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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 0630 hrs (AEDT), 16 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 16

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire dangers continue today, **Saturday 16 November**, over northeast NSW and southeast Qld with a risk of dry lightning exacerbating the danger.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **63** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
  - *There are **five** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **271** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings.
  - ***12** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.*
  - *A total fire ban is current for the North Western, Northern Slopes, New England and Far North Coast fire areas for **Saturday 16 November**.*
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
  - An EMA Disaster Recovery LO has been deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **58** active fires across the state.*
  - *The total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **149,000** hectares.*
  - *There are **five** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **31** firefighters have been injured.
  - **16** houses are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Two** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.

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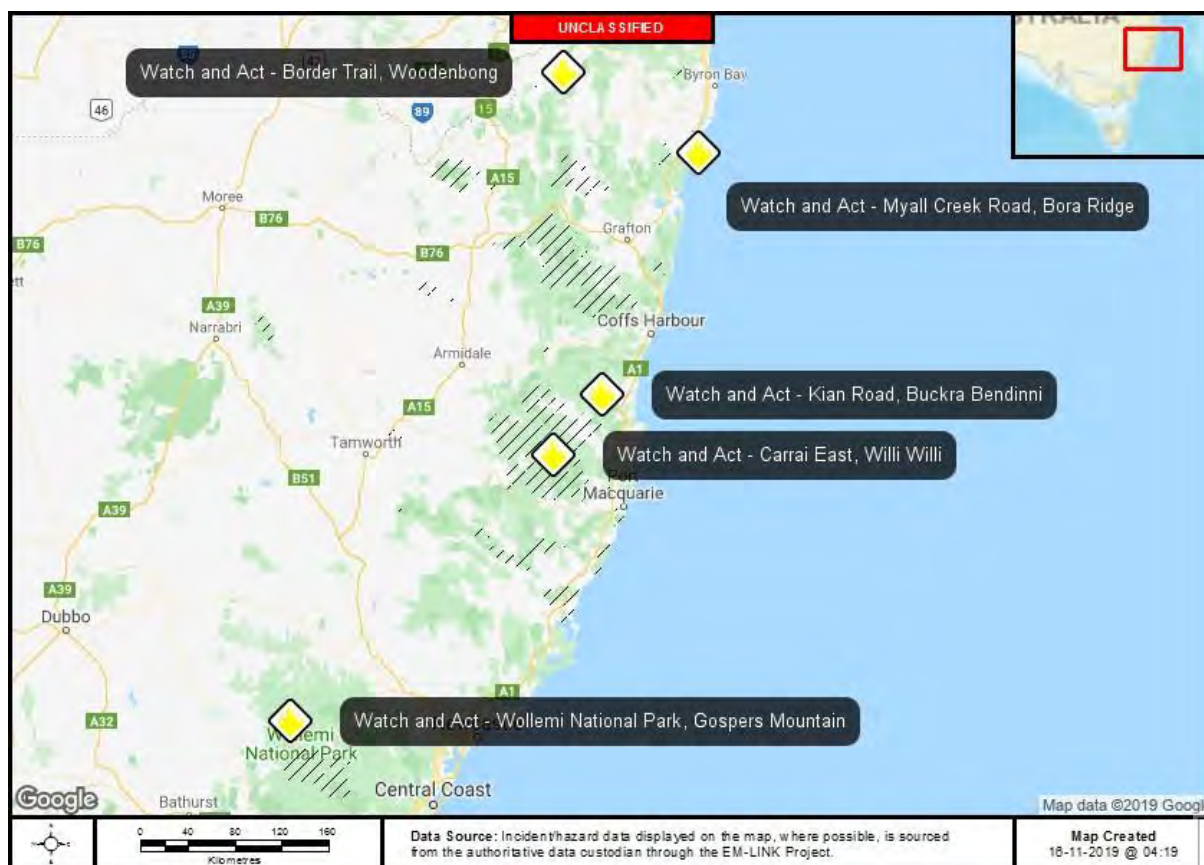
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- A total fire ban is current for **42** local government areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- *There are currently **63** active fires across the state.*
- Total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
- **Five WATCH AND ACT** warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Border Trail, Woodenbong
  - Carrai East, Willi Willi
  - Wollemi National Park, Gosper's Mountain
  - Kian Road, Buckra Bendinni
  - Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge
- **115** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **530** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1449** fire fighters have been deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **910** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, Qld, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.

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- **271** houses, **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- **79** education facilities remain closed due to fire activity. These include public, private and independent schools as well as TAFE campuses.
  - *Initial assessments at Bobin and Wyaliba Public Schools have found approximately 50 percent of the structures at both sites have sustained direct fire impact.*
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - NBN fixed wireless outages have impacted **342** end point users across two sites.
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across one site.
  - *Fixed landline outages have impacted **682** users across seven sites.*
  - *ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across four sites.*
  - NBN service outages have impacted **1217** Telstra services across three sites.
  - *Mobile service outages have impacted **six** 3G and **seven** 4G sites across **eight** physical sites.*
  - *Killabakh Exchange has been deemed unsafe to enter and as a result services remain impacted until a structural site assessment has been undertaken.*
  - Field technicians and power technicians continue to attend sites when and where it is safe to do so.
  - *The majority of service impact is as a result of mains power loss across **16** network sites. **Eight** sites are being supported by portable power generators. **Eight** additional sites are yet to be assessed due to fire activity.*
  - Telstra have issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2446***
- *There are **12** Evacuation Centres open at:*
  - Wauchope Showgrounds
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Southern Cross University Lismore
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Glenn Innes Showground
  - Taree Showground
  - *Kyogle Memorial Institute*
  - *Bonalbo Memorial Hall*
  - *Bulga Community Centre*

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Source: Notification of Service Disruption – National Broadband Network – 15 November 2019, EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 16, NSW SEOC Situational Report – NSW Bushfires – 1800 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW SEOC Operational Update – NSW Bushfires – 1330 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW Police Force Media Unit Media Release 1830 hrs Thursday 14 November, NSW RFS – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2100 hrs 14 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#)

## Queensland



- There are currently **58** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **149,000**.
- **Five** WATCH AND ACT warnings also remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
  - Grapetree Road, Pechey
  - Gympie Woolooga Road and Upper Widgee Road, Widgee
  - Woppis Road and Woodgate Road, Woodgate
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- **0** aircraft are currently deployed.
- **99** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- Over **1000** firefighters and IMT personnel are active.
- **143** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from NT, Vic., WA and New Zealand.

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- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- **One** Early Childhood Education Centre remains closed due to fire activity.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - NBN fixed wireless outages have impacted **288** end point users across two sites.
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **468** end-users across eight sites.
  - *ADSL service outages have impacted 162 users across three sites.*
  - NBN fixed wireless outages have impacted **337** Telstra users in Woodgate.
  - Loss of 3G mobile capacity from one physical site at Woodgate. 4G mobile services have been restored.
  - Site access is available today under Police Escort. This will allow NBN technicians to review the extent of the damage and begin planning appropriate restoration activities.
  - Services on the Fixed Wireless network at The Palms North were restored last night.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- **Two** Evacuation Centres are operational at Crow's Nest and Isis.

Source: Notification of Service Disruption – National Broadband Network – 15 November 2019,  
 Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Thursday 15 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 16  
 Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 1439 hrs Friday 15 November, *QLD SDCC Verbal*

## Weather Forecast

### Saturday 16 November

- *A cold front will continue to move across NSW bringing dry south-westerly winds.*
- Maximum temperatures are forecast to increase to the high 30s for southern inland areas of Qld and mid 30s for northern parts of NSW. Low-intensity heatwave conditions are expected during this period.

### Sunday 17 November

- There is the possibility of showers east of the Great Dividing Range as a low-pressure trough deepens near the coast, however it is expected to remain dry west of the ranges.
- Afternoon and evening thunderstorms will continue near the inland trough which will remain slow-moving over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Monday 18 November

- VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger will continue over Qld and NSW.

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 9, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

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## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of \$1000 for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

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- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

### Queensland bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged, and
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of \$1000 for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch EMA

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**Australian Government Actions**

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

**New South Wales**

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been four sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to 149 personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO has been deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management.

**Queensland**

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide 30 personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.

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- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 1830 hrs **16 November 2019**.*

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Prepared by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia. For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1830 hrs (AEDT), 16 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 17

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- SEVERE to EXTREME fire dangers continue tomorrow, **Sunday 17 November**, over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **65** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
  - *There are **six** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **271** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings.
  - ***13** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.*
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **60** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **149,000** hectares.
  - *There are **two** EMERGENCY WARNING level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - *There are **three** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **33** firefighters have been injured
  - **16** houses are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Two** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - A total fire ban is current for **42** local government areas.
  - A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.

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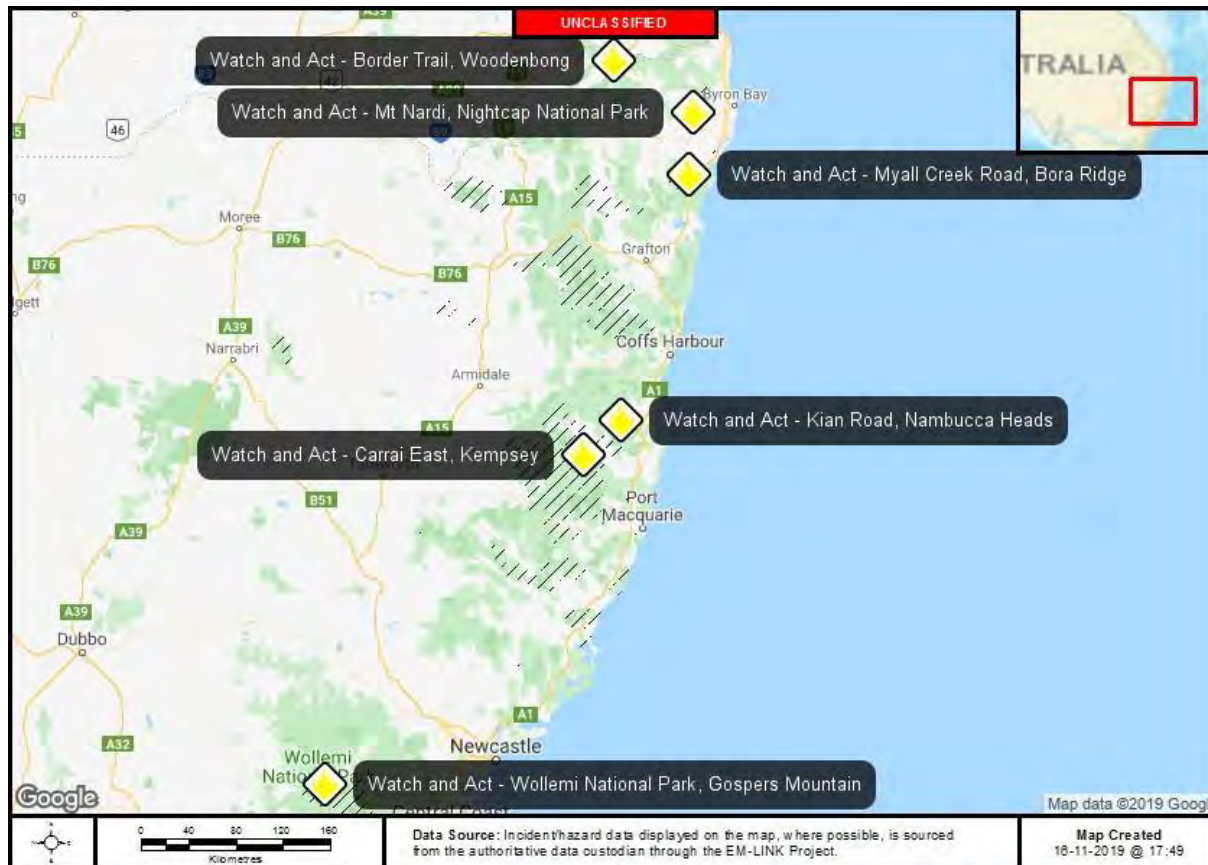
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- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **65** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
- **Six** WATCH AND ACT warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Border Trail, Woodenbong
  - Carrai East, Kempsey
  - Gaspers Mountain, Wollemi National Park
  - Kian Road, Nambucca Heads
  - Mt Nardi, Nightcap National Park
  - Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge
- **93** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **556** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1661** firefighters have been deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **910** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, Qld, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.

