Volunteer Wyndham	Heavy plant, initial response, maintenance of RFS vehicles, WHS
001.00923	Anon	Farmer Snowy Valley	Poor communications, poor engagement, poor coordination, road blocks, old RFS trucks
001.00936	Michael Gorman	RFS Volunteer Shoalhaven Kangaroo Valley Ex-Captain	Initial response, poor coordination, lack of planning, RFS/Community/FRNSW, PFR
001.00947	Philip Novak	RFS Volunteer Farmer Bega Valley	Poor coordination, IMT
001.00959	Matthew Allan	Resident Bega Valley	FNM, backburning, FCNSW/Community, road blocks
001.00965	Anon	RFS Contractor plant operator	No effort to put the fire out, heavy plant,
001.00972	Cameron James	Air Affairs Australia	Aircraft & initial response, need for cultural change
001.00989	Kim Gillis	Eurobodalla	Lack of local property knowledge
001.00990	David Gallan	RFS Volunteer Bega Valley	Initial response
001.01003	John McDermott	McDermott Aviation	Aircraft not being used when fires are small
001.01004	Anon	Farmer Bega Valley	Fire trucks operating without water
001.01006	V Demjin	RFS Volunteer	IMT, poor communications, poor coordination, WHS
001.01012	Dr Sarah Waddell	Resident Shoalhaven Kangaroo Valley	Initial response
001.01019	Geogory Hall	Mid Coast Bobin	PFR "black swan", poor communication, poor coordination, poor engagement, FNM, backburning
001.01022	Andrea Tulloch	Farmer Snowy Valley Adelong	Initial response, local knowledge, backburning
001.01031	Anon	RFS Volunteer Clarence Valley	Initial response, RFS/Community
001.01050	Anon	RFS Volunteer Port Macquarie	N/A
001.01060	James Mort	RFS Volunteer	Initial response
001.01082	Andrew MacDougall	Farmer Snowy Valleys	Initial response, poor coordination, next to no support from FCNSW
001.01083	Anon	RFS Volunteer Goulbourn Mulwaree	Backburning, poor engagement
001.01096	Anon	FRNSW	WHS, local knowledge, backburning, poor coordination
001.01102	Kimlyn Templeton	RFS Volunteer Snowy Monaro	RFS/Community, poor engagement, RFS missing in action, IMT,
001.01106	David Porter	Farmer Bega Valley	RFS not putting the fires out, local knowledge
001.01108	Dr John Black	RFS Volunteer Blue Mountains	Local knowledge, local communities not being served by RFS
001.01160	Lindy Appleton	Wife of RFS Volunteer Eurobodalla	Initial response, poor communications
001.01163	Helen Templeton	RFS Volunteer Snowy Monaro	IMT, RFS/Community, poor engagement, poor coordination

001.01164	Michael Rose	RFS Volunteer Bulga Plateau	"Black swan brigade", PFR
001.01165	Peter Heward	RFS Volunteer Snowy Monaro	Local knowledge, IMT, RFS/FRNSW, poor communications
001.01176	Rob Meaton	Mid Coast Bulga Plateau	Local knowledge, "black swan" poor communications
001.01112	Michael McGrath	RFS Volunteer Farmer Queanbeyan	Initial response, "mosquito fleet", RFS/Community, local knowledge
001.01198	John Purser	Farmer Bega Valley	Poor communications, no help provided, no credibility
001.01214	Karen Sedailis	Resident Bega Valley	No help provided
001.01217	Malcolm Hay	Resident Hawkesbury	Backburning
001.01218	Yana de Valle Simon Orbell	RFS Volunteer Eurobodalla Runnyford Brigade	Poor communications, brigade unprepared
001.01233	Andrew Thompson	Resident Wingecarribee	Backburning
001.01239	Stephen Dovey	IMT Bega Valley	Backburning
001.01254	Anon	Resident Port Macquarie	RFS/Community, local knowledge, backburning
001.01260	Anon	RFS Volunteer Nambucca	Poor communication, RFS/Volunteer, IMT, experience more valuable than training
001.01263	Anon	RFS Volunteer Nambucca	Poor communications, backburning, initial response, IMT
001.01267	Anon	RFS IMT Bathurst	IMT, initial response
001.01268	Anon	RFS Volunteer Hawkesbury	Backburning, local knowledge
001.01275	Anon	Resident Bega Valley	Poor communications, local knowledge, beyond the capability of the volunteers
001.01285	Pippa Quilty	Farmer Snowy Valley	Local knowledge, poor communications, road blocks, no support from FCNSW
001.01291	Anon	Resident Shoalhaven Kangaroo Valley	Local knowledge
001.01292	John Stein	Resident Snowy Yaouk	Backburning
001.01300	Frances Grindlay	Resident Armidale	Poor engagement, poor coordination
001.01304	Mark Drury	FCNSW Divisional Commander	Initial response, poor use of resources as in sending urban or rural firefighters into fight forest fires, RFS inadequate & overwhelmed
001.01323	Lynette Sebo Justin Bayliss	RFS Volunteer Snowy Monaro	Poor coordination
001.01328	Deborah Gough	Resident Bega Valley	FNM, Lack of preparation, poor communications
001.01332	Anon	RFS Volunteer Snowy Valley	Initial response, local knowledge, poor coordination

