



## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 26 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 7

*New information is in italics*

#### National Summary

##### National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	2	74	76
NT	0	0	4	4
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	0	2	2
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	0	14	14
WA	0	0	3	3
National	0	2	98	100

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, *two* NSW RFS volunteer 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

- Two* fires are 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 **894** houses, **71** facilities and an additional **2081** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Tuesday 24 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.
- **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 South Australia and Tasmania.
- 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**.
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires, including but not limited to:
  - *Princes Highway between Jerrawangala and Conjola.*
  - *Castlereagh Highway between Round Swamp and Ilford.*
  - *Braidwood Road between Nowra Hill and Charleyong.*
  - *Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.*
  - *Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Broke.*
- 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 have transitioned to council as of **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has received approximately 3076 calls since **Friday 7 November**.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
  - *Landline services in Berambing, Clarence and Wolgan Valley – 217 customers impacted.*
  - *ADSL broadband services at Mountain Lagoon – 47 customers impacted.*
  - *Mobile phone services at Bell and Clarence.*
  - *Investigations identified the Bell mobile site has been extensively damaged by fire and will require significant repairs.*
  - 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 – 1600 hrs 25 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 24 December 2019, Telstra Update 10 – 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 Queensland for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil** 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
  - Goodstart Early Learning, Coorparoo.

Source: [QFES](#), [QldTraffic](#), [QldGov](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal

### South Australia

- All 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.
- During the 2019/2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **102** houses, and an additional **500** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Tuesday 21 December**).
- **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.
- *All Telstra services, previously impacted by bushfire activity, have been restored.*
- Approximately **10** customers are without power as a result of **one** outage 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 10 – SA Bushfires, [ABC News](#)

### Tasmania

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

Source: [TFS](#)

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**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.
- The Great Alpine Road is closed between Bruthen and Ensley.
  - A number of other minor roads are closed across the east of the state due to fire activity.
- 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](#)