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- **271** houses, **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- *Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:*
  - *There is a loss of 88 fixed line telephony customers at Bellbrook, 32 at Comara, and a loss of mobile coverage at Bellbrook and Comara, these communities are isolated and unable to contact Triple Zero (000).*
  - *No NBN services are currently impacted as a direct result of the ongoing bushfires, however, 342 end point users across two sites have had NBN fixed wireless outages.*
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across one site.
  - *Fixed landline outages have impacted **844** users across seven sites.*
  - *ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across four sites.*
  - NBN service outages have impacted **1217** Telstra services across three sites.
  - *Mobile service outages have impacted **six** 3G and **seven** 4G sites across **eight** physical sites.*
  - Killabakh Exchange has been deemed unsafe to enter and as a result services remain impacted until a structural site assessment has been undertaken.
  - Field technicians and power technicians continue to attend sites when and where it is safe to do so.
  - *The majority of service impact is as a result of mains power loss across **16** network sites. **Eight** sites are being supported by portable power generators. **Eight** additional sites are yet to be assessed due to fire activity.*
  - Telstra have issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- *The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.*
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2522***
- *There are **13** Evacuation Centres open at:*
  - Wauchope Showgrounds
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Southern Cross University Lismore
  - *Lismore Showgrounds*
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Glenn Innes Showground
  - Taree Showground
  - Kyogle Memorial Institute
  - Bonalbo Memorial Hall
  - Bulga Community Centre

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Source: November 2019, EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – NSW Bushfires – 1800 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW SEOC Operational Update – NSW Bushfires – 1330 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW Police Force Media Unit Media Release 1830 hrs Thursday 14 November, NSW RFS – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2100 hrs 14 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#)

## Queensland



- There are currently **60** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **149,000** hectares.
- **Two EMERGENCY WARNINGS** are in place for fires burning at:
  - Pechey and Ravensbourne
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
- **Three WATCH AND ACT** warnings also remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Gympie Woolooga Road and Upper Widgee Road, Widgee
  - Woppis Road and Woodgate Road, Woodgate
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- **0** aircraft are currently deployed, however **39** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- **136** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- **129** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from NT, Vic., WA and New Zealand.

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- *More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.*
- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- *A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 Million** of damage.*
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - NBN fixed wireless outages have impacted **288** end point users across **two** sites.
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **468** end-users across **eight** sites.
  - *ADSL service outages have impacted **162** users across **three** sites.*
  - NBN fixed wireless outages have impacted **337** Telstra users in Woodgate.
  - Loss of 3G mobile capacity from **one** physical site at Woodgate. 4G mobile services have been restored.
  - Site access is available today under Police Escort. This will allow NBN technicians to review the extent of the damage and begin planning appropriate restoration activities.
  - Services on the Fixed Wireless network at The Palms North were restored last night.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- ***Two** Evacuation Centres are operational at Crow's Nest Show Grounds in Toowoomba, and Childers Cultural Centre in Bundaberg, with a total of **eight** people utilising these services.*

Source: Notification of Service Disruption – National Broadband Network – 15 November 2019, Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Thursday 15 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 0932 hrs Saturday 16 November, *QLD SDCC Verbal*

## Weather Forecast

## Saturday 16 November

- *A cold front will continue to move across NSW and Qld tonight bringing dry south-westerly winds.*

## Sunday 17 November

- The Darling Downs and Granite Belt is expected to experience EXTREME fire danger.
- There are total fire bans for the Far North Coast, Greater Hunter, New England, Northern Slopes and North Western areas for **Sunday 17 November**.
- There is the possibility of showers east of the Great Dividing Range as a low-pressure trough deepens near the coast, however it is expected to remain dry west of the ranges.
- Afternoon and evening thunderstorms will continue near the inland trough which will remain slow-moving over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

## Monday 18 November

- VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger will continue over Qld and NSW.

## Tuesday 19 November

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## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

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- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
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    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
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**Queensland bushfires**

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  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

**Australian Government financial assistance**

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch EMA

**Australian Government Actions**

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

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**New South Wales**

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been four sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
  - Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
  - Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
  - Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO has been deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management.

**Queensland**

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.

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- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide 30 personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 0630 hrs 17 November 2019.*

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Prepared by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia. For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 0630 hrs (AEDT), 17 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 18

*New information in Italics*

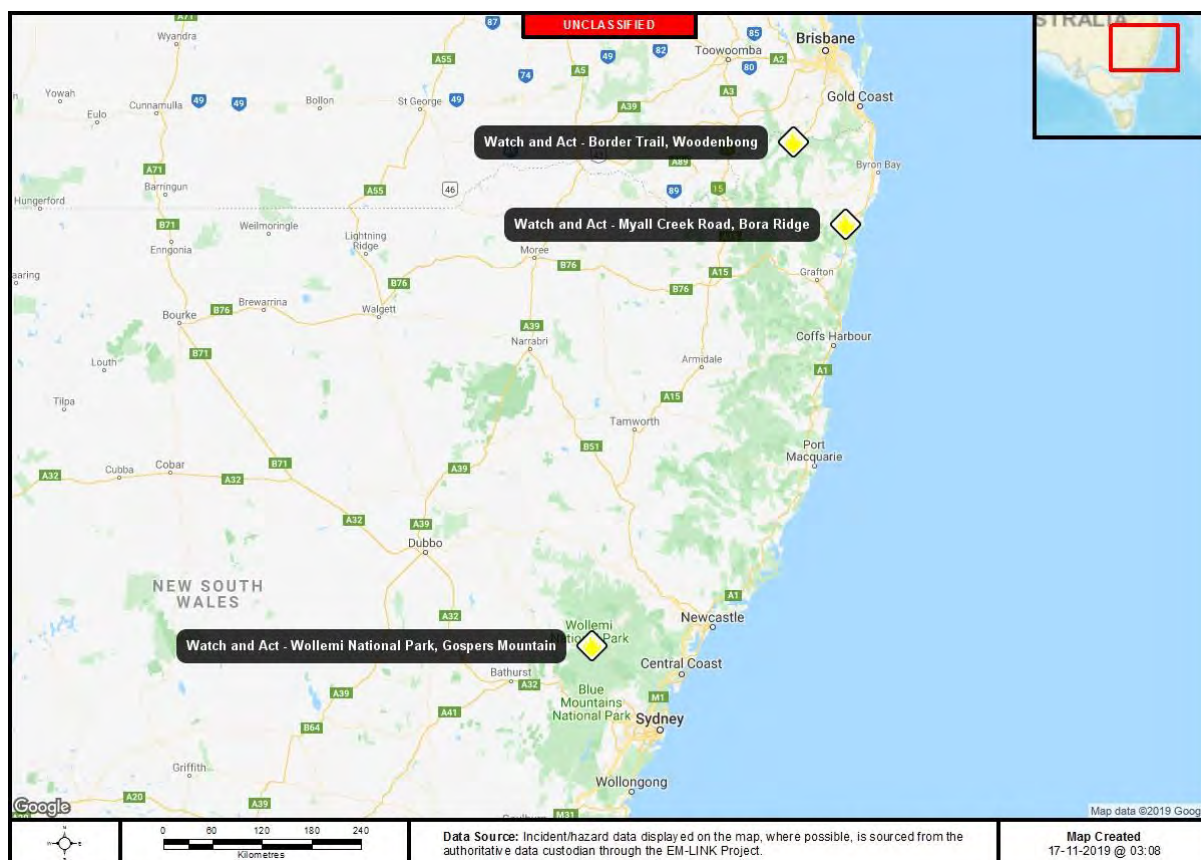
#### Key Issues

- SEVERE to EXTREME fire dangers are forecast for today, **Sunday 17 November**, over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **59** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
  - *There are **three** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **271** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings.
  - ***Ten** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.*
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **69** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **154,000** hectares.
  - *There are **four** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **33** firefighters have been injured
  - **16** houses are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Two** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - A total fire ban is current for **42** local government areas.
  - A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Released by Department of Home Affairs  
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

## Situation Details

### New South Wales

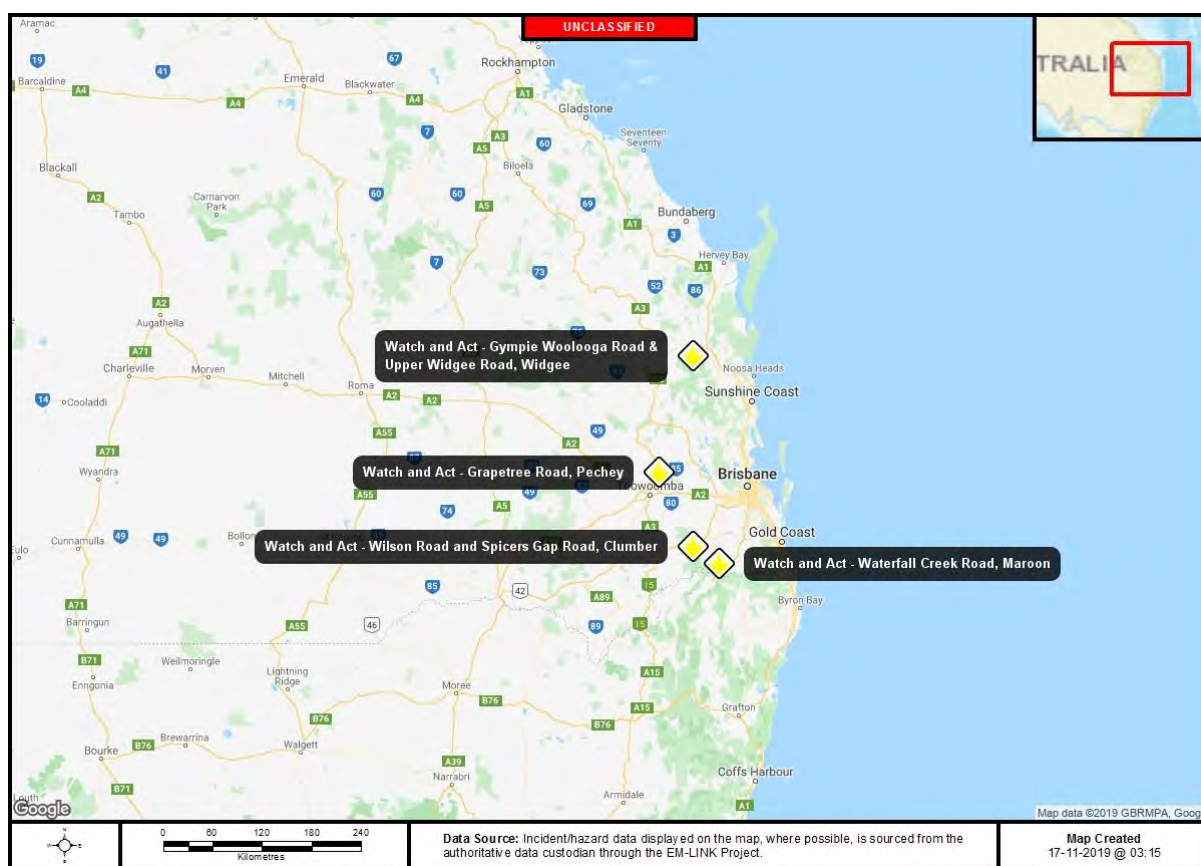


- There are currently **59** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW now exceeds **1,081,536** hectares.
- **Three WATCH AND ACT** warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Border Trail, Woodenbong
  - Wollemi National Park, Gaspers Mountain
  - Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge
- **91** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **556** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1661** firefighters have been deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **910** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, Qld, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
- **271** houses, **19** facilities and an additional **503** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.

- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - There is a loss of 88 fixed line telephony customers at Bellbrook, 32 at Comara, and a loss of mobile coverage at Bellbrook and Comara, these communities are isolated and unable to contact Triple Zero (000).
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across one site.
  - Fixed landline outages have impacted **844** users across seven sites.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across four sites.
  - Mobile service outages have impacted **six** 3G and **seven** 4G sites across **eight** physical sites.
  - Killabakh Exchange has been deemed unsafe to enter and as a result services remain impacted until a structural site assessment has been undertaken.
  - Field technicians and power technicians continue to attend sites when and where it is safe to do so.
  - *The majority of service impact is as a result of mains power loss across **15** network sites. **Six** sites are being supported by portable power generators. A number of sites are unable to be accessed due to safety concerns either associated with road access issues (Red Zones), or site infrastructure damage.*
  - Telstra have issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- *No NBN services are currently impacted as a direct result of the ongoing bushfires.*
- *There are approximately **1410** customers without power supply due impacts from the fires.*
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2531***
- *There are **10** Evacuation Centres open at:*
  - Wauchope Showground
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Southern Cross University, Lismore
  - Lismore Showground
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Taree Showground
  - Kyogle Memorial Institute

Source: EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – NSW Bushfires – 1800 hrs 16 November 2019, NSW SEOC Operational Update – NSW Bushfires – 1330 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW Police Force Media Unit Media Release 1830 hrs Thursday 14 November, NSW RFS – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2100 hrs 14 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#)

## Queensland



- There are currently **69** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **154,000** hectares.
- **Four** WATCH AND ACT warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Gympie Woollooga Road and Upper Widgee Road, Widgee
  - Grapetree Road, Pechey
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- **0** aircraft are currently deployed, however **39** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- **194** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- **129** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from NT, Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage.

- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **468** end-users across **eight** sites.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **162** users across **three** sites.
  - Loss of 3G mobile capacity from **one** physical site at Woodgate. 4G mobile services have been restored.
  - Services on the Fixed Wireless network at The Palms North have been restored.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- *No NBN services are currently impacted as a direct result of the ongoing bushfires.*
- **Two** Evacuation Centres are operational at Crow's Nest Show Grounds in Toowoomba, and Childers Cultural Centre in Bundaberg, with a total of **eight** people utilising these services.

Source: Notification of Service Disruption – National Broadband Network – 16 November 2019, Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Thursday 15 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 0932 hrs Saturday 16 November, QLD SDCC – verbal

## Weather Forecast

### Sunday 17 November

#### New South Wales

- *SEVERE fire danger rating is forecast for the Far North Coast, New England, Northern Slopes and North Western fire areas.*
- *VERY HIGH fire danger rating is forecast for the Greater Hunter fire area.*
- Total fire bans are in place for the New England, Northern Slopes, North Western, Greater Hunter and Far North Coast areas.

#### Queensland

- *EXTREME fire danger rating is forecast for the Darling Downs and Granite Belt forecast district.*
- *SEVERE fire danger rating is forecast for the Central Highlands and Coalfields, Maranoa and Warrego and Southeast Coast forecast districts.*
- There is the possibility of showers east of the Great Dividing Range as a low-pressure trough deepens near the coast, however it is expected to remain dry west of the ranges.
- Afternoon and evening thunderstorms will continue near the inland trough which will remain slow-moving over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Monday 18 November

- *VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.*

### Tuesday 19 November

- *VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.*

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 10, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)



## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

## Queensland bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged, and
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

## Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

## Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

## New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been four sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.

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- Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
- Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
- Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
- Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
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- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- *An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.*

## Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 1830 hrs 17 November 2019.*

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Prepared by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/> For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |



## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1830 hrs (AEDT), 17 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 19

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- VERY HIGH fire dangers are forecast for **Monday 18 November**, over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **68** active fires burning across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,200,000** hectares.
  - *There are **seven** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **367** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **20** facilities and an additional **695** outbuildings.
  - **Ten** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **94** active fires across the state.*
  - *The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 4 November** exceeds **68,900** hectares.*
  - *There is one EMERGENCY WARNING current for a bushfire burning in the vicinity of Ravensbourne, Qld.*
  - *There are **three** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **33** firefighters have been injured.
  - **16** houses and **42** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Two** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.



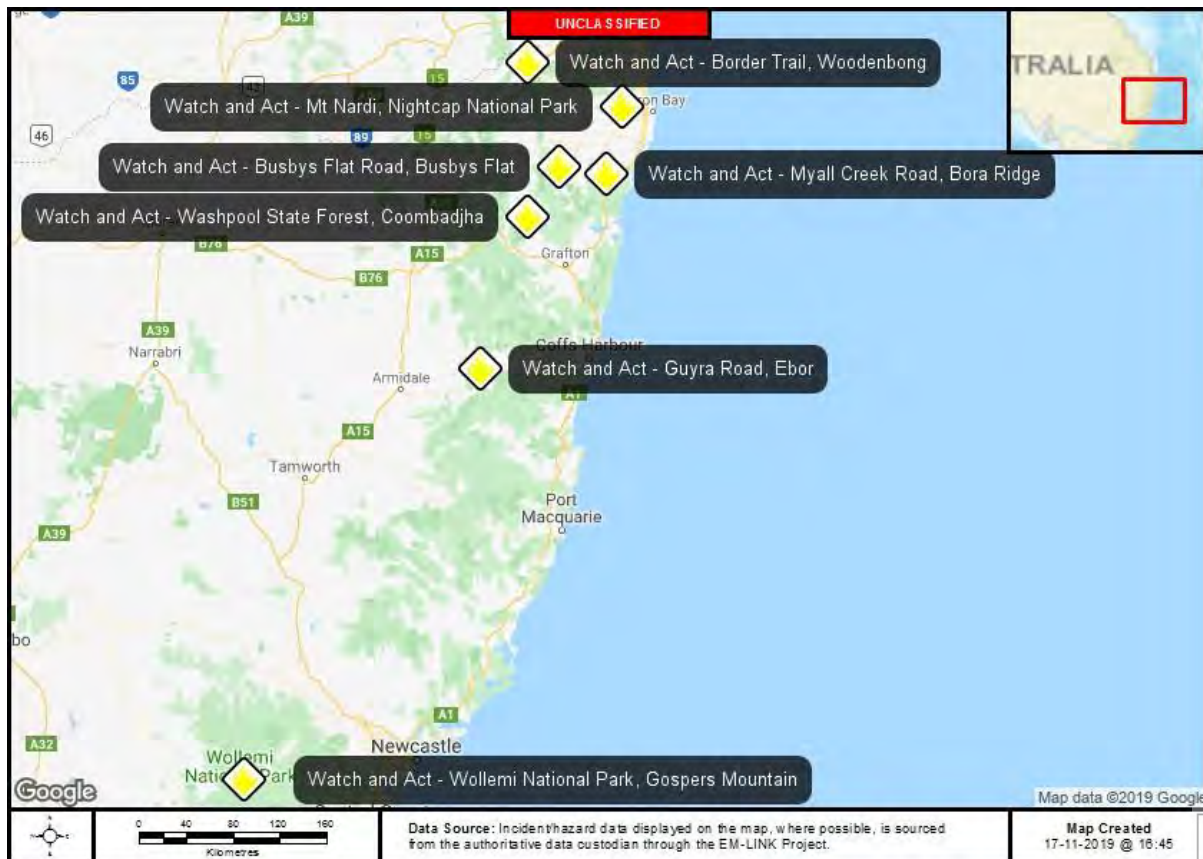
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- A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **68** active fires burning across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,200,000** hectares.
- **Seven** WATCH AND ACT warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Border Trail, Woodenbong
  - Busbys Flat Road, Busbys Flat
  - Gaspers Mountain, Wollemi National Park
  - Guyra Road, Ebor
  - Mt Nardi, Nightcap National Park
  - Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge
  - Washpool State Forest, Coombadjha
- **95** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **434** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1350** firefighters have been deployed (excluding interstate assistance).

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- **917** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
- **367 houses, 20 facilities and an additional 695 outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.** *Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.*
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - *There is a loss of 88 fixed line telephony customers at Bellbrook, 32 at Comara, and a loss of mobile coverage at Bellbrook and Comara, these communities are isolated and unable to contact Triple Zero (000).*
  - *Temporary Network Infrastructure has been deployed from Victoria and arrived in NSW on **Saturday 16th November**. It will be deployed to Failford, NSW early next week.*
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across **one** site.
  - Fixed landline outages have impacted **844** users across **seven** sites.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across **four** sites.
  - Mobile service outages have impacted **six** 3G and **seven** 4G sites across **eight** physical sites.
  - Killabakh Exchange has been deemed unsafe to enter and as a result services remain impacted until a structural site assessment has been undertaken.
  - Field technicians and power technicians continue to attend sites when and where it is safe to do so.
  - *The majority of service impact is as a result of mains power loss across **15** network sites. **Six** sites are being supported by portable power generators. A number of sites are unable to be accessed due to safety concerns either associated with road access issues (Red Zones), or site infrastructure damage.*
  - Telstra have issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- *No NBN services are currently impacted as a direct result of the ongoing bushfires.*
- *There are approximately **1410** customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires.*
- *There is a telecommunications fault at Armidale close to Ebor. Technicians will not be able to access this area until tomorrow.*
- *There are **three** threats to Energy Infrastructure, **three** power lines in Liberation Trail, and **four** power lines at Gosper Mountain Fire.*
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2531***
- *There are **10** Evacuation Centres open at:*
  - Wauchope Showground
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Southern Cross University, Lismore
  - Lismore Showground

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- Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
- Uki Community Hall
- Taree Showground
- Kyogle Memorial Institute
- **25 schools will remain closed across the state for 18 November 2019.**

Source: EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019,  
Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019

NSW SEOC Situational Report – NSW Bushfires – 1800 hrs 16 November 2019,

NSW SEOC Operational Update – NSW Bushfires – 1330 hrs 15 November 2019,

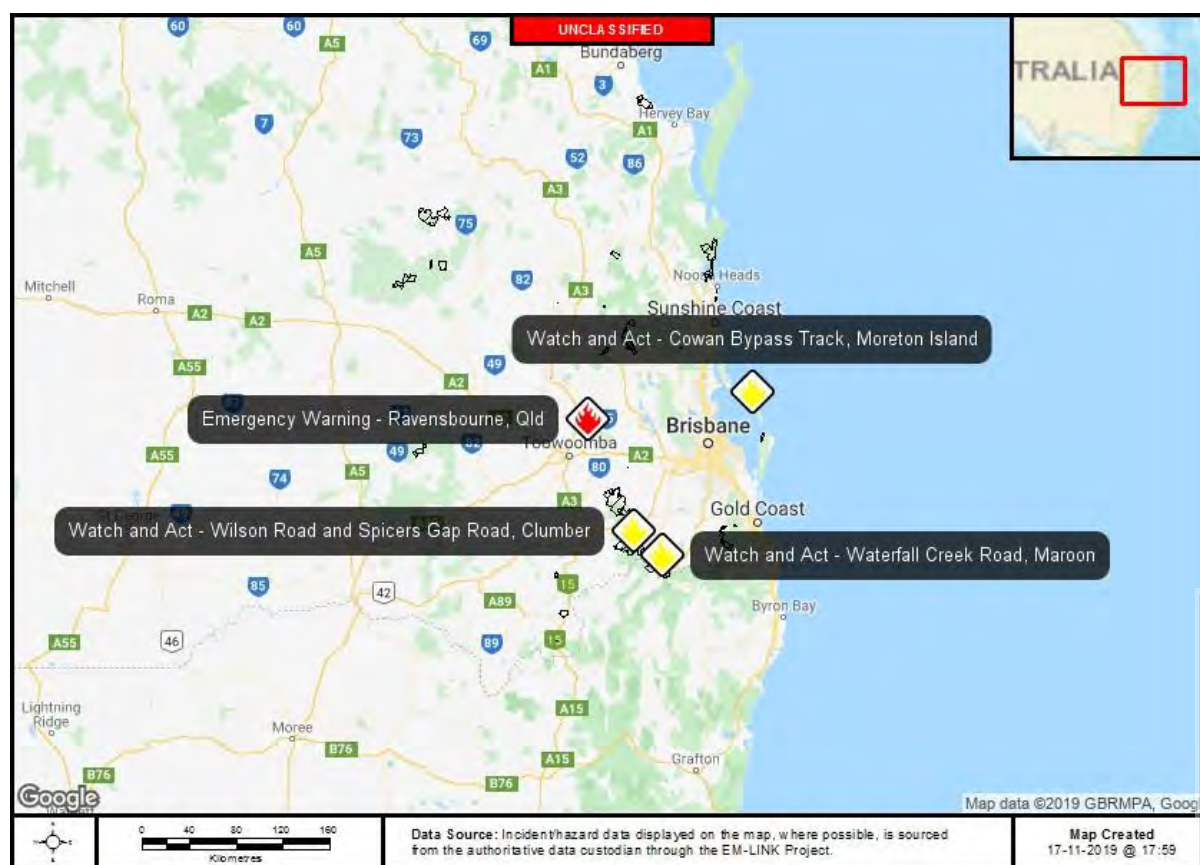
NSW Police Force Media Unit Media Release 1830 hrs Thursday 14 November,

NSW RFS – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2200 hrs 16 NSW

NSW Education department – School Closures – 17 November 2019

November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#)

## Queensland



- There are currently **94** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **68,900** hectares.
- There is one **EMERGENCY WARNING** current for a bushfire burning in the vicinity of Ravensbourne, Qld.
- **Three** **WATCH AND ACT** warnings remain in place for fires burning at:
  - Cowan Bypass Track, Moreton Island
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber

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- **41** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- **206 appliances** are on scene at fires across the state.
- **185** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from NT, Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - *There is a loss of 3G mobile capacity from one physical site at Woodgate.*
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **468** end-users across **eight** sites.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **162** users across **three** sites.
  - Loss of 3G mobile capacity from **one** physical site at Woodgate. 4G mobile services have been restored.
  - Services on the Fixed Wireless network at The Palms North have been restored.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- No NBN services are currently impacted as a direct result of the ongoing bushfires.
- **One** Evacuation Centre is operational at Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation, Highfields

Source: Notification of Service Disruption – National Broadband Network – 16 November 2019, Qld SDCC State Update – 1130 hrs Sunday 17 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 17, Notification of Service Disruption NBN Saturday 16 November 2019, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 0932 hrs Saturday 16 November, Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2200 hrs 16 November 2019, QLD SDCC – verbal

## Weather Forecast

### Sunday 17 November

#### New South Wales

- *SEVERE fire danger rating is forecast for the Far North Coast, New England, Northern Slopes and North Western fire areas.*
- *VERY HIGH fire danger rating is forecast for the Greater Hunter fire area.*
- Total fire bans are in place for the New England, Northern Slopes, North Western, Greater Hunter and Far North Coast areas.

