

18 Sept 2020

Relief activities

To the best of my knowledge there has been very little of any of these offered to anyone in the area. I can think of two examples where people have sought housing assistance and been give substantial (\$50,000 I believe) grants to replace houses that didn't exist. Some residents of Cann River and Club Terrace are still living in temporary accommodation.

The East Gippsland Shire has no effective presence in far East Gippsland. BRV looks like it's hopelessly compromised by Covid, primarily but also the need to work with the Shire. No information about any of these matters has reached my community, Cabbage Tree Creek, except that which I've sought and distributed as Secretary of the local Hall Committee.

Recovery activities

There have been no community meetings in far East Gippsland outside of Malacoota. BRV and the Shire are pushing through with community recovery committees without informing the community about any of it. I tried to organise 2 meetings with BRV and the Shire but both were cancelled owing to covid. On-line meetings are not an option here as the population isn't very computer savy, there is no reliable mobile reception in Cabbage Tree Ck and not enough people have good satellite coverage. It's particulalrly anoying because they parrot their 'community led recovery' mantra whilst barely attempting to engage with the community.

In this vacuum he one group that's making hay (woodchips) while the sun shines is the logging lobby. They're doing great out of roadside clearing ... subsidized to ship logs, mostly for woodchips and a few for sawmills. Down on the Cape Conran - Cabbage Tree Road, as I type, they're logging Potaroo habitat. No EIS, as usual, despite the last high court decision. AND there's practically no sawlogs in it. To judge by the piles it's about 5 truckloads to the chipper for every 1 of sawlogs. The drive down to Conran is increasingly a view of devastation. A pity when that's the major tourist asset in the area and the best hope for a town like Cabbage Tree to have a long term economic future.

Would you like your submission to be made publicly available?	
Would you like your name (or your business or organisation's name) published with your submission?	
During the 2019-20 fire season, were you in an area where fires occurred?	Yes
Where were you impacted by fires?	Evacuations over months... our house was a very near miss. [redacted] The kids came through ok but their view of the world is changed ... it's not a safe place any more for them.

How would you describe your connection to the area?	Resident
Were you involved in responding to the fires in that area?	Yes
How would you best describe your involvement in responding to the fires?	Evacuee, defended my house as best I could.
Were you (or do you continue to be) involved in supporting individuals or communities affected by the fires?	Yes
How would you best describe your involvement following the fires?	I am a member of the community and am involved in community relief and/or recovery
What is the main reason for your submission?	
What is your Local Government Area (council)?	East Gippsland
What is your postcode or town?	3889
What age group are you in?	45-54
What gender do you identify as?	Male
Other ways to be involved in the Inquiry	Yes
Full name	Scott Campbell-Smith
Phone number	
Email	
What types of activities would you be interested in hearing about?	Community meetings, Online or telephone surveys, Follow-up submissions, Inquiry progress updates (please note that updates will be provided by e-mail)
Preferred method of contact	