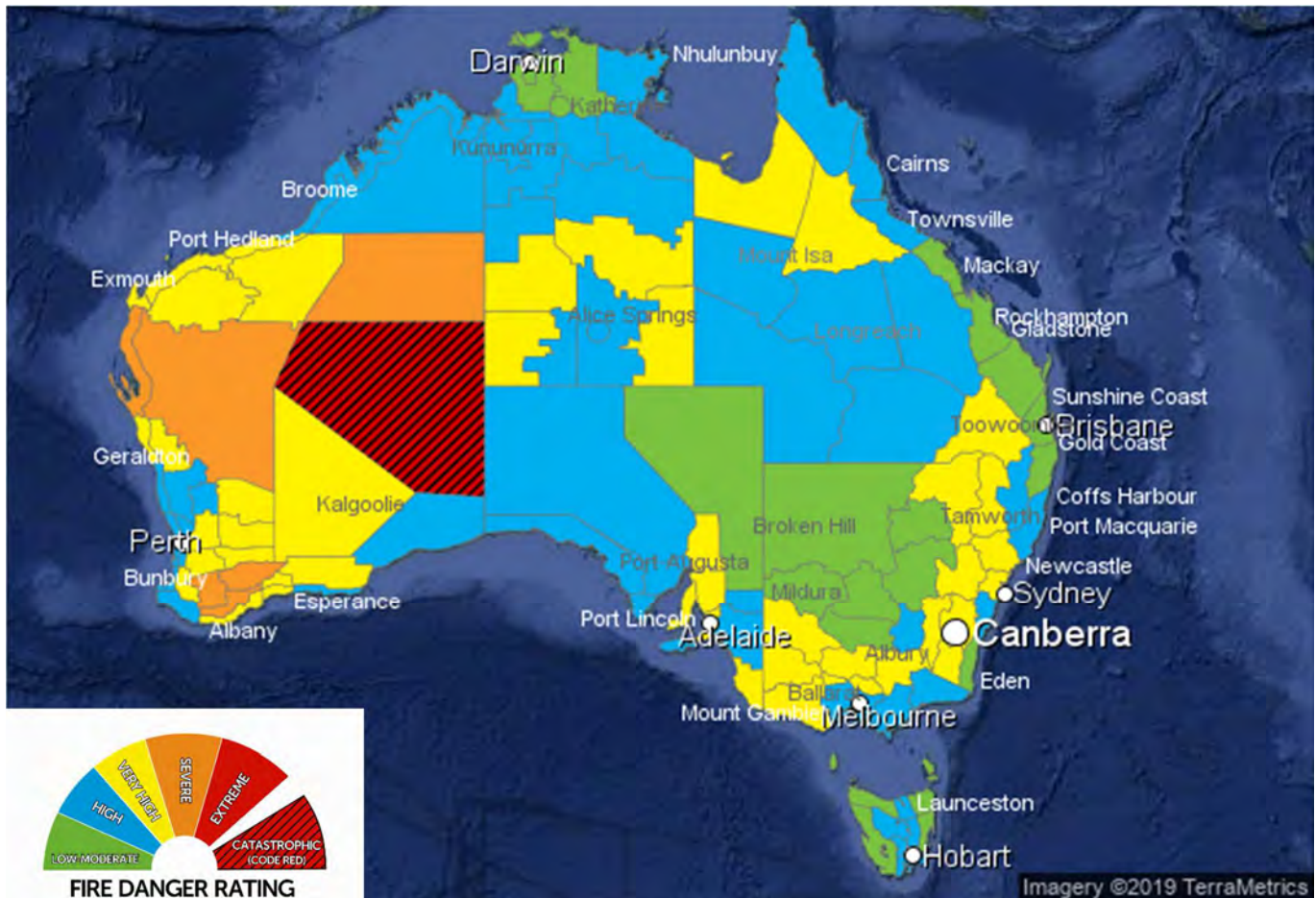
**Western Australia**

- 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 by recent bushfires.