#### Queensland

- *EXTREME fire danger rating is forecast for the Darling Downs and Granite Belt forecast district.*
- *SEVERE fire danger rating is forecast for the Central Highlands and Coalfields, Maranoa and Warrego and Southeast Coast forecast districts.*
- Severe thunderstorms are impacting southeast Queensland with wind gusts in excess of 90km/h, large hail, although little significant rainfall has fallen.

### Monday 18 November

- *VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.*

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**Tuesday 19 November**

- VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 10, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

**New South Wales**Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.

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- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

### Queensland bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged, and
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

### Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

### New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.

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- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been ten sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
  - Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
  - Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
  - Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
  - Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- *An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.*

#### Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.

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- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 0630 hrs **18 November 2019**.*

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Prepared by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/>For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 0630 hrs (AEDT), 18 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 20

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- VERY HIGH fire dangers are forecast for today, **Monday 18 November**, over northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,200,000** hectares.
  - **One WATCH AND ACT level bushfire** is burning in the state.
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **367** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **20** facilities and an additional **695** outbuildings.
  - **Nine Evacuation Centres** remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **75** active fires across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 4 November** exceeds **68,900** hectares.
  - *There are **four** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state.*
  - **33** firefighters have been injured.
  - **16** houses and **42** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Two** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.
  - A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.

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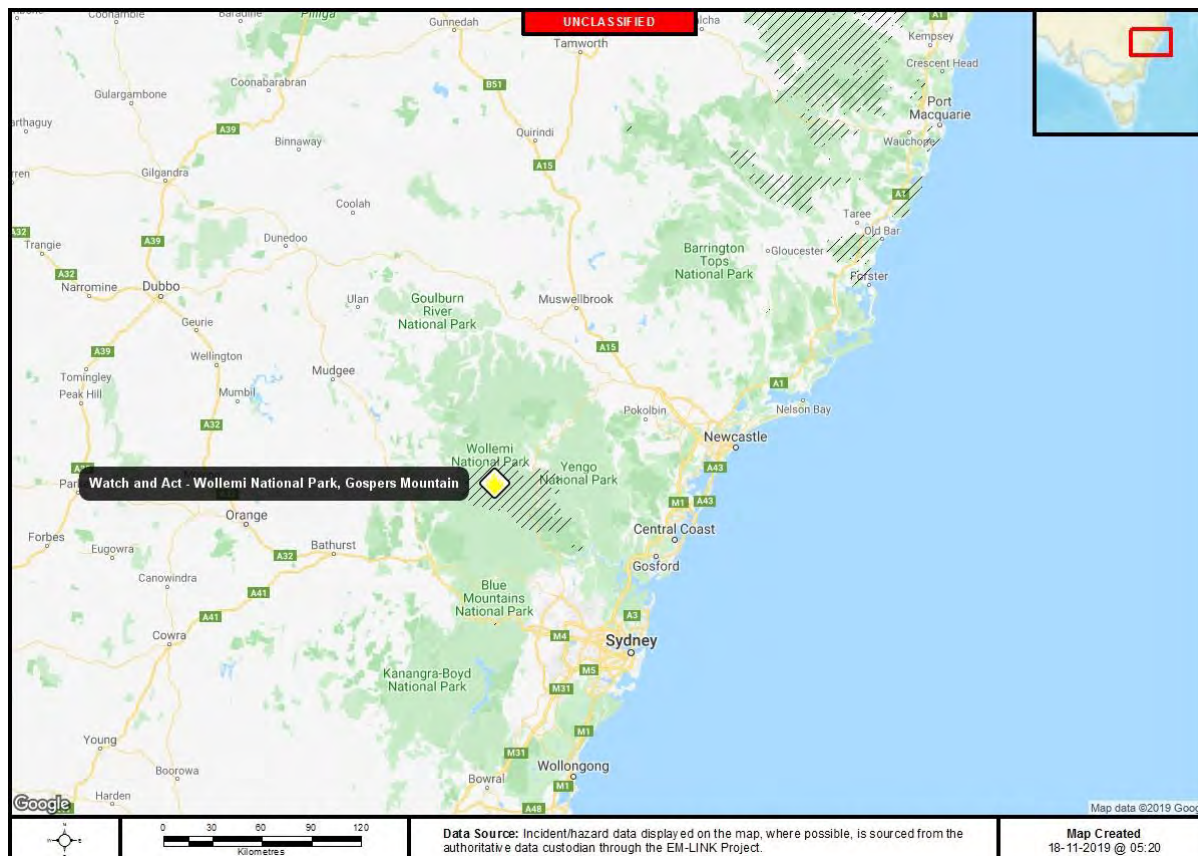
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- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,200,000** hectares.
- **One WATCH AND ACT** warning remains in place for a fire burning at:
  - *Gospers Mountain, Wollemi National Park*
- **95** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **434** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1350** firefighters have been deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **917** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
- **367** houses, **20** facilities and an additional **695** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.

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- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires, including:
  - There is a loss of 32 fixed line telephony customers and a loss of mobile coverage at Comara, this community remains isolated and unable to contact Triple Zero (000).
  - *Mobile coverage has been restored to Bellbrook community and residents are able to contact Triple (000).*
  - Temporary Network Infrastructure has been deployed from Victoria and arrived in NSW on **Saturday 16 November**. It will be deployed to Failford, NSW, early this week.
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across **one** site.
  - *Fixed landline outages have impacted **607** users across **seven** sites.*
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across **three** sites.
  - *Mobile service outages have impacted **three** 3G and **four** 4G sites across **five** physical sites.*
  - *A Mobile Exchange on Wheels (MEoW) is being prepared to be deployed to the Killabakh exchange site when conditions are safe to enter. Once on site, the MEoW will require extensive cabling and programming before any services can be progressively restored.*
  - *The majority of service impact is as a result of mains power loss across **12** network sites. **Eight** sites are being supported by portable power generators. A number of sites are unable to be accessed due to safety concerns either associated with road access issues (Red Zones), or site infrastructure damage.*
  - Field technicians and power technicians continue to attend sites when and where it is safe to do so.
  - Telstra have issued a disaster relief package to affected customers.
- **One Fixed Wireless NBN site with 91 end-users has been impacted due to the bushfires.**
- There are approximately **1410** customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires.
- There is a telecommunications fault at Armidale close to Ebor. Technicians will be able to access this area today.
- There are **two** threats to Energy Infrastructure, **three** power lines in Liberation Trail, and **four** power lines at Gosper Mountain Fire.
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2570***
- **There are *nine* Evacuation Centres remain open at:**
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Southern Cross University, Lismore
  - Lismore Showground
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Taree Showground

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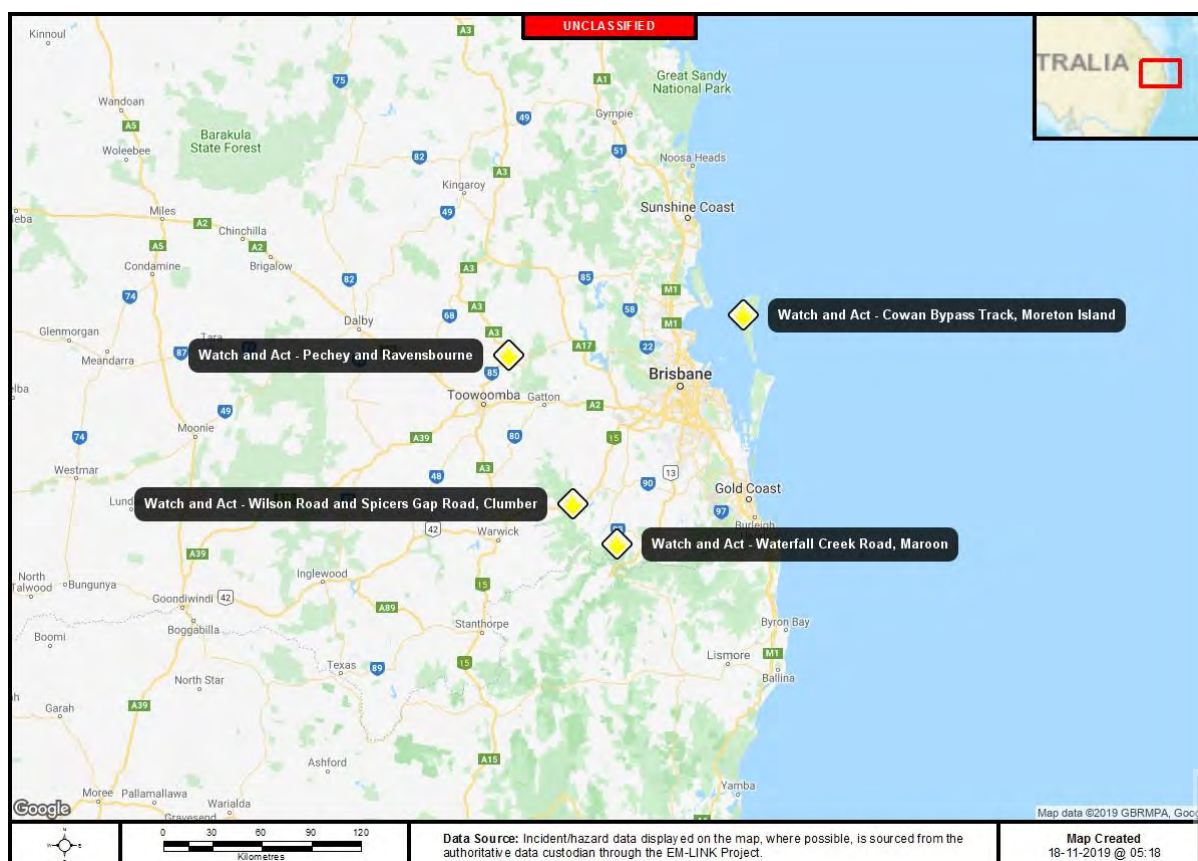
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- Kyogle Memorial Institute
- **25 schools** will remain closed across the state today, **Monday 18 November**.

Source: EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 19, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 17 November 2019, NSW SEOC Operational Update – NSW Bushfires – 1330 hrs 15 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 1000 hrs 17 November 2019, NSW Police Force Media Unit Media Release 1830 hrs Thursday 14 November, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPoI](#), NSW Education department – School Closures – 17 November 2019

## Queensland



- *There are currently **75** active fires across the state.*
- *Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **68,900** hectares.*
- ***Four** WATCH AND ACT warnings remain in place for fires burning at:*
  - Cowan Bypass Track, Moreton Island
  - Pechey and Ravensbourne
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- ***41** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.*
- *More than **200** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.*
- ***120** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from NT, Vic., WA and New Zealand.*
- *More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.*

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- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage.
- *All Telstra services previously affected due to bushfire activity have been restored.*
- **Two** Evacuation Centres remain operational at Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre, Highfields and Crows Nest Showgrounds, Crows Nest.

Source: Qld SDCC State Update – 1130 hrs Sunday 17 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 19, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 1630 hrs Sunday 17 November, Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2200 hrs 16 November 2019, QLD SDCC – verbal

## Weather Forecast

### Monday 18 November

- VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.
- *Daily afternoon and evening thunderstorms have been occurring over northeast NSW and southeast Qld though no significant widespread rainfall is forecast for the next seven days.*

### Tuesday 19 November

- VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger will continue over NSW and Qld.

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 11, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

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Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

**Queensland bushfires**

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged, and
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.

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- The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
  - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
  - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

### Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

### New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been ten sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
  - Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
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  - Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
  - Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for

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firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.

- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- *Task Request #007 – **17 November 2019** (extension to Task Request #005): ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.*
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.

### Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 1830 hrs **18 November 2019**.*

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Prepared by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:   | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/>For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1830 hrs (AEDT), 18 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 21

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- **SEVERE** fire danger ratings are forecast for the central coast of NSW tomorrow, **Tuesday 19 November**, and **VERY HIGH** fire danger ratings are forecast for northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - There are currently **52** active fires burning across the state.
  - The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,240,000** hectares.
  - **One** bushfire is burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level. All other fires across the state are burning at **ADVICE** level or below.
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **421** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **27** facilities and an additional **814** outbuildings.
  - **Seven** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - A total fire ban is in place for seven areas across the state on **Tuesday 19 November**.
  - Commencing **Monday 11 November**, the NSW Premier declared a State of Emergency for the whole state for seven days.
  - An Emergency Management Australia Liaison Officer (EMA LO) has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - There are currently **71** active fires across the state.
  - The total area burnt across Qld since **Monday 9 September** is approximately **168,300** hectares.
  - **One** bushfire is burning at the **EMERGENCY WARNING** level and **three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level. All other fires across the state are burning at **ADVICE** level or below.
  - **39** firefighters have been injured.

