

Resource Guide to the NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry Published 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.

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 NSW, it is rare for the general public to be invited to have a say and describe their own experience. This NSW Inquiry is possibly the first time since the NSW RFS was created in 1997 that volunteers have been offered an opportunity to have a say independent of the RFS itself
- While there is significant duplication of submissions between the NSW Inquiry and the Federal Royal Commission, on the whole the quality and range of submissions for the NSW Inquiry is somewhat less than the Royal Commission. This is particularly true for the “big picture” or “strategic thinking” or “step change” thinking.
- 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

The submissions have been broken into the following categories:

- Planning
- Land management
- Cultural burning
- Response
- Farmers

- Built environment
- Community
- Evacuation
- Recovery
- Wildlife

Some submissions will be represented in more than one category

Comments in relation to bushfire planning

- The willingness to seriously embrace risk management is questioned by a number of submissions. This is demonstrated by all governments' inability or unwillingness to shift funding from response & recovery to preparation & prevention
- A number of submissions question the usefulness of the NSW Bush Fire Risk Management Plans and whether they work for communities
- Many submissions make 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 number of submissions highlight the lack of evidence based decision making with questions being raised about major programs and their effectiveness
- Many 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 fighting 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 significant 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 land management

- Fuel loads, the cause and the best way to address the issue is very contentious. The role of dryness of the fuel is perhaps the key to understanding the complexity of the information

- While the focus on fuel loads is normally directed at National Parks and Forestry a number of submissions point out 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 APZ 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 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
- 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 led to a reduced capability in IMTs. This almost certainly led 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 factors. 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
- The poor working relationship between the RFS & FRNSW persists
- Poorly managed road blocks are a significant issue for rural property owners

Comments in relation to farmers

- There are virtually no submissions from farmers saying they were satisfied with the response to the fires
- The poor working relationship the RFS has with private firefighting resources, as in the farm ute, has not been resolved
- While the RFS has a program in place to address this issue there has been no information presented that indicates the underlining cause has been addressed and therefore any fix is unlikely to be successful

Comments in relation to community

- A number of communities have made significant efforts pre-fires, during the fires and post fires to organise and take a level of responsibility for improving outcomes for their own community
- A number of submissions have highlighted the lack of support from agencies and government

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

Comments in relation to recovery & wildlife

- There is a limited number of submissions addressing recovery as this was outside the scope of the inquiry

Mike Gorman
Kangaroo Valley
26th of September 2020

Planning

ID	Name	Something of what was said	
53	Anon Staff RFS	BFRMP out of date, local knowledge missing from strike teams, more staff for permit system, initial response	
57	Anon Ret Fire manager	More CFUs needed, initial response, IMT, backburning, blacking out, BFRMP, DISPLAN	Shoalhaven
74	Anon Urban & regional planner	PBP 2019 allows houses to be built where they should not	
102	AFAC	Makes no recommendations	
103	AFAC	Additional information	
104	Meredith Lea	Need for better Prevention & Preparation	
105	ADF	Addresses how defence was used in NSW	
106	Australian Workers Union	Contains recommendations for both NPWS & FCNSW	
109	Emergency Leaders for Climate Action Greg Mullins	Need BFCC to develop a 10 year state wide strategic bushfire risk management plan	
110	Endeavour Energy Leanne Pickering	Telecommunications & community owned infrastructure to improve backup power supplies	
111	Fire Practitioners Ian Brown	Strengthen systems for a risk-based approach to bushfire suppression, contains some case studies of the major fires	
112	Friends of the koala Dr Roslyn Irwin	BFRMP need to include threatened species, need cool burning	
114	NSW Greens Party Room	Bushfire Planning & Design (BPAD) process needs to be redeveloped	
117	Red Cross Poppy Brown	Contains recommendations most around increasing disaster resilience	
118	Telstra	Identifies some things that could be done better	
120	Tibra District Chamber of Commerce Peter Lonergan	A very good example of a community looking at the local bushfire issues	Bega Valley
139	Bundanoon Community Association Andy Carnahan	Too late to leave should be Safer to Stay	Wingecarribee

150	Australian ICOMOS	Cultural heritage	
161	Baden Cameron	Bega Valley BFRMP is superficial, RFS and FRNSW poor relationship	Bega Valley
170	Bermagui Community Forum Geoff Steel	Loss of staff in NPWS & FCNSW, Red tape with hazard reductions, need a Bermagui Disaster Response Plan	Bega Valley
177	Sean Lonergan Bilpin RFB	Wollemi-Grose Wildfire Mitigation & Community Resilience Management Plan	Hawkesbury
183	Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute	Improve involvement of communities in landscape management & resilience	Blue Mountains
198	Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC Dr Richard Thorton	Governments lack the will to shift funding from response & recovery to mitigation	
205	Carers NSW Alena Katrakis	Need to improve planning for people with disabilities	
214	Centre for Urban Research RMIT	Detailed analysis of educations role in developing resilience	
215	Charles Mackowski Forester	Contains ideas on how to increase personnel for hazard reductions	
239	Community Environmental Network	Air pollution and health impacts	
240	Community Industry Group	Eurobodalla not disaster prepared, looks at community services sector, communities needs disaster management training	Eurobodalla
251	Cris George	BFRMP not effective	Shoalhaven
252	Curalo Medical Clinic Michael Pentin	Medical services were withdrawn by area health leaving the local community without support	Bega Valley
258	Daniel Pridham FRNSW	Joint operations & agency inter-operability	
259	Daniel Tyler	Power line identification for aircraft	
272	David Grice	About development approval in Eurobodalla	Eurobodalla
280	Deborah Stevenson	BFRMP, EMPLAN, Evacuation centres	Eurobodalla
281	Debrah Novak Councillor	Need to review BFRMP & EMPLAN, local knowledge, IMT, poor coordination	Clarence Valley
316	Alan Burdon & Dr Fiona Kotvojs RFS Volunteers	BFRMP not been implemented, fuel loads, local RFS autonomy, communications	
329	Dr Thomas Duff	Identifies gaps in current research that limit the ability to minimise bushfire impacts	

	Researcher		
331	Dr Tony McArthur RFS Volunteer	Emergency management in NSW	
345	Emma Walsh	The only houses to survive were those with alternative water sources to town water, no support, backburning	Shoalhaven
350	Eurobodalla Coast Alliance Russell Scheider	Covers a range of issues, increase APZs, improved planning	Eurobodalla
351	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Need Emergency Management Centre, critical infrastructure	Eurobodalla
354	Financial Rights Legal Centre Karen Cox	Insurance issues	
360	Fire Protection Association Australia Chris Wyborn	Accreditation scheme for BPAD, detailed recommendations for bushfire assessing	
381	Gary Nairn	Chaired Inquiry into 2003 fires, lessons from those fires not been learnt, local knowledge	
392	Ginninderra Falls Association Robyn Coghlan	Development approvals are not taking into account extreme fire behaviour	ACT
399	Wilton Action Group Fiona Bullivant	Development in bushfire prone area	Wollondilly
491	Kangaroo Valley Community Bushfire Committee Mike Gorman	Community bushfire planning needs to be a bottom up process driven by local communities supported by agencies and government	Shoalhaven
495	Katherine Harris	Analysis of role of BPAD	
583	Michael Curtis Ex FRNSW	PPRR we do not do PP, need paid Bushfire mitigation centres	
596	NPA of NSW	Cilmate change, early suppression, APZ & SFAZ, 10/50, need a statewide bushfire risk management strategy	
598	Mountain Districts Citizens Assembly Neil Berecry-Brown	Community bushfire planning	Central Coast
601	Newcastle Bushfire Consulting Phillip Couch	BPAD	
649	Rodney Weber, Roger Hosking & Joanne Chapman	Soil Dryness Index (SDI)	
678	Scott Lenton Council Staff	Need to change the way bushfire prone land is classified	Clarence Valley

