



Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 20 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	2	3	99	104
NT	0	0	1	1
Qld	0	1	6	7
SA	3	1	2	6
Tas.	0	0	1	1
Vic.	0	2	10	12
WA	1	0	9	10
National	6	7	128	141

- Nine fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. Two volunteer NSW RFS members have been killed and **three** other members injured in a vehicle roll over on **Thursday 19 December**. Six civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- A territory-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared from **2359 hrs Saturday 21 December**.

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- NSW Premier The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian has confirmed at least 40 homes were destroyed yesterday **Thursday 19 December**, with the majority of these losses occurring in the vicinity of the Buxton and Green Wattle Creek fires.
- On **Thursday 19 December** Premier Berejiklian declared a bushfire state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.
- Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings are forecast tomorrow, **Saturday 21 December**, for the Greater Sydney Region, the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and Southern Ranges forecast districts.
- Two fires are burning at EMERGENCY WARNING level.
- Three fires are burning at WATCH AND ACT level.

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- All other fires across the state are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- A state-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared from **0001 hrs Wednesday 18 December** until **2359 hrs Saturday 21 December**.
- **Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**.
- More than **2.95 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season, with a fire perimeter totalling **19,235 km** (figures as at **Thursday 12 December**).
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **772** houses, **53** facilities and an additional **1721** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at **Friday 20 December**).
- **130** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **489** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1428** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **342** firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- A further **39** international firefighters are deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **30** firefighters arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **9** firefighters arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**.
 - A further contingent of firefighters from the United States is expected to arrive **Saturday 21 December**.
- There are currently **seven** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Hanging Rock Sports Club Function Centre
 - Lithgow 'Workies' Club Motel
 - Mittagong RSL
 - Narellan Child and Family Community Centre
 - Picton Bowling Club
 - The Country Club St Georges Basin
 - Ulladulla Civic Centre
- A number of road closures are in place across the state, including but not limited to:
 - Gwydir Highway from Murphys Road to Camp Road.
 - Nerriga Road and Braidwood Road from Jerrawangala to Nerriga.
 - Oxley Highway from Walcha to Gingers Creek.
 - The Kings Highway from Braidwood to Nelligen.
 - The Bells Line of Road.
- **54** government schools are declared closed for today, **Friday 20 December**.
- **Three** Disaster Welfare Assistance Points are operating at:
 - Grafton
 - Kempsey
 - Taree
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line remains open **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - ADSL broadband services in Buxton, Tahmoor and Bargo.

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- Landline services in Buxton, Tahmoor and Bargo.
- Mobile services and two 3G base stations in Carrathool and Bargo.
- Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 18 December 2019, NSW SEOC - Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1800 hrs 18 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1300 hrs 20 December 2019 , Daily Operational Update Fire and Rescue NSW, Telstra Update 3 – NSW Bushfires, NSW FRS Fire Weather Advisory – Saturday 21 December 2019, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#).

Northern Territory

- All fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.

Source: [PFES](#)

Queensland

- **One** fire is burning at WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **247,605** hectares as at **0400 hrs Friday 20 December**.
- **26** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0840hrs Friday 20 December**.
- **30** aircraft are currently available with **5** tasked as at **0840 hrs Friday 20 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- **17** Tasmanian firefighters demobilised on **Thursday 12 December**. **18** firefighters from Tasmania and **13** firefighters from Western Australia arrived on **Saturday 14 December**.
- **115** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **Two** Rail services in the Wide Bay and Burnett districts have been impacted by bushfire:
 - The Spirit of Queensland Southbound service being run on busses between Cairns and Townsville.
 - The Spirit of the Outback eastbound service has been cancelled. Passengers will be conveyed on busses between Longreach and Rockhampton.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December**.

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)

South Australia

- **Three** fires are burning at EMERGENCY WARNING level.
- **One** fire is burning at WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- The SA SES has issued a Heatwave Notice for SA which relates to agency workforce protection measures and whole-of-government support to the community during heatwave conditions over the coming days.
- A state-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared for today, **Friday 20 December**.
- There are new thunderstorm warnings for a large area of Yorke Peninsula with lightning activity – two catastrophic areas within this region.
- The Woodside Army base is being evacuated to the Keswick barracks due to fire activity.
- **788** fight fighters have been deployed.
- **Six** fire fighters have been injured today, **Friday 20 December**, and have been taken to hospital to be treated for heat stroke and smoke inhalation.
- **16** aircraft have been deployed.

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- There are currently **two** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Gawler (Angle Vale fire)
- Approximately **12,000** customers are without power as a result of 31 outages.
- Threats to power are expected to continue and rotate around Adelaide due to heat stress.

Source: [CFS](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 18 December 2019, EMA LO

Tasmania

- All fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#).

Victoria

- **Two** fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- A state-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared for today, **Friday 20 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,723** hectares.
- The Victorian Chief Health Officer has issued heat health alerts for Central, Mallee, North Central, North East and Northern Country weather districts for **Friday 20 December**.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicle have been deployed.
- The State Control Centre is currently activated at TIER 3 for **Friday 20 December**.

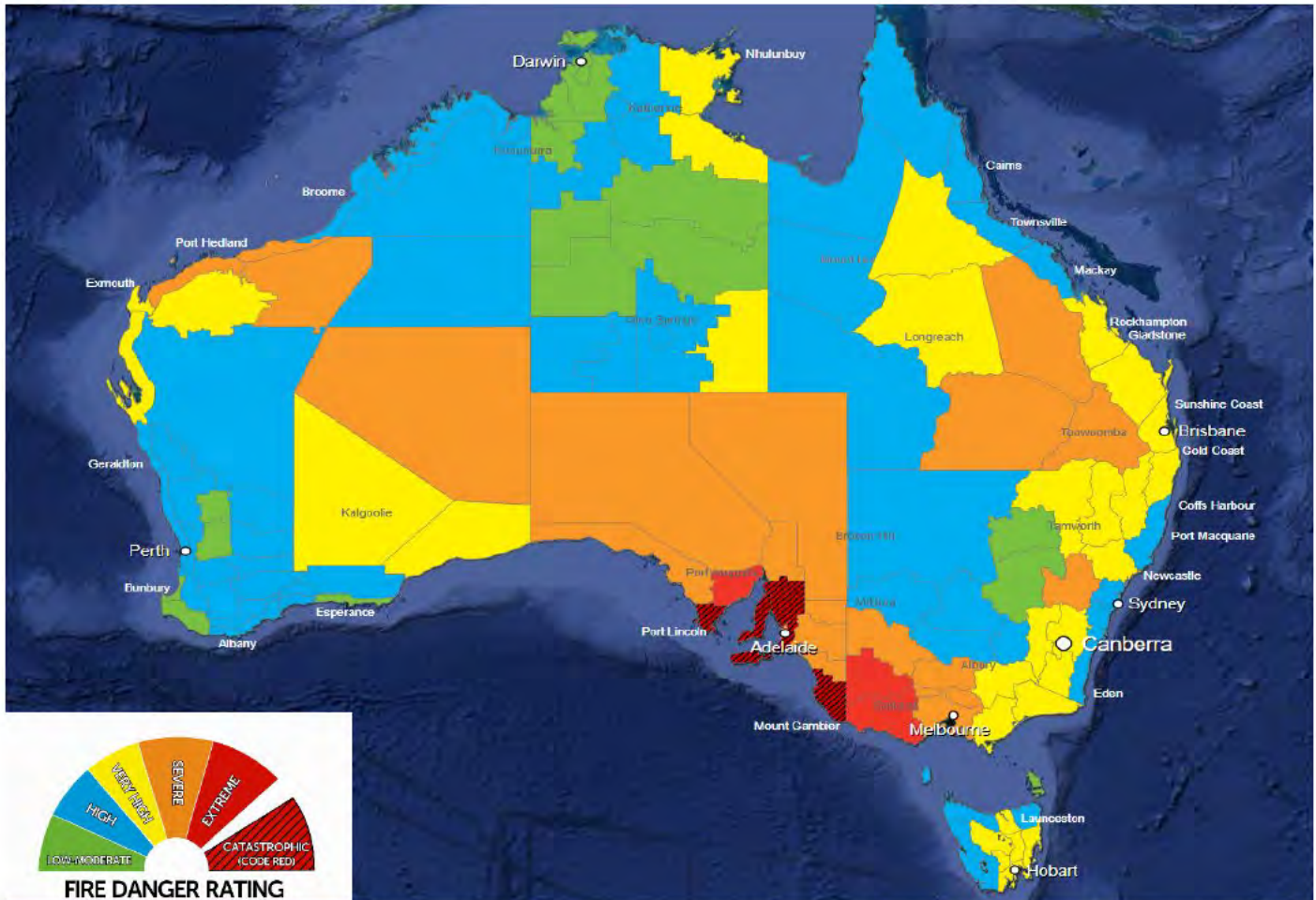
Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 18 December 2019, [Vic Emergency](#)

Western Australia

- **One** fire is burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level.
- All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.

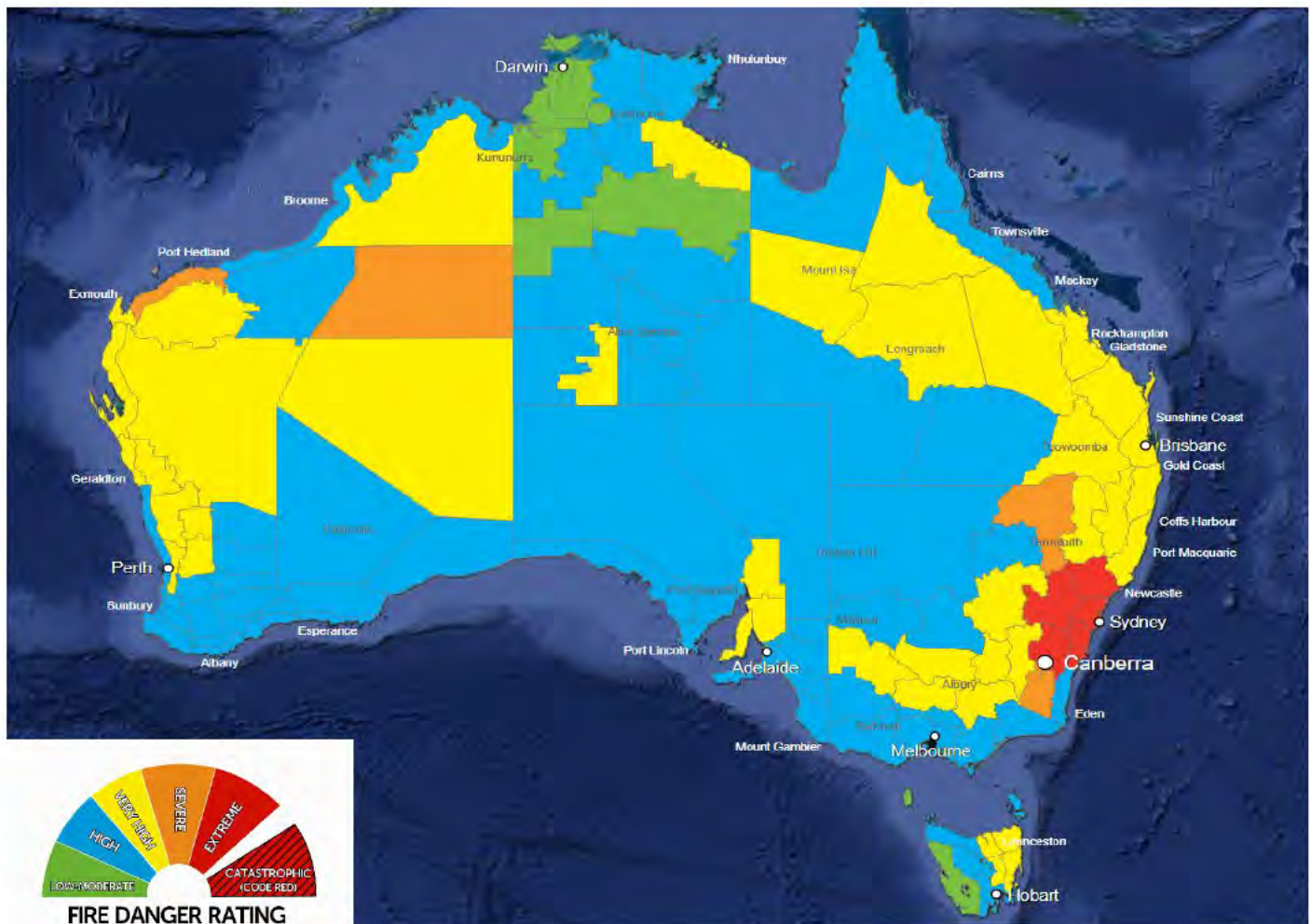
Source: DFES

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Fire Danger Ratings**Friday 20 December**

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Saturday 21 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

Please note the Fire Danger Ratings for the Greater Sydney Region, the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and Southern Ranges forecast districts has increased from EXTREME to CATASTROPHIC.

National Weather Summary

- **Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tasmania.

- **Weekly outlook**

An extremely hot air mass is developing across the continent and is expected to reach peak intensity on **Saturday 21 December**. Conditions are forecast to intensify while extending across southern inland areas of Australia with maximum temperatures exceeding 45 degrees which will impact inland parts of SA, northwest Vic., western NSW, southwest Qld and central Australia.

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) are expected to spike significantly through many states.

The most significant fire danger spike days forecast for SA, Tas. and Vic. will occur today, **Friday 20 December**, as a cold front and prefrontal wind change move into these states, increasing wind speeds ahead of the change and thus the FDRs. There is increased danger with the wind changing direction for going or developing fires, and additional potential for dry lightning.

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The most significant spike days forecast for the ACT and NSW will occur on **Saturday 21 December**, as the trough moves into these areas increasing wind speeds in combination with very high temperatures and dry atmospheric conditions. There is also the potential for dry lightning with passage of the cold front and trough. No significant rainfall is expected through the week.

- **Weather Forecast**

For **Saturday 21 December**, a broad low pressure trough across the north and west could trigger widespread showers and storms. Another trough over the east will direct hot dry winds into NSW and Qld. A brisk southerly change looks to move along the NSW coast in the afternoon and evening.

Heatwave Forecast from Friday 20 December and Saturday 21 December

Maximum temperatures exceeding 45C are forecast through much of SA, northwest Vic., inland NSW, southwest Qld and central Australia.

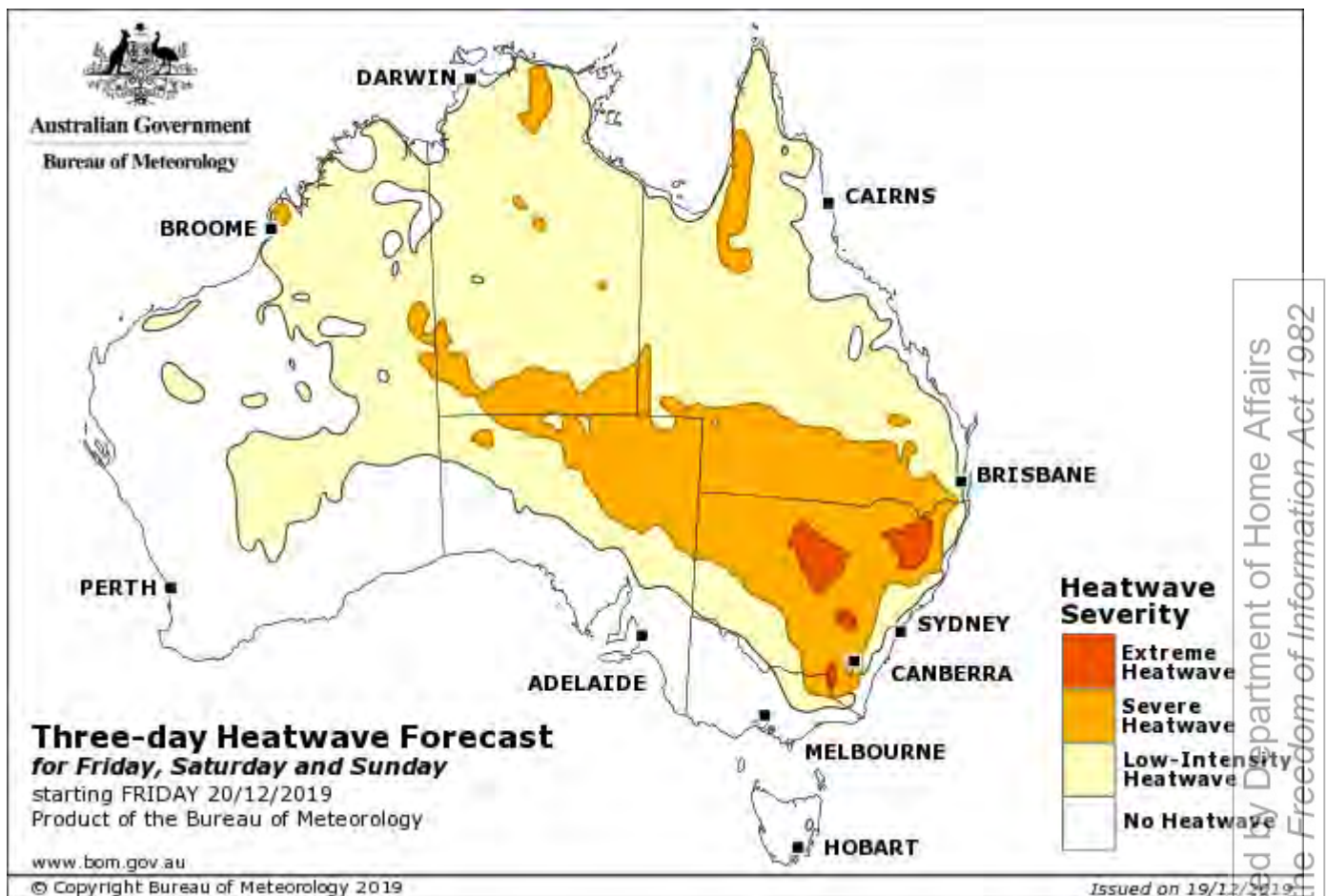
Most of NSW will experience the hottest conditions on Saturday, with the areas surrounding Sydney, which are currently fire affected, likely to reach the mid-40s.