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- **16** houses and **42** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
- A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **52** active fires burning across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,240,000** hectares.
- **One** bushfire is burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level at Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge.
- **111** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **277** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **820** firefighters are currently deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **596** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
  - A liaison officer from the United States is scheduled to arrive **Tuesday 19 November** to scope support to RFS.

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- **421 houses, 27 facilities and an additional 814 outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.** *Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.*
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires.
  - *There is a loss of **384** fixed line telephony customers unable to make and/or receive voice calls in locations including Wilsons Downfall, Diehard, Moorah Creek, Killabakh, Lower Creek, and Comara.*
  - Fibre-To-The-Node outages have impacted **19** end-users across **one** site.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **113** users across **three** sites.
  - *3 x 3G and 3 x 4G mobile sites have been impacted across four sites including Drake, Hat Head, Ebor and Boolaroo.*
  - *The majority of service impact remains attributable to AC Mains power loss across 12 network sites of which 8 sites are being supported by portable power generators. A number of sites are unable to be accessed due to safety concerns either associated with road access issues (Red Zones), or site infrastructure damage.*
  - A Mobile Exchange on Wheels (MEoW) is being prepared to be deployed to the Killabakh exchange site when conditions are safe to enter. Once on site, the MEoW will require extensive cabling and programming before any services can be progressively restored.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers in both NSW and Qld.
- *Approximately 180 end-users are experiencing NBN fixed wireless outages in Stroud North and Boorla.*
  - Temporary Network Infrastructure has been deployed from Victoria and arrived in NSW on **Saturday 16 November**. It will be deployed to Failford, NSW, early this week.
- There are approximately **1410** customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires, *with three lines impacted by the Liberation Trail fire, and four lines impacted by the Gosper Mountain Fire.*
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2595**.*
- **Seven** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Lismore Showground
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Taree Showground
- **26** schools were closed across the state today, **Monday 18 November**.

Source: EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 20, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 18 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report –

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Significant Fires from 08 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2200 hrs 17 November 2019,  
[NSW RFS](#), [NSWPOL](#), [NSW Education Department](#)

## Queensland



- There are currently **71** active fires across the state.
- Total area burnt across Qld now exceeds **168,300** hectares.
- **One** bushfire is burning at the **EMERGENCY WARNING** level for a fire burning in the vicinity of Grapetree Road, Pechey.
- **Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level:
  - Cowan Bypass Track, Moreton Island
  - Waterfall Creek Road, Maroon
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- **42** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- More than **149** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **147** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, NT, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage. *There has also been significant impacts to pineapple, banana and mango plantations due to the bushfire in Cobraball.*

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- *All Telstra services and Optus have no current impacts to their network availability within the fire region. The 3G outage was repaired 4pm **Sunday 17 November**.*
- **Four Evacuation Centres remain open at:**
  - Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
  - Crows Nest Showgrounds
  - *Tangalooma Resort (refuge)*
  - *Beaudesert Showgrounds (refuge)*
- *Department of Housing and Public Works staff will be at Recovery Hubs in Noosaville and Yepoon to assist renters and owners with housing options.*
- *On **Sunday 17 November** the Esk Hospital self-evacuated and has now reopened for new presentations.*
- **Three educational facilities were closed across the state today, Monday 18 November.**

Source: Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Monday 18 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 19, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 0431 hrs Monday 18 November, Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2200 hrs 17 November 2019, QLD SDCC – verbal

## Weather Forecast

- *No significant widespread rainfall is forecast for the next seven days however there is the possibility of daily afternoon and evening light showers and thunderstorms for some parts of Qld.*

## Tuesday 19 November

- *SEVERE fire danger ratings are forecast for southeast parts of NSW due to a wind change.*
- *VERY HIGH fire danger ratings are forecast for northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*

## Wednesday 20 November

- *HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*

## Thursday 21 November

- *VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 11, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

## New South Wales

Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs

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- help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
- funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
- support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
- concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
- freight subsidies for primary producers, and
- grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

#### **Queensland bushfires**

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged,
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities,
  - Concessional interest rate loans for primary producers, and
  - Freight Subsidies for primary producers.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.

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- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

#### **Australian Government Actions**

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.

#### **New South Wales**

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been ten sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
  - Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.

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- Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- Task Request #007 – **17 November 2019** (extension to Task Request #005): ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.

**Queensland**

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Coordination Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 0630 hrs **19 November 2019**.*

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Prepared by: | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by: | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |

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Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.  
For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:ccc@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 0630 hrs (AEDT), 19 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 22

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- SEVERE fire danger ratings are forecast for the central coast of NSW *today*, **Tuesday 19 November**, and VERY HIGH fire danger ratings are forecast for northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,240,000** hectares.
  - *All fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **421** houses are confirmed destroyed, a further **27** facilities and an additional **814** outbuildings.
  - ***Six** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.*
  - *A total fire ban is in place for seven areas across the state for today, **Tuesday 19 November**.*
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - There are currently **71** active fires across the state.
  - The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds, **168,300** hectares.
  - ***Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level. All other fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
  - **39** firefighters have been injured.
  - **16** houses and **42** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
  - **Four** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.

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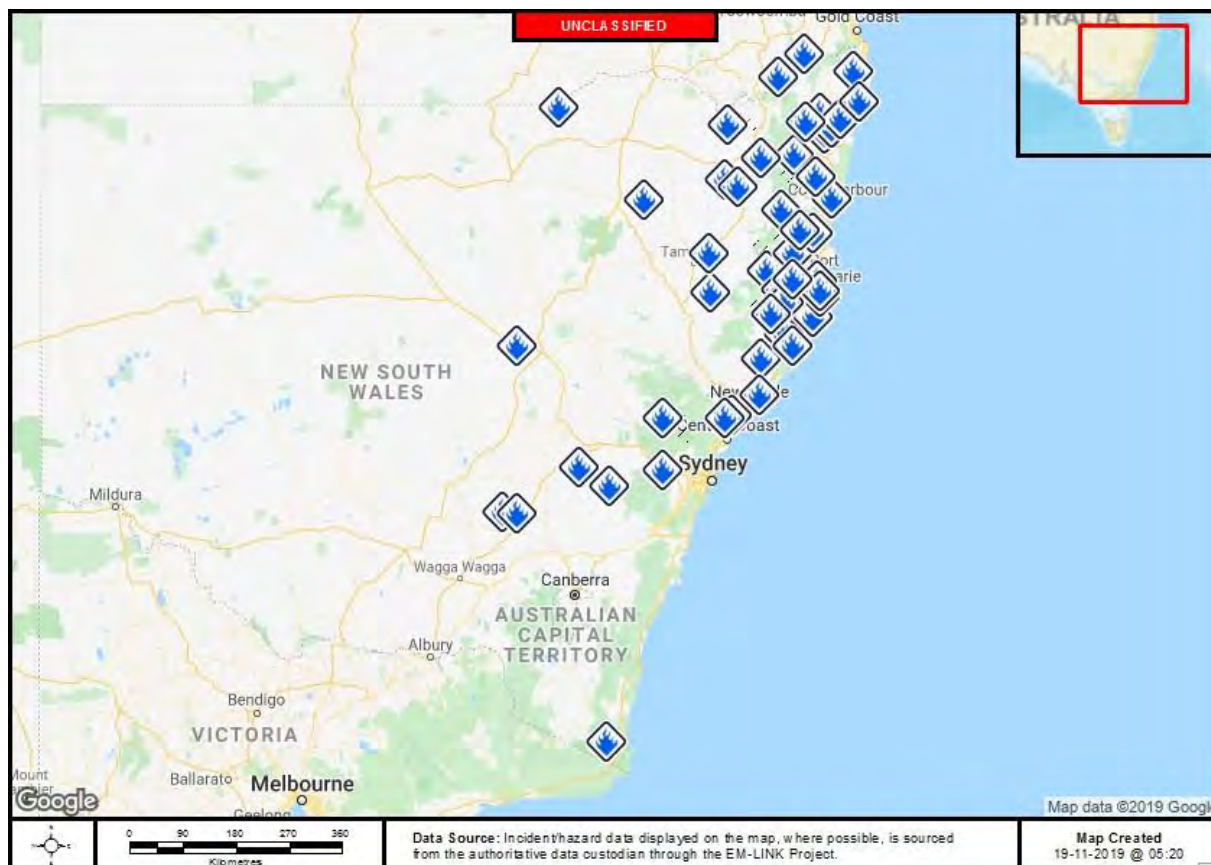
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- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- *There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.*
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,240,000** hectares.
- *All fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
- **111** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **277** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **820** firefighters are currently deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **596** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
  - A liaison officer from the United States is scheduled to arrive today, **Tuesday 19 November** to scope support to RFS.
- **421** houses, **27** facilities and an additional **814** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires.

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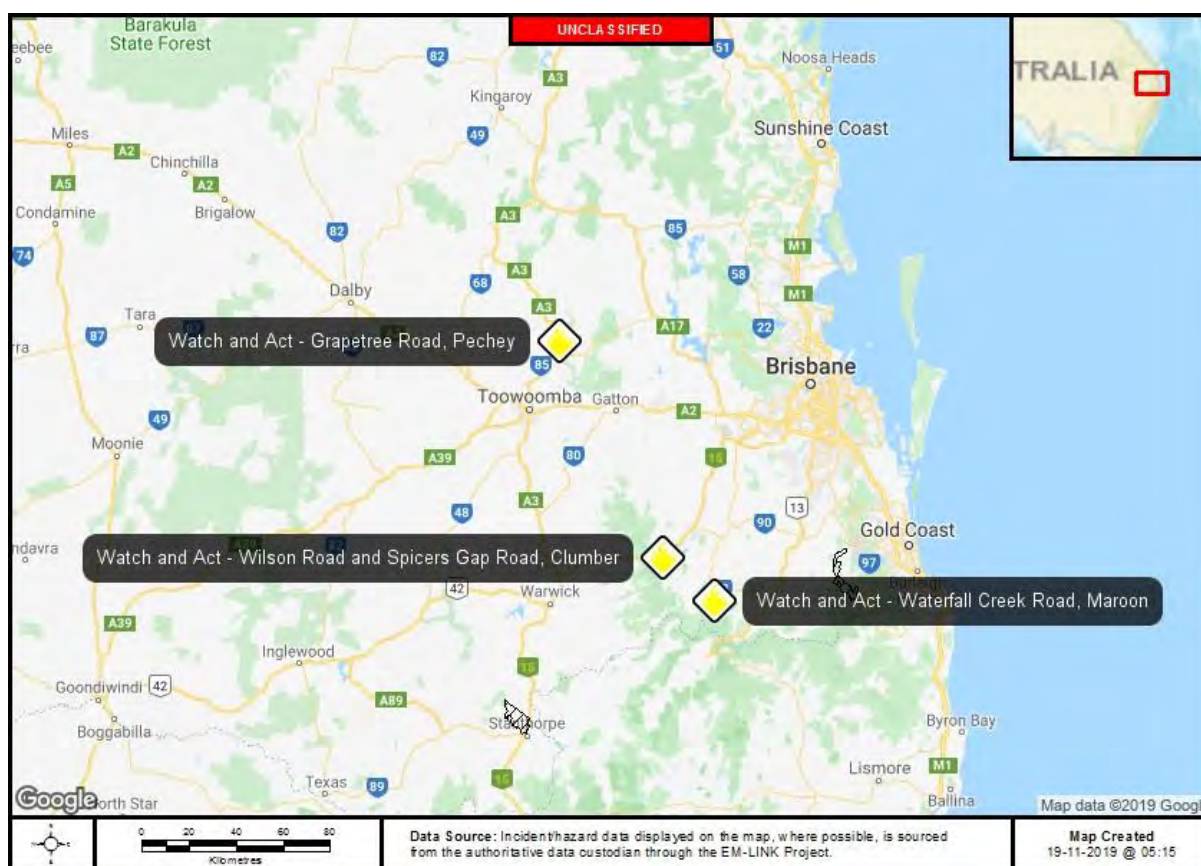
- *There is a loss of **210** fixed line telephony customers unable to make and/or receive voice calls in locations including Newton Boyd, Killabakh and Comara.*
- *ADSL service outages have impacted **97** users at Koorainghat and Killabakh Creek.*
- *The majority of service impact remains attributable to AC Mains power loss across **10** network sites of which **eight** sites are being supported by portable power generators. A number of sites are unable to be accessed due to safety concerns either associated with road access issues (Red Zones), or site infrastructure damage.*
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  - *Temporary Network Infrastructure has been deployed from Victoria and arrived in NSW on **Saturday 16 November**. It will be deployed to Failford, NSW, early this week.*
- *There are approximately **1410** customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires, with three lines impacted by the Liberation Trail fire, and four lines impacted by the Gosper Mountain Fire.*
- *The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.*
  - *Total inquiries to date: **2627**.*
- ***Six Evacuation Centres remain open at:***
  - *Kempsey Showground*
  - *Grafton Community Centre*
  - *Nimbin Showground*
  - *Lismore Showground*
  - *Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay*
  - *Uki Community Hall*
- *It is anticipated that **24** schools will be closed across the state today, **Tuesday 19 November**.*

Source: EMALO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 21, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 18 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – Significant Fires from 08 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Education Department](#)

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**Queensland**

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- **Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level. All other fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.
- **42** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- More than **149** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
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- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage. There has also been significant impacts to pineapple, banana and mango plantations due to the bushfire in Cobraball.
- All Telstra services and Optus have no current impacts to their network availability within the fire region. The 3G outage was repaired 4pm **Sunday 17 November**.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
  - Crows Nest Showgrounds

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- Tangalooma Resort (refuge)
- Beaudesert Showgrounds (refuge)
- Department of Housing and Public Works staff will be at Recovery Hubs in Noosaville and Yeppoon to assist renters and owners with housing options.
- On **Sunday 17 November** the Esk Hospital self-evacuated and has now reopened for new presentations.
- It is anticipated that **three** educational facilities will be closed across the state today, **Tuesday 19 November**.

