



Media release

Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Inquiry launched into 2026 summer fires across Victoria

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Victorians affected by the 2026 summer fires can share their lived experiences as part of a new parliamentary inquiry.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee is accepting submissions from the public as part of its comprehensive probe.

“The fires across Victoria this summer have had a profound impact on the people affected,” Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

One person died, over 500 structures were destroyed and more than 400,000 hectares burned throughout January.

People are encouraged to [make a public submission](#) by the closing date of 15 March 2026.

“This inquiry will look at the preparation and planning by government, emergency services and the community ahead of the fire season, including management of public and private land,” Mr Batchelor said.

“The inquiry will also examine the causes and circumstances of the bushfire, including climate change.”

Other important matters to be considered include:

- Emergency responses to the fires
- Resilience of critical services and infrastructure
- Resourcing of fire agencies, and support for volunteers
- Recovery efforts in affected communities
- Impact on the environment
- Lessons from previous inquiries and Royal Commissions

You can [read the full Terms of Reference](#) on the Committee’s website.

A report to Parliament is due by 1 June 2026.

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