The most significant fire danger spike days forecast for SA, Vic. and Tasmania will occur today, **Friday 20 December**. There is increased fire danger with the wind changing direction for on-going or developing fires, and additional potential for dry lightning.

NSW and the ACT will experience the maximum spike for FDR on **Saturday 21 December**, as wind speeds increase with a wind change.

For the three days from today, **Friday 20 December**, EXTREME heatwave conditions will contract to NSW. Broad low to SEVERE intensity heatwave conditions will remain over much of the country.

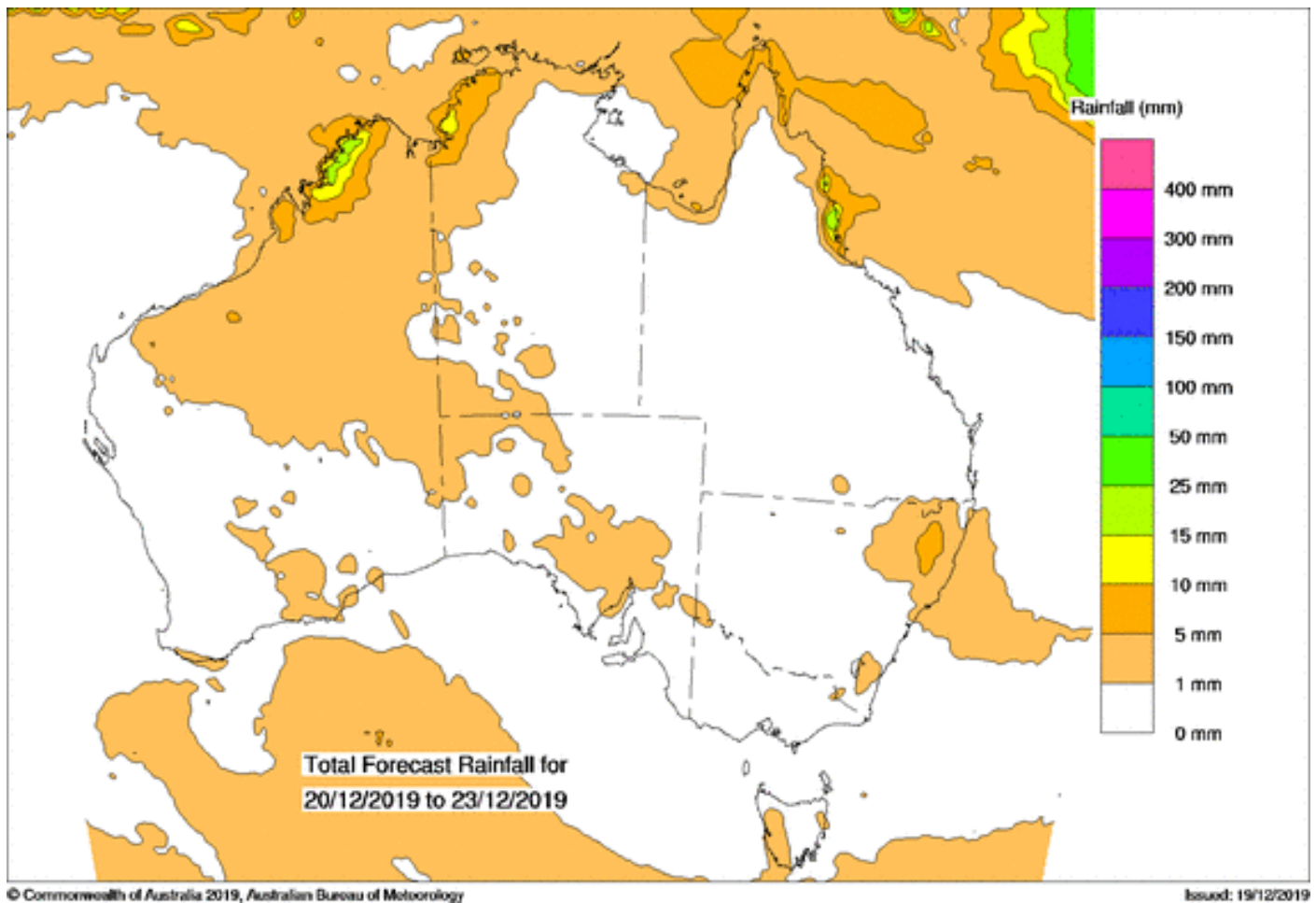
Most of NSW and the ACT will experience the hottest conditions on **Saturday 21 December**, with areas surrounding Sydney, which are currently fire affected, likely to reach the mid-40s.



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Total Forecast Rainfall from Friday 20 December – Monday 23 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#), [weatherzone](#), [NSW RFS Media Statement – 20 December 2019](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 20 December 2019 – Update 8

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
 - EMA Liaison officers are currently deployed to NSW, Vic and SA.
- National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **19 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling and water re-supply of firefighting aircraft.
- **Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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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- There have been 21 Task Requests (one with 13 sub-taskings) that are ongoing or completed by ADF since – **31 October 2019**
- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been 3 Task Requests completed by ADF since – **11 November 2019**

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance

NSW bushfires

Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers,
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - a **AUD18.25** million Community Recovery Fund.
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.

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- The AGDRP has been activated in the seventeen (17) local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, 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 forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected Yorketown, in South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the one (1) local government area of Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - Personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - Personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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 nine (9) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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,
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - concessional interest rate loans for primary producers, and

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- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of: Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 10 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs tomorrow, **Saturday 21 December 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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 21 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview – Version 2

New information is in italics

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	6	3	97	106
NT	0	0	1	1
Qld	0	0	7	7
SA	0	2	3	5
Tas.	0	0	2	2
Vic.	1	4	18	23
WA	0	0	10	10
National	7	9	138	154

- **10** fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. **Two** volunteer NSW RFS members have been killed and **three** other members injured in a vehicle roll over on **Thursday 19 December**. **Six** civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales, *one civilian fatality in South Australia*, and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- A territory-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared until 2359 hrs **Saturday 21 December**.

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- *Six* fires are burning an EMERGENCY WARNING level.
- *Three* fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- *All other* fires across the state are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- **Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- *During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of 789 houses, 53 facilities and an additional 1818 outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at 2200 hrs, Friday 20 December).*

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- NSW Premier The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP has confirmed at least 40 homes were destroyed on **Thursday 19 December**, with the majority of these losses occurring in the vicinity of the Buxton and Green Wattle Creek fires.
- On **Thursday 19 December** Premier Berejiklian declared a bushfire state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.
- Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings are forecast today, **Saturday 21 December**, for the Greater Sydney Region, the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and Southern Ranges forecast districts.
- A state-wide TOTAL FIRE BAN has been declared until **2359 hrs Saturday 21 December**.
- More than **2.95 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season, with a fire perimeter totalling **19,235 km** (figures as at **Thursday 12 December**).
- **130** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **776** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **2269** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **270 firefighters** (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **21 firefighters** arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **21 firefighters** arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**.
 - A further **30** from Canada arrived today, **Saturday 21 December**, and **nine** from the United States.
- There are currently **seven** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Hanging Rock Sports Club Function Centre
 - Lithgow 'Workies' Club Motel
 - Mittagong RSL
 - Narellan Child and Family Community Centre
 - Picton Bowling Club
 - The Country Club St Georges Basin
 - Ulladulla Civic Centre
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result for the fires, including but not limited to:
 - *The Great Western Highway is closed between Katoomba and Lithgow.*
 - Gwydir Highway from Murphys Road to Camp Road.
 - *Oxley Highway from between Kangaroo Flat Road and Mount Seaview.*
 - Nerriga Road and Braidwood Road between Turpentine Road and Stewarts Crossing.
 - The Kings Highway from Braidwood to Nelligen.
 - The Bells Line of Road.
- *Comprehensive transport management plans are in place for the Great Western Highway and the Princess Highway on the south coast.*
- **Three** Disaster Welfare Assistance Points are operating at:
 - Grafton
 - Kempsey
 - Taree
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line remains open **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.

EMA84583

- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - *ADSL broadband services in Buxton – 19 customers impacted.*
 - *Landline services in Buxton – 168 customers impacted.*
 - *Telstra NBN services in Buxton and Tahmoor – 307 customers impacted.*
 - *Mobile phone services at Kingiman.*
 - *Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.*
 - *The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.*

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 20 December 2019, NSW SEOC - Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1800 hrs 18 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1300 hrs 20 December 2019, Daily Operational Update Fire and Rescue NSW, Telstra Update 5 – NSW Bushfires, NSW FRS Fire Weather Advisory – Saturday 21 December 2019, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#).

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- All fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- **115** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **26** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0840hrs Friday 20 December**.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **247,605** hectares as at **0400 hrs Friday 20 December**.
- **30** aircraft are currently available with **5** tasked as at **0840 hrs Friday 20 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- **17** Tasmanian firefighters demobilised on **Thursday 12 December**. **18** firefighters from Tasmania and **13** firefighters from Western Australia arrived on **Saturday 14 December**.
- **Two** Rail services in the Wide Bay and Burnett districts have been impacted by bushfire:
 - The Spirit of Queensland Southbound service being run on busses between Cairns and Townsville.
 - The Spirit of the Outback eastbound service has been cancelled. Passengers will be conveyed on busses between Longreach and Rockhampton.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December**.

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 21 December 2019

South Australia

- **Two** fires are burning at WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **23** fire fighters and **16** members of the public have been injured since **Friday 20 December**. One crew member required hospitalisation. **Two** police officers have also received treatment for injuries.
- **15** houses and **28** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **1100 hrs Saturday 21 December**.
- **540** firefighters have been deployed.
- **135** vehicle are on scene at fires across the state.

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- **27 aircraft** are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- There are currently **four** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Gawler (Angle Vale fire)
 - Mt Baker High School
 - Minlaton Bowls Club
- Approximately **5,363** customers are without power as a result of 17 outages.
- Due to a combination of conditions including peak demand, an unplanned outage of a transformer impacted energy limits, and temperature deratings have impacted energy generation, resulting in energy reserve levels being depleted.
- The Australian Energy Market Operator has issued invitations to tender Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) contracts. This is a pre-activation measure to ensure RERT contracts are available to meet energy requirements.

Source: [CFS](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator - verbal

Tasmania

- All fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#).

Victoria

- **One** fire is burning at EMERGENCY WARNING level.
- **Four** fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- **10** firefighters and two members of the public were transported to hospital to be treated for heat related injuries on **Friday 20 December** and today, **Saturday 21 December**. All have since been released from hospital.
- **Two** houses have been confirmed destroyed as of today, **Saturday 21 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,000** hectares.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicle have been deployed.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - ADSL broadband services in Omeo, Glen Valley and Swift Creek – **72** customers impacted.
 - Landline services in Swift Creek – **175** customers impacted.
 - Mobile services in Berambra, Mt Sam, Mt Livingston, Tambo Crossing, Ensay, Cassils and Flagstaff Hill.
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
 - Communities in Swift Creek and Omeo are currently unable to call Triple Zero. Power technicians have been dispatched to Mt Sam and Swift Creek.
- The Australia Energy Market Operator issued an actual Lack of Reserve 2 (LOR2) market notice on **Friday 20 December** from 1717 hrs to 1910 hrs. This signals a significant reduction in pre-determined electricity reserve levels.
- Due to a combination of conditions including peak demand, an unplanned outage of a transformer impacted energy limits, and temperature deratings have impacted energy generation, resulting in energy reserve levels being depleted.

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- *The Australian Energy Market Operator has issued invitations to tender Reliability and Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) contracts. This is a pre-activation measure to ensure RERT contracts are available to meet energy requirements.*
- *The Victorian State Control Centre is at Tier 2 Orange.*

Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 18 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 5 – Vic Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

Western Australia

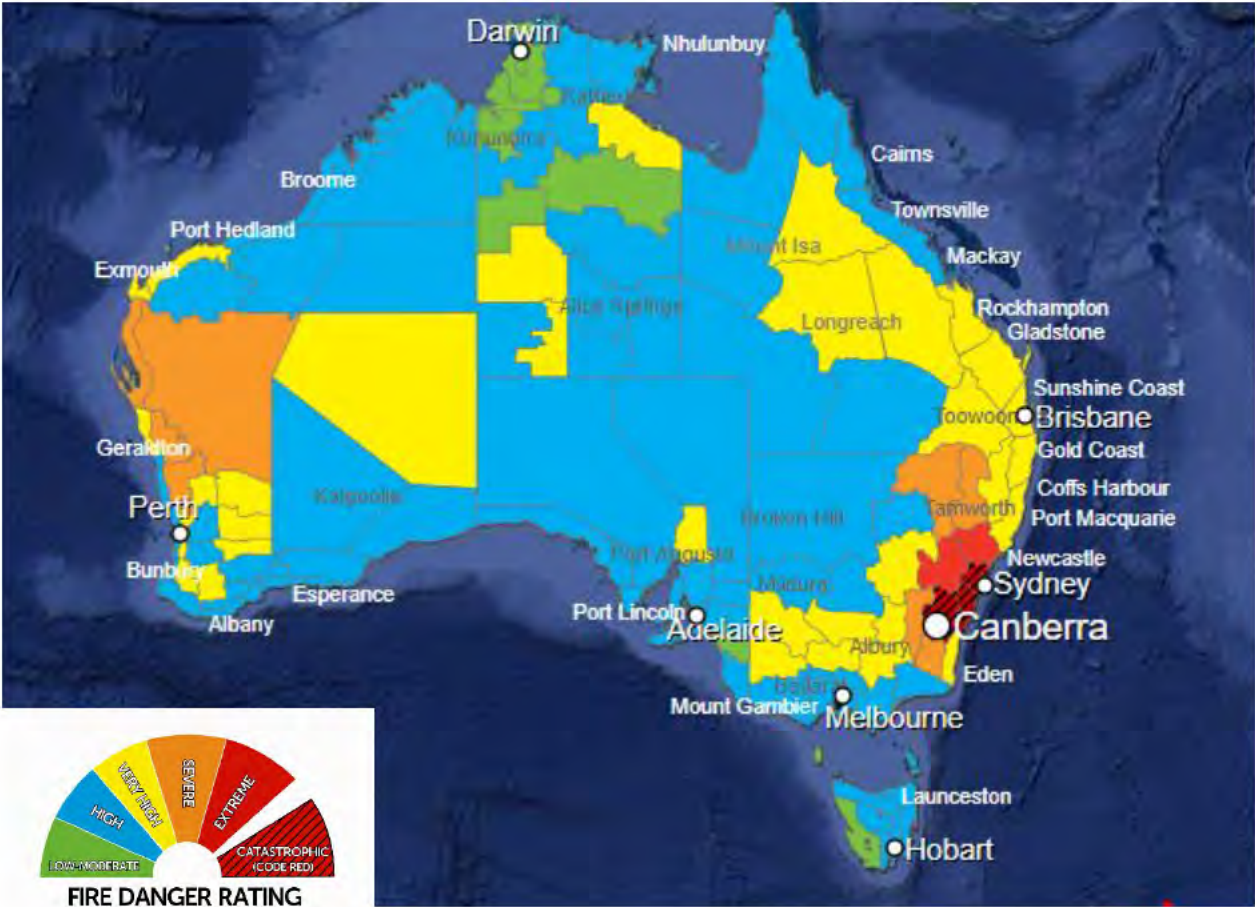
- One fire is burning at WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.

