



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into the Emergencies Amendment Bill 2026

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Submission To The Inquiry Into The Emergencies Amendment Bill

My name is Stephen Angus, we adjoin Namadgi National Park for most of our boundary and where the first privately owned assets to be impacted by both the 2003 and 2020 bushfires, we suffered major stock losses and infrastructure damage in 2003, in 2020 we lost extensive fencing assets and reserves of stock feeds. I have been an active member of the Southern Districts Volunteer Brigade for 40 years. In that time I've held various positions in the Brigade, including Captain and I am currently hold the position of president and am the brigades rural liaison officer. I have represented the A.C.T Rural Landholders Association on the former A.C.T. Bushfire Council for a number of years before it was disbanded.

The A.C.T. Bushfire Council controlled all matters regarding response to bushfires, fuel management and access issues prior to self government, after self government this control was gradually white anted by the bureaucrats that did not like being told what to do, believing they knew what was best, the 2003 disaster was the eventual result of this process. We are now seeing a repeat of this in the scrapping of Bushfire Council, replacing it with the All Hazards Council [that was never going to work], its scrapping and the A.C.T Governments decision to not conduct any fuel management in areas of the Namadgi National Park that was impacted by the 2020 Orroral Valley fire.

There needs to be an independent body to oversee the actions of the the A.C.T Rural Fire Service, the A.C.T. Parks and Conservation Service and the E.S.A in regards to bushfire management which is the greatest threat to the A.C.T. As we are seeing at the moment with the current budget restraints, there are not enough resources to conduct audit of works carried out under Bushfire Operations Plans required by both public and private landholders. There is also a reduction in the response capabilities of the A.C.T. Rural Fire Service by reductions in its operational fleet, at the moment no one is held accountable for these actions. If you write to the responsible minister to complain, they send it to the people you are complaining about to draft a response, as we have seen recently, public servants are't always acting in the best interests of the people of the A.C.T

In conclusion the A.C.T. needs a fully independent body composed of relevant stakeholders who have skin in the game as such, to guide bushfire management in the A.C.T. This body needs to have its existence

**and proper resourcing is enshrined in the relevant legislation ie the
Emergencies Act**

Thankyou

Stephen Angus AFSM