001.01334	Anon	RFS Volunteer Snowy Valley	Local knowledge, road blocks, poor communications, RFS/Community
001.01335	National Farmers Federation	Case study on Ilford Running Stream Brigade area	RFS/Community, PFR, poor coordination, local knowledge, risk averse
001.01346	Anon	RFS Volunteer Snowy?	Poor coordination, poor equipment, poor communications, backburning
001.01352	Jayden Pan	RFS Volunteer Gosford Avoca Beach	IMT, poor coordination
001.01353	Stuart Burbidge	RFS Captain Oberne Creek	Poor communications, WHS, poor coordination
001.01354	Dr Grahame Douglas	Ex RFS Staff UOWS	Poor coordination leaving some communities vulnerable
001.01355	Anon	FRNSW Castle Hill	Poor coordination, initial response
001.01356	Jeff Condren	RFS Volunteer	Poor communications, WHS
001.01374	Cameron Smith	Resident Queanbeyan	RFS/FRNSW, "mozzies", FNM
001.01386	Tim Hitchins	RFS Volunteer Port Macquarie	Mega IMT, poor coordination, WHS
001.01387	Philip Spark	RFS Volunteer Tamworth	Backburning, local knowledge, poor coordination
600.00002	Alan Porter	RFS Volunteer? Ilford	Local knowledge, poor coordination, PFR
600.00005	Candida Lawrence	Resident Richmond Valley	Poor coordination, poor communications, RFS/FCNSW
600.00006	Catherine McFerran	RFS Volunteer Bermagui	WHS, RFS overwhelmed
600.00011	Dr Denis Muller	Resident Tilba	Poor engagement, poor communications
600.00014	Henk Luf	RFS Volunteer Blue Mountains	Poor coordination, WHS
600.00033	Anon	Resident Richmond Valley	Local knowledge
600.00047	Colin Cheetham	Resident Shoalhaven Bendalong	FNM, poor communications, no support, road blocks
600.00061	Anon	Farmer RFS Captain Casino	Blacking out, type of trucks
600.00083	Dr Anthony Bartlett	ACT	Lack of skills in IMTs for forest fires
600.00094	Gary Verri	RFS Volunteer Tenterfield	IMT, initial response, S44 issues, poor communications
600.00095	Anon	Resident Hawkesbury Colo Heights	Backburning, no support
600.00098	Terry Channells	Farmer Mid Coast	Poor engagement, no support
600.00100	Anon	Resident Colo Heights	Lack of local property knowledge, Poor engagement, backburning
600.00101	Geof Nanto	Resident Clarence Valley	FNM
600.00116	Paul Tyrrell	Australian Helicopter Industry Association	Initial response using Pre-Determined Dispatch
600.00119	G & D Styles	Resident Colo Heights	Poor engagement, backburning, road blocks
600.00126	Anon	RFS Volunteer Palmers Oakey	Initial response, backburning