Source: DFES

EMA84583

Fire Danger Ratings

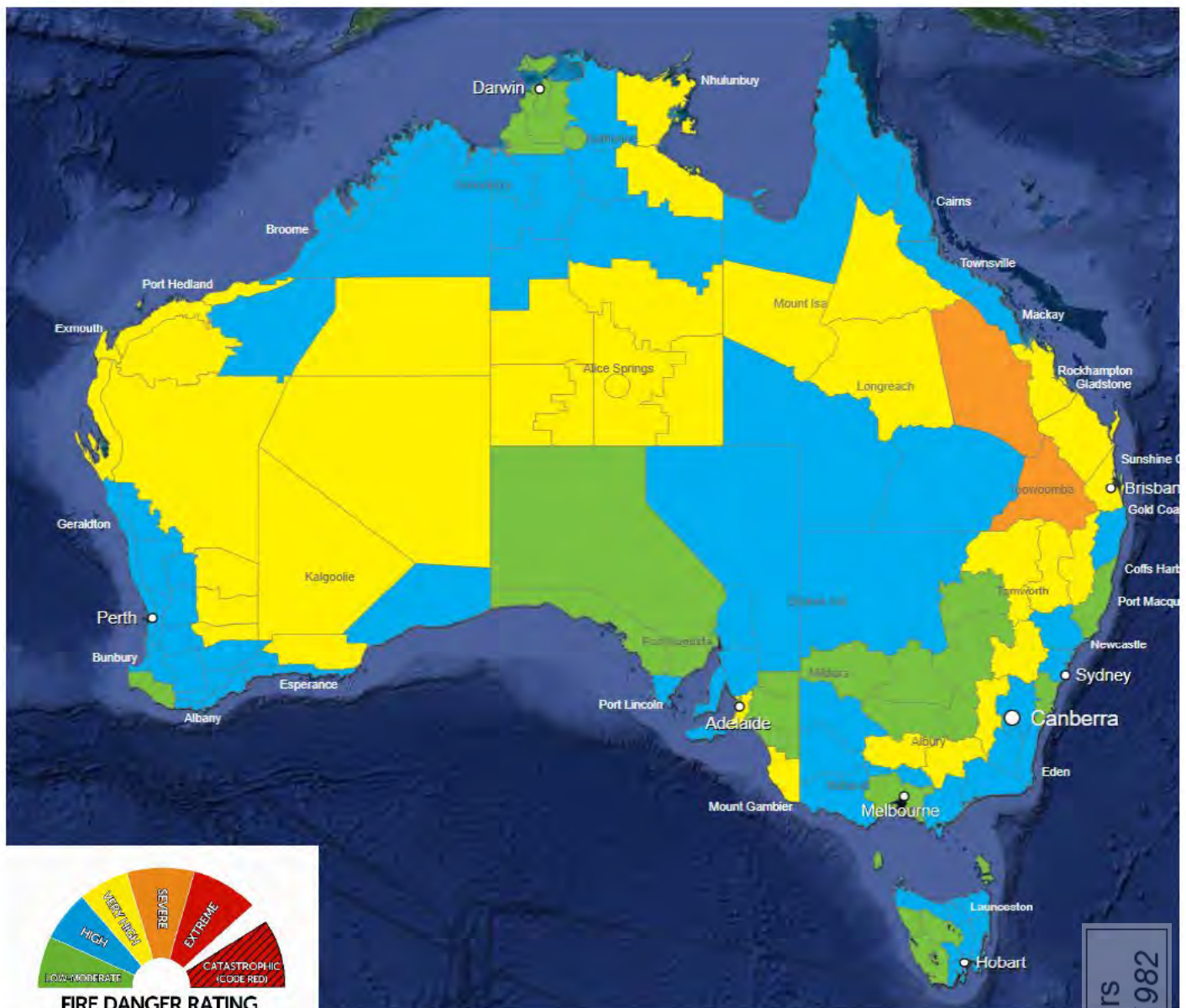
Saturday 21 December



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Sunday 22 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

National Weather Summary

- **Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tasmania.

- **Weather Forecast**

For **Saturday 21 December**, a broad low pressure trough across the north and west could trigger widespread showers and storms. Another trough over the east will direct hot dry winds into NSW and Qld. A brisk southerly change looks to move along the NSW coast in the afternoon and evening.

For **Sunday 22 December**, a broad trough across the north and west will trigger showers and storms, heavy in the northwest. Another trough over the east will produce a few storms, while directing hot winds into northern NSW and QLD. A high in the southeast will bring a mild day across Tas. And Vic.

EMA84583

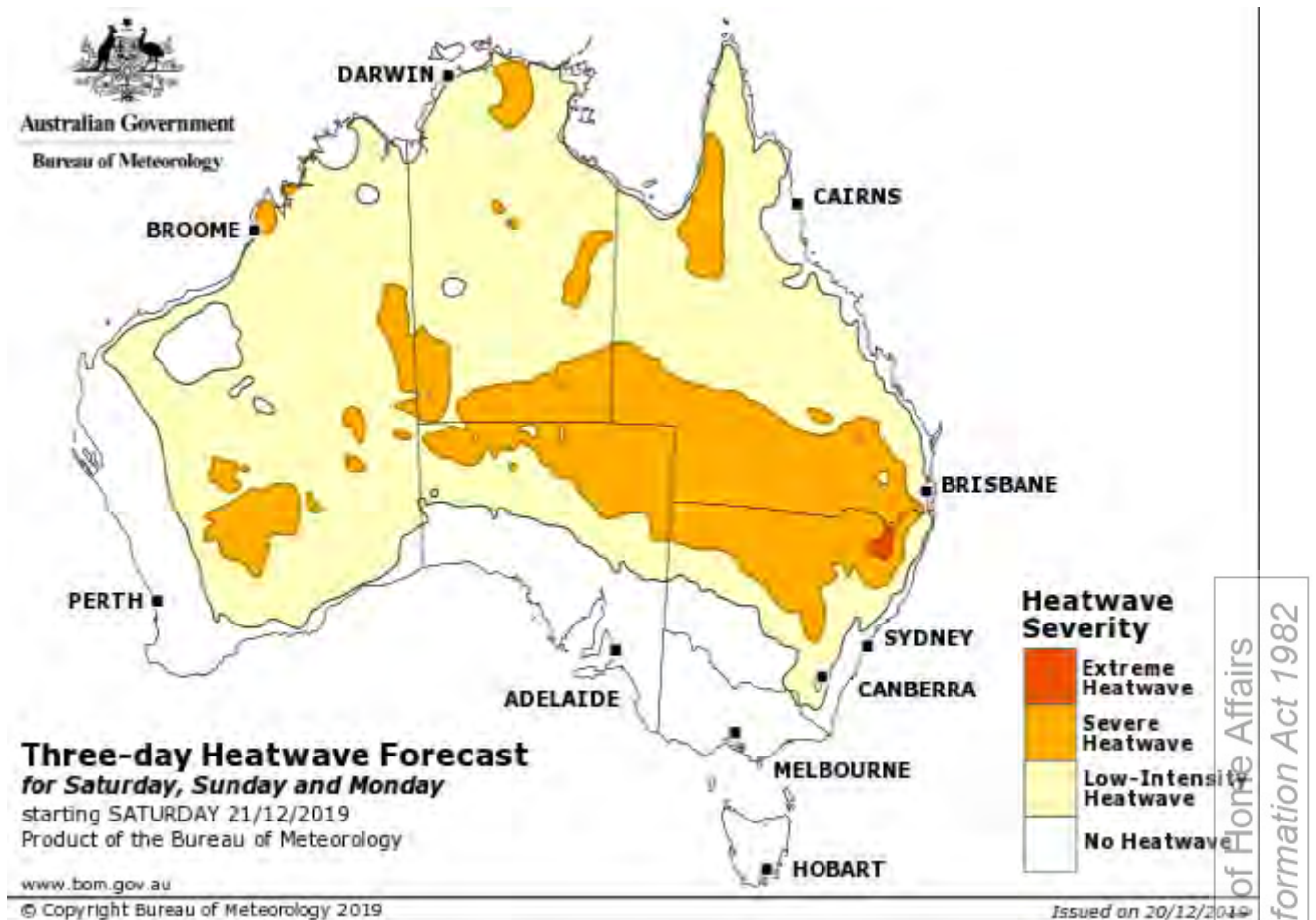
Heatwave Forecast for Saturday 21 December

Most of NSW will experience the hottest conditions today, **Saturday 21 December**, with the areas surrounding Sydney, which are currently fire affected, likely to reach the mid-40s. NSW and ACT will experience a spike in FDRs on today, **Saturday 21 December** as wind speeds increase ahead of a change.

*A prefrontal trough and cold front will move over NSW today, **Saturday 21 December**. Ahead of the trough and cold front, expect dry and gusty north to northwest winds in NSW. The winds will shift around to the southwest behind the trough and cold front, with no rain forecast. The change is forecast to reach Sydney this afternoon. There is also potential for dry lightning with passage of the cold front and trough.*

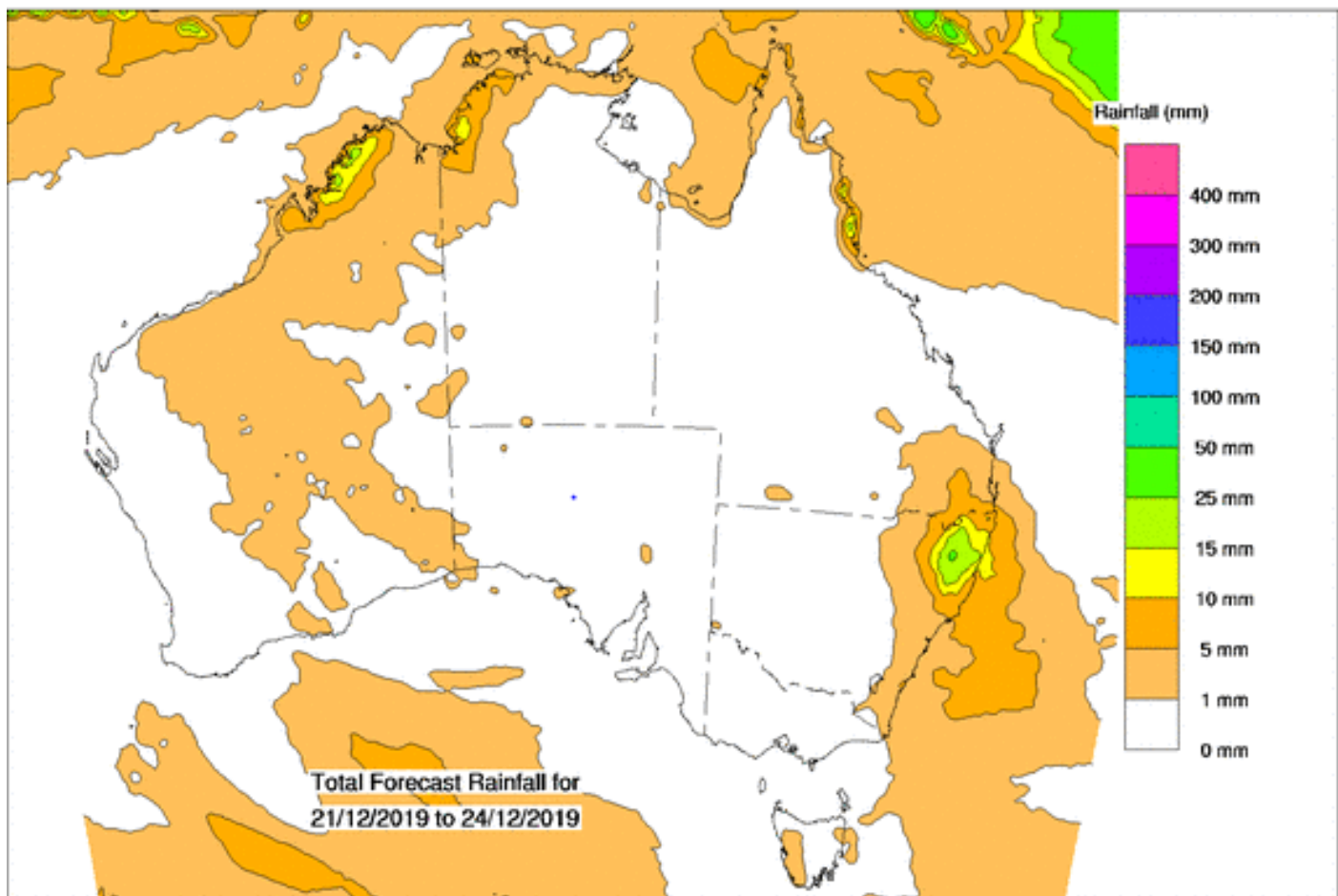
Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions will persist across the country on **Sunday 22 December**. An area of extreme heatwave conditions are forecast near the northern WA and SA border.

The most significant fire danger spike days forecast for SA, Vic. and Tasmania occurred on **Friday 20 December**.



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Total Forecast Rainfall from Saturday 21 December – Tuesday 24 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#), [weatherzone](#), [NSW RFS Media Statement – 20 December 2019](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 21 December 2019 – Update 9

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
 - EMA Liaison officers are currently deployed to NSW, Vic and SA.
- National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **19 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling and water re-supply of firefighting aircraft.
- **Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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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- There have been 21 Task Requests (one with 13 sub-taskings) that are ongoing or completed by ADF since – **31 October 2019**
- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been 3 Task Requests completed by ADF since – **11 November 2019**

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.
- *There has been 1 Task Request for the provision of a pressurised refuelling tanker.*

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance

NSW bushfires

Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers,
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - a **AUD18.25** million Community Recovery Fund.
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.

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- The AGDRP has been activated in the seventeen (17) local government areas of: Armidale, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, 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 forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected Yorketown, in South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the one (1) local government area of Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - Personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - Personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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 nine (9) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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,
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - concessional interest rate loans for primary producers, and

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- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of: Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 10 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs today, **Sunday 22 December**.

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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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Australian Government

Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 22 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview – Version 3

New information is in italics

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	5	89	94
NT	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	7	7
SA	0	2	2	4
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	2	16	18
WA	0	0	0	0
National		9	115	123

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. **Two** volunteer NSW RFS members have been killed and **three** other members injured in a vehicle roll over on **Thursday 19 December**. **Six** civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales, **one** civilian fatality in South Australia, and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- Five** fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires across the state are burning at ADVICE level or below.
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **789** houses, **53** facilities and an additional **1818** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at 2200 hrs, **Friday 20 December**).

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- On **Thursday 19 December** NSW Premier the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP declared a state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.
- *A TOTAL FIRE BAN is in place for the Northern Slopes and North Western fire areas until **2359 hrs Sunday 22 December**.*
- *More than **3 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.*
- **130** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **674** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1990** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **476 Incident Management Team and support personnel** are currently deployed.
- **243** firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**.
 - A further **30** from Canada arrived **Saturday 21 December**, and **nine** from the United States.
- There are currently **six** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Lithgow 'Workies' Club Motel
 - Mittagong RSL
 - Picton Bowling Club
 - The Country Club St Georges Basin
 - Ulladulla Civic Centre
 - *Club Mudgee*
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires, including but not limited to:
 - Castlereagh Highway *between Wallerawang and Ilford.*
 - Gwydir Highway *between Glen Elgin and Jackadgery*
 - Oxley Highway *from between Yarrowtich and Mount Seaview.*
 - Braidwood Road *between Nowra Hill and Tomboye.*
 - Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.
 - Bells Line of Road *between Old Bells Line of Road and Darling Causeway.*
 - *Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Wisemans Ferry*
- Comprehensive transport management plans are in place for the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway on the south coast.
- *The Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Grafton, Kempsey and Taree commenced transitioning to council from **20 December 2019**.*
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is *operating **five** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily, excluding public holidays.*
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - *ADSL broadband services in Cullen Bullen – **42** customers impacted.*
 - *Landline services in Berambing, Clarence, Cullen Bullen and Bilpin – **547** customers impacted.*
 - *Telstra NBN services in Tahmoor, Buxton and Buxton East – **136** customers impacted.*
 - *Mobile phone services at Mount Kingiman, Bells and Bilpin.*

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- Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
- The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 20 December 2019, NSW SEOC - Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1100 hrs 22 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1900 hrs 21 December 2019, Telstra Update 7 – NSW Bushfires, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#).

Northern Territory

- *All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*

Source: [PFES](#)

Queensland

- *All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **119** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **28** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0830hrs Sunday 22 December**.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0400 hrs Sunday 22 December**.
- **30** aircraft are currently available with **1** tasked as at **0830 hrs Sunday 22 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- **18** firefighters from Tasmania and **13** firefighters from Western Australia arrived on **Saturday 14 December**.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December**.

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 21 December 2019, QFES – verbal

South Australia

- *Two fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **23** fire fighters and **16** members of the public have been injured since **Friday 20 December**. One crew member required hospitalisation. **Two** police officers have also received treatment for injuries.
- **15** houses and **28** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **1100 hrs Saturday 21 December**.
- **540** firefighters have been deployed.
- **135** vehicle are on scene at fires across the state.
- **27** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- There are currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra Recreation Centre (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Mt Barker High School (Cudlee Creek fire)
- *Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:*
 - *ADSL broadband services in Charleston, Woodside and Lenswood – 256 customers impacted.*
 - *Landline and 2 ISDN services in Charleston and Woodside – 246 customers impacted.*
 - *Telstra NBN services in Lenswood and Harrogate – 156 customers impacted.*
 - *Mobile phone services at Mount Torrens, Birdwood and Mount Beavor.*
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.

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- The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.
- *Approximately 1898 customers are without power as a result of seven outages.*

Source: [CFS, SAPower](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 14 – 22 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator - verbal

Tasmania

- *All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*

Source: [TFS](#).