Source: DFES

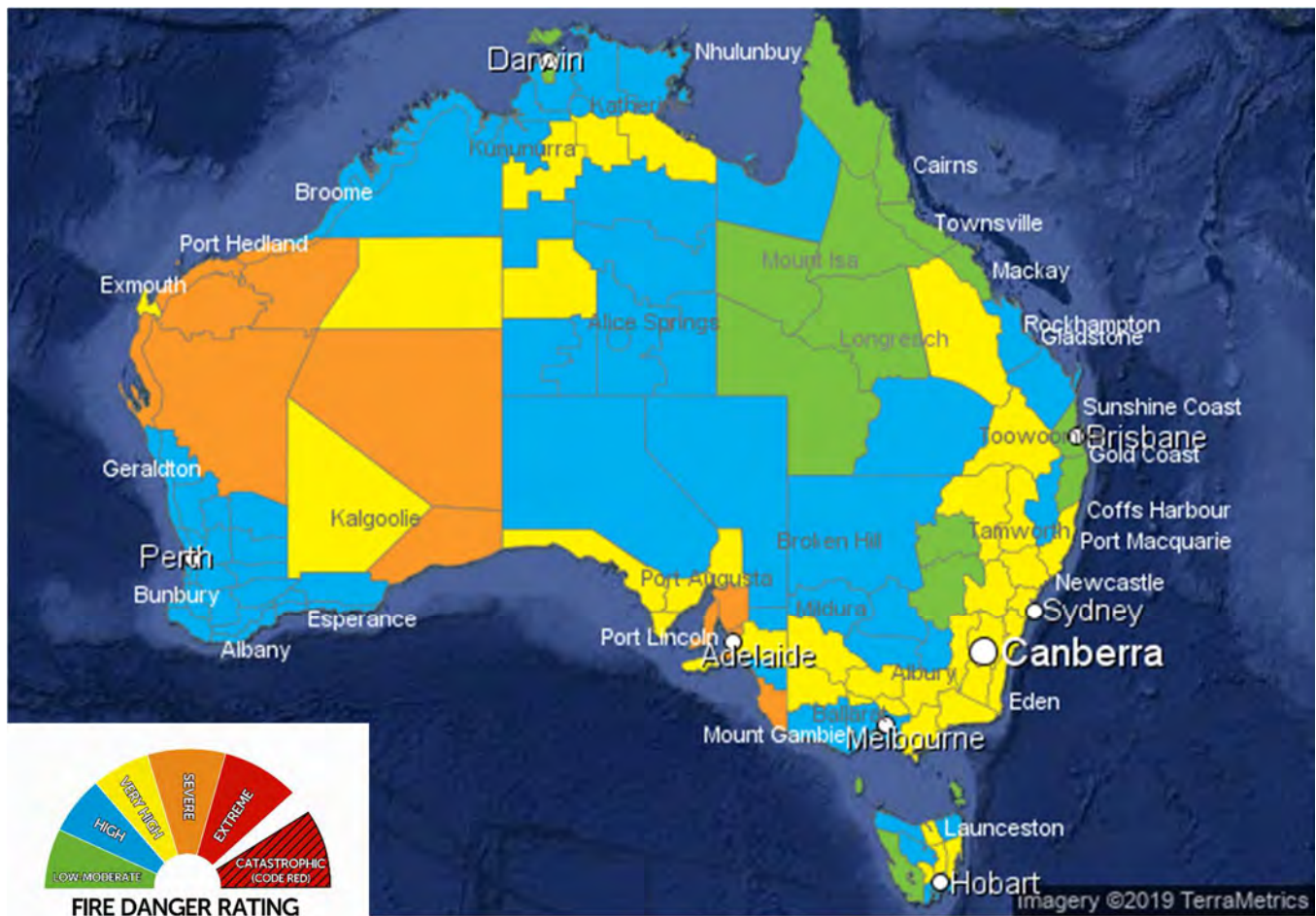


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**Fire Danger Ratings****Thursday 26 December**

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Friday 27 December

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](https://www.bom.gov.au)

- Fire Danger Ratings have eased across the fire affected districts in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and are expected to remain at Moderate to Very High level for the rest of the week. South Australia will continue to experience High to SEVERE Fire Danger Ratings 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. The next peak in the fire danger ratings for New South Wales is likely to be early next week as a 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 Tasmania.

- Weather Forecast**

Today, **Thursday 26 December**, troughs across Western Australia, western South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales are producing showers and storms, some intense. Heat is lingering in the far northwest and is being directed into the southwest with a trough. High pressure will build across the far south.



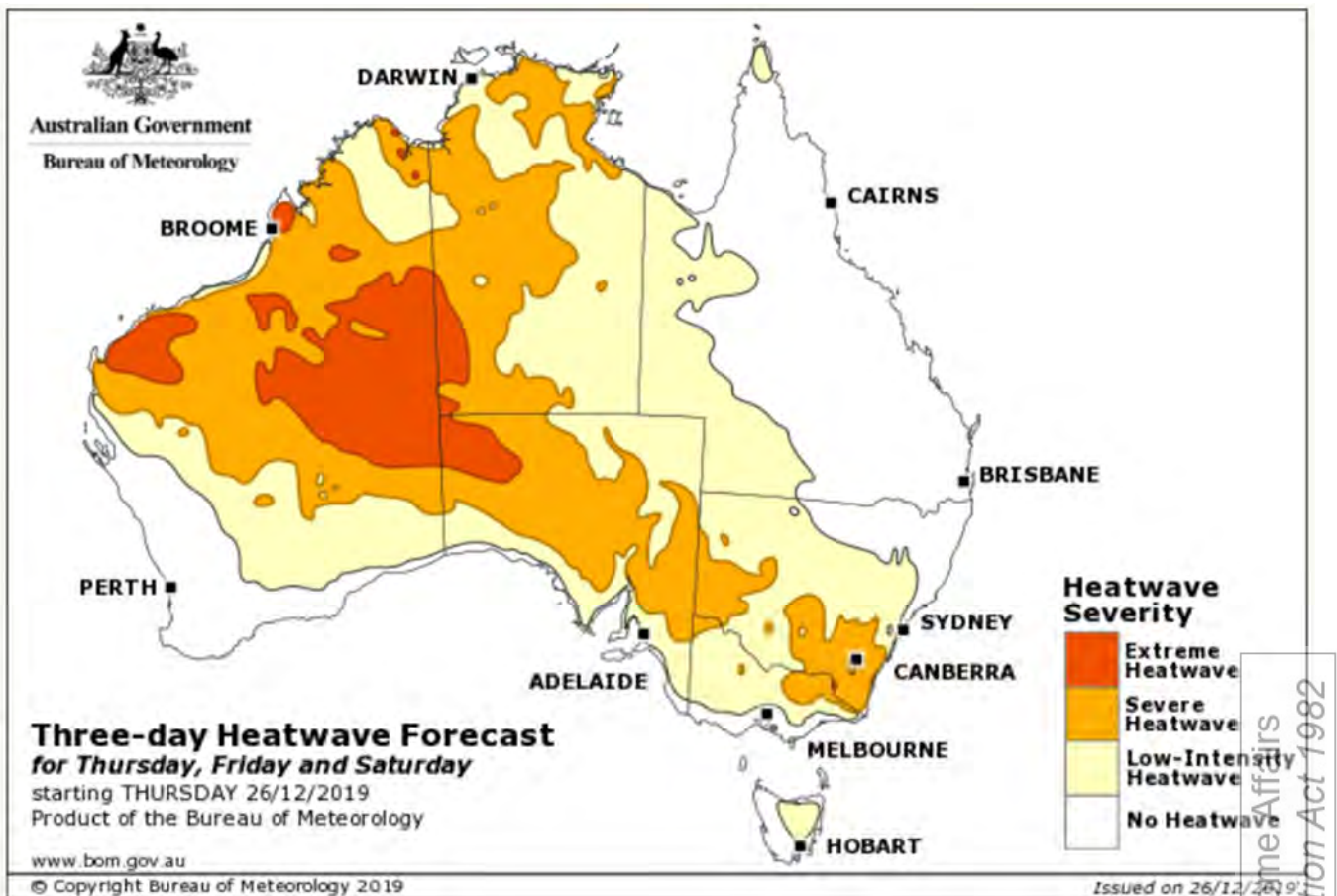
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**Heatwave Forecast for Thursday 26 December**