Source: Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Monday 18 November, [QFES](#), Telstra update 21, Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 0431 hrs Monday 18 November, QLD SDCC – verbal

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- No significant widespread rainfall is forecast for the next seven days however there is the possibility of daily afternoon and evening light showers and thunderstorms for some parts of Qld.

### Tuesday 19 November

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- VERY HIGH fire danger ratings are forecast for northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Wednesday 20 November

- HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Thursday 21 November

- VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 11, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

### Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

#### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations

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- freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
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    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

#### **Queensland bushfires**

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
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Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

### Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- On **11 November 2019** the following meetings were held: Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, Australian Government Crisis Committee, National Crisis Committee.
- *A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee meeting is scheduled for today, Tuesday 19 November.*

### New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- *One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been twelve sub-taskings:*
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  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
  - Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
  - Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
  - Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
  - Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.

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- Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #001K – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
- Task Request #001L – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- Task Request #007 – **17 November 2019** (extension to Task Request #005): ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.

**Queensland**

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Coordination Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 1830 hrs **19 November 2019**.*

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Prepared by: | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by: | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |

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Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.  
For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:ccc@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1830 hrs (AEDT), 19 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 23

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld for **Wednesday 20 November**.
- *Thunderstorms may develop through central Qld then NSW over the next few days, and are likely to bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning to some areas.*
- *A strong front will move through SA on **Wednesday 20 November** with SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger forecast across the state. An Emergency Management Australia Liaison Officer (EMA LO) will be deployed to SA tomorrow.*
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.*
  - *The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,300,000** hectares.*
  - *There is **one** EMERGENCY WARNING and **five** WATCH AND ACT level bushfires burning throughout the state. All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - *More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.*
  - ***468** houses are confirmed destroyed, with a further **35** facilities and an additional **917** outbuildings.*
  - **Six** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - *A total fire ban is in place for **three** areas across the state for tomorrow, **Wednesday 20 November**.*
  - *An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.*
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **73** active fires across the state.*
  - *The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds **173,900** hectares.*
  - ***Two** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level. All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
  - ***46** firefighters have been injured.*

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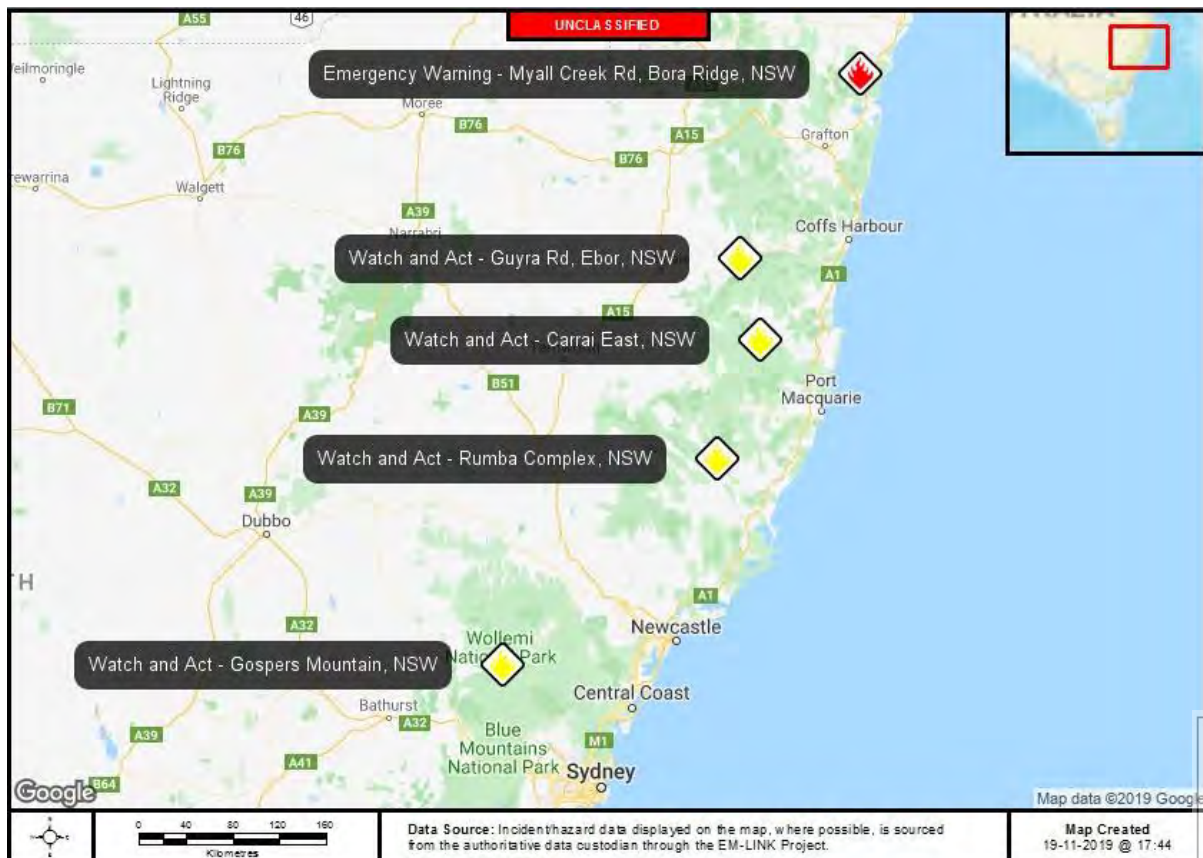
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- **16 houses and 42 outbuildings** are confirmed destroyed.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
- A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,300,000** hectares.
- There is **one** EMERGENCY WARNING for a bushfire burning in the vicinity of Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge.
- **Four** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
  - Carrai East
  - Gospers Mountain
  - Guyra Road, Ebor
  - Rumba Complex
- All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **95** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **467** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.

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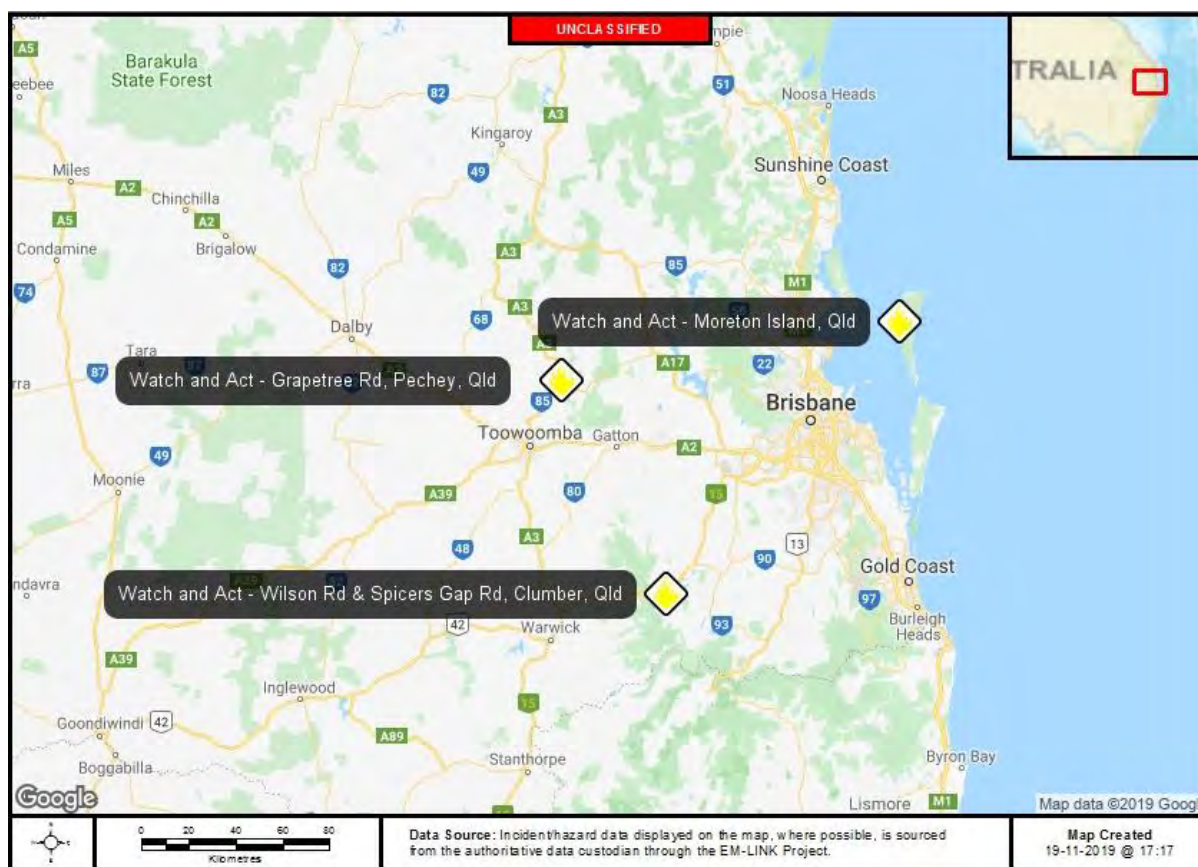
- **1452** firefighters are currently deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **596** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to RFS.
- **468** houses, **35** facilities and an additional **917** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires.
  - **210** fixed line telephony customers are unable to make and/or receive voice calls in locations including Newton Boyd, Killabakh and Comara.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **97** users at Koorainghat and Killabakh Creek.
  - Due to the extensive fire damage at Killabakh exchange, a Mobile Exchange on Wheels (MEoW) is being pre-configured and due to arrive on site today, **Tuesday 19 November**. Upon arrival the MEoW will require extensive fibre and copper cabling work before the fixed line and ADSL services at Killabakh and Killabakh Creek can be restored.
  - There is a loss of AC Mains power to **nine** network sites of which **seven** sites are being supported by portable power generators.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers in both NSW and Qld.
- All NBN outages as a result of the bushfires have now been restored.
- There continue to be customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires, with three lines impacted by the Liberation Trail fire, and four lines impacted by the Gosper Mountain Fire.
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity.
  - Total inquiries to date: **2627**.
- **Six** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Grafton Community Centre
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Lismore Showground
  - Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay
  - Uki Community Hall
- **25** schools were closed across the state today, **Tuesday 19 November**.

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 22, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 19 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – Significant Fires – 19 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSW Pol](#), [NSW Education Department](#)

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**Queensland**

- There are currently **73** active fires across the state.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds **173,900** hectares.
- **Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level.
  - Grapetree Road, Pechey
  - Moreton Island
  - Wilson Road and Spicers Gap Road, Clumber
- All other fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.
- **38** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- More than **137** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **143** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, NT, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to QFES.
- **16** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage. There has also been significant impacts to pineapple, banana and mango plantations due to the bushfire in Cobraball.

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- *Power has been lost to Cressbrook Pump Station due to the Pechey fire with potential for loss to Perseverance Pump Station. This may reduce Toowoomba cities town water capacity.*
- All Telstra and Optus services have no current impacts to their network availability within the fire region.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
  - Crow's Nest Showgrounds
  - Tangalooma Resort (refuge)
  - Beaudesert Showgrounds (refuge)
- Department of Housing and Public Works staff will be at Recovery Hubs in Noosaville and Yeppoon to assist renters and owners with housing options.
- On **Sunday 17 November** the Esk Hospital self-evacuated and has now reopened for new presentations.
- **Three** educational facilities were closed across the state today, **Tuesday 19 November**.

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Tuesday 19 November, [QFES](#), Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 1301 hrs Tuesday 19 November, QLD SDCC – verbal, Telstra update 22, [Department of Education](#)

## Weather Forecast

### Wednesday 20 November

- HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- *Thunderstorms are forecast to develop through central Qld over the next several days. The thunderstorms are likely to bring some isolated rainfall, but may cause dry lightning in some areas.*
- *SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger is forecast for SA, with the CATASTROPHIC fire danger across several populated areas. An increase of winds is forecast to reach 50-60 km/h ahead of a strong gusty change.*

### Thursday 21 November

- VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Friday 22 November

- *HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*
- *Thunderstorms may extend into eastern NSW, which may bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning in some areas.*

Source: BOM – verbal, BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 13, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.