Victoria

- *Two fires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.*
- **10** firefighters and two members of the public were transported to hospital to be treated for heat related injuries on **Friday 20 December** and **Saturday 21 December**. All have since been released from hospital.
- **Two** houses have been confirmed destroyed as of **Saturday 21 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,000** hectares.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicles have been deployed.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - *Mobile phone services at Benambra, Mount Livingston, Tambo Crossing and Ensay.*
 - *Technicians connected portable generators to multiple mobile sites to mitigate outages resulting from a loss of AC mains power and subsequent depletion of back up batter reserves on **Saturday 21 December**.*
 - *Technicians will be dispatched to further mobile sites with portable generators when it is safe to do so.*
- The Australia Energy Market Operator issued an actual Lack of Reserve 2 (LOR2) market notice on **Friday 20 December** from 1717 hrs to 1910 hrs. This signals a significant reduction in pre-determined electricity reserve levels.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at Tier 2 Orange.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 18 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 5 – Vic Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

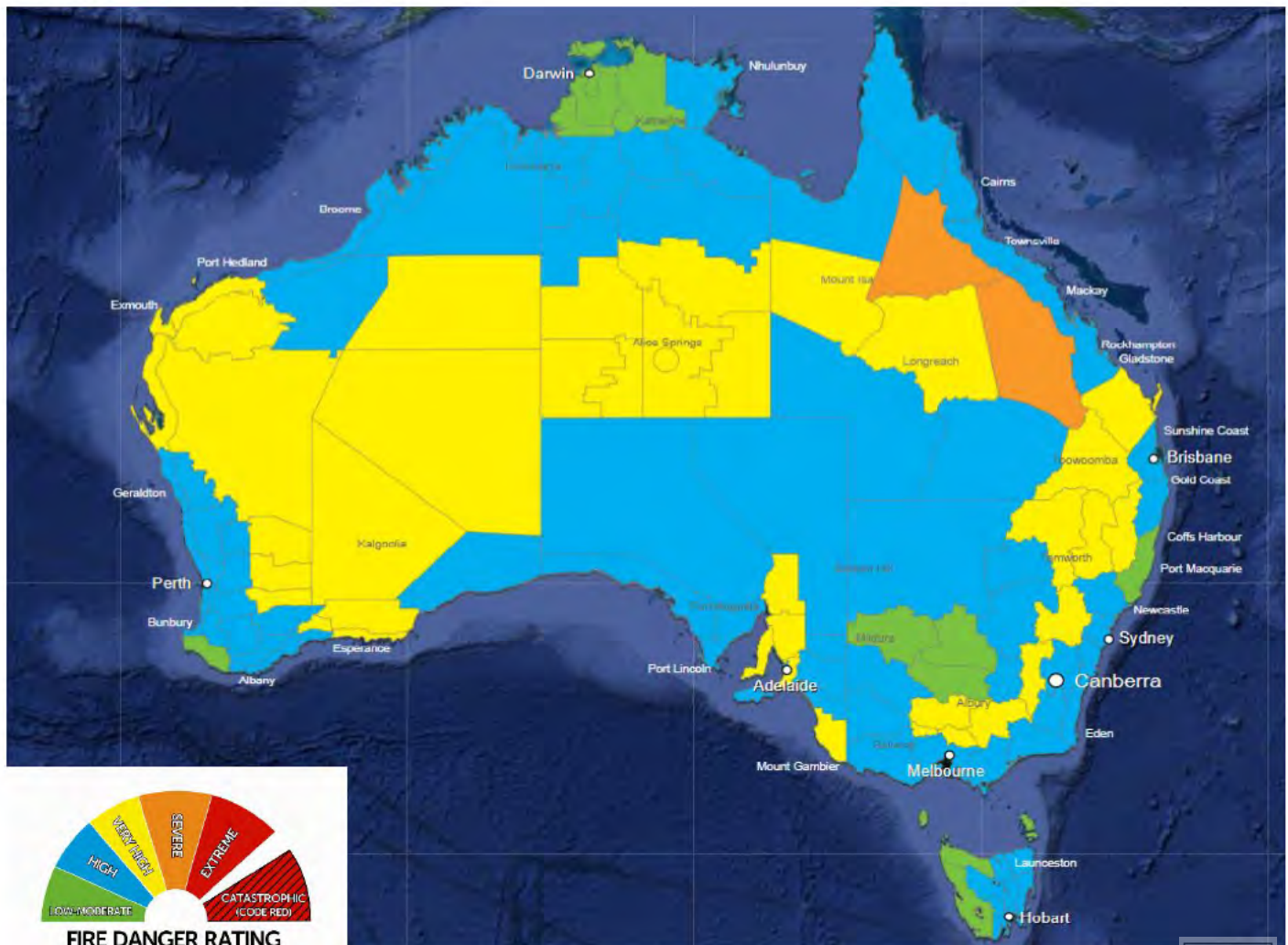
Western Australia

- *All fires are burning at ADVICE level or below.*

Source: DFES

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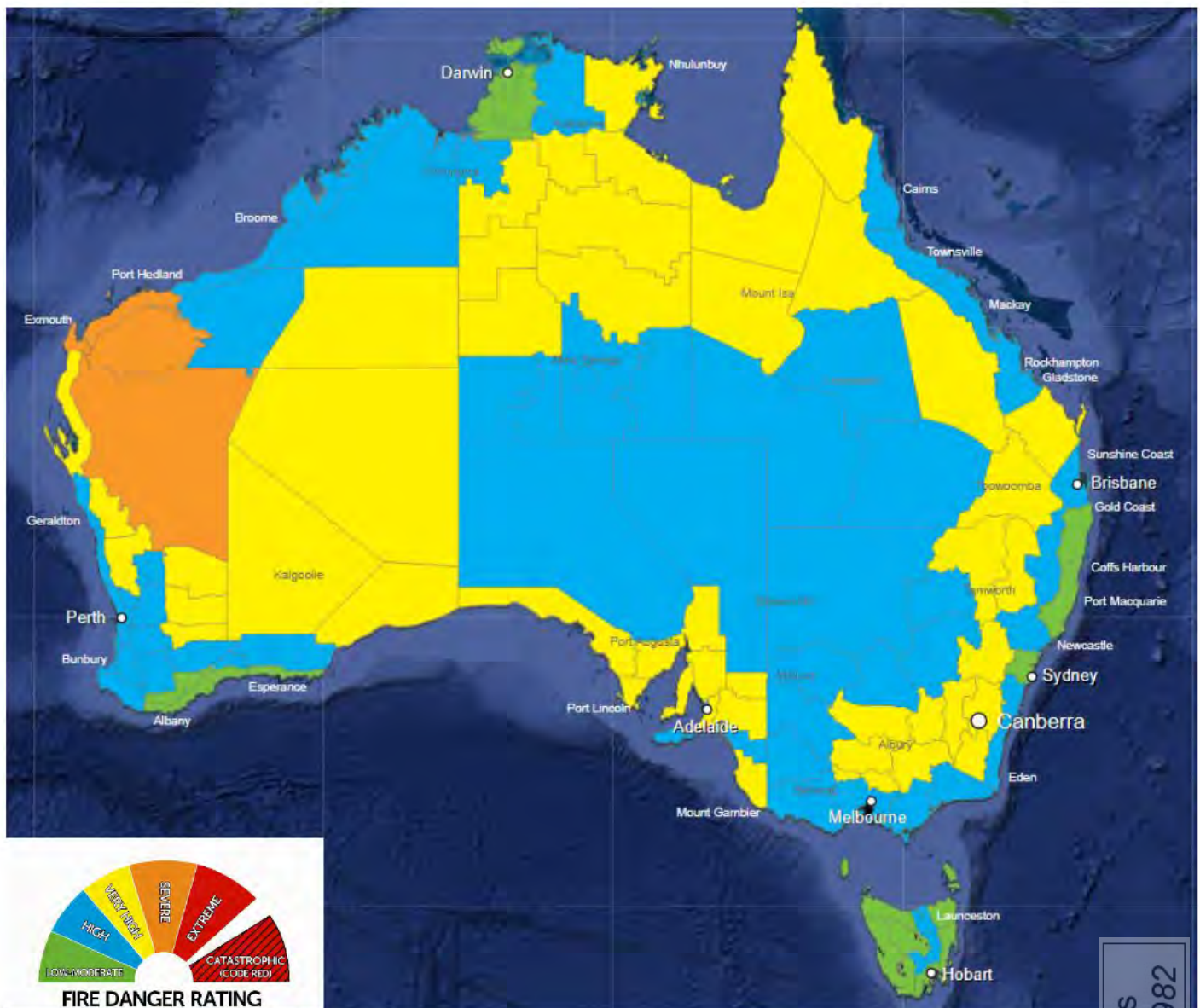
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Fire Danger Ratings**Sunday 22 December**

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Monday 23 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)**National Weather Summary**

- **Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tasmania.

- **Weather Forecast**

For **Sunday 22 December**, a broad trough across the north and west will trigger showers and storms, heavy in the northwest. Another trough over the east will produce a few storms, while directing hot winds into northern NSW and QLD. A high in the southeast will bring a mild day across Tas. And Vic.

For **Monday 23 December**, A low pressure trough over QLD and northern NSW could produce showers and thunderstorms, some heavy in the east. Another trough over the NT and WA should also trigger storms. Hot and dry winds look to persist in the interior, milder over VIC and TAS.

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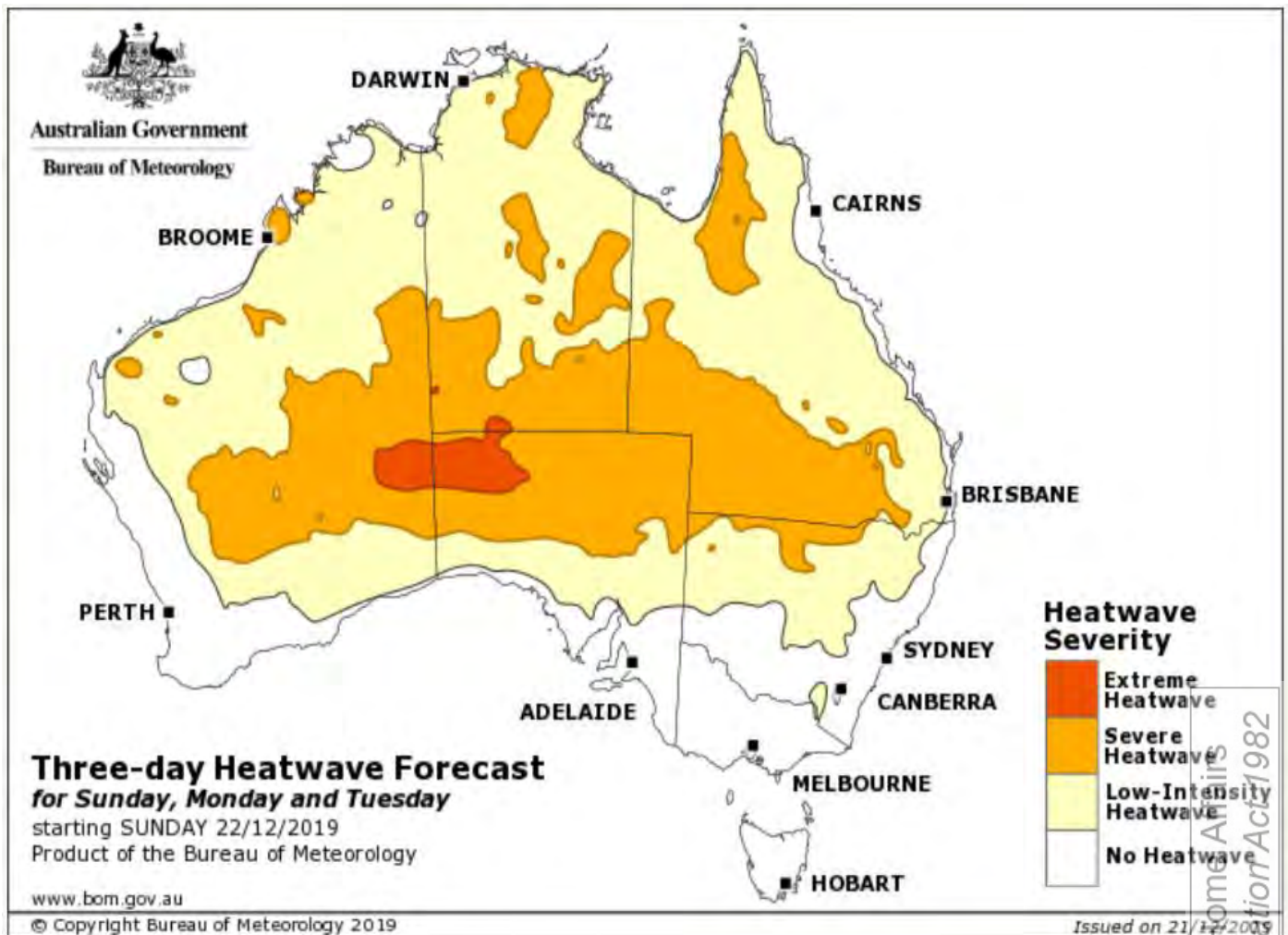
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Heatwave Forecast for Sunday 22 December

Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions persist across the country today, **Sunday 22 December**. An area of EXTREME heatwave conditions are forecast near the northern WA and SA border.

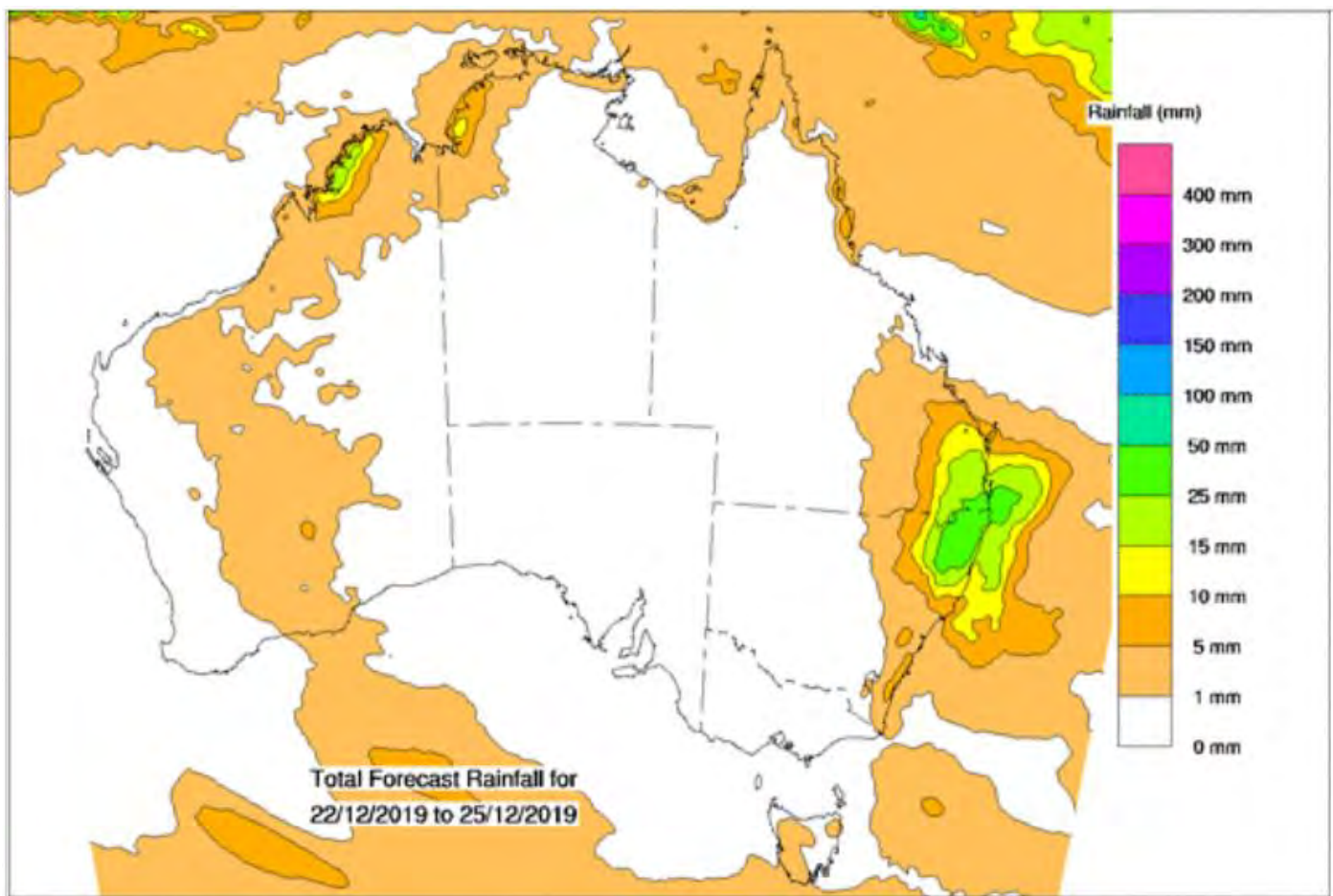
In NSW very hot conditions persist about the central and northern inland areas, and milder in the south. The chance of a shower or thunderstorm about the northern ranges and northwestern plains, mainly in the afternoon. Dry and partly cloudy elsewhere. Areas of bushfire smoke in the east. Daytime temperatures above average in most areas, particularly the northern inland, although below average along much of the coast. East to northeasterly winds in the northeast, and south to southeasterly winds elsewhere.

In Victoria, dry conditions persist with areas of smoke haze about the eastern ranges. Areas of morning cloud in the south clearing to a mild, sunny afternoon. Warm and mostly sunny across the north. Moderate to locally fresh southerly winds.