Low to SEVERE heatwave conditions extend from central/northern Western Australia, through the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales to Victoria and Tasmania. EXTREME heatwave conditions continue over north and central Western Australia, north western South Australia and south western Northern Territory.

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.

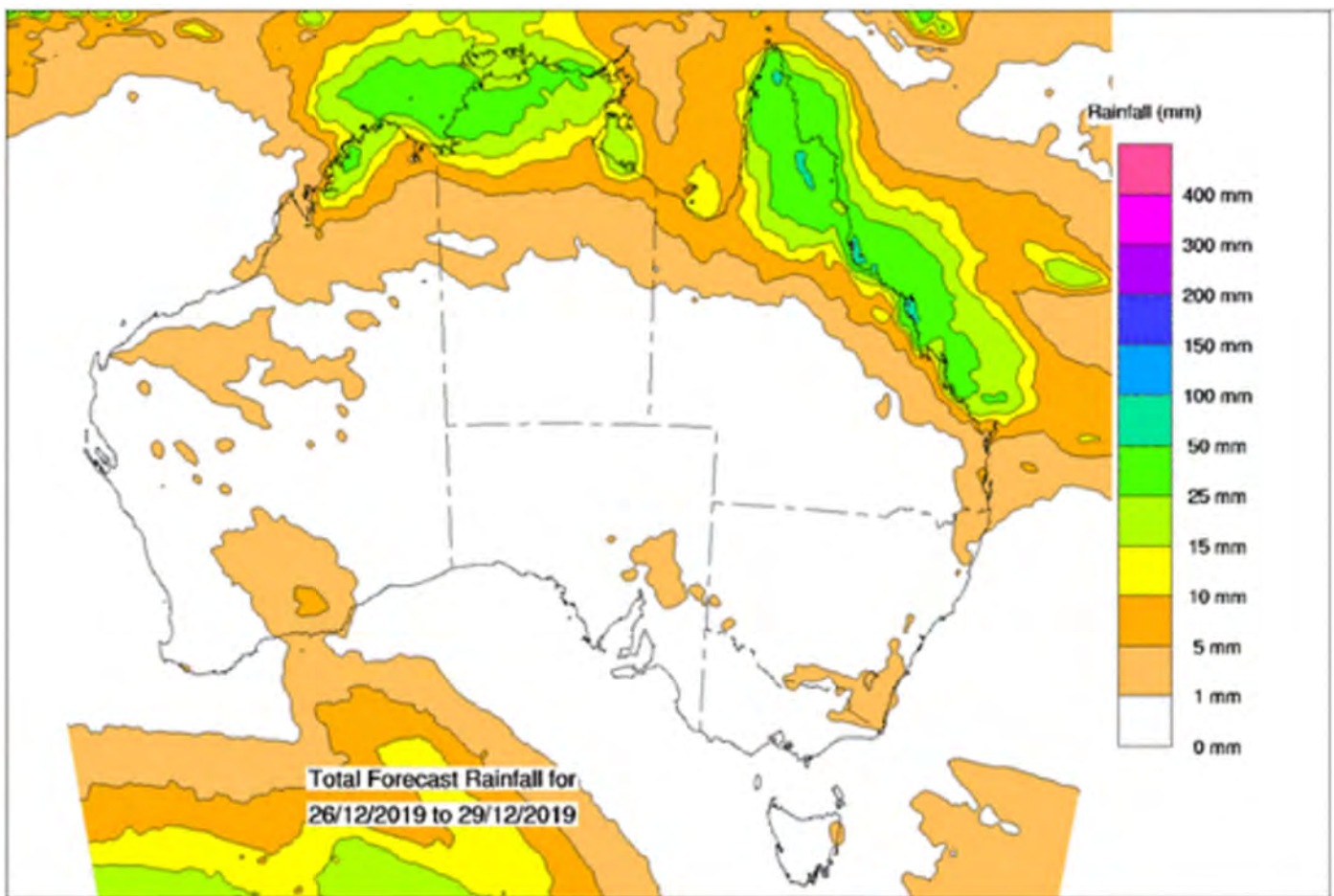
A deepening trough near the west coast with north-easterly winds is bringing SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions to much of Western Australia. The SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions will then extend to the southeast of the country on the weekend with north-westerly winds, ahead of a strong cold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



