

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF EXPOSURE TO
POOR LEVELS OF AIR QUALITY RESULTING FROM
BUSHFIRES AND DROUGHT**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I am writing in respect of the impact of the recent bushfire had to myself and my family. By way of background, I live in the Snowy Mountains, in Talbingo. On 4 January 2020, the Dunn's Road fire surrounded our village and it was only saved by the local RFS crews (and later, the ADF).

The air quality for about a week before, and for several weeks later was appalling. At times we could not see more than (my estimate) 100 feet. Other than a visual check, we had no idea what the air quality was as IT IS NOT TESTED IN THIS PART OF NSW!. This, I see, is a major failing and it presents the possibility of an inordinate burden of the health of individuals and the NSW health system generally.

As a very responsible asthmatic, I took all the advice in respect of my medication and it terms of staying indoors. When the smoke was not apparent outside, I had to resort to the "if I breath the air, does it cause my asthma to spike?"

What I would like to see coming out of this review is a statewide air quality monitoring system (that is not just available in the metropolitan areas).

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide comments.