685	Shoalhaven Council & Shoalhaven Water Robert Horner	"Our water supply systems are not designed to manage the demands that can be put on them by such significant events"	Shoalhaven
688	Snowy Valleys Council	Plantation Management, Critical infrastructure	Snowy Valleys
689	Snowy Valleys Council Ag Advisory Group	Detailed covering a range of rural issues	Snowy Valleys
691	Softwood Workings Group Peter Crowe	Want plantations to be considered essential industry infrastructure	
693	South Coast Health & Sustainability Alliance	EMPLAN & BFRMP, communication, evacuation	Eurobodalla
724	Edward Schultheis	Planning & development controls	
774	Mount Irvine Progress Association Allen Hyde	Local knowledge, Emergency Management Plan, local appliances, hazard reductions	Blue Mountains
791	Peter Dunn	Preparation, FNM, warnings, evacuation, critical infrastructure, local knowledge, backburning	Shoalhaven
792	Peter Dunn	CFUs, Recovery	Shoalhaven
804	John Grimshaw RFS Volunteer	Use of station and land around station	Blue Mountains
820	Planning Institute of Australia Juliet Grant	Build back better, risk avoidance, stronger strategic planning	
822	Prof Gary Moore	Community bushfire planning	Shoalhaven
825	Stephen Timms	Presentation on Planning for Resilience	Clarence Valley
829	Stuart Khan Researcher UNSW	Water planning & management	
861	Ian Brown Ex NPWS	Backburning, need for post fire reviews, need bushfire suppression strategy	
864	Tilba District Chamber of Commerce Peter Lonergan	Improve water supply, hazard reduction, fire protection for village, strong community focus	Bega Valley
865	Timber NSW Maree McCaskill	Very critical of RFS's obsession with emergency response	
877	Unions NSW Mark Morey	Staffing levels, restructures, national standards for firefighters	

880	Urban Development Institute Keiran	"no need for major changes to the planning for bushfire protection regime in NSW"	
896	Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Charles Casuscelli	Identifies the limitations and failure of emergency management in NSW	
900	William Bill Laing Researcher	Index of Added Climate Heat Burden	
901	William Power Ex FRNSW	Backburning, history of fires	
902	Wingecarribee Sire Council Ann Prendergast	NSP, emergency warnings, community engagement	Wingecarribee
905	Wollondilly Shire Council Ally Dench	Covers a broad range of issues	Wollondilly
911	Dr Bill Johnston Researcher	Government policy & bureaucratic failures	
912	Dr Grahame Douglas Western Sydney University	CPP is not being systematically used and there are questions about its effectiveness	
913	The Bushfire Alliance John Travers	Need a dedicated hazard reduction agency, IMT, reduction in staff in NPWS & FCNSW	
915	Glenn O'Rourke RFS Volunteer	Community engagement	Cessnock
919	Public Service Association of NSW Stewart Little	Staffing levels in NPWS, RFS & FCNSW	
920	The Salvation Army Paul Hateley	Recovery & evacuation	
922	Centre for Air Pollution Energy & Health Research Ana Porta Cubas	Effect of smoke on health	
928	Alan Fels & David Cousins	Funding for emergency services	
930	Blue Mountains Conservation Society Madi Maclean	Climate change, focus on hazards around assets, funding for NPWS, community fire planning	Blue Mountains
934	Greg Hale	Detailed story of what happen in Killabakh, lack of support and planning	Mid Coast

	RFS Volunteer		
938	Save Heathcote East Action Committee	Planning in bushfire prone area	Sutherland
961	Roundsquared Noela McKinnon	Very detailed submission about preparedness particularly in relation to vulnerable people	South Coast

Land Management

ID	Name	Something of what was said		
1	Anon Scientist	APZ clearing work by private contractors	Blue Mountains	Leonay
7	Anon NPWS	Funding land management		
13	Anon	Council red tape		
14	Anon	Hazard reduction on private land, RFS not put the fires out, local knowledge		
22	Anon	Lost home, fuel on road sides	Bega Valley	
31	Anon Ecologist	Land management practices leading to soil & moisture loss	Bega Valley	Wallaga Lake
39	Anon	10/50,		
40	Anon Farmer	Very poor management of national parks & forestry	Queanbeyan	Reidsdale
45	Anon	Logging waste in state forests	Mid Coast	Hillville
48	Anon	Ongoing hazard reductions in state forests		
52	Anon	Climate and environment, need for staff for parks & forests	Shoalhaven	Culburra Beach
54	Anon	Need more hazard reductions to manage fuel loads and bigger APZs	Eurobodalla	Guerilla Bay
67	Anon RFS Volunteer	Forester, RFS brigades advised not to help with HRs on private land, fatigue, WHS		
76	Anon	Impacts of logging		
80	Anon	10/50, very detailed		
91	Anon FRNSW	FCNSW not cleaning up after logging		
98	Anon Business	Red gum forest management		
99	Total Environment Centre	Koala corridors		
112	Friends of the koala Dr Roslyn Irwin	BFRMP need to include threatened species, need cool burning		

113	Greater Hume Council	Road side management		
129	Southern Cross Uni Forest Research Centre Andrew Baker	Need to increase prescribed burning		
130	Andrew Brough	Fuel loads on neighbour's properties	Wingecarribee	Bundanoon
159	Australian Plant Society NSW Dan Clarke	Need to implement a state vegetation assessment methodology		
191	Brian Williams RFS Volunteer	Mosaic Burning, need to hand back control to local brigades	Hawkesbury	Kurrajong
215	Charles Mackowski Forester	Contains ideas on how to increase personnel for hazard reductions		
238	Colong Foundation for Wilderness Keith Muir	The protective value of burning increases the closer to settlement that burning is done		
268	David Darlington RFS Volunteer	Ex NPWS, "much more focus on management of fuel loads in close proximity to built assets", initial response and much more	Snowy Monaro	Jindabyne
271	David Glasson RFS Volunteer	Local knowledge, local control of hazard reduction, High Fire project be re financed		
294	Donald Nott RFS Volunteer	Lack of mitigation by the RFS, central control that is risk averse, loss of mitigation skills	Blue Mountains	
372	Friends of the Mongarlowe River	Focused approach to hazard reduction that aims to reduce fuel loads close to properties		Mongarlowe
383	Gavan Willis RFS Volunteer	Pine plantation management	Tumut	Low Bago
394	Glen Olsen Farmer	Backburning, hazard reductions, burning approval on private land		
395	Glen Poole Contracting	Land management, red/green tape, backburning, RFS no longer has experienced forestry & plant operator skills	Coffs Harbour	Orara Valley
423	Dr James Porter Ecologist	Discusses residential bushland interface and other land management issues		
445	Dr Jeremy Little Researcher	Mechanical fuel reduction		

452	Joanne Ashe	Lost house, FCNSW planted trees close to house on old dairy	Mid Coast	Tinonee
455	John Arentz	Pine forest management		Tumbarumba
467	John O'Donnell Forester	Detailed analysis of current hazard reduction policies & procedures		Tumbarumba
478	Jonathan Sanders NPWS	Detailed analysis of fuel and its impact		
490	Justin Williams FCNSW	Need to move resources to mitigation, need more professional fire managers		
564	Martin Tebbutt Farmer	Stayed & defended, backburning, red tape for private hazard reductions, private land management	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
591	Michael Ross Forester	FCNSW staff reductions, RFS does not firefighting skills in forests or strategic planning skills		
596	NPA of NSW	Increase resourcing of APZ & SFAZ		
612	North Coast Forest Alliance	Logging effects flammability of forests, climate change		
626	Richard Fisher	Bushland urban interface and need for better management of APZs	Eurobodalla	Mossy Point
630	Robert Bertram	Koalas & land management on the south coast	Bega Valley	
637	Robert Michie RFS Volunteer	Hazard reductions, firefighting in extreme conditions, asset protection	Macarthur	
650	Roger Anderson Farmer	Pine plantations		
676	Sarah Dunlop & Graham Griffin Researcher & RFS Volunteer	Hazard reduction on private land, RFS not put the fires out, local knowledge		
694	South East Timber Association	5% target required		
729	Harriett Smith	Logging and hazard reduction around Eden	Bega Valley	Eden
744	Hornsby Ku ring gai RFS Group Officers	Land management, need to focus on APZs behind house, need to be less bureaucratic	Hornsby	
751	Ian Crowley	Regenerative Methodology		
780	Park watch NSW Ross Constable	Hazard reductions near assets		