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## Total Forecast Rainfall from Thursday 26 December – Sunday 29 December



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#), [weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 26 December 2019 – Update 14

## 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**.
- A 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 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.



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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 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.

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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-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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 180 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 next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Friday 27 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) <a href="mailto:@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a>	

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## Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

### Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 27 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 8

*New information is in italics*

#### National Summary

##### National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
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Qld	0	0	2	2
SA	0	0	2	2
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	0	19	19
WA	0	0	7	7
National	0	1	108	109

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, **two** NSW RFS volunteer 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.
- A Total Fire Ban has been declared for the whole of the ACT from midnight **Friday 27 December** to midnight **Saturday 28 December**.

Source: [ESA](#)

##### New South Wales

- Total Fire Bans has been declared from midnight **Friday 27 December** to midnight **Saturday 28 December** for the following fire weather districts: Monaro Alpine, Southern Ranges and Southern Slopes.
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.

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- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **894** houses, **71** facilities and an additional **2,081** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Tuesday 24 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.
- **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 South Australia and Tasmania.
- International firefighters have been deployed from USA and Canada.
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  - A further **30** firefighters from Canada and **nine** from the United States arrived in Australia on **Saturday 21 December**.
- A number of road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires, including but not limited to:
  - *Braidwood Road/Nerriga Road between Nowra Hill and Charleyong.*
  - *Turpentine Road between Jerrawangala and Tomerong*
  - *Araluen Road between Moruya and Braidwood*
  - Kings Highway between Braidwood and Nelligen.
  - Great Northern Road, Wollombi Road and St Albans Road between Bucketty and Broke.
- Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Picton and Lithgow are operating in conjunction with council recovery centres.
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  - *Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across Bell and Clarence areas.*
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**Queensland**

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- The total area burnt across Queensland for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil** tasked as at **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
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- While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services closed due to fires:
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**Tasmania**

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**Victoria**

- **One** fatality 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 **120,000** hectares.
- **60** aircraft were available as of **Thursday 26 December**, comprised of a mix of firebombing and aerial intelligence gathering craft.
- The Great Alpine Road remains closed between Bruthen and Ensley. A number of other minor roads are closed across the east of the state due to fire activity.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at **Tier 2 (Orange)**.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria – State Operational Situational Report – 26 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