EMA84587

Total Forecast Rainfall from Saturday 21 December – Tuesday 24 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 21 December 2019 – Update 9

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
 - An EMA Liaison officer is currently deployed to NSW.
- A National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **19 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held on **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling and water re-supply of firefighting aircraft.
- Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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.
- There have been **23** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) that are ongoing or completed by ADF since **31 October 2019**

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- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been **three** Task Requests completed by ADF since – **11 November 2019**

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.
- There has been **one** Task Request for the ongoing provision of a pressurised refuelling tanker – **19 December 2019**

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance

Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers,
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - a **AUD24.35** million Community Recovery Fund.
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.

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- The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 twenty-four (24) local government areas of: Armidale, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Tenterfield, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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 forty (40) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected Yorketown, in South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the one (1) local government area of Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - Personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - Personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 *four (4) local government areas of: Adelaide Hills, City of Playford, Lower Eyre Peninsula* and Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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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 nine (9) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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,
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of: Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 1800 22 66 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 10 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs tomorrow, **Monday 23 December**.

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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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Australian Government

Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 23 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview – Version 4

New information is in italics

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	1	0	90	91
NT	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	7	7
SA	0	1	2	3
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	1	18	19
WA	0	0	10	10
National	1	2	127	130

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. **Two** volunteer NSW RFS members have been killed and **three** other members injured in a vehicle roll over on **Thursday 19 December**. **Six** civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales, **one** civilian fatality in South Australia, and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- One fire is burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level.*
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **829** houses, **62** facilities and an additional **1925** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at 1100 hrs, **Monday 23 December**).*

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- On **Thursday 19 December**, NSW Premier the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP declared a state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.
- More than **3 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- **102 aircraft** are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **635 vehicles** are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1933 firefighters** are currently deployed.
- **409 Incident Management Team and support personnel** are currently deployed.
- **243 firefighters** (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from ACT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA and New Zealand.
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **21 firefighters** arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **21 firefighters** arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**. **Two** are on scheduled rest.
 - A further **30 firefighters** from Canada arrived **Saturday 21 December**, and **nine** from the United States.
- There are currently **three** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Lithgow 'Workies' Club Motel
 - Mittagong RSL
 - Club Mudgee
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result for the fires, including but not limited to:
 - Castlereagh Highway between Wallerawang and Ilford.
 - Gwydir Highway between Glen Elgin and Jackadgery.
 - Oxley Highway from between Yarrowtich and Mount Seaview.
 - Braidwood Road between Nowra Hill and Tomboye.
 - Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.
 - Bells Line of Road between Old Bells Line of Road and Darling Causeway.
 - Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Wisemans Ferry.
- Comprehensive transport management plans are in place for the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway on the south coast.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Grafton, Kempsey and Taree commenced transitioning to council from **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **five** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily, excluding public holidays.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - ADSL broadband services in Cullen Bullen – **208** customers impacted.
 - Landline services in Berambing, Cullen Bullen, Clarence and Colo Heights – **352** customers impacted.
 - Telstra NBN services in Tahmoor, Buxton and Buxton East – **136** customers impacted.
 - Mobile phone services at Mount Kingiman, Bells and Bilpin.
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
 - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.

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Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 20 December 2019, NSW SEOC - Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1700 hrs 22 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 23 December 2019, Telstra Update 8 – NSW Bushfires, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#).

Northern Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [PFES](#)

Queensland

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **120 firefighters have been injured since Friday 8 November.**
- **28 houses and 56 outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of 0830hrs Monday 23 December.**
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **249,604 hectares** as at **0400 hrs Sunday 22 December.**
- **28 aircraft are currently available with four tasked as at 0830 hrs Monday 23 December.**
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December.**
- *While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services closed due to fires:*
 - *Peregian Beach College Early Learning Centre, Peregian Beach*
 - *Peregian Kids, Peregian Beach.*

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 23 December 2019, QFES – verbal

South Australia

- **One fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.**
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- South Australian Premier Steven Marshall has advised the media that **72** homes and **404** outbuildings have been destroyed in the Cudlee Creek bushfire. *Current media reports suggests up to 86 homes have been destroyed.*
- **23** fire fighters and **16** members of the public have been injured since **Friday 20 December.** One crew member required hospitalisation. **Two** police officers have also received treatment for injuries.
- **540** firefighters have been deployed.
- **135** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **27** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- There are currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra Recreation Centre (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Mt Barker High School (Cudlee Creek fire)
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - ADSL broadband services in Charleston, Woodside and Lenswood – **256** customers impacted
 - Landline and 3 ISDN services in Woodside – **203** customers impacted.
 - Telstra NBN services in Lenswood and Harrogate – **81** customers impacted.

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- *Mobile phone services at Mount Torrens and Birdwood.*
- Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
- The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.
- *Approximately **1420** customers are without power as a result of **six** outages.*

Source: [CFS](#), [SAPower](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 17 – 23 December 2019, Telstra Update 8 – SA Bushfires, [ABC News](#)

Tasmania

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#)

Victoria

- *One fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **10** firefighters and two members of the public were transported to hospital to be treated for heat related injuries on **Friday 20 December** and **Saturday 21 December**. All have since been released from hospital.
- **Two** houses have been confirmed destroyed as of **Saturday 21 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,000** hectares.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicles have been deployed.
- *There is currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:*
 - *Lexton*
 - *Omeo Memorial Hall*
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - *Mobile phone services at Benambra, Mount Livingston, Tambo Crossing, Ensay and Cassilis.*
 - *Landline services at Benambra – **73** customers impacted.*
 - Technicians connected portable generators to multiple mobile sites to mitigate outages resulting from a loss of AC mains power and subsequent depletion of back up batter reserves on **Saturday 21 December**.
 - Technicians will be dispatched to further mobile sites with portable generators when it is safe to do so.
- The Australia Energy Market Operator issued an actual Lack of Reserve 2 (LOR2) market notice on **Friday 20 December** from 1717 hrs to 1910 hrs. This signals a significant reduction in pre-determined electricity reserve levels.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at Tier 2 Orange.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 18 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 8 – Vic Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

Western Australia

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- *Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **six** outbuildings have been destroyed.*

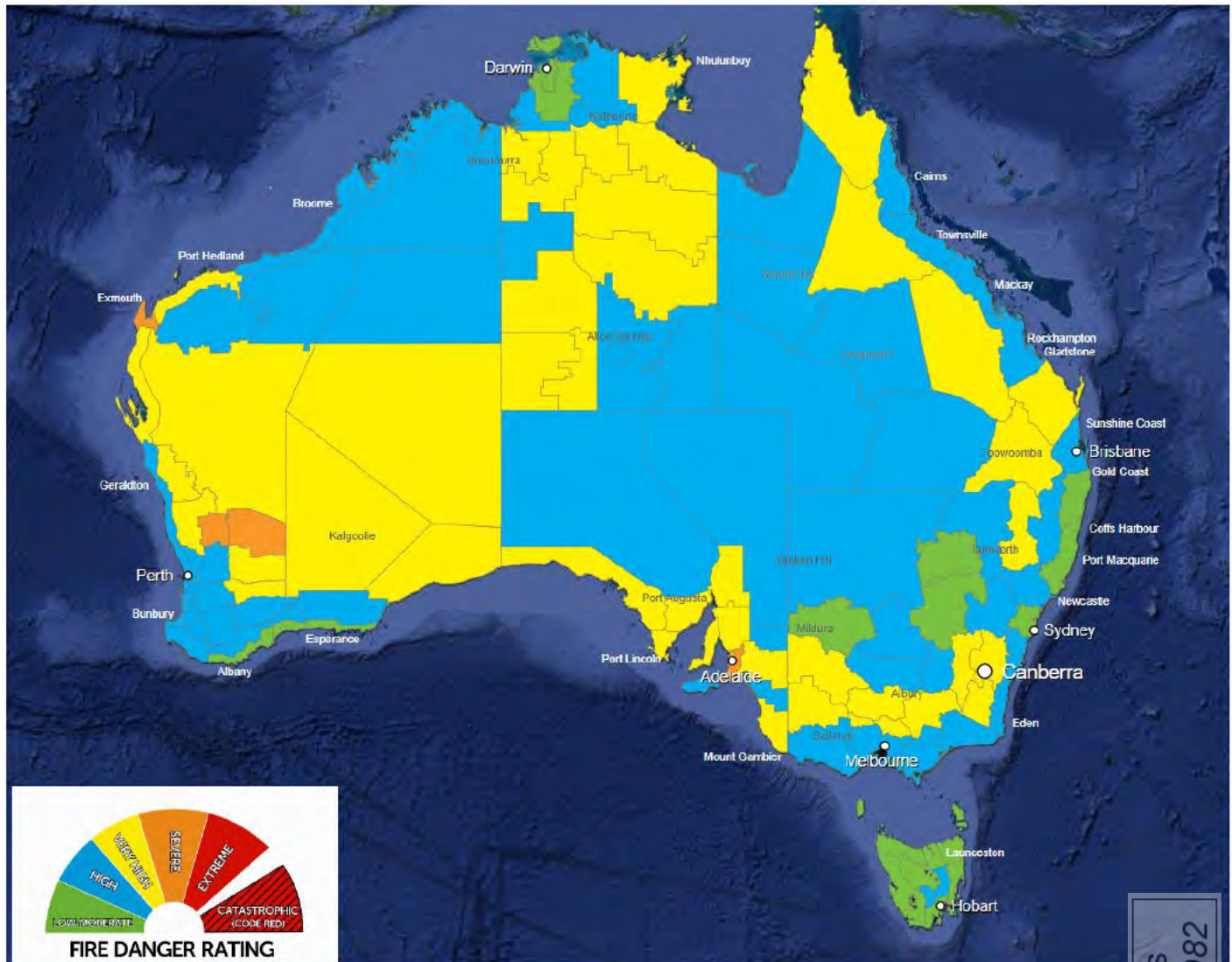
Source: DFES

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Fire Danger Ratings

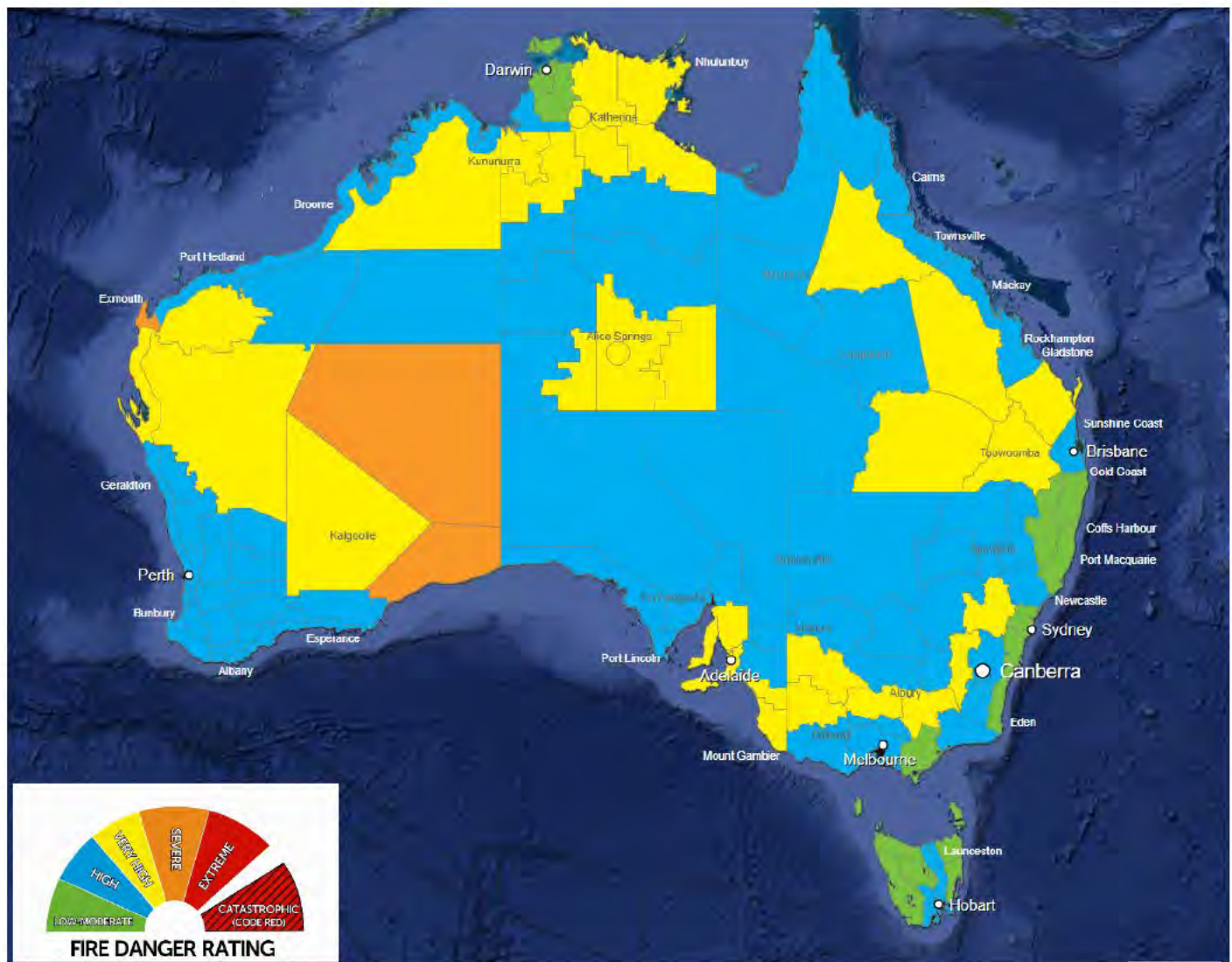
Monday 23 December



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Tuesday 24 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)**National Weather Summary**

- Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tasmania.

- Weather Forecast**

For the rest of **Monday 23 December**, troughs will extend through WA, the NT, Qld, NSW and Vic., building heat and triggering some showers and storms, mainly about the Top End. An upper trough crossing SA and NSW is delivering some rain. Onshore winds are delivering a few showers to the Qld coast.

Fire weather conditions have eased since **Saturday 21 December** for eastern NSW with Very High Fire Danger Ratings yesterday, **Sunday 22 December**. These conditions will continue in eastern NSW today, **Monday 23 December**, with Very High Fire Danger Ratings.

For **Tuesday 24 December**, troughs will maintain intense heat over much of Australia's interior. Troughs will also trigger showers and storms in northeast NSW and southeast QLD, some intense. The troughs will also cause showers and storms in the northern tropics, inland WA and possibly northern SA.

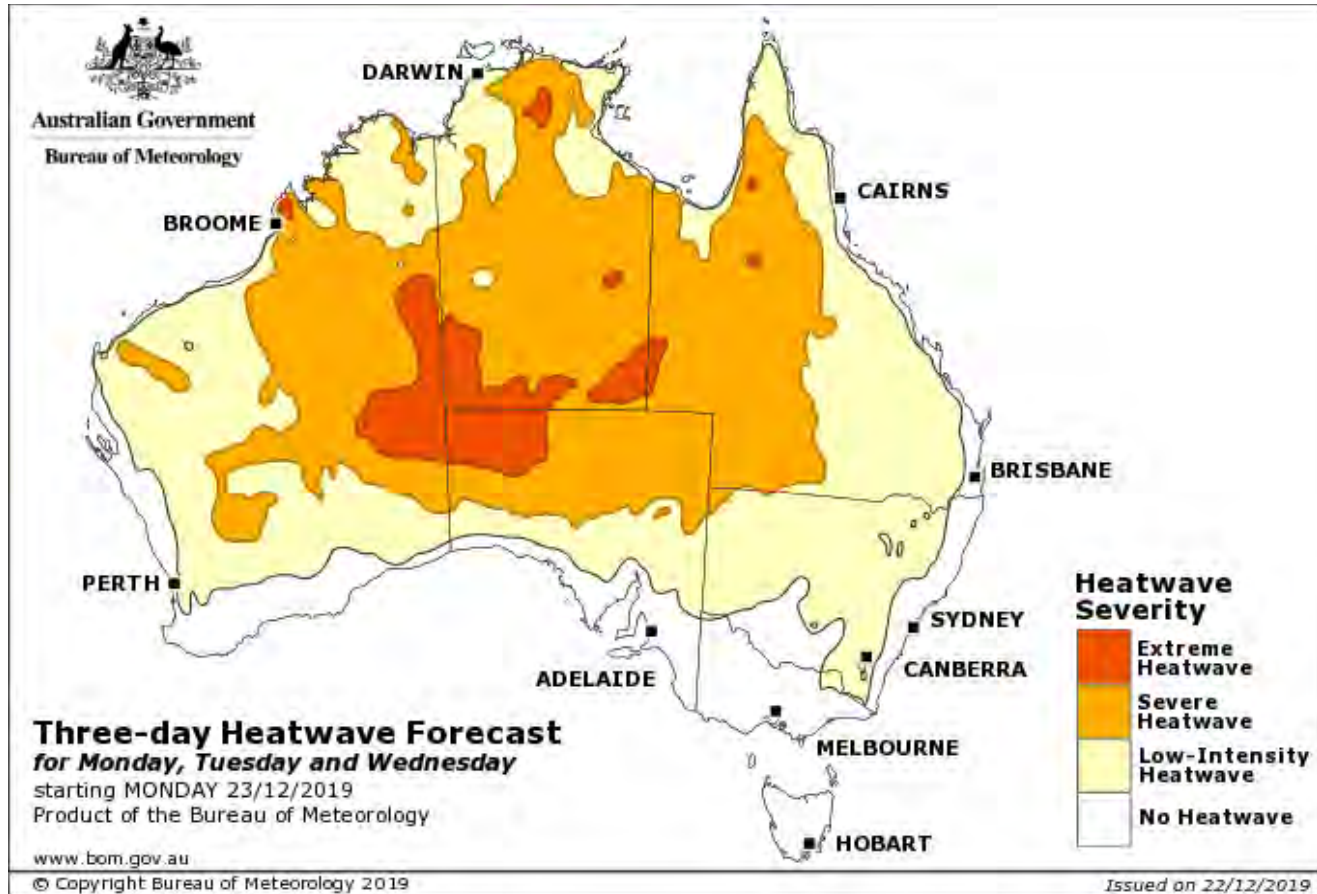
Hot conditions will develop again over southern Australia from **Thursday 26 December**, with no significant rainfall expected through the week.