789	Peter Clark RFS Volunteer	Hazard reductions make very little difference to the intensity of the fires	Dorrigo	Tyringham
790	Peter Comensoli RFS Volunteer	Fire trail maintenance, red tape for private hazard reduction, RFS reluctant to undertake hazard reduction, backburning	Central Coast	Mangrove Mountain
794	Peter Farleigh	Lost house & sheds from ember attack, comment on why hazard reductions are difficult to achieve	Goulburn	Tallong
797	Peter Hutchings Researcher	Initial response, FNM at borders, RFS not suitable for forest fires, loss of staff at NPWS & FCNSW	Bega Valley	
811	Peter Turland	Need to keep moisture in soils		Pillar Valley
814	Philip Maughan NPWS	Fires from state forests land were the most intense and problematic		
815	Philip Southwell RFS Volunteer	Fuel loads		
816	Prof Philip Zylstra EOW & Curtin Uni	Fire modelling		
835	Sue Norman	Need study of when and what areas were logged	Bega Valley	Kiah
859	The Institute of Foresters & Australian Forest Growers Bob Gordon	Loss of forestry staff, backburning being undertaken without the right skills		
865	Timber NSW Maree McCaskill	Very critical of RFS's obsession with emergency response		
878	University of Wollongong	Weed management post fires		
881	Valley Farmers Group of Lower Bago Gavan Willis	Pine plantation & national park management, water usage by pine forests		
914	Brian Tomalin RFS Volunteer	Volume of fires lead to inadequate response, underfunding of land management	Tamworth	Hanging Rock
931	Dr Jason Sharples UNSW	Extreme fire behaviour, role of fuel		
956	Michael Grady RFS Volunteer	Pine plantations	Snowy Valleys	Lower Bago

Cultural

ID	Name	Something of what was said	
17	Anon Indigenous Yuin Nation	Land currently miss managed	
116	NSW Aboriginal Lands Council	Increase role of indigenous knowledge in land management	
260	Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Council	"Because our weather patterns have moved so should the preparations & planning practices"	
307	Mick Beltran RFS, Ret Chief Superintendent	Need forum to discuss how to integrate cultural burning into land management	Blue Mountains
330	Dr Timothy Neale & others	Introduce agency accountability, increase research, implement an indigenous policy group	
343	Emily Fishpool	Cultural burning on south coast	Shoalhaven
401	Graham Moore Indigenous	Cultural sites not considered an asset	
512	Dennis Barber Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation	Cultural burning near Yengo National Park	
544	Margaret Bearlin & Christine Quinton South coast	Cultural burning protect & regenerates local flore & fauna	Bega Valley
606	Noel Webster Indigenous	Yuin Walbunja cultural fire practitioner	Shoalhaven
686	Simon Curry RFS State Aboriginal Program Coordinator	Major shift required to move from current practices to cultural burning	
754	Ian Frape Indigenous Wiradjuri man	Important for it to be locally based	Blue Mountains
897	Dr J Weir, Bhamie Williamson & Dr F Maarkham	Need aboriginal representation on committees for national hazard risk management	
906	Oliver Costello	Cultural burning creates outcomes beyond hazard reduction	
924	Pierre Louys	Cultural burning & fire credits	

Response

	Name		Something of what was said		
5	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Backburning skills, fatigue, WHS, communications, engagement, trucks being taken	Wingecarribee	
7	Anon	NPWS	S44, Initial response, IMT, local knowledge, funding land management		
9	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Backburning, engagement, no actual de-brief, initial response, IMT		
10	Anon	RFS	Volunteers are the wrong people to respond initially, skill levels		
14	Anon		Hazard reduction on private land, RFS not put the fires out, local knowledge		
15	Anon		Local knowledge, reduction in FCNSW staff		
16	Anon	Staff	IMT, BFMC & response all worked well, paid firefighters for initial response, HRS near assets		
18	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Story of the fires, value of private firefighting resources, loss of NPWS staff	Monaro	Yaouk
20	Anon	RFS Volunteer	"massive disconnect between RFS management & volunteers", IMT, heavy plant	Wingecarribee	
24	Anon		Initial response	Shoalhaven	Currowan
27	Anon		Local Ashby RFS fire trucks mechanically dysfunctional & no money to fix them, need local control of fire	Richmond Valley	Ashby
28	Anon		Community engagement, FNM	Eurobodalla	Congo
30	Anon		Initial response, volunteer motivation	Ku Ring Gai	Cottage Point
32	Anon		Community engagement, fuel on private land		
35	Anon		Poor coordination between SES & RFS, need local grass roots network during emergencies	Bega Valley	
36	Anon	Farmer	Toxic culture within the local RFS, hero worship, lack of skills, RFS poor relationships 'us and them', no help from NPWS	Snowy Monaro	Adaminaby
37	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Bush skills more important than training, private firefighting resources, initial response	Nambucca	Macksville
40	Anon	Farmer	Private firefighting resources more useful than RFS & NPWS, FNM not accurate, Very poor management of national parks & forestry	Queanbeyan	Reidsdale
46	Anon		Climate change, initial response, staff reductions in NPWS, backburning	Blue Mountains	Dargan
47	Anon		Initial response	Shoalhaven	Woodstock

49	Anon		Story of staying and defending, need for better communications	Bega Valley	Cobargo
50	Anon		Lost home, no support, no warning, FNM	Wingecarribee	Bundanoon
51	Anon	RFS Volunteer	RFS staff performance		
53	Anon	RFS	BFRMP out of date, local knowledge missing from strike teams, more staff for permit system, initial response		
55	Anon		Need specific information on fires in local areas not general information	Shoalhaven	Bay & Basin
57	Anon	Ret Fire Manager	More CFUs needed, initial response, IMT, backburning, blacking out, BFRMP, DISPLAN	Shoalhaven	
59	Anon		Lost home, RFS overwhelmed, no assistance to local brigade, poor coordination	Mid Coast	Killabakh
60	Anon		Lost 2 houses, had sprinkler systems and pumps but not able to remotely start them, RFS did what they could	Blue Mountains	
61	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Wife of volunteer, stayed and defended and saved house with help from RFS, climate change action	Shoalhaven	Manyana
65	Anon	FRNSW	"protection of turf" has to end between RFS & FRNSW, FRNSW not being used while properties were lost	Shoalhaven	Blue Mountains
67	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Forester, RFS brigades advised not to help with HRs on private land, fatigue, WHS		
71	Anon		Backburning, very upset with the RFS	Wingecarribee	Balmoral
81	Anon		Retired NPWS, backburning at Currowan fire incorrectly done		
83	Anon		Lost everything, FNM not useful, no help for Bemboka RFS, HRs had no effect in stopping fire	Bega Valley	Bemboka
86	Anon		No happy with backburn that started Liberation trail fire	Clarence Valley	
89	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Tyringham RFS, local IMT not taking notice of on ground fire reports, Nymboida burnt out by Liberation Trail backburn, not happy with FCNSW, IMT from Glenn Innes did not work	Clarence Valley	Tyringham
93	Anon	RFS	IMT not using experienced staff, anyone who speaks out is bullied		
94	Anon	Staff	Initial response with more RAFT teams, more equipment, better APZs needed		
96	Anon	RFS Volunteer	Initial response, unnecessary backburning, climate change	Clarence Valley	
105		ADF	Addresses how defence was used in NSW		
106		Australian Workers Union	Contains recommendations for both NPWS & FCNSW		

109	Greg Mullins	Emergency Leaders for Climate Action	A series of recommendations covering mostly planning & response issues		
110	Leanne Pickering	Endeavour Energy	A series of recommendations covering mostly planning & response issues		
111	Ian Brown	Fire Practitioners	A series of recommendations covering mostly planning & response issues, contains some case studies of the major fires		
113		Greater Hume Council	Road side management		
115	Brian McDonough	NSW Rural Fire Service Association	Contains recommendations mostly related to equipment & response		
122	Allan Lehepuu	RFS Volunteer	Feels RFS did a good job but paper work has slowed down the amount of prescribed burning	Snowy Monaro	Tinderry
123	Allan Patrick	Farmer	Stayed and defended, does not have much time for the RFS or government, fire permits		
124	Allan Porter	RFS Volunteer	Local knowledge & recognition of privately owned firefighting vehicles	Mid West	
126	Amanda McDowell		Vary critical of RFS and its bushfire fire capabilities, not rural minded	Wollondilly	
128	Andrea Tulloch	Farmer	Initial response, local knowledge, backburning	Snowy Valleys	Adelong
131	Andrew Butson		Saved house at Conjola, FNM gave misinformation, no help, no water	Shoalhaven	Conjola
134	Andrew Elks	Farmer	Local Knowledge, RFS not putting fires out, initial response, no help from NPWS	Glen Innes	Guyra
136	Andrew Kaye	RFS	IMT operations, fatigue, real volunteer numbers, value of aircraft, RAFT	Blue Mountains	
138	Andrew Valja		Backburning in Blue Mountains, less confidence in RFS	Lithgow	Dargan
142	Anna Smith	Farmer	No support from fire services, initial response		
144	Anne Pidcock		Backburning and agency coordination	Wingecarribee	Penrose
145	Annette Greer		Stayed and defended saved house very interesting story, no outside help	Eurobodalla	Mogo
149	Alan McCartney	RFS Volunteer	National standards for equipment and radios		
161	Baden Cameron		Bega Valley BFRMP is superficial, RFS and FRNSW poor relationship	Bega Valley	Tura