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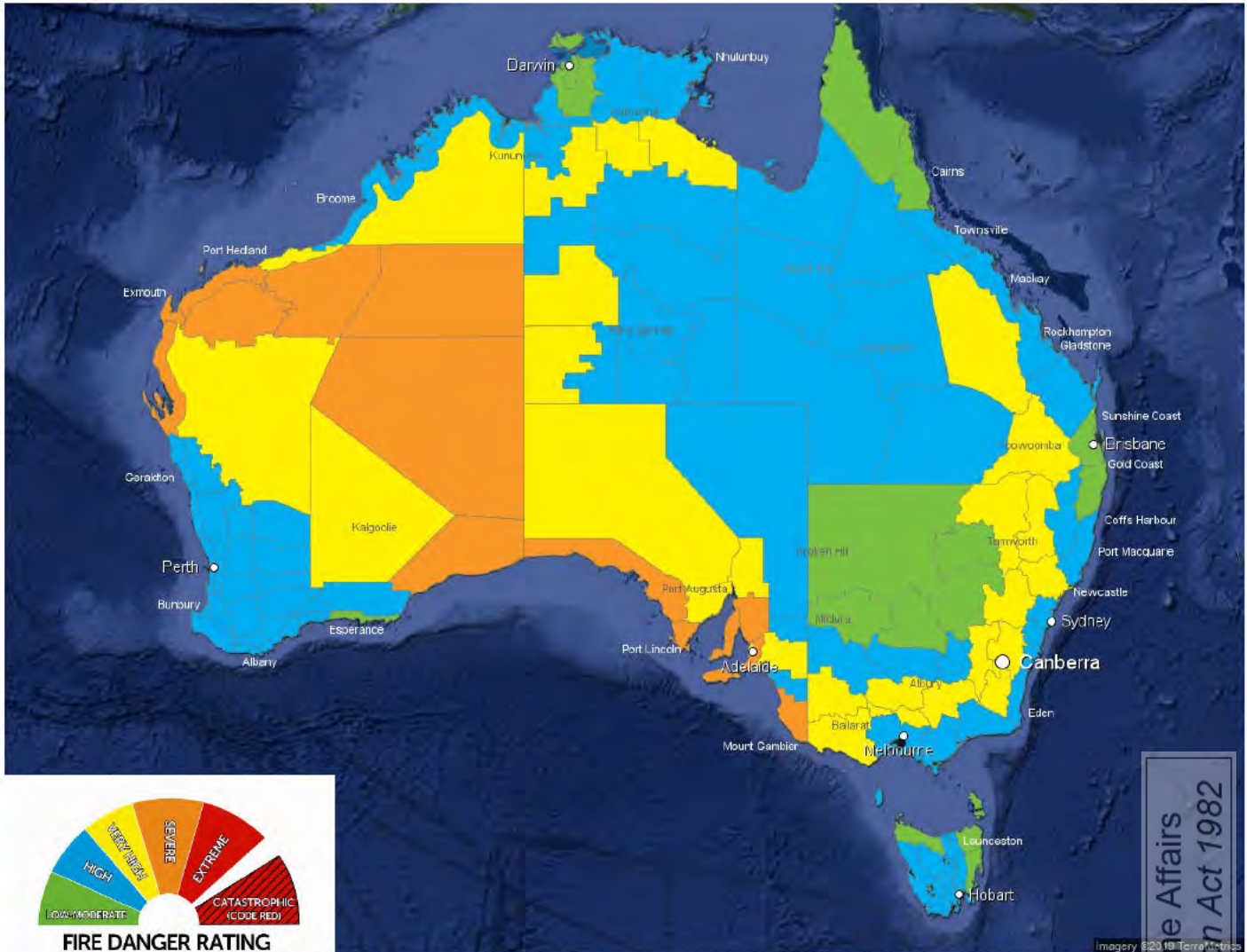


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**Western Australia**

- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two homes and six outbuildings** have been destroyed by recent bushfires.