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- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

#### **Queensland bushfires**

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:

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- support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
- help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged,
- funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities,
- Concessional interest rate loans for primary producers, and
- Freight Subsidies for primary producers.
- This assistance is administered by the Queensland Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Queensland Government Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

#### **Australian Government Actions**

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- Australian Government Crisis Committee and National Crisis Committee meetings were held on **11 November 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee meetings have been held on **11 November 2019** and today, **Tuesday 19 November**.

#### **New South Wales**

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- One overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been twelve sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
  - Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.

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- Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
- Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
- Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
- Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
- Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #001K – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
- Task Request #001L – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- *Task Request #001M – 19 November 2019: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.*
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
- Task Request #004 – **13 November 2019**, activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- Task Request #007 – **17 November 2019** (extension to Task Request #005): ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.

#### Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Qld.
- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.

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- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Coordination Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

#### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 0630 hrs **20 November 2019**.*

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Prepared by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/> For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 0630 hrs (AEDT), 20 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 24

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- *HIGH to SEVERE fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld for today, **Wednesday 20 November**.*
- Thunderstorms may develop through central Qld then NSW over the next few days, and are likely to bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning to some areas.
- *A strong front will move through SA today, **Wednesday 20 November** with SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger forecast across the state. An Emergency Management Australia Liaison Officer (EMA LO) will be deployed to SA today.*
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **52** active fires burning across the state.*
  - The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,300,000** hectares.
  - All fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - **468** houses are confirmed destroyed, with a further **35** facilities and an additional **917** outbuildings.
  - ***Five** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.*
  - *A total fire ban is in place for **three** areas across the state for today, **Wednesday 20 November**.*
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - There are currently **73** active fires across the state.
  - The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds **173,900** hectares.
  - **Two** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level. All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
  - **46** firefighters have been injured.

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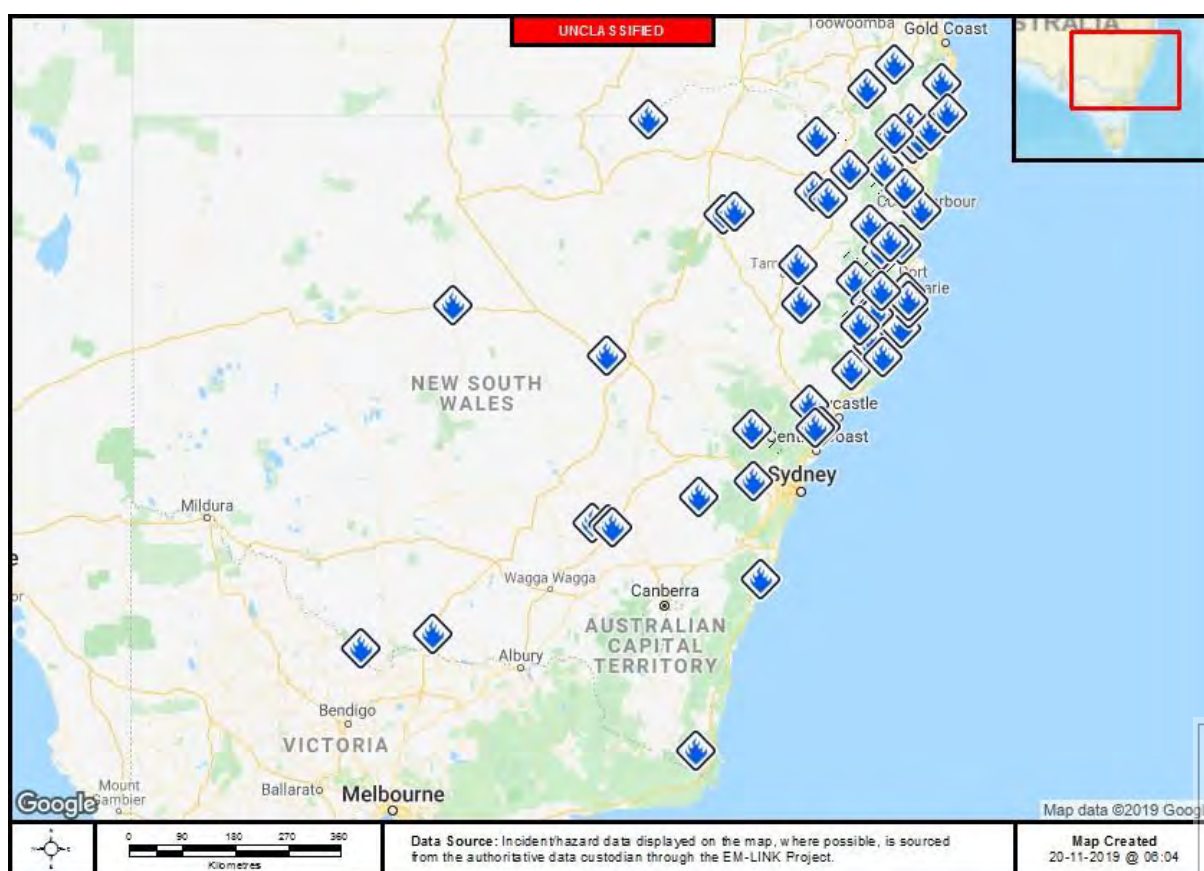
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- **19 houses and 42 outbuildings** are confirmed destroyed.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
- A total fire ban is current for **46** local government areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Control Centre.

## Situation Details

### New South Wales



- There are currently **52** active fires burning across the state.
- Total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,300,000** hectares.
- All fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **95** aircraft are currently deployed or available.
- **467** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1452** firefighters are currently deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **596** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to RFS.

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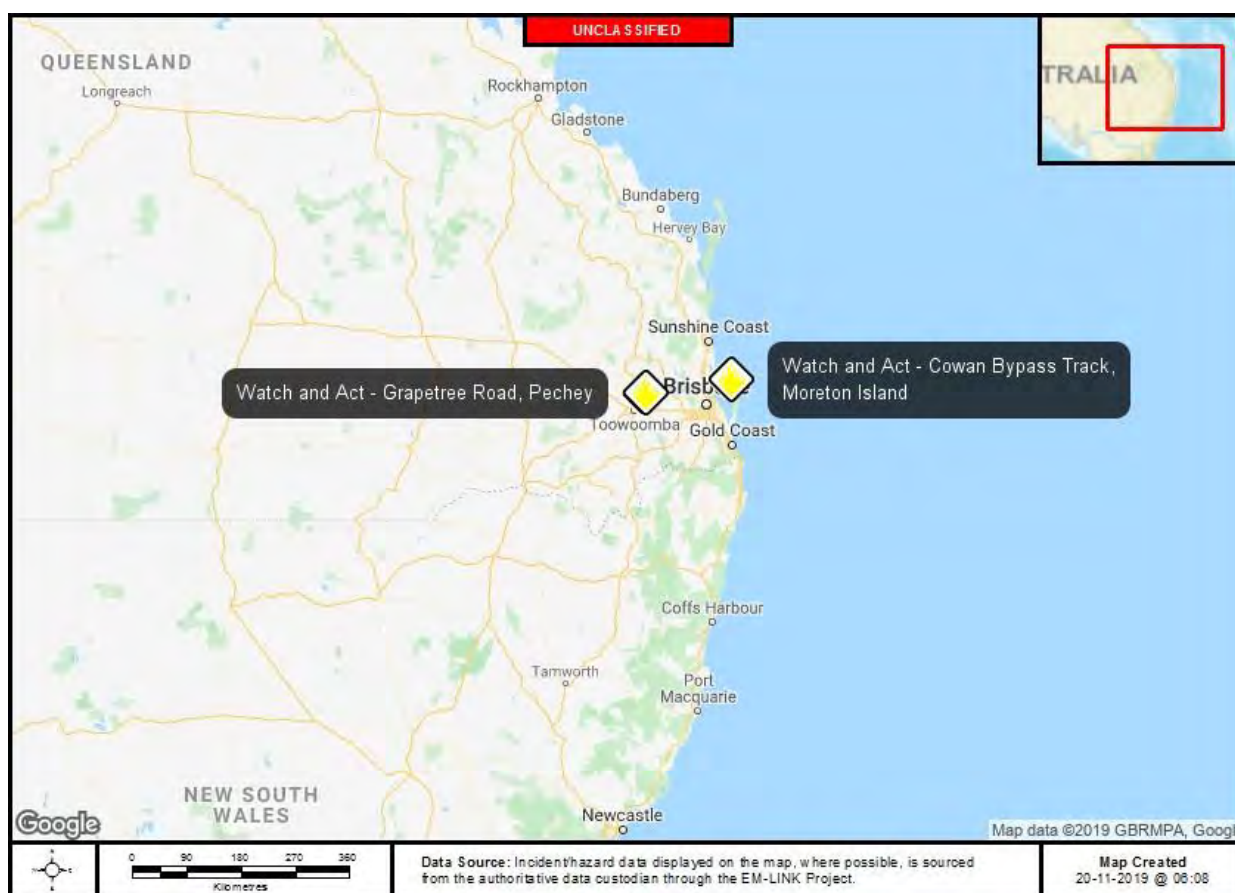
- **468** houses, **35** facilities and an additional **917** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires.
  - **210** fixed line telephony customers are unable to make and/or receive voice calls in locations including Newton Boyd, Killabakh and Comara.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **97** users at Koorainghat and Killabakh Creek.
  - Due to the extensive fire damage at Killabakh exchange, a Mobile Exchange on Wheels (MEoW) is being pre-configured and due to arrive on site today, **Tuesday 19 November**. Upon arrival the MEoW will require extensive fibre and copper cabling work before the fixed line and ADSL services at Killabakh and Killabakh Creek can be restored.
  - There is a loss of AC Mains power to **nine** network sites of which **seven** sites are being supported by portable power generators.
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers in both NSW and Qld.
- All NBN outages as a result of the bushfires have now been restored.
- There continue to be customers without power supply due to impacts from the fires, with three lines impacted by the Liberation Trail fire, and four lines impacted by the Gosper Mountain Fire.
- *The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) which was activated on **Friday 8 November** to support the provision of information to the community of impacts from current fire activity has now been closed. This is due to recent low numbers of calls and to rest volunteers in anticipation of worsening conditions later this week.*
- **Five Evacuation Centres remain open at:**
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Lismore Showground
  - Uki Community Hall
  - *Maclean Showground*
- *It is anticipated that **21** Public Schools will be closed across the state today, **Wednesday 20 November**.*

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 22, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 19 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – Significant Fires – 19 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSW Pol](#), [NSW Education Department](#)

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**Queensland**

- There are currently **73** active fires across the state.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds **173,900** hectares.
- **Two bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.**
  - Grapetree Road, Pechey
  - Moreton Island
- All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **38** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- More than **137** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **143** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, NT, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to QFES.
- **19 houses are confirmed destroyed.** Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage. There has also been significant impacts to pineapple, banana and mango plantations due to the bushfire in Cobraball.

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- Power has been lost to Cressbrook Pump Station due to the Pechey fire with potential for loss to Perseverance Pump Station. This may reduce Toowoomba cities town water capacity.
- All Telstra and Optus services have no current impacts to their network availability within the fire region.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
  - Crow's Nest Showgrounds
  - Tangalooma Resort (refuge)
  - Beaudesert Showgrounds (refuge)
- Department of Housing and Public Works staff will be at Recovery Hubs in Noosaville and Yeppoon to assist renters and owners with housing options.
- On **Sunday 17 November** the Esk Hospital self-evacuated and has now reopened for new presentations.
- It is anticipated that **one** educational facility will be closed across the state today, **Wednesday 20 November**.

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Qld SDCC State Update – 1000 hrs Tuesday 19 November, [QFES](#), Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 1301 hrs Tuesday 19 November, QLD SDCC – verbal, Telstra update 22, [Department of Education](#)

## Weather Forecast

### Wednesday 20 November

- *HIGH to SEVERE fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*
- Thunderstorms are forecast to develop through central Qld over the next several days. The thunderstorms are likely to bring some isolated rainfall, but may cause dry lightning in some areas.
- SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger is forecast for SA, with the CATASTROPHIC fire danger across several populated areas. An increase of winds is forecast to reach 50-60 km/h ahead of a strong gusty change.

### Thursday 21 November

- VERY HIGH fire danger will continue over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.

### Friday 22 November

- HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.
- Thunderstorms may extend into eastern NSW, which may bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning in some areas.

Source: BOM – verbal, BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 13, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

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- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

#### **Queensland bushfires**

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.

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- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged,
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities,
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    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone and Noosa.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa and Scenic Rim.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in Queensland should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

#### **Australian Government Actions**

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
- Australian Government Crisis Committee and National Crisis Committee meetings were held on **11 November 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee meetings have been held on **11 November 2019** and **19 November 2019**.