162	Barry Hadaway	RFS Volunteer	Extreme dryness rather than fuel loads, fatigue, WHS, climate change	Mid West	Cooyal
165	Barry Patten		Private fighting resources "UTE Brigade", RFS did not have enough resources	Shoalhaven	Croobyar
166	Barry Tompkinson		No support from the RFS, backburning, FNM not accurate	Shoalhaven	Little Forest
185	Brett Wheway		Very upset with FCNSW and their backburning	Eurobodalla	Narooma
186	Brian Coxon	Farmer	Oyster farmer, not happy with FCNSW and damage to catchment areas, backburning		
192	Brian Woodland & Sally Middleton	RFS Volunteers	Both volunteers, no support from RFS, lack of local decision making, very detailed story	Hunter	Wollombi
195	Bruce Shea		Poor initial response to Currowan fire, backburn left un attended	Shoalhaven	
208	Catherine Caddy		Need better initial response		
213	Cathy Gairn	Farmer	Initial response, road blocks not helping locals, no support from RFS for 3 days		
221	Christian Gavin	RFS Volunteer	WHS		
222	Christina Grant-McNaught	Farmer	Stayed & defended and saved house, backburning, extremely critical of RFS/FCNSW/NPWS "everything was done too late and sometimes the stupidity was gobsmacking"		
224	Christine Davies		Initial response		
226	Christine Reid	Farmer	FNM of no use, "Pod Army", local knowledge, a very good example of a community working together	Kyogle	Woodenbong
227	Chris Price		A very detailed story, backburning, road blocks, very unhappy with RFS investigation into fire	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
233	Dr Sarah Waddell		About early response to bushfires	Shoalhaven	Kangaroo Valley
238	Keith Muir	Colong Foundation for Wilderness	Initial response to remote fires, increase transparency, land management		

241		Conjola Station	Local knowledge, red tape hazard reductions, private firefighting resources		
244	Corie Ross	Farmer	Road blocks, need information sheltering, FNM of no use when fires are close		
250	Craig Conner	RFS Volunteer	No RFS hazard reduction in last 3 years, volunteers facing too many demands	Lithgow	
256	Daniel Hawkins	RFS Volunteer	shocking planning by IMT		
261	Darren Rodrigo	RFS Volunteer	morale of members when truck taken away and not returned, WHS, fatigue management	Blue Mountains	Katoomba
263	Darryl Miller		Backburning, community engagement		
264	Darryl Wright		Retired volunteer RFS very damming of local Dargan brigade, local experience		
268	David Darlington	RFS Volunteer Ex NPWS	Ex NPWS, "much more focus on management of fuel loads in close proximity to built assets", initial response and much more	Snowy Monaro	Jindabyne
269	David Eden		Saved house, initial response, climate change	Wollondilly	
270	David Freebody		Ex Forester, critical of RFS "don't know how to react to a fire let alone fight one", FNM out of date, backburning	Eurobodalla	Nelligen
278	David Williams	RFS Volunteer	WHS, fatigue	Hornsby	
279	Deborah Padroth		Stayed and defended, initial response, backburning, community engagement, FNM, fuel loads	Wingecarribee	Bargo
281	Debrah Novak	Councillor	Need to review BFRMP & EMPLAN, local knowledge, IMT, poor coordination	Clarence Valley	
284	Dennis Cole	RFS Volunteer	Farmer issue with water being taken leaving little for cattle	Clarence Valley	
288	Diane Hebb	Farmer	FNM a joke, initial response, communications	Snowy Monaro	Yaouk
295	Donna Layton	Farmer	Not putting the fire out while waiting instructions from head office, lack of hazard reductions, lack of experience in RFS	Clarence Valley	Nymboida
298	Dr Brian Dale		Initial response, need to increase RAFT capabilities, put power lines underground		
299	Dr Bronwyn Walker	Vet	Climate change, initial response, need to increase RAFT capability, wildlife coordination	Lithgow	
304	Dr Joe McGirr	MP	Initial response, WHS, age of trucks, fuel reduction, RFS crews treating local farmers who stayed with disdain, road blocks	Snowy Valleys	

306	Dr Justin Clancy & Bill Tilley	MP	Road blocks, cross border issues, local knowledge, road side land management	Albury	
311	Dr Richard Marshall	RFS Volunteer	10/50, soil dryness, fire services grossly under-resourced		
314	Adam Richards	Firefighter	FNM not accurate, poor information from ABC, evacuation issues	Shoalhaven	Manyana
315	Adrian Bell		Stayed and saved home, no support, no site of emergency services for 8 days	Shoalhaven	Yattah
316	Alan Burdon & Dr Fiona Kotvojs	RFS Volunteers	BFRMP not been implemented, fuel loads, local RFS autonomy, communications		
320	Alastair Breringan	RFS Volunteer	Very detailed on poor quality of RFS technology, poor communications, need RFS App		Lansdowne
321	Alastair Breringan	RFS Volunteer	RFS App		
326	Alison Hawkins	RFS Volunteer	Very critical of IMT, initial response, heavy plant, poor coordination		
335	Ed Allen	RFS Volunteer	Initial response, strategic hazard reductions, upgrade older fire trucks, IMT	Shoalhaven	Kangaroo Valley
337	Elise Pulver	Farmer	Stayed & defended, no support	Shoalhaven	Little Forest
345	Emma Walsh		The only houses to survive were those with alternative water sources to town water, no support, backburning	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
346	Emorfia Cutler	Farmer	Lack of Hazard reductions, stayed and defended, no support from RFS just the neighbours	Port Macquarie	Birdwood
355	Fiona Franklin		Lost home, "response to bushfires was non-existent", "the response after the bushfires has been shocking", sad story	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
366	Fred Fetherstone	RFS Volunteer	Red tape for private hazard reductions, fire as disaster with victims, heroes & criminals, insight into changing fire mythology in our culture	Mid Coast	
372		Friends of the Mongarlowe River	Information on Currowan fire, remote area firefighting	Queanbeyan	Mongarlowe
377	Garth Nicholson		Lost home, backburning by non-local brigades against the advice of local brigade	Hawkesbury	Bilpin

383	Gavan Willis	RFS Volunteer	Story of start of Dunn's road fire, initial response, poor resourcing from, backburning, IMT	Tumut	Lower Bago
384	Gayle Mildren		Backburning, Section 44, not happy with FCNSW, land management	Clarence Valley	Nymboida
385	Geoff Greentree	RFS Volunteer	Initial response, brigades need to be properly resourced, fire trails, HRs	Snowy Monaro	Berridale
387	Geoffrey Radcliffe	RFS Volunteer	Poor communications	Eurobodalla	Potato Point
390	Gillian Moon		FNM wildly inaccurate, local knowledge, insufficient planning	Wingecarribee	Penrose
394	Glen Olsen	Farmer	Backburning, hazard reductions, burning approval on private land		
395		Glen Poole Contracting	Land management, red/green tape, backburning, RFS no longer has experienced forestry & plant operator skills	Coffs Harbour	Orara Valley
398	Graham Edgar	FRNSW	Backburning by RFS then leaving, Sprinkler systems, FRNSW not being used, Section 44	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
400	Graham Lightbody	RFS Volunteer	IMT, need more resources for backburning at night, management of strike teams	Tenterfield	Drake
404	Greg Cheyne		FNM at the border		
405	Greg Cole	RFS Volunteer	Fatigue management, Logistics management, maintenance management	Northern Beaches	
409	Greg Mitchell	RFS Volunteer	FNM of no use, poor AAR, 000, LGA boundary issues	Shoalhaven	Sassafras
410	Greg Piper	Farmer	Similar to Sir Ivan Fire, need to use local knowledge & better initial response		
413	Guy Sim		backburning, low pressure Wobble T sprinklers helped save house	Mudgee	Running Stream
418	James Bunn		Private firefighting resources were used following lack of local knowledge by RFS & FCNSW	Eurobodalla	Nelligan
419	James Diamond	FRNSW	No coordination between RFS & FRNSW, poor management		
420	James Grady	RFS Volunteer	No help from FCNSW and the owners of private forests, RFS bureaucracy	Snowy Valley	Bago
421	James Hull	Farmer	More hazard reduction, backburning	Mid Coast	Wingham
429	Jane Lawler	Farmer	Lost 2 houses, there was no response, not seen RFS in 3 months	Eurobodalla	Cadgee

