

ACTION ALERT AA 20-1: BUSHFIRE ENQUIRY

As Quakers we seek a world without war. We seek a sustainable and just community. We have a vision of an Australia that upholds human rights and builds peace internationally, with particular focus on our region. In our approach to government we will promote the importance of dialogue, of listening and of seeking that of God in every person. We aim to work for justice and to take away the occasion for war.

August 2019

*The Senate's Finance and Public Administration References Committee is conducting an Inquiry into lessons to be learned in relation to the preparation and planning for, response to and recovery efforts following the 2019-20 Australian bushfire season. **Deadline for submissions is 9 April 2020.***

QPLC is not making a submission to this Inquiry. We strongly encourage Friends, especially those who have been directly impacted by the recent bushfires, to make a submission. Please share information about this Inquiry through your networks.

The Committee is particularly interested in hearing about:

- (a) advice provided to the Federal Government, prior to the bushfires, about the level of bushfire risk this fire season, how and why those risks differed from historical norms, and measures that should be taken to reduce that risk in the future;
- (b) the respective roles and responsibilities of different levels of government, and agencies within government, in relation to bushfire planning, mitigation, response, and recovery;
- (c) the Federal Government's response to recommendations from previous bushfire Royal Commissions and inquiries;
- (d) the adequacy of the Federal Government's existing measures and policies to reduce future bushfire risk, including in relation to assessing, mitigating and adapting to expected climate change impacts, land use planning and management, hazard reduction, Indigenous fire practices, support for firefighters and other disaster mitigation measures;
- (e) best practice funding models and policy measures to reduce future bushfire risk, both within Australia and internationally;
- (f) existing structures, measures and policies implemented by the Federal Government, charities and others to assist communities to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires, including the performance of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency;

- (g) the role and process of advising Government and the federal Parliament of scientific advice;
- (h) an examination of the physical and mental health impacts of bushfires on the population, and the Federal Government's response to those impacts; and
- (i) any related matters.

Additional information, including instructions on 'How to make a submission', can be found at

[https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and Public Administration/Bushfirerecovery](https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/Bushfirerecovery)