600.00127	John Lloyd	Resident Colo Heights	Backburning
600.00153	Andrew Gee	Federal Member for Calare	RFS culture issues, local knowledge, fuel loads, RFS/Community
600.00158	Andrew Scoullar	RFS Volunteer Snowy Valley Lower Bago	Initial response, poor coordination, no support from FCNSW
600.00198	Anon	RFS Volunteer Casino	Initial response, RFS/Volunteer, no support from RFS
600.00206	Anon	RFS Contractor/Volunteer Krawarree Brigade	Poor coordination, poor RFS skills particularly in the forests, heavy plant, backburning
600.00212	Michael Devine	Farmer Bega Valley Mount Darragh	Poor communication, no support
600.00229	Robert Raison Partap Kumar Khana	Ex CSIRO Chief Research Scientist Ex CSIRO Senior Research Scientist	Initial response, loss of skills, RFS volunteers are not the right choice for forest fires
600.00230	Anon	RFS Volunteer Central Tilba Brigade Farmer	Lack of experience with RFS volunteers, RFS/Volunteer, backburning
600.00231	Anon	Forester & Ex RFS Assistant Commissioner	Initial response, RFS volunteers are not the right choice for forest fires, limitations of aircraft
600.00237	Lisa Cornthwaite	RFS Volunteer Eurobodalla Bodalla brigade SHASA	Poor communications, poor coordination, locals needing to supply fuel for fire trucks
600.00267	David Marsham	Farmer Bega Valley	There was no response
600.00278	B & L Vitilaine	RFS Volunteers Mid Coast Pindimar Tea Gardens Brigade	Poor communications, poor coordination leaving some communities vulnerable
600.00280	Stewart Little	Public Service Association	RFS staff restructure, many comments from RFS, NPWS, FCNSW & VKG members
600.00309	Anon	Resident NSW	Poor engagement, FNM, road blocks
600.00348	Anon	Partner of RFS Volunteer Central Coast Kulnura	WHS, FNM
600.00354	Anon	RFS Volunteer Armidale Guyra	Initial response, local knowledge
600.00366	Anon	Farmer Tenterfield Torrinton	Poor engagement, backburning
600.00388	Richard McDonald	R Mach Aviation	Firefighting expertise that is being poorly utilised
600.00398	James Travers- Murison	Resident Nymboida	RFS not putting the fires out, FNM, backburning
600.00417	Peter Holding	RFS Group Captain	IMT, failure to delegate, S44
600.00436	Anon	RFS Volunteer Grafton	Poor communications, local knowledge, WHS, FNM, response not planned

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate to the built environment 2019/2020

The built environment covers issues such as standards, regulations, protection, landscaping.

Document Number	Name	Background of Author	Some of the issues considered
001.00275	Nigel Bell	Architect Blue Mountains	National desktop review of Bushfire Building Regulations
001.00276	Alan Green & Prof Paul Cooper	UOW Sustainable Buildings Research Centre	Sprinklers & AS 5414
001.00311	Dr Hilary Smith	Resident Eurobodalla Malua Bay	Property preparation & sprinklers
001.00688	Chris Lafferty	Forest & Wood Products	Detailed report into fire impact on buildings in relation to AS3959
001.00702	Michael Harewood	Resident Bega Valley	Fire bunkers & sprinklers
001.00729	Wendy Bergsma	Building Designers Association of Australia	NSW should allow the building of a fire bunker to offset the need for flame zone
001.00787	Alastair Woodard	Wood Products Victoria	AS3959 in relation to wood and installing fire bunkers
001.00950	Catherine Marsham	Resident Bega Valley Cobargo	Fire Bunker
001.00960	David Pannell	UOWA Centre for Environmental Economics & Policy	Economics of retrofitting house
001.00987	Chris Taylor	National On-site Providers Association	Waste water
001.01048	Stephen Grubits	Former CSIRO Scientist	Building standards
001.01269	Ian Crowley	Landscape & Horticulture AILD, AHMC, AIH	Good bushfire plant lists
600.00190	Anon	Nurse Industry	Contains a list of available resources
600.00238	Scott McGrath	Standards Australia	AS3959 and reference to other relevant standards
600.00285	Kathryn Hurford	Australian Institute of Architects	Broad range of topics
600.00321	Lindsay Mott	Victoria	Water supply reticulation systems

Summary of Royal Commission Submissions published as of 24th of July that relate to evacuation 2019/2020

Document Number	Name	Background of author	
001.00144	Winton Evers	Ecoprofit Management Shoalhaven Manyana	
001.00363	Peter Dunn	Shoalhaven Conjola	
001.00567	Anon	Wingecarribee Bundanoon	
001.00674	Anon	Wingecarribee	
001.00678	Rhonda Ayliffe	Bega Valley Cobargo	
001.00817	Greg Franklin	Eurobodalla Surf Beach	
001.00906	Peter Dunn	Shoalhaven Conjola	
001.01132	David brown		Questions the need for evacuation
001.01062	Kate Watson	Shoalhaven Kangaroo Valley	
001.01071	Christine Walters	Bega Valley	
001.01201	Sukalpa Goldflam	Bega Valley	
001.01220	Graham Peachey	Eurobodalla Narooma	
600.00237		Eurobodalla Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance	
600.00363	Alek Werchanowski	Tura Beach Country Club	