431	Jason McDermott		Lost home, tried to defend but helped saved neighbours house, no response	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
432	Jean Patterson		Lost home, no warning, no support, no hazard reduction		
433	Jeff Condren	RFS Volunteer	Need better communications		
434	Jeff Freeman		FNM, backburning	Wingecarribee	Penrose
436	Jenelle Gorsch		FNM, backburning, poor coordination	Bega Valley	Wyndham
443	Jenny Marshall		Stayed and defended & saved house due to being unable to evacuate elderly mother, no trucks available	Shoalhaven	Conjola
444	Jenny Robb	Ex RFS	House saved by preparation work lost sheds, FNM Victoria better, both left RFS due to time commitments, too much being asked of volunteers	Bega Valley	Kiah
452	Joanne Ashe		Lost house, no response, FCNSW plant trees close to house on old dairy	Mid Coast	Tinonee
454	Joe Walker		Centralised control by IMT, communications, FCNSW responsible for burning out Nymboida	Clarence Valley	Tyringham
455	John Arentz		No response, pine forest management	Snowy Valleys	Tumbarumba
457	John Baker		Saved house, backburning, no support	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
464	John Hawkins	RFS Volunteer	Poor management in IMT, not supporting volunteers	Albury	
465	John Hill	RFS Volunteer RFS Lower Creek	Poor communications		
466	John McKay	RFS Volunteer RFS	Climate change, fire trails, better initial response	Clarence Valley	Copmanhurst
471	John Stein		Backburning, heavy plant, over reliance on volunteers		
472	John Sutherland		FNM no accurate	Wollondilly	Couridjah
476	John Willmont		FNM, poor coordination	Shoalhaven	
485	Judith Winter	RFS Volunteer	RFS family saved rocky plain village without help from brigade	Snowy Monaro	Rocky Pain
486	Julia Braithwaite		FNM useless, local decision making, more hazard reduction	Hawkesbury	Kurrajong Heights

487	Julie Mills		Stayed & defended, FNM out of date, 000, IMT, poor response, private firefighting resources	Eurobodalla	Moruya
489	Justin Black	Ex RFS	Need private companies to undertake private hazard reductions, no accountability on use of VLAT & LAT, AAR		
496	Katherine Mackaway	Farmer	Backburning, planning was pathetic, local knowledge, poor engagement, private firefighting resources, FCNSW/RFS	Walcha	
498	Peter Bennett	RFS Katoomba/Leura Brigade	Truck safety, fatigue, fireground decision making, IMT, backburning	Blue Mountains	Katoomba
503	Ken Ainsworth	RFS Volunteer	IMT, local knowledge, fire trails	Upper Lachlan	Taralga
506	Kenneth Masters	Farmer	Saved house, lost livestock & infrastructure, FNM was completely wrong, no RFS at Yowrie		
517		Lapland Pastoral Company	Poor community engagement from RFS, no local knowledge, "The RFS are not the sole holders and authority that know all"	Eurobodalla	Moruya
518	Laurae Harvey		Lost house & kangaroo sanctuary, rescued by fishing boat on Clyde River	Eurobodalla	Runnyford
522	Leanne Hanvey		IMT, culture within RFS, local knowledge, backburning, WHS, climate change	Blue Mountains	
528	Linda Navara		Lost home, no warning, no support, no hazard reduction	Eurobodalla	Bodalla
530	Lindy Appleton	RFS Volunteer	Wife of volunteer, one of the few houses to survive, FNM, communications, well prepared house	Eurobodalla	Bodalla
535	Lorraine Bone		Saved house with help of fire brigade, backburning, no warning FNM	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
536	Lucinda Fisher		Lost home, no warning, no support, very poor recovery experience	Taree	Rainbow Flat
539	Maini Peterson		Not happy with RFS & NPWS, RFS "outright firebugs", told them not to burn	Shoalhaven	Conjola
556	Mark Drury	FCNSW	IMT need to be smaller, RFS has dropped the ball, does not have the skills for forest fires & was not interested in containment		
558	Mark McDonnell		Backburning, lack of local knowledge, not assisting when requested. Better APZs	Hawkesbury	Mt Tomah

559	Mark Pryor	RFS Volunteer	Need better knowledge on where the fire is, need to use drone technology		
564	Martin Tebbutt	Farmer	Stayed & defended, backburning, red tape for private hazard reductions, private land management	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
572	Matthew Thomson		Stayed and saved house with help from NPWS, lost some sheds	Shoalhaven	Milton
578	Melinda Turton		Backburning, climate change	Wingecarribee	Bargo
584	Michael Ewin	Farmer	Road blocks effecting dairy farms	Shoalhaven	Milton
589	Michael McGrath	RFS Volunteer	IMTs across districts, local knowledge, backburning, better engagement with landholders	Braidwood	
591	Michael Ross	Forester Ex FCNSW	FCNSW staff reductions, RFS does not firefighting skills in forests or strategic planning skills		
594	Natalie Meyer	Resident	Private firefighting resources, good community response, initial response, FNM	Casino	Nimbin
605		Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee	Description of community volunteers helping local brigade	Casino	Nimbin
613		NSW Apiarists Association	Initial response, conflict between agencies, local knowledge, maintenance of roads		
621	Rena Kelly		Story of defending parents help & FRNSW leaving as fire arrived, house lost, FNM	Eurobodalla	Surf Beach
625	Rhys Kenna	Farmer	Story of staying & saving house & sheds without support	Bega Valley	Yowrie
633	Robert Golgini		Lack of communication, no warning, stayed and saved house	Snowy Valleys	Tumbarumba
636	Robert McMahon	RFS	Regarding email from RFS Volunteer, local knowledge, RFS strike teams not acting	Snowy Valleys	Adelong
638	Robert Moore	Ex RFS	Fire trails, early response, better land management, NPWS staffing	Inverell	Tingha
640	Robert Reid		Need local Bega RFS district office to be staffed not run from Moruya	Bega Valley	
645	Rod Rose		Lack of local knowledge and failing to put the fire out	Shoalhaven	Balmoral
646	Rodney Holmes	Farmer Ex NPWS	Local Knowledge, initial response, FNM	Dungog	

647	Rodney Ward		FNM and warnings		
652	Ron Salz		CFU	Blue Mountains	
654	David Boardman	Rosedale Association	Detailed story of the Rosedale community response efforts	Eurobodalla	Rosedale
655	Rosemary Doyle		Lost home near fire station, lack of response, no water	Wingecarribee	Balmoral
657	Ross Anderson		Lack of local knowledge and failing to put the fire out		
658	Ross Hitchcock	RFS Volunteer	Community engagement, need for better fire preparation	Central Coast	Kulnura
662	Russell Allen	RFS Volunteer	Need locals in IMT, need to put fires out rather than backburning		
668	Sally Bacon		Story of lack of local knowledge when sending Life savers across the Basin in rubber duckies	Shoalhaven	Sanctuary Point
669	Sally Hill	RFS Volunteer	Wife of volunteer, communications, old equipment	Armidale	
672	Samantha Kneeshaw		Story of staying & defending, sprinklers, being well prepared, backburn not extinguished	Shoalhaven	Conjola
675	Sara Eastway		Story of leaving at the last moment after trying to defend	Shoalhaven	Conjola
677	Scott Brennan		Story about lack of support, backburning	Shoalhaven	Conjola
680	Sean McLoughlin	RFS Volunteer	IMT, poor communications, collector not working, Ipads out of date, VLT		
681	Sean Thompson	Firefighter	IMT, small fires not being put out		
695	Stan Eagle		Fast fill water capability		
697	Stefan King	RFS Volunteer	Better crew management, WHS and brigade funds	Shoalhaven	Cudmirrah
701	Stephen Brennan		Community huddled in Nerrigundah fire shed, sprinklers help save shed	Bega Valley	Nerrigundah
702	Stephen Currie	RFS Volunteer	Fatigue management, uniform & PPE, WHS	Coffs Harbour	
703	Stephen Douglas	RFS Volunteer Ex FRNSW	Lost home, lack of forest bushfire skills, communications	Lithgow	Dargan