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Heatwave Forecast for Monday 23 December

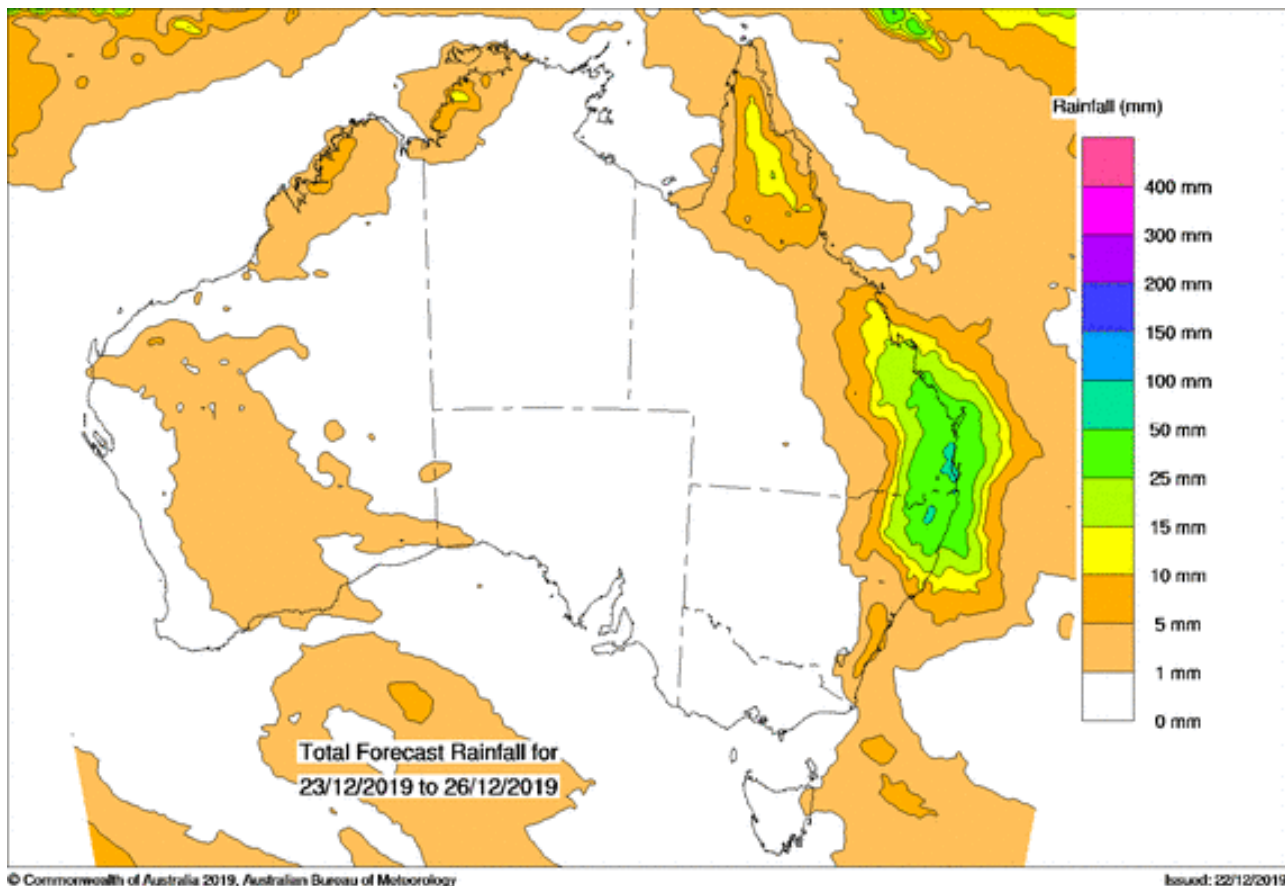
Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions persist across the country today, **Monday 23 December**. An area of EXTREME heatwave conditions are forecast near the northern WA, SA and NT border.

Similar low to SEVERE heatwave conditions persist across most parts of Australia tomorrow, **Tuesday 24 December**. An area of extreme heatwave conditions are forecast near the northern WA, SA, and NT border.



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Total Forecast Rainfall from Sunday 22 December – Wednesday 25 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](https://www.bom.gov.au), BOM Critical Event Brief – 23 December 2019 – Update 11

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
 - An EMA Liaison officer is currently deployed to NSW.
- A National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held today, **23 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held on **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling and water re-supply of firefighting aircraft.
- **Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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.
- There have been **22** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) that are ongoing or completed by ADF since **31 October 2019**.
- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

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Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been **three** Task Requests completed by ADF since – **11 November 2019**.

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.
- There have been **two** Task Requests for the ongoing provision of a pressurised refuelling tanker since – **19 December 2019**.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance

New South Wales bushfires

Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty-one (41) local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers,
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - Community Recovery Fund, including additional mental health support for affected communities, volunteers and emergency services personnel; and funding for community recovery and resilience building projects.*
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 twenty-four (24) local government areas of: Armidale, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca,

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Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Tenterfield, Walcha, *Wingecarribee* and Wollondilly.

- 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 *forty-one (41)* local government areas of: Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Kuring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, *Wingecarribee* and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

- Disaster recovery assistance is being provided under the DRFA in response to the bushfires that have affected Yorketown, in South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the one (1) local government area of Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - Personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - Personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

Australian Government financial assistance

- The Australian Government is also providing additional financial assistance through the activation of:
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 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of: Adelaide Hills, City of Playford, Lower Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 one (1) local government area of: Yorke Peninsula.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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 twelve (12) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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,
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - concessional interest rate loans for primary producers, and
 - Freight subsidies for primary producers.

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

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 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of: Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of: Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 23 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Tuesday 24 December**.

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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 24 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview – Version 5

New information is in italics

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	1	77	78
NT	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	2	2
SA	0	1	2	3
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	1	16	17
WA	0	0	3	3
National	0	3	100	103

- Ten fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, two volunteer NSW RFS members were killed and **three** other members were injured in a vehicle roll over. **Six** civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales, **one** fatality in South Australia, and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- **One** fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- *During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **873** houses, **68** facilities and an additional **2048** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at 1100 hrs, **Tuesday 24 December**).*

EMA84599

- On **Thursday 19 December**, NSW Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, declared a state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.
- More than **3 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- *101 aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.*
- *616 vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.*
- *2054 firefighters are currently deployed.*
- *386 Incident Management Team and support personnel are currently deployed.*
- *180 firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from SA and Tas.*
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**. **Two** are on scheduled rest.
 - A further **30** firefighters from Canada and **nine** from the United States arrived in Australia on **Saturday 21 December**.
- There are currently **three** evacuation centres open at the following locations:
 - Lithgow 'Workies' Club Motel
 - Eurobodalla Hanging Rock Club Function Centre
 - Club Mudgee
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result for the fires, including but not limited to:
 - Castlereagh Highway between Wallerawang and Ilford.
 - Gwydir Highway between Glen Elgin and Jackadgery.
 - Oxley Highway from between Yarrowtich and Mount Seaview.
 - Braidwood Road between Nowra Hill and Tomboye.
 - Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.
 - Bells Line of Road between Old Bells Line of Road and Darling Causeway.
 - Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Wisemans Ferry.
- Comprehensive transport management plans are in place for the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway on the south coast.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Grafton, Kempsey and Taree commenced transitioning to council from **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **five** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily, excluding public holidays.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - *Landline services in Berambing, Cullen Bullen, Clarence and Colo Heights – 227 customers impacted.*
 - Mobile phone services at Mount Kingiman, Bells and Bilpin.
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
 - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 23 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1700 hrs 22 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 24 December 2019, Telstra Update 9 – NSW Bushfires, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#)

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Northern Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [PFES](#)

Queensland

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **121 firefighters have been injured since Friday 8 November.**
- **28 houses and 56 outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of 0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December.**
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **249,604 hectares** as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December.**
- **28 aircraft are currently available with nil currently tasked as at 0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December.**
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December.**
- While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services closed due to fires:
 - Peregrine Beach College Early Learning Centre, Peregrine Beach
 - Peregrine Kids, Peregrine Beach.

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal

South Australia

- **One** fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- South Australian Premier Steven Marshall has advised the media that **72 homes and 404 outbuildings** have been destroyed in the Cudlee Creek bushfire. Current media reports suggest up to **86 homes** have been destroyed. As damage assessments continue, this number is likely to rise.
- **23** fire fighters and **16** members of the public have been injured since **Friday 20 December**. One crew member required hospitalisation. **Two** police officers have also received treatment for injuries.
- **540** firefighters have been deployed.
- **135** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **27** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- There are currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra Recreation Centre (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Mt Barker High School (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Both centres will be closed on **Wednesday 25 December.**
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - Landline and 3 ISDN services in Woodside – **203** customers impacted.
 - *Telstra NBN services in Lenswood – 81 customers impacted.*
 - Mobile phone services at Mount Torrens and Birdwood.
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
 - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.

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- *Approximately 1237 customers are without power as a result of **four** outages.*

Source: [CFS](#), [SAPower](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 17 – 23 December 2019, Telstra Update 9 – SA Bushfires, [ABC News](#)

Tasmania

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#)

Victoria

- ***One** fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **10** firefighters and two members of the public were transported to hospital to be treated for heat related injuries on **Friday 20 December** and **Saturday 21 December**. All have since been released from hospital.
- **Two** houses have been confirmed destroyed as of **Saturday 21 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,000** hectares.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicles have been deployed.
- There are currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:
 - Lexton
 - Omeo Memorial Hall
- *All Telstra services, previously impacted by bushfire activity, have been restored.*
- The Australian Energy Market Operator issued an actual Lack of Reserve 2 (LOR2) market notice on **Friday 20 December** from 1717 hrs to 1910 hrs. This signals a significant reduction in pre-determined electricity reserve levels.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at Tier 2 Orange.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 23 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

Western Australia

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **six** outbuildings have been destroyed.

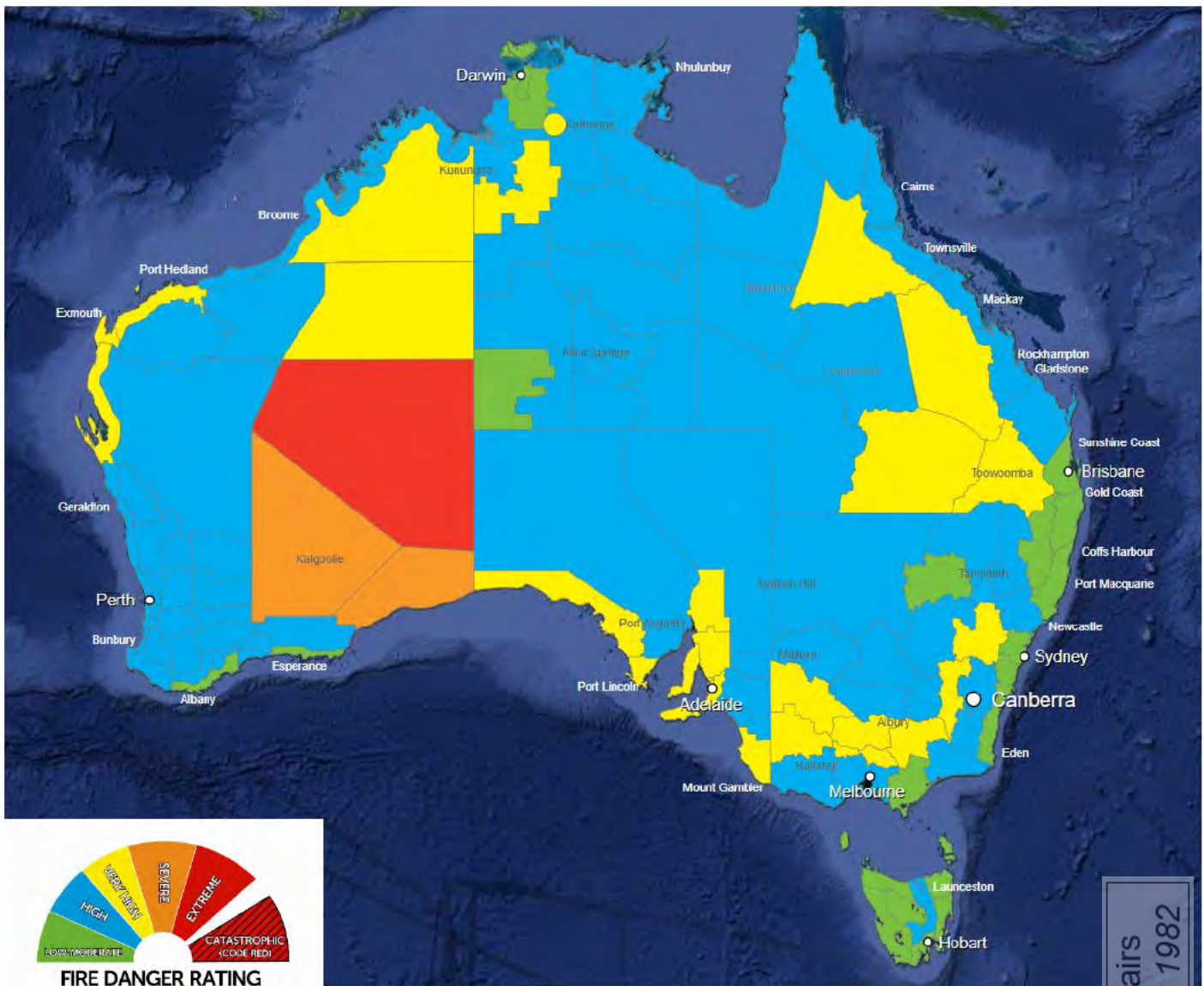
Source: DFES

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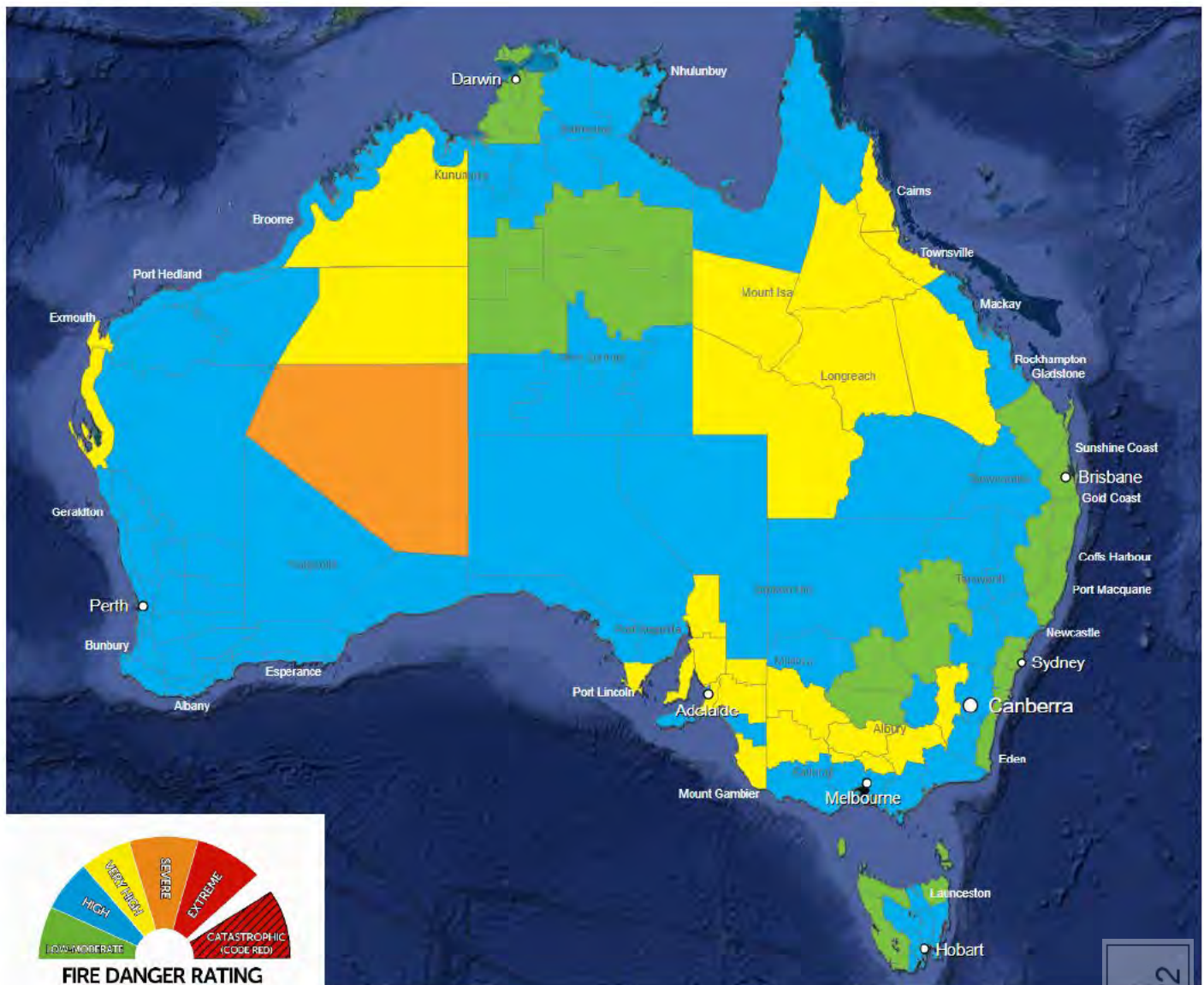
Fire Danger Ratings

Tuesday 24 December

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Wednesday 25 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)**National Weather Summary**

- Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tas.