#### **New South Wales**

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
- **One** overarching Request for Assistance (RFA) was for the Australian Defence Force to provide air transport for operational firefighters and support staff as a contingency measure. Under this request there have been **thirteen** sub-taskings:
  - Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.

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- Task Request #001B – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from South Australia to Port Macquarie.
- Task Request #001C – **9 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Tasmania to Port Macquarie.
- Task Request #001D – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Armidale.
- Task Request #001E – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Victoria to Sydney.
- Task Request #001F – **14 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Sydney to Victoria.
- Task Request #001G – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
- Task Request #001H – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001I – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from RAAF Richmond to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001J – **17 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to RAAF Richmond.
- Task Request #001K – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Melbourne to Coffs Harbour.
- Task Request #001L – **18 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #001M – **19 November 2019**: ADF to provide air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne.
- Task Request #002 – **11 November 2019**: Provision of accommodation, food and appliance parking at Singleton Army Base for up to **149** personnel until the morning of **Thursday 14 November**.
- Task Request #003 – **12 November 2019, 13 November 2019**: Provide airframes for night fly and map fire progression and other intelligence tasking for current fires: provide airframes for firefighter movements, search and rescue operations and civilian movements; provide Air Liaison Officer to NSW Rural Fire Services State Operation Centre.
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- Task Request #005 – **13 November 2019**, ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- Task Request #006 – **16 November 2019**: ADF to provide provision of catering support to the Northern Region for **250** firefighters for **seven** days.
- Task Request #007 – **17 November 2019** (extension to Task Request #005): ADF to provide accommodation, meals, parking and maintenance areas for interstate firefighting personnel at Richmond RAAF Base.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- An EMA Disaster Recovery LO was deployed to the NSW Office of Emergency Management, who has since returned.

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- Task Request #001 – **11 November 2019**: ADF to provide **30** personnel with equipment to clear overgrown fire breaks in Beechmont.
- Task Request #002 – **13 November 2019**: ADF to provide airframes to undertake night flights to map fire grounds with geotagged output.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Coordination Centre.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 1830 hrs **20 November 2019**.*

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Prepared by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| Approved by:  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/>For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1830 hrs (AEDT), 20 November 2019

#### New South Wales and Queensland bushfires – Version 25

*New information in Italics*

#### Key Issues

- *VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger is forecast over the central coast of NSW, northeast NSW and Southeast Qld for **Thursday 21 November**.*
- Thunderstorms may develop through central Qld then NSW over the next few days, and are likely to bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning to some areas.
- *CATASTROPHIC fire danger continues in SA throughout this evening, **Wednesday 20 November**. An Emergency Management Australia Liaison Officer (EMA LO) has been deployed to SA. **Four** fires reached EMERGENCY WARNING level this afternoon with **two** remaining current.*
- *SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger is forecast for Vic. across the Mallee and Northern Country districts for **Thursday 21 November**. All fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- In New South Wales:
  - *There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.*
  - ***Two** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level. All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
  - *The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,366,261** hectares.*
  - **Four** fatalities have been confirmed.
  - More than **30** people have been injured, including approximately **20** firefighters.
  - ***483** houses are confirmed destroyed, with a further **28** facilities and an additional **946** outbuildings.*
  - **Five** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
  - *A total fire ban is in place for **12** areas across the state for tomorrow, **Thursday 21 November**.*
  - An EMA LO has been deployed to the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- In Queensland:
  - *There are currently **67** active fires across the state.*

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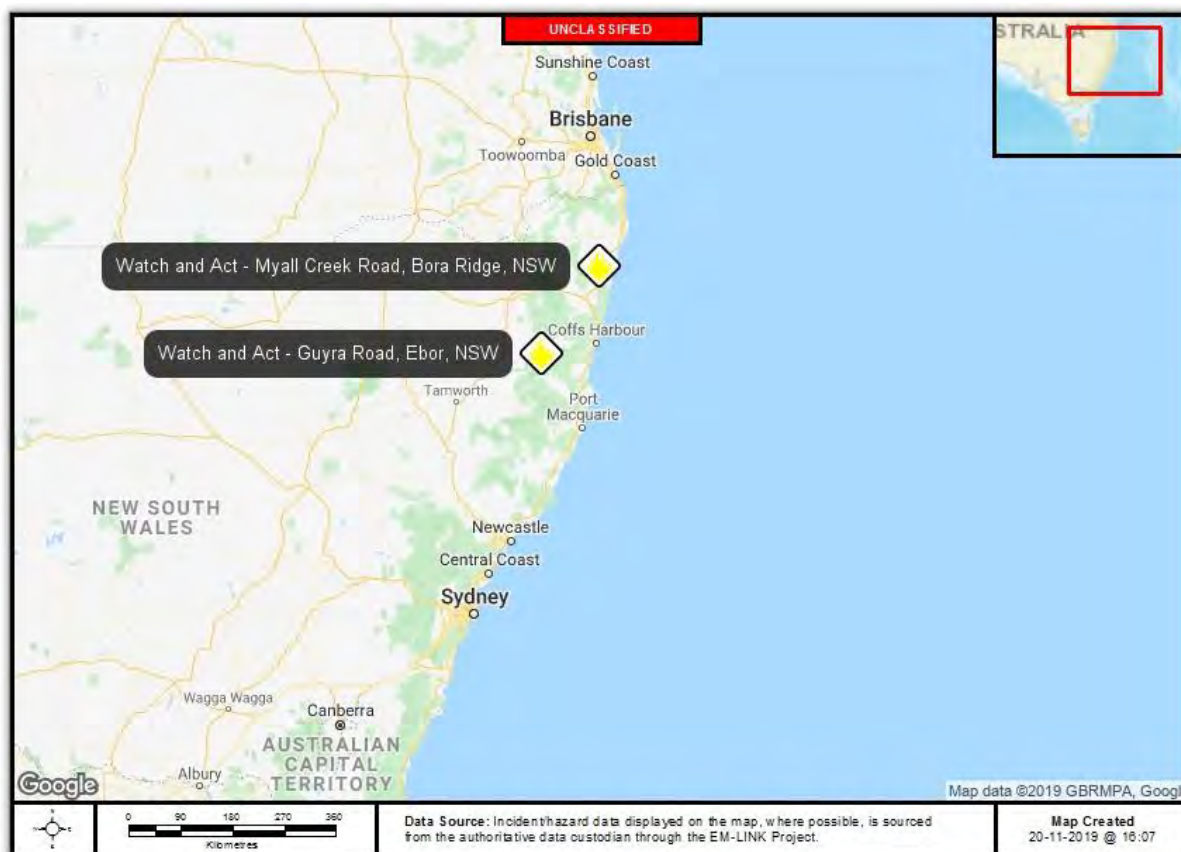
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- **Three** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level. All other fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event since **Monday 9 September** exceeds **173,940** hectares.
- **47** firefighters have been injured.
- **20** houses and **44** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain activated to support fire affected communities.
- A total fire ban is current for **42** Local Government Areas.
- A State of Fire Emergency has been declared across **42** Local Government Areas in Qld.
- An EMA LO has been deployed to the Qld State Disaster Coordination Centre.

### Situation Details

#### New South Wales



- There are currently **53** active fires burning across the state.
- **Two** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
  - Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge
  - Guyra Road, Ebor
- The total area burnt across NSW for this event now exceeds **1,366,261** hectares.
- All fires across the state are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

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- **90 aircraft** are currently deployed or available.
- **450 vehicles** are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1393 firefighters** are currently deployed (excluding interstate assistance).
- **533 interstate and international firefighters** (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA, and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to RFS.
- **483 houses, 28 facilities and an additional 946 outbuildings** are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the numbers of destroyed structures are expected to rise.
- NSW SES members continue to assist NSW RFS with the northeast NSW bushfires.
- Telstra has advised that telecommunications infrastructure has been impacted by the fires.
  - **178 fixed line telephony customers** are unable to make and/or receive voice calls in locations including Newton Boyd, Killabakh and Comara.
  - ADSL service outages have impacted **97** users at Koorainghat and Killabakh Creek.
  - Due to the extensive fire damage at Killabakh exchange, a Mobile Exchange on Wheels (MEoW) is being pre-configured and due to arrive on site by today **Wednesday 20 November**. Upon arrival the MEoW will require extensive fibre and copper cabling work before the fixed line and ADSL services at Killabakh can be restored.
  - There is a loss of AC Mains power to **nine** network sites of which **eight** sites are being supported by portable power generators
  - Telstra has issued a disaster relief package to affected customers in both NSW and Qld.
- All NBN outages as a result of the bushfires have now been restored.
- Approximately **600 electricity poles** have been damaged, and approximately **820 customers** are currently without power.
- The NSW Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC), which was activated on **Friday 8 November**, has now been closed due to recent low numbers of calls.
- **Five** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Kempsey Showground
  - Nimbin Showground
  - Lismore Showground
  - Uki Community Hall
  - Maclean Showground
- **21 Public Schools** were closed across the state today, **Wednesday 20 November**.

Source: Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee brief – 11 November 2019, Telstra update 23, Notification of Service Disruption NBN 19 November 2019, NSW SEOC Situational Report – Significant Fires – 20 November 2019, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Education Department](#)

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**Queensland**

- There are currently **67** active fires across the state.
- **Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level.
  - Grapetree Road, Pechey
  - Moreton Island
  - Top Swanfels Road, Swanfels
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event since Monday 9 September exceeds **173,940** hectares.
- All other fires across the state are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.
- **35** aircraft are currently available to conduct air observations and water bombing.
- More than **127** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- More than **3,600** firefighters have been on the frontline since **Friday 8 November**.
- **149** interstate and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, NT, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
  - Liaison officers from the United States and Canada have arrived to scope potential support to QFES.
- **20** houses are confirmed destroyed. Damage assessments are ongoing and the number of destroyed structures is expected to rise.
- A hoop pine plantation has been significantly impacted by the Pechey bushfire resulting in more than **\$2.8 million** of damage. There has also been significant impacts to pineapple, banana and mango plantations due to the bushfire in Cobraball.

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- Power has been lost to Cressbrook Pump Station due to the Pechey fire with potential for loss to Perseverance Pump Station. This may reduce Toowoomba cities town water capacity.
- All Telstra and Optus services have no current impacts to their network availability within the fire region.
- **Four** Evacuation Centres remain open at:
  - Highfields Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre
  - Crow's Nest Showgrounds
  - Tangalooma Resort (refuge)
  - Beaudesert Showgrounds (refuge)
- Department of Housing and Public Works staff will be at Recovery Hubs in Noosaville and Yeppoon to assist renters and owners with housing options.
- On **Sunday 17 November** the Esk Hospital self-evacuated and has now reopened for new presentations.
- It is anticipated that **one** educational facility will be closed across the state today, **Wednesday 20 November**.

Source: Qld SDCC State Update – 1019 hrs Tuesday 20 November, [QFES](#), Qld SDCC Whole of Government Key Messaging – 1301 hrs Tuesday 20 November, QLD SDCC – verbal, Telstra update 23, [Department of Education](#)

### Weather Forecast

#### Thursday 21 November

- *VERY HIGH to SEVERE fire danger ratings are forecast for the central coast, northeast NSW and southeast Qld.*
- Thunderstorms are forecast to develop through central Qld over the next several days. The thunderstorms are likely to bring some isolated rainfall, but may cause dry lightning in some areas.
- *SEVERE to CATASTROPHIC fire danger is forecast for Vic. across the Mallee and Northern Country districts.*

#### Friday 22 November

- *HIGH to VERY HIGH fire danger is forecast over the central coast and the northeast of NSW.*
- Thunderstorms may extend into eastern NSW, which may bring isolated rainfall and dry lightning in some areas.

#### Saturday 23 November

- *A broad trough through Qld and into northeast parts of NSW will maintain heat, whilst producing showers and storms.*

Source: BOM Critical Event Brief 2019/30 – Update 14, [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

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under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

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## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

### New South Wales

#### Joint funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected the NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
  - help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
  - funding to cover counter disaster operations costs, including firefighting activities
  - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
  - concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations
  - freight subsidies for primary producers, and
  - grants to eligible non-profit organisations.
- This assistance is administered by the NSW Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

#### Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
  - The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)
    - A non-means tested payment of **\$1000** for eligible adults and **\$400** for eligible children.
    - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, and people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Walcha.
  - The Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)
    - A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
    - The DRA has been activated in the local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Inverell, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Uralla and Walcha.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for assistance.

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## Queensland bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba.
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  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
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Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia

## Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with NSW and Qld.
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## New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in New South Wales.
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- Task Request #001A – **8 November 2019**: ADF to provide urgent air movement of interstate Strike Teams from Canberra to Port Macquarie.
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Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

**Further Information**

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- *The next CCC Incident Brief will be issued at 0630 hrs **21 November 2019**.*

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Prepared by:</b>  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <b>Approved by:</b>  | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) |
| <p>Issued under the authority of the Director General Emergency Management Australia.<br/>For enquiries please contact the CCC on s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <a href="mailto:@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a></p> |                 |

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