704	Stephen Dovey	Ex NPWS	IMT, reduced NPWS staffing, backburning	Bega Valley	
707	Steve Thompson	RFS Volunteer	WHS, fitness, no report of incidents or near misses, conflicts of interest		
708	Steve Toms	Ex FCNSW	Early detection with Geoscience Australia Infrared Remote Satellite		
711	Steven Mccloughan		Lost house, no response, no warning	Eurobodalla	Malua Bay
713	Amanda Lewin		Lost home due to backburning by RFS, no warnings	Wingecarribee	Balmoral
727	Hamish MacKenzie	RFS Volunteer	Poor communications, poor fire maps, old public information	Mid Coast	Wherrol Flat
731	Hayley McLennan	Farmer	Saved house lost most infrastructure, no support, road side fuel management,	Clarence Valley	
733	Heather Dunnett		Hazard reduction around village area, private firefighting resources	Shoalhaven	Berrara
734	Heather McGregor		Stayed and defended from beach, saved house and neighbours houses, no support	Eurobodalla	Rosedale
738	Helen Dwyer		Lost home, evacuated to lake, no support	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
742	Helen Templeton	RFS Volunteer Farmer	Stayed and defend and saved house & sheds but not farm	Snowy Monaro	Bumbalong
743	Hendrik Luf	RFS Volunteer	Fuel loads, NPWS staff levels, WHS	Blue Mountains	Woodford
745	Hugh Howell	RFS Volunteer	Truck design & need to do backburning at night	Queanbeyan	Captains Flat
746	Hugh Hassall	RFS Volunteer	Needs to be a re-assessment of the policy & operational roles	Eurobodalla	Bingie
748	Ian Bowie	Planner	Needs to better real time fire information, FNM, PBP no more than guidelines		
749	Ian Burley	Farmer	Backburning and crews going home at night, lack of local knowledge, fuel loads		
753	Ian Dixon	Ex RFS	""Community defender program" was very successful, private firefighting resources	Lismore	Nimbin
759	Ian Stewart		Backburning, disjoint between RFS, FRNSW & NPWS, poor communications, FNM	Shoalhaven	Yarre Yattah
770	Mike Gorman	RFS Volunteer	Community engagement, private firefighting resources, initial response, AAR	Shoalhaven	Kangaroo Valley

774	Allen Hyde	Mount Irvine Progress Association	Local knowledge, Emergency Management Plan, local appliances, hazard reductions	Blue Mountains	Mount Irvine
780	Ross Constable	Park watch NSW	Initial response by paid firefighters in remote areas, hazard reductions near assets		
789	Peter Clark	RFS Volunteer	Funding for aircraft not available for initial response until S44 declared,	Dorrigo	Tyringham
790	Peter Comensoli	RFS Volunteer	Fire trail maintenance, red tape for private hazard reduction, RFS reluctant to undertake hazard reduction, backburning	Central Coast	Mangrove Mountain
791	Peter Dunn		Preparation, FNM, warnings, evacuation, critical infrastructure, local knowledge, backburning	Shoalhaven	Conjola
797	Peter Hutchings	Researcher Ex CSIRO	Initial response, FNM at borders, RFS not suitable for forest fires, loss of staff at NPWS & FCNSW	Bega Valley	
799	Peter Richer		Backburning, initial response, FNM, saved house with help from FRNSW, not happy with RFS	Wingecarribee	Buxton
800	Peter Ruetman		Lost everything, backburning, no warning, no help	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
801	Peter Sargent		Initial response		
802	Peter Stirling Benson	Farmer	Climate change, RFS needs better equipment, need to visit properties, hazard reductions, FNM	Goulburn	Tallong
803	Peter Taylor	RFS Volunteer Farmer	IMT not supporting or trusting volunteers on the ground	Greater Hume	Jingellic
808	Andrew Whittaker		Story of staying and defending, hazard reductions,	Wingecarribee	Wingello
810	Peter Trahar	Farmer	Story of staying & defending with help from RFS	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
812	Peter Verhoeven	RFS	Need to focus hazard reduction on APZs, fire tactics wrong for drought conditions, IMT,	Blue Mountains	
819	Phillipa Hollenkamp		Story of staying & saving house, backburning, FNM & fire prediction map, no warnings, no support	Shoalhaven	Conjola
824	Roy Barlow		Initial response, backburning	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
830	Stuart Reed	RFS Volunteer	Comparison with CFA fire trucks, need for working chainsaw	Hawkesbury	Blaxland
832	Sue Kelly		Story of staying but losing house to embers getting into roof	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay

834	Sue Norman		House saved with sprinklers, used bunker	Bega Valley	Kiah
836	Sue Odgers	RFS Volunteer	Communications, internet, FNM, private firefighting resources	Mid Coast	
837	Sue Steltzer	Farmer	No backburning at night, crews start too late in the day, no maps	Glen Innes	
839	Susan Ackroyd		WHS for volunteers		
842	Susan Grogan		Red tape, many landholders have left the RFS, fire trails	Tenterfield	
844	Susan Russell		Communication, FNM, Black swan brigade	Mid Coast	Elands
845	Susie Edwards		Fire trail maintenance, council not taking responsibility, work done at the last minute	Wingecarribee	Penrose
848	Suzanne Dickson		Story of having done preparation & having a plan, house was saved, sheltered at fire station	Bega Valley	Quaama
852	Tania Lingard		Stayed & saved house, no support, everyman for themselves		
854	Terrance Channells	Resident	Story of staying and defending, not happy with Utungun RFS, no warning	Nambucca	Utungun
855	Terry OLeary	RFS Volunteer	Fatigue management, WHS, communications	Queanbeyan	Bungendore
856	Terry Wood		Lost home, FNM was not keeping the local community up to date	Nambucca	
857	John Hagger	The Clarence Forum	FNM not up to date, poor communications, P2 masks for community, not using local earth moving equipment	Clarence Valley	
858	Jason Hines	The Hines Group	Very poor use of heavy plant	Wingecarribee	
859	Bob Gordon	The Institute of Foresters & Australian Forest Growers	Loss of forestry staff, backburning being undertaken without the right skills		
860	Jenny Moffat	The Learning Oak Holiday Lifestyles	Stayed & lost some facilities and services, fuel loads, need town evacuation plan	Shoalhaven	Conjola
861	Ian Brown	Ex NPWS	Backburning, need for post fire reviews, need bushfire suppression strategy		
862	Theresa Matthews		Story of stay & defending, evacuation	Eurobodalla	Mogo
869	Tonia Welsh	Farmer	Lost everything, no warning, no support	Nambucca	
871	Tony Quinn	Councillor	Air support would have put the fire out on the first night	Greater Hume	