- Weather Forecast**

Fire weather conditions have eased since **Saturday 21 December** for eastern NSW with Very High Fire Danger Ratings through the weekend. For **Tuesday 24 December**, troughs will maintain intense heat over much of Australia's interior. Troughs will also trigger showers and storms in northeast NSW and southeast Qld, some intense. The troughs will also cause showers and storms in the northern tropics, inland WA and possibly northern SA.

Hot conditions will develop again over southern Australia from **Thursday 26 December**, with no significant rainfall expected through the week. Fire Danger Ratings in SA, Vic., NSW and Qld will remain Moderate to Very High. North to north-westerly winds are forecast to increase late in the weekend leading to elevated Fire Danger Ratings over the south-eastern states once again.

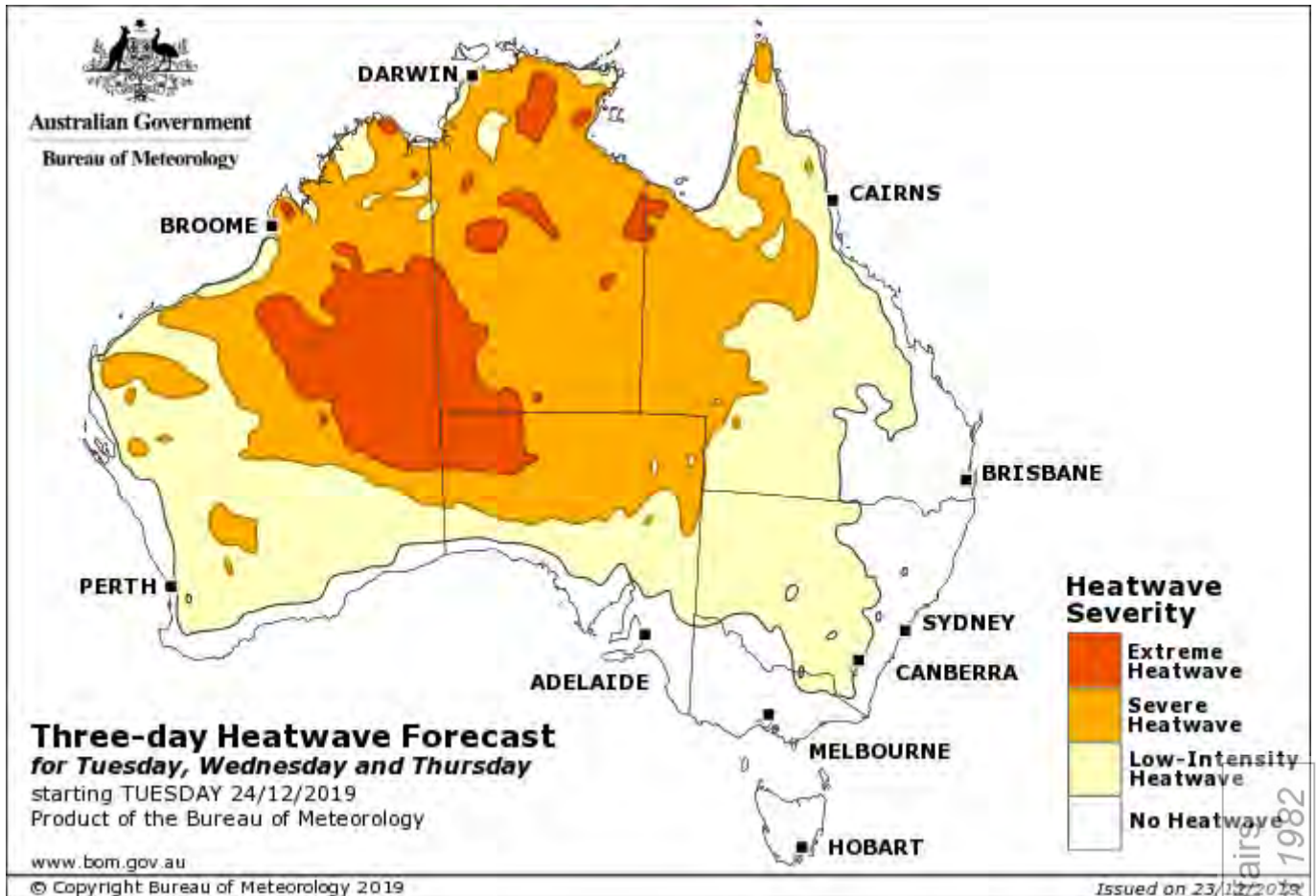
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Heatwave Forecast for Tuesday 24 December

Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions persist across most parts of Australia today, **Tuesday 24 December**, with heatwave conditions easing over the eastern parts of Qld and NSW. An area of extreme heatwave conditions is forecast over central WA, north-western SA and the NT.

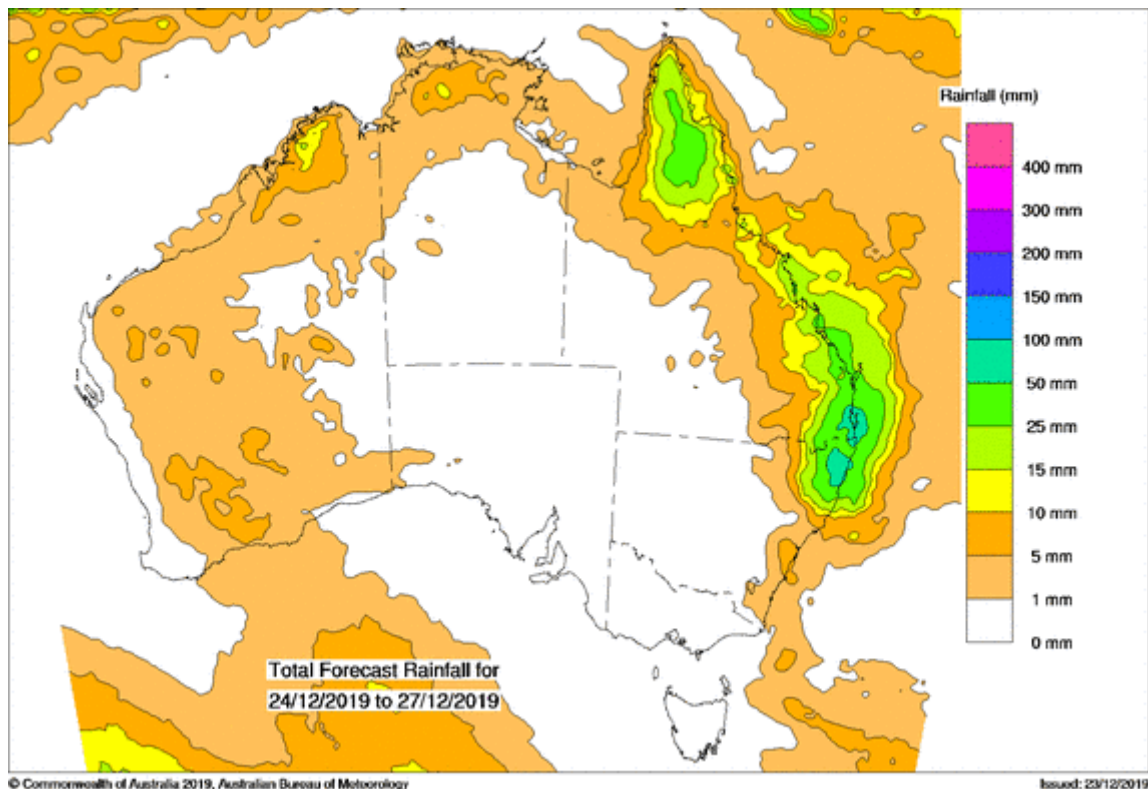
A high-pressure ridge south of the country with relatively cloud free conditions over central Australia will persist throughout the week and into the weekend. As a result, temperatures will remain in the mid to high 40's with severe to extreme heatwave conditions continuing through the interior. A coastal trough with north-easterly winds will bring the heatwave conditions to much of WA by midweek. The severe to extreme heatwave conditions will then extend to the southeast of the country on the weekend with the north-westerly winds, ahead of a strong cold front which is forecast to cross the south-eastern states early next week.



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Total Forecast Rainfall from Tuesday 24 December – Friday 27 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 24 December 2019 – Update 12

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
- A National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **23 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held on **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling and water re-supply of firefighting aircraft.
- **Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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.
- There have been a total of **24** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) for NSW since **31 October 2019**, of which **23** are ongoing or completed by ADF.
- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

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Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been **three** Task Requests completed by ADF since – **11 November 2019**.

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.
- There have been **two** Task Requests for the ongoing provision of a pressurised refuelling tanker since – **19 December 2019**.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance**New South Wales bushfires****Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty-one (41) local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - a Community Recovery Fund to provide additional mental health support for affected communities, volunteers and emergency services personnel; and funding for community recovery and resilience building projects.
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.

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- The AGDRP has been activated in the twenty-four (24) local government areas of Armidale, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Tenterfield, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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 forty-one (41) local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

Jointly 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 South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the two (2) local government areas of Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide Hills.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, City of Playford, Lower Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 two (2) local government areas of Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide Hills.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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Queensland bushfires**Jointly 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 eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the twelve (12) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 1800 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Wednesday 25 December**.

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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 25 December 2019

National Bushfire Overview – Version 6

New information is in italics

National Summary

National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	82	82
NT	0	0	3	3
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	1	2	3
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	0	15	15
WA	0	0	3	3
National	0	1	106	107

- Ten fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, **two** volunteer NSW RFS members were killed and **three** other members were injured in a vehicle roll over. **Six** civilian fatalities have been confirmed in New South Wales, **one** fatality in South Australia, and **one** fatality of a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning contractor on **Saturday 30 November**.

Situation Details

Australian Capital Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [ESA](#)

New South Wales

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.
- During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **894 houses**, **71 facilities** and an additional **2,084 outbuildings** have been confirmed destroyed (figures as at 1800 hrs, **Tuesday 24 December**).
- On **Thursday 19 December**, NSW Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, declared a state of emergency across New South Wales until **Thursday 26 December**.

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- More than **3 million hectares** have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- **101** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **616** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **2,054** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **386** Incident Management Team and support personnel are currently deployed.
- **180** firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from SA and Tas.
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from Canada on **Thursday 5 December**, scheduled to return on **Thursday 9 January**.
 - **21** firefighters arrived in Australia from the United States on **Saturday 7 December**, scheduled to return on **Saturday 11 January**. **Two** are on scheduled rest.
 - A further **30** firefighters from Canada and **nine** from the United States arrived in Australia on **Saturday 21 December**.
- All evacuation centres remain closed.
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires, including but not limited to:
 - Castlereagh Highway between Round Swamp and Ilford.
 - Braidwood Road between Nowra Hill and Tomboye.
 - Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.
 - Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Broke.
- Comprehensive transport management plans are in place for the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway on the south coast.
- Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Picton and Lithgow are operating in conjunction with council recovery centres.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Grafton, Kempsey and Taree commenced transitioning to council from **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **five** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily, excluding public holidays.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - Landline services in Berambing, Cullen Bullen, Clarence and Colo Heights – **227** customers impacted.
 - Mobile phone services at Mount Kingiman, Bells and Bilpin.
 - Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
 - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 1800 hrs 24 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1700 hrs 22 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 24 December 2019, Telstra Update 9 – NSW Bushfires, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#)

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EMA84602

Northern Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [PFES](#)**Queensland**

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **121** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **28** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- The total area burnt across Qld for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil currently** tasked as at **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre is operating at STAND DOWN status as of **Friday 20 December**.
- *Binna Burra Road is closed south of Timbarra Road in Beechmont due to fire damage.*
- While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services closed due to fires:
 - Peregrine Beach College Early Learning Centre, Peregrine Beach
 - Peregrine Kids, Peregrine Beach
 - Goodstart Early Learning, Coorparoo.

Source: [QFES](#), [Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal

South Australia

- **One** fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- South Australian Premier Steven Marshall has advised the media that **86** homes and *almost 500* outbuildings have been destroyed in the Cudlee Creek bushfire in **December 2019**. As damage assessments continue, this number is likely to rise.
- South Australia experienced catastrophic fire conditions in **November 2019**, resulting in 16 homes being destroyed.
- **23** fire fighters and **16** members of the public have been injured since **Friday 20 December**. One crew member required hospitalisation. **Two** police officers have also received treatment for injuries.
- **540** firefighters have been deployed.
- **135** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **27** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- There are currently **two** emergency relief centres open at the following locations:
 - Turrawarra Recreation Centre (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Mt Barker High School (Cudlee Creek fire)
 - Both centres will be closed on **Wednesday 25 December**.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
 - Landline and 3 ISDN services in Woodside – **203** customers impacted.
 - Telstra NBN services in Lenswood – **81** customers impacted.
 - Mobile phone services at Mount Torrens and Birdwood.

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- Technicians are on standby and will assess damage when it is safe to do so.
- The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of power to network sites and depletion of backup battery reserves.
- Approximately **33** customers are without power as a result of **three** outages caused by bushfire.

Source: [CFS](#), [SAPower](#), SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 17 – 23 December 2019, Telstra Update 9 – SA Bushfires, [ABC News](#)

Tasmania

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#)

Victoria

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** death has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **10** firefighters and two members of the public were transported to hospital to be treated for heat related injuries on **Friday 20 December** and **Saturday 21 December**. All have since been released from hospital.
- **Two** houses have been confirmed destroyed as of **Saturday 21 December**.
- The current bushfires have burnt over **73,000** hectares.
- **828** firefighters have been deployed.
- **174** vehicles have been deployed.
- An emergency relief centre is open at the Omeo Memorial Hall.
- The Great Alpine Road between Bruthen and Ensay.
 - A number of other minor roads are closed across the east of the state due to fire activity.
- All Telstra services, previously impacted by bushfire activity, have been restored.
- The Australian Energy Market Operator issued an actual Lack of Reserve 2 (LOR2) market notice on **Friday 20 December** from 1717 hrs to 1910 hrs. This signals a significant reduction in pre-determined electricity reserve levels.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at Tier 2 Orange.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria State Operational Situational Report – 24 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

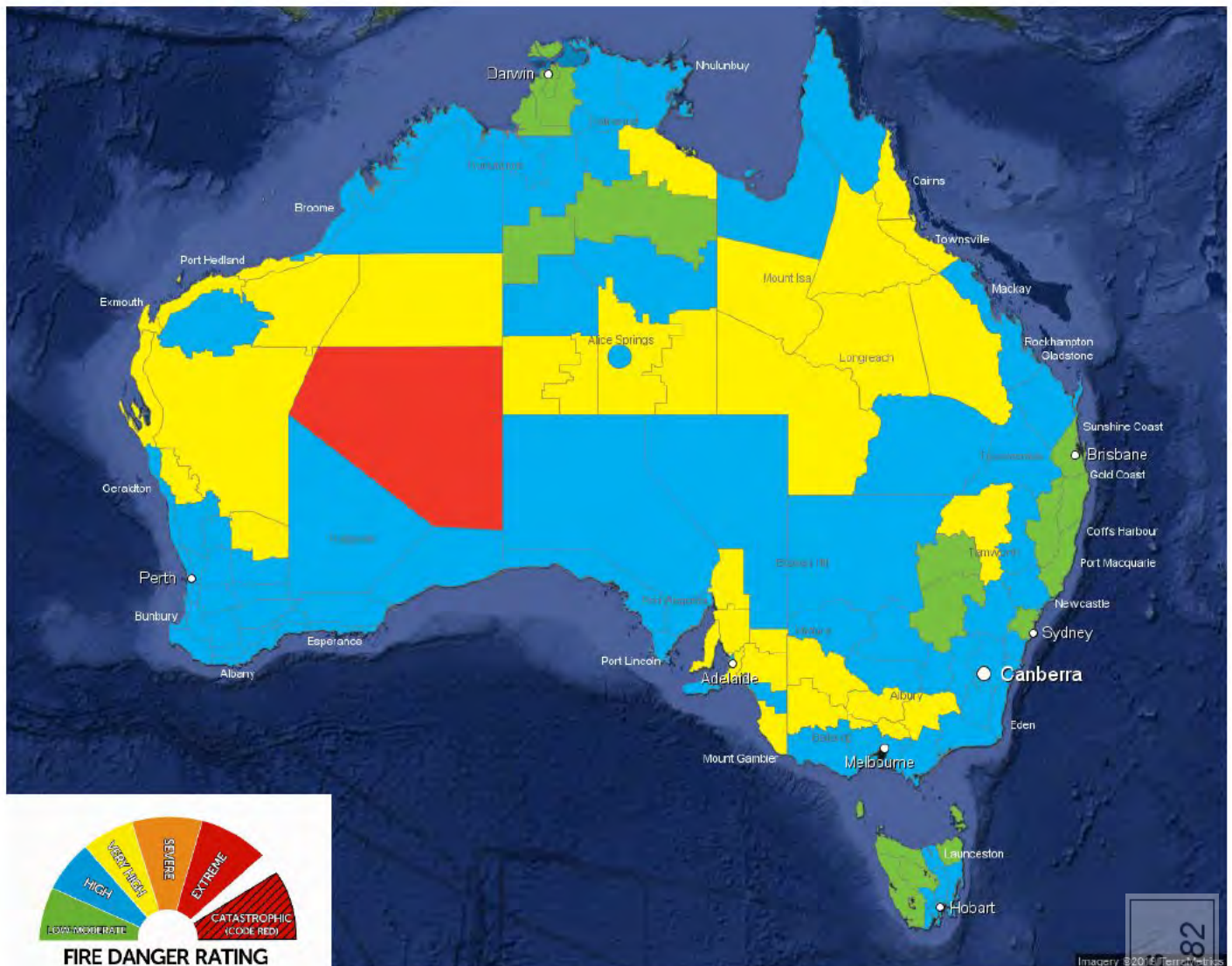
Western Australia

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **six** outbuildings have been destroyed.