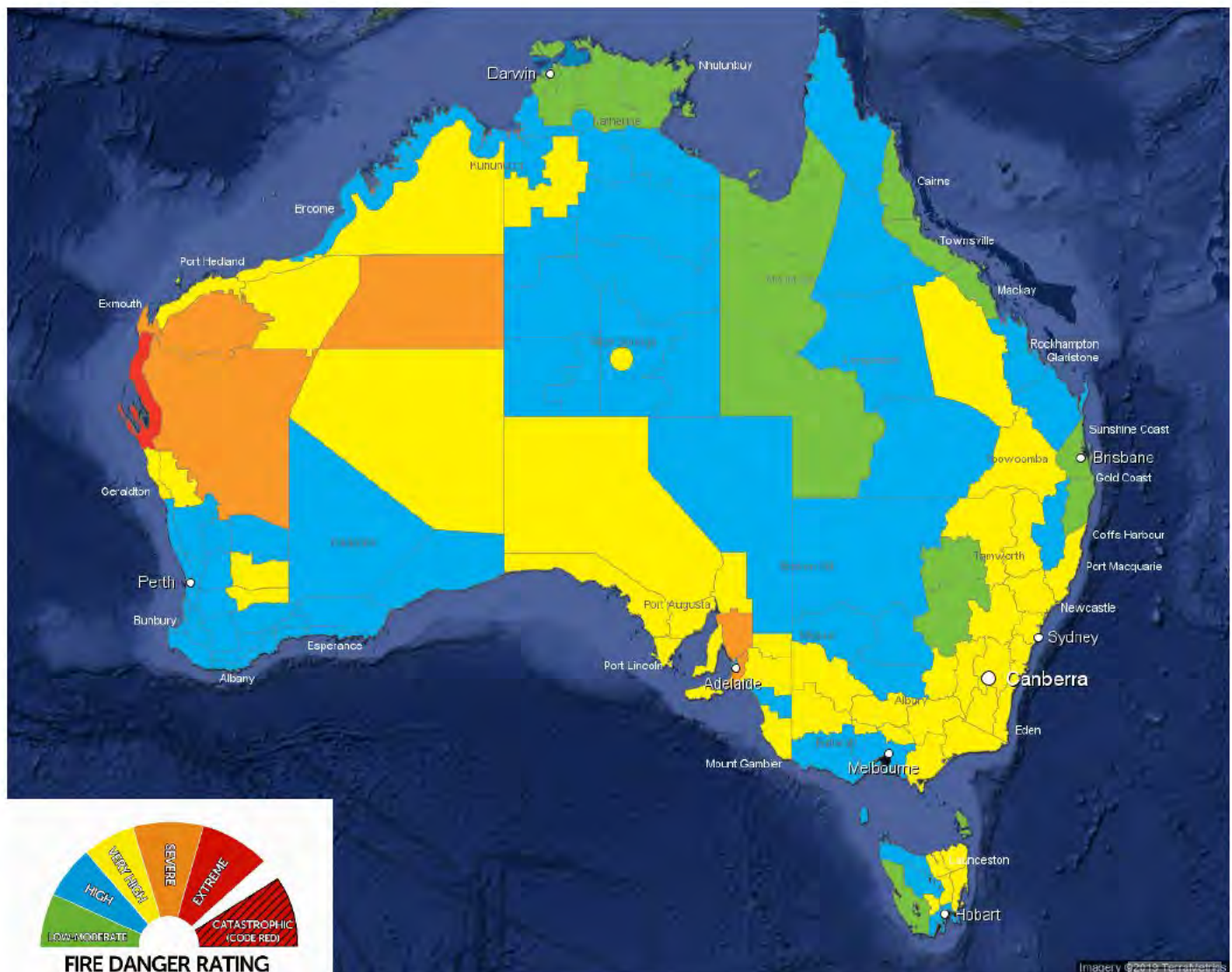
Source: DFES

**Fire Danger Ratings****Friday 27 December**Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](http://www.bom.gov.au)Released by Department of Home Affairs  
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982



EMA84613

Saturday 28 December



- Fire Danger Ratings are expected to remain at MODERATE to VERY HIGH level in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland for 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 on **Monday 30 December** and **Tuesday 31 December**. In Western Australia, SEVERE to EXTREME fire dangers are forecast to continue over large parts of the state for the coming days. In South Australia, SEVERE fire dangers are forecast for central and south-eastern parts of the state for today, **Friday 27 December** and **Saturday 28 December**.

#### 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.

- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is weakening and will likely end in early January, while the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is likely to persist until the end of December and then rapidly decay.

EMA84613

- **Weather Forecast**

Today, **Friday 27 December**, a low pressure trough across the north and west will trigger showers and thunderstorms, heaviest across the tropics. A weak trough could bring a few showers to southern New South Wales, while directing heat towards the southeast. Onshore winds will bring a shower or two along the Queensland coast.