872	Trevor Wilson	RFS Volunteer	Communications, preparedness, roles of agencies, public warnings	Casino	
879		Upper Murray Inc	Communications across border, poor evacuation orders, clip on fire units	Snowy Valleys	
882	Vanessa Keenan	Farmer	Stayed & saved house & buildings, no warnings, Vic FNM much better than NSW FNM	Tumut	Maragle Valley
883	Vaughan Hirschausen		Stayed and saved house & helped neighbour, no warning, FNM no use	Shoalhaven	Bewong
894	Wayne Duncombe		Story of trying to save house with little support	Shoalhaven	Conjola
901	William Power	Ex FRNSW	Backburning, history of fires		
907	Ben Elliott	Farmer	Mosquito brigades, backburning, local control, property protection too early		
908	Kathy Rankin	NSW Farmers Association	Private firefighting resources, need to emphasis extinguishment rather than property protection		
910	John Barilaro	MP	Local knowledge		
914	Brian Tomalin	RFS Volunteer	Volume of fires lead to inadequate response, underfunding of land management	Tamworth	Hanging Rock
916	John Klason	Farmer	Not happy with RFS, backburning, lack of experience	Mid Coast	Wherrol Flat
918	Danny King	RFS Volunteer	RFS should control all rural fires, mosquito fleet	Queanbeyan	Braidwood
923	Thomas Reeve	RFS Volunteer	Fire breaks, local control, mega IMT, FNM, fuel loads on private land	Coffs Harbour	Orara
927	Trish Doyle	MP	RFS staff restructure, truck safety, truck allocation, WHS, FNM useless if fire nearby, fatigue management, S44 impact on FRNSW		
931	Dr Jason Sharples	Researcher UNSW	Extreme fire behaviour, need additional training, AS 3959, backburning		
934	Greg Hale	RFS Volunteer	Detailed story of what happen in Killabakh, lack of support and planning	Mid Coast	Killabakh
937	Melissa Freebody		Stayed and saved house "I am angry & disappointed that we were left with no information, no assistance & abandoned"	Eurobodalla	Nelligen
940	Andrew Gardyne		Stayed & saved house, concerned about backburn lit by FCNSW	Wingham	Caparra
942	Bruce Clark	RFS Volunteer	Highly critical of RFS staff and IMT, backburning	Mudgee	Olinda

945	Jamie Benaud	FRNSW	RFS/FRNSW cross crewing, AVL		
949	Katie Johnston		Lost everything, no warning, no support	Shoalhaven	Yatte Yattah
951	Keith Brister		FNM, mopping up, climate change	Blue Mountains	Blackheath
953	Leah Price		Story of losing house and evacuating, no warning, no support	Shoalhaven	Conjola Park
954	Lindy Dunn		Story of evacuation and recovery	Shoalhaven	Conjola
955	Martin Darling		Story of staying and saving house, same area burnt again the following day	Wingecarribee	Balmoral
956	Michael Grady	RFS Volunteer	Local knowledge, poor use of resources, pine plantations, road blocks	Snowy Valleys	Lower Bago
959	Peter Redman	RFS Volunteer	property destroyed, 3 IMTs controlling Bell, backburning, local knowledge, fuel loads were not excessive	Lithgow	Bell
960	Philip Novak	RFS Volunteer	Stayed lost everything, was well prepared, RFS red tape, WHS, communications	Bega Valley	Kiah
965	Anon		Backburning along northern side of Bells Line of Road	Hawkesbury	
967	Anon		Backburning at Mt Wilson	Hawkesbury	Mt Wilson
968	Anon		Story of evacuation and fire, FNM, no support	Bega Valley	Coolagolite
970	Unknown	Farmer	Stayed and defended, no support, fuel loads, pine plantations	Snowy Valleys	Tumbarumba
971	Peter Marshall	RFS Volunteer Councillor	Volunteers should not be used to replace paid staff in NPWS & FCNSW	Queanbeyan	

Farmers

ID	Name	Something of what was said		
36	Anon	Toxic culture within the local RFS, hero worship, lack of skills, RFS poor relationships 'us and them', no help from NPWS	Snowy Monaro	Adaminaby
40	Anon	Private firefighting resources more useful than RFS & NPWS, FNM not accurate, Very poor management of national parks & forestry	Queanbeyan	Reidsdale
74	Anon	PBP 2019 allows houses to be built where they should not		
123	Allan Patrick	Stayed and defended, does not have much time for the RFS or government, fire permits		
128	Andrea Tulloch	Initial response, local knowledge, backburning	Snowy Valleys	Adelong
134	Andrew Elks	Local Knowledge, RFS not putting fires out, initial response, no help from NPWS	Glen Innes	Guyra
142	Anna Smith	No support from fire services, initial response		
168	Ben Buggy	Stayed and defended and saved house, climate change	Bega Valley	Cobargo
186	Brian Coxon	Oyster farmer, not happy with FCNSW and damage to catchment areas, backburning		
196	Bruce Summerell	Stayed and defended farm, need larger dams	Bega Valley	Bermagui
209	Catherine Eggert	Climate change		
213	Cathy Gairn	Initial response, road blocks not helping locals, no support from RFS for 3 days		
222	Christina Grant-McNaught	Stayed & defended and saved house, backburning, extremely critical of RFS/FCNSW/NPWS "everything was done too late and sometimes the stupidity was gobsmacking"		
226	Christine Reid	FNM of no use, "Pod Army", local knowledge, a very good example of a community working together	Kyogle	Woodenbong
244	Corie Ross	Road blocks, need information sheltering, FNM of no use when fires are close		
276	David McAlister	Clear the sides of the roads		
287	Desiree Obrien	Not happy with FCNSW, fuel loads in forests		
288	Diane Hebb	FNM a joke, initial response, communications		Yaouk
292	Don Pratley	Fuel loads		
295	Donna Layton	Not putting the fire out while waiting instructions from head office, lack of hazard reductions, lack of experience in RFS	Clarence Valley	Nymboida

310	Dr Peter Roberts	Story about pine plantations burning around Turon		Palmer's Oakey
319	Brian King	Hazard reductions, firebreaks, need to help individuals to look after themselves		
337	Elise Pullver	Stayed & defended, no support	Shoalhaven	Little Forest
346	Emorfia Cutler	Lack of Hazard reductions, stayed and defended, no support from RFS just the neighbours		Birdwood
347	Eric Thomas	Need to conduct more hazard reduction, installed sprinkler system that saved house but lost second house and 9 farm sheds		
365	Frank Minutello	Stayed & defended without support,		
379	Gary Elks	NPWS not managing land, initial response, fuel loads		
381	Gary Nairn	Chaired Inquiry into 2003 fires, lessons from those fires not been learnt, local knowledge		
388	Geoffrey Spence	Stayed & defended lost fencing and pastures		Bulga
394	Glen Olsen	Backburning, hazard reductions, burning approval on private land		
408	Greg McTaggart	Need more hazard reduction		Howes Valley
410	Greg Piper	Similar to Sir Ivan Fire, need to use local knowledge & better initial response		
421	James Hull	More hazard reduction, backburning		Wingham
429	Jane Lawler	Lost 2 houses, there was no response, not seen RFS in 3 months	Eurobodalla	Cadgee
460	John Blackall	Need bigger APZs		
496	Katherine Mackaway	Backburning, planning was pathetic, local knowledge, poor engagement, private firefighting resources, FCNSW/RFS		Walcha
506	Kenneth Masters	Saved house, lost livestock & infrastructure, FNM was completely wrong, no RFS at Yowrie		
555	Mark Darcy	It is just what happens	Bega Valley	
564	Martin Tebbutt	Stayed & defended, backburning, red tape for private hazard reductions, private land management	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
584	Michael Ewin	Road blocks effecting dairy farms	Shoalhaven	Milton
619	Ralph Hough	Description of RFS red tape with respect to call outs		
625	Rhys Kenna	Story of staying & saving house & sheds without support	Bega Valley	Yowrie
631	Robert Boag	Need for better strategic firebreaks	Wingecarribee	Wingello
646	Rodney Holmes	Local Knowledge, initial response, FNM		Dungog
650	Roger Anderson	Pine plantations		
671	Sam Newman	Lack of maintenance & fuel reduction by FCNSW	Coffs Harbour	Woolgoolga

706	Stephen Targett	Lack of resource for emergency services		
731	Hayley McLennan	Saved house lost most infrastructure, no support, road side fuel management,	Clarence Valley	
735	Heather Smith	FNM, council's response was laughable		
742	Helen Templeton RFS	Stayed and defend and saved house & sheds but not farm	Snowy Monaro	Bumbalong
747	Ian Anderson	Need for better cooperation between state & federal	Goulburn	Woodhouselee
749	Ian Burley	Backburning and crews going home at night, lack of local knowledge, fuel loads		
750	Ian Colombet	Not happy with NPWS	Shoalhaven	Croobyar
794	Peter Farleigh	Lost house & sheds from ember attack, comment on why hazard reductions are difficult to achieve	Goulburn	Tallong
802	Peter Stirling Benson	Climate change, RFS needs better equipment, need to visit properties, hazard reductions, FNM	Goulburn	Tallong
803	Peter Taylor RFS	IMT not supporting or trusting volunteers on the ground	Greater Hume	Jingellic
810	Peter Trahar	Story of staying & defending with help from RFS	Hawkesbury	Bilpin
827	Stuart Bell	Suspicious fires		Wylie Creek
828	Stuart Kennedy	Hazard reduction helped to save business	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
837	Sue Steltzer	No backburning at night, crews start too late in the day, no maps	Glen Innes	
869	Tonia Welsh	Lost everything, no warning, no support	Nambucca	
882	Vanessa Keenan	Stayed & saved house & buildings, no warnings, Vic FNM much better than NSW FNM	Tumut	Maragle Valley
898	Wilfred Giles	Complaint about Snowy Monaro Council	Snowy Monaro	
907	Ben Elliott	Mosquito brigades, backburning, local control, property protection too early		
909	Yvonne Matthews	Greens have too much control		
916	John Kiason	Not happy with RFS, backburning, lack of experience	Mid Coast	Wherrol Flat
969	Anonymous	Solar farms are toxic and a danger		
970	Unknown	Stayed and defended, no support, fuel loads, pine plantations	Snowy Valleys	Tumbarumba

Built Environment

ID	Name	Something of what was said		
60	Anon	Lost 2 houses, had sprinkler systems and pumps but not able to remotely start them, RFS did what they could	Blue Mountains	
85	Anon	Stayed & defended with sprinkler system on and around house	Bega Valley	Cobargo
301	Dr Hilary Smith & Ken Boer	Story of saving house using sprinklers	Eurobodalla	Malua Bay
398	Graham Edgar FRNSW	Backburning by RFS then leaving, Sprinkler systems	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
491	Kangaroo Valley Community Bushfire Committee Mike Gorman	Retrofitting of buildings	Shoalhaven	
585	Michael Harewood	Stayed & saved house using sprinklers, used a bunker	Bega Valley	Kiah
672	Samantha Kneeshaw	Story of staying & defending, sprinklers, being well prepared	Shoalhaven	Conjola
875	Turf Australia	Lawns such as buffalo work well to create a fire break around houses		
931	Dr Jason Sharples Researcher UNSW	Extreme fire behaviour, AS 3959		

Community

ID	Name	Group	Something of what was said		
120	Peter Lonergan	Tibra District Chamber of Commerce	A very good example of a community looking at the local bushfire issues	Bega Valley	Tibra
139	Andy Carnahan	Bundanoon Community Association	Too late to leave should be Safer to Stay	Wingecarribee	Bundanoon
170	Geoff Steel	Bermagui Community Forum	Loss of staff in NPWS & FCNSW, Red tape with hazard reductions, need a Bermagui Disaster Response Plan	Bega Valley	Bermagui
177	Sean Lonergan	Bilpin RFB	Wollemi-Grose Wildfire Mitigation & Community Resilience Management Plan	Hawkesbury	Bilbin
183		Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute	Improve involvement of communities in landscape management & resilience	Blue Mountains	
226	Christine Reid		"Pod Army", local knowledge, a very good example of a community working together	Kyogle	Woodenbong
325	Alison Ford		Very good community engagement from local RFS brigade, local community meeting	Queanbeyan	Araluen
491	Mike Gorman	Kangaroo Valley Community Bushfire Committee	Community bushfire planning needs to improve across all aspects	Shoalhaven	Kangaroo Valley
594	Natalie Meyer		Response needs to include community rather than "being done to it"	Lismore	Nimbin
598	Neil Berecry-Brown	Mountain Districts Citizens Assembly	Community bushfire planning	Central Coast	Mangrove Mountain
605		Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee	Description of community volunteers helping local brigade	Lismore	Nimbin
654	David Boardman	Rosedale Association	Detailed story of the Rosedale community response efforts	Eurobodalla	Rosedale
742	Helen Templeton	Volunteer RFS Colinton	Story of rural locality being prepared to stay and defend and support neighbours	Snowy Monaro	Bumbalong
774	Allen Hyde	Mount Irvine Progress Association	Local knowledge, Emergency Management Plan, local appliances, hazard reductions	Blue Mountains	Mount Irvine

791	Peter Dunn		Preparation, FNM, warnings, evacuation, critical infrastructure, local knowledge, backburning	Shoalhaven	Conjola
822	Prof Gary Moore	Kangaroo Valley Community Bushfire Committee	Community bushfire planning	Shoalhaven	Kangaroo Valley
864	Peter Lonergan	Tilba District Chamber of Commerce	Improve water supply, hazard reduction, fire protection for village	Bega Valley	Tilba
915	Glenn O'Rourke	RFS Wollombi	Community engagement	Cessnock	Wollombi

Evacuation

ID	Name	Something of what was said		
8	Anon	Evacuation centres not open, climate change action, land management	Wingecarribee	Bundanoon
43	Anon	Eurobodalla Sire Council was appalling, evacuation centre inadequate	Eurobodalla	
63	Anon	Each village needs an official evacuation centre	Blue Mountains	Blackheath
108	ClubsNSW	About evacuation centres		
171	Bettina Young	Very detailed evacuation story with recommendations	Eurobodalla	Tomakin
280	Deborah Stevenson	BFRMP, EMPLAN, Evacuation centres	Eurobodalla	Moruya
304	Dr Joe McGirr	Initial response, WHS, age of trucks, fuel reduction, RFS crews treating local farmers who stayed with disdain, road blocks	Snowy Valleys	
314	Adam Richards	FNM not accurate, poor information from ABC, evacuation issues	Shoalhaven	Manyana
336	Eden Community Access Centre	Evacuation was poorly coordinated, FNM, need for local community information		
355	Fiona Franklin	Lost home, "response to bushfires was non-existent", "the response after the bushfires has been shocking", sad story	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
444	Jenny Robb	House saved by preparation work lost sheds, FNM Victoria better, both left RFS due to time commitments, too much being asked of volunteers	Bega Valley	Kiah
521	Laurita Jones	Evacuation	Eurobodalla	Batemans Bay
594	Natalie Meyer	Official NGOs not working with local community	Lismore	Nimbin
610	Norman Moore	Story of evacuation and lack of information & services particularly for the elderly	Eurobodalla	Moruya
715	Barbara Levitt	Evacuation story	Eurobodalla	
737	Helen Boyton	Lack of evacuation centres in blue mountains	Blue Mountains	Katoomba
769	Michelle Cornish	Evacuation story	Bega Valley	
791	Peter Dunn	The evacuation during the bushfire attack was shambolic and dangerous	Shoalhaven	Conjola
807	Margaret Rasmussen Yulunga Reserve Committee Manyana	Story of using the hall as evacuation centre	Shoalhaven	Manyana

890	Liz Tooley Vincentia Matters	Lack of information on evacuation centres, FNM	Shoalhaven	Vincentia
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Recovery

ID	Name	Something of what was said	
19	Anon	Little help with recovery	Lithgow
21	Anon	Recovery very poor	Lithgow
22	Anon	Need to support community led recovery not shut them down	Bega Valley
25	Anon	Concerned about the mental health of the firefighter patients, WHS	
29	Anon	Lack of coordination with recovery	Eurobodalla
69	Anon	Family support	
105	ADF	Addresses how defence was used in NSW	
117	Red Cross Poppy Brown	Contains recommendations most around increasing disaster resilience	
765	Katungul Aboriginal Corporation	Health needs of South Coast Indigenous post fires	
792	Peter Dunn	Advice for community led recovery organisations	Shoalhaven

Wildlife

ID	Name	Something of what was said	
3	Anon	Wildlife rescue before fire, koalas,	Blue Mountains
38	Anon Volunteer	Complete devastation	
62	Anon	Devastation of wildlife	
90	Anon Volunteer	NPWS not working with wildlife care	
95	Anon Volunteer	Access to bushfire areas	
141	Anna Russell Researcher	Lack of support and poor coordination in recovery particularly wildlife	
181	Kylie Greenan Volunteer	Need to develop wildlife plans for bushfires	Blue Mountains
299	Dr Bronwyn Walker Vet	Climate change, initial response, need to increase RAFT capability, wildlife coordination	Lithgow
615	NSW Wildlife Council Sonja Elwood	NSW Wildlife rescue network takes a leadership role in the preparation and response to future disasters	
692	Sonja Elwood	Lack of planning or assistance by government for wildlife	
723	Dr Kate Colclough Vet	Better preparation & education of volunteer wildlife carers	
766	Lyndal Breen	Wildlife needs	
849	Suzanne Given	Wildlife rescue & recovery	
962	Lynleigh Greig	Wildlife rescue	