Source: DFES

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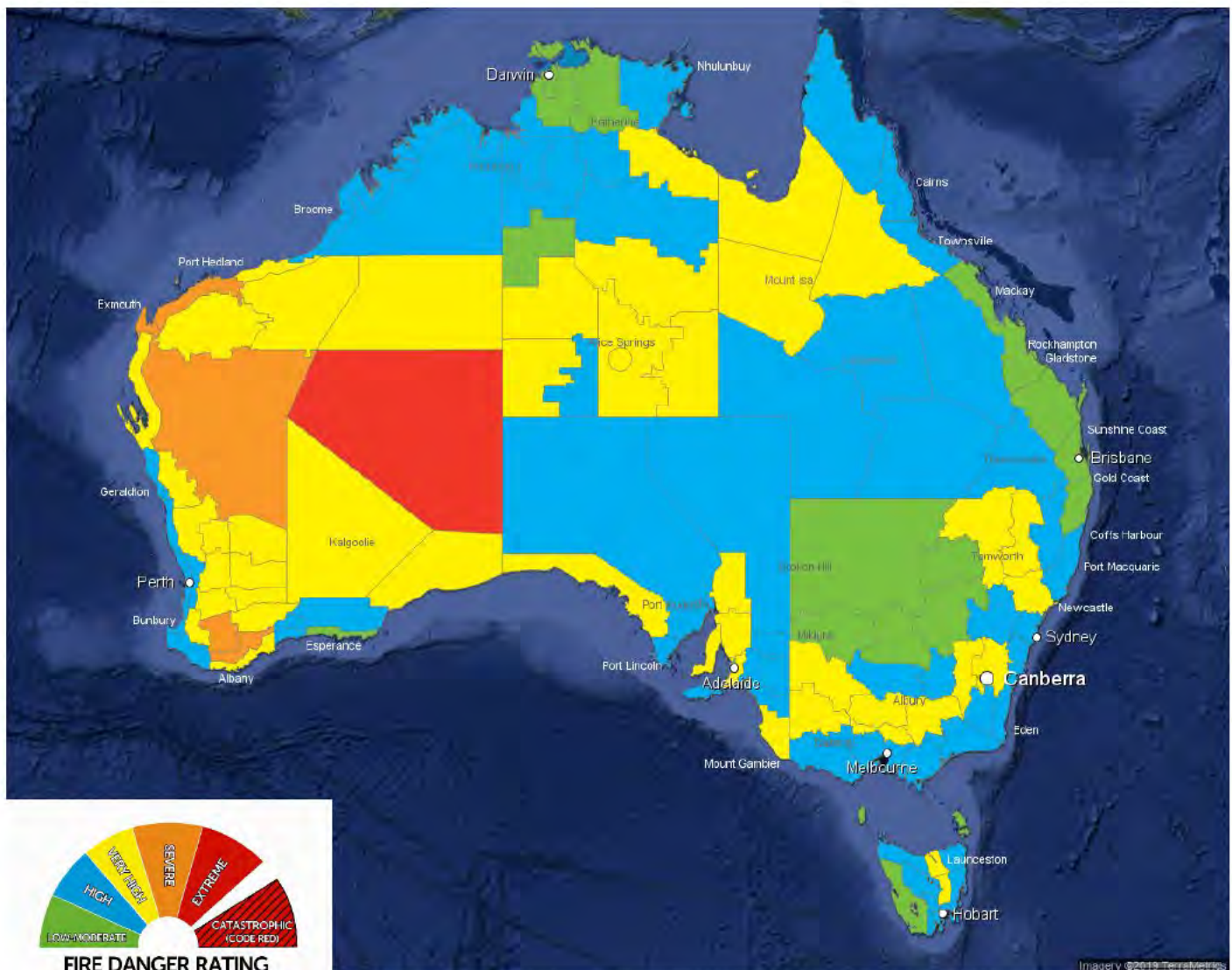
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Fire Danger Ratings**Wednesday 25 December**

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Thursday 26 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

- Fire Danger Ratings have eased with the fire affected districts in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and are expected to remain at Moderate to Very High level for the rest of the week. North to north-westerly winds are forecast to strengthen late in the weekend and into early next week leading to elevated fire dangers over the south-eastern states once again. The next peak in the fire danger ratings for New South Wales is likely to be early next week as the front progresses north.

National Weather Summary

- Three Month Climate Outlook**

The remainder of December is likely to be drier than average for many areas, with January 2020 likely to be drier for parts of eastern Australia. January to March 2020 daytime temperatures are likely to be above average across Australia. January to March 2020 nights are likely to be warmer than average for Australia, except for parts of Tas.

- Weather Forecast**

Today, **Wednesday 25 December**, troughs across WA, western SA, Qld and NSW are producing showers and storms. Heat is lingering in the far northwest, and is being directed into the southwest with a trough. A front near Tas. is generating a few showers. High pressure is forecast to build across the far south.

Tomorrow, **Thursday 26 December**, low pressure troughs are forecast to continue triggering intense showers and thunderstorms in Qld, the tropics and parts of WA. Onshore winds along the Qld coast will produce showers.

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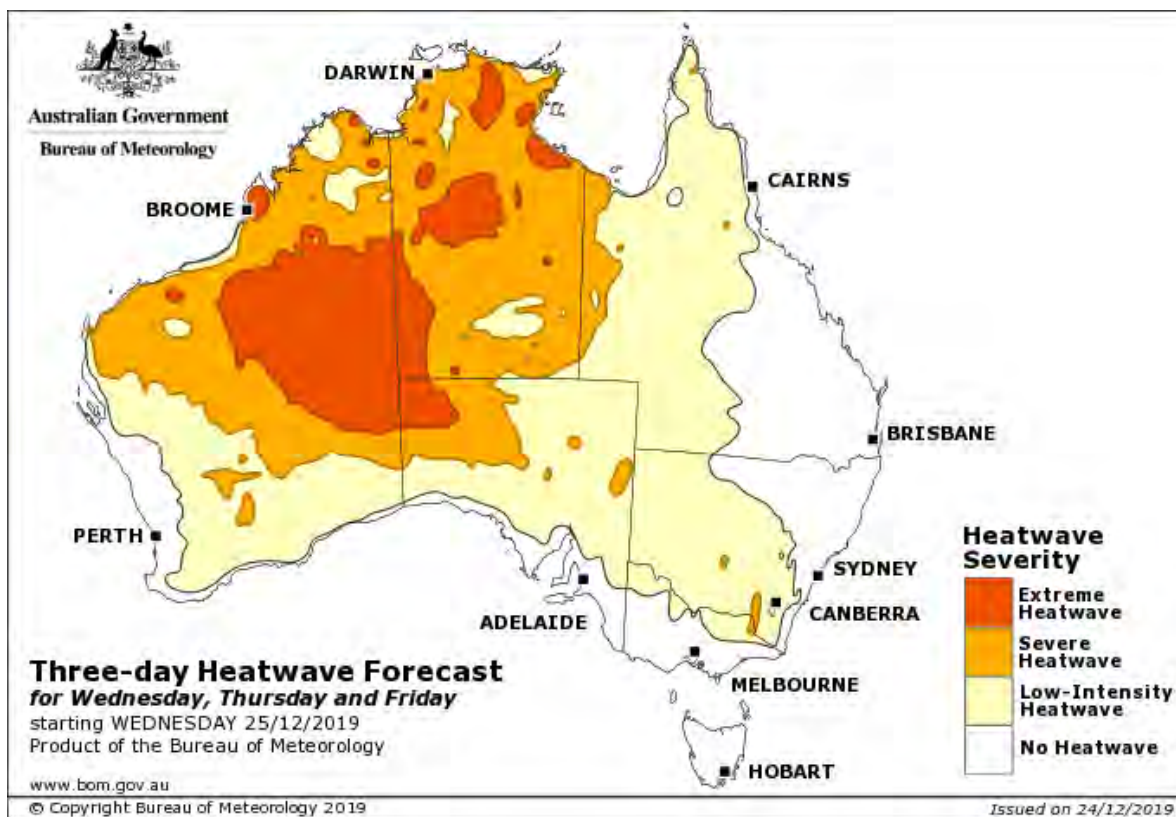
A high pressure system in the south and southeast looks to bring a sunny day for most of SA, Vic., Tas. and NSW. Hot conditions are forecast to develop again over southern Australia from tomorrow, with no significant rainfall expected through the week.

- **Heatwave Forecast for Wednesday 25 December**

Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions persist across most parts of Australia today, **Wednesday 25 December**, with heatwave conditions easing over the eastern parts of Qld and NSW. An area of EXTREME heatwave conditions is forecast over central WA, north-western SA and the NT.

A high-pressure ridge south of the country with relatively cloud free conditions over central Australia will persist throughout the week and into the weekend. As a result, temperatures will remain in the mid to high 40s with severe to extreme heatwave conditions continuing through the interior and northwest.

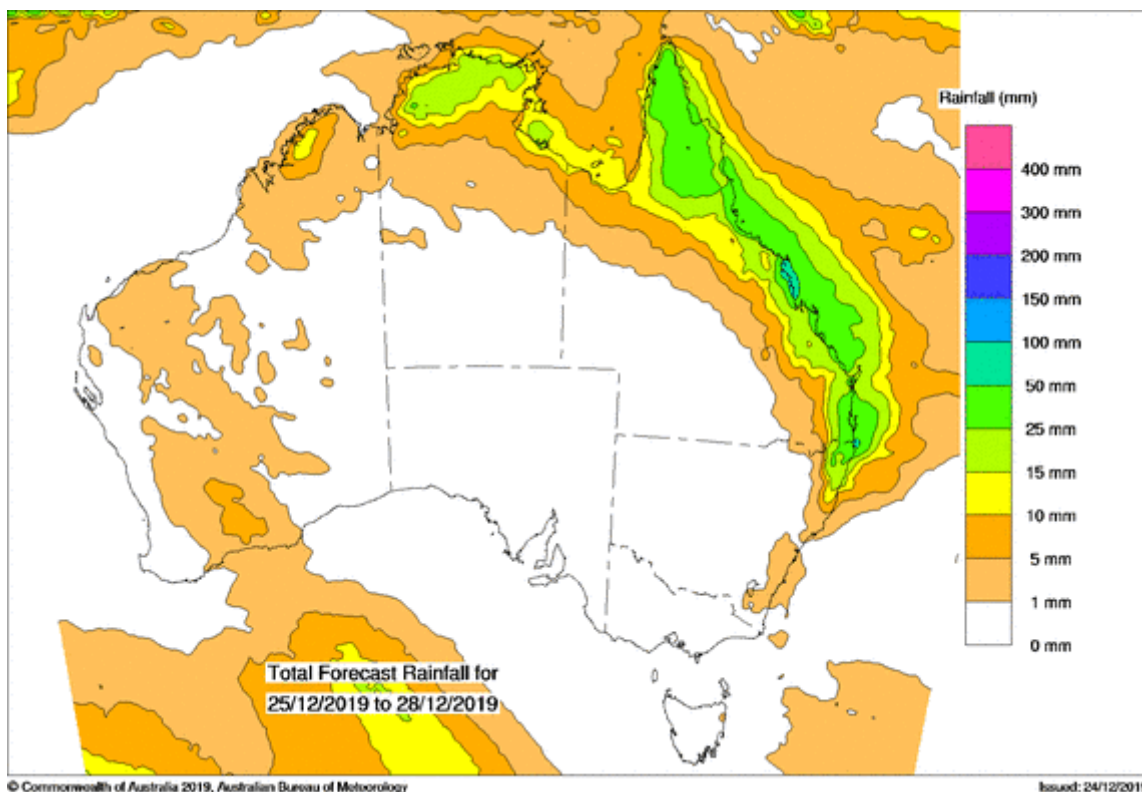
A deepening trough near the west coast with north-easterly winds is bringing SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions to much of WA. The SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions will then extend to the southeast of the country on the weekend with the north-westerly winds, ahead of a strong cold front which is forecast to cross the south-eastern states early next week.



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- **Total Forecast Rainfall from Wednesday 25 December – Saturday 28 December**



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](https://www.bom.gov.au), BOM Critical Event Brief – 24 December 2019 – Update 12

Australian Government Actions

- Emergency Management Australia is maintaining ongoing engagement with all affected jurisdictions.
- A National Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **11 November 2019**.
- An Australian Government Crisis Committee meeting was last held on **23 December 2019**.
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) meeting was last held on **20 December 2019**.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continue to provide significant support to firefighting operations, including aerial fire reconnaissance, logistical support such as ground transport, accommodation and meals, and re-fuelling, water re-supply of firefighting aircraft *and the provision of ADF Liaison Officers to support Incident Management Teams established within fire control centres.*
- **Details of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) support as listed below can be found at:**
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

New South Wales

- On **31 October 2019**, the Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) 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.
- There have been a total of **24** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) for NSW since **31 October 2019**, of which **23** are ongoing or completed by ADF.
- Task request on **13 November 2019**, completed by Geoscience Australia for the Activation of International Charter for Space and National Disasters in order to provide High Resolution Satellite Imagery to NSW RFS.

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Queensland

- On **11 November 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the bushfire activity in Queensland.
- There have been **three** Task Requests completed by ADF since **11 November 2019**.

Victoria

- On **19 December 2019**, DGEMA approved the activation of COMDISPLAN in response to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to support the current bushfire and heatwave activity in Victoria.
- There have been **two** Task Requests for the ongoing provision of a pressurised refuelling tanker since – **19 December 2019**.

Source: CCC Operations and CCC Planning, Emergency Management Australia

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Government Recovery Assistance**New South Wales bushfires****Jointly 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 NSW.
- DRFA assistance is available in the forty-one (41) local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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
 - recovery grants of up to **AUD15,000** for primary producers and small businesses
 - freight subsidies for primary producers
 - grants to eligible non-profit organisations, and
 - a Community Recovery Fund to provide additional mental health support for affected communities, volunteers and emergency services personnel; and funding for community recovery and resilience building projects.
- 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, people who have been seriously injured, or are an immediate family member of someone who has lost their life.

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- The AGDRP has been activated in the twenty-four (24) local government areas of Armidale, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Tenterfield, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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 forty-one (41) local government areas of Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains, Byron, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Eurobodalla, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lake Macquarie, Lismore, Lithgow, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Narrabri, Oberon, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Sutherland, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Uralla, Walcha, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.
- 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 the payment.

South Australian bushfires

Jointly 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 South Australia.
- DRFA assistance is available in the two (2) local government areas of Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide Hills.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
 - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
 - personal and financial counselling.
- This assistance is administered by the South Australian Government.
- Anyone in need of assistance should contact the South Australian Government Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, City of Playford, Lower Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.
 - 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 two (2) local government areas of Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide Hills.
- These Australian Government payments are administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in South Australia should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

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Queensland bushfires**Jointly 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 eastern Queensland.
- DRFA assistance is available in the twelve (12) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs 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
 - support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
 - 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 **AUD1000** for eligible adults and **AUD400** for eligible children.
 - The AGDRP is available to people whose homes have been lost or directly damaged, 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 four (4) local government areas of Livingstone, Noosa, Somerset and Toowoomba.
 - 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 nine (9) local government areas of Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba.
- 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 1800 22 66 and test their eligibility for the payment.

Source: Disaster Recovery Branch, Emergency Management Australia – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The CCC will issue further briefs if conditions deteriorate.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Thursday 26 December**.

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) @homeaffairs.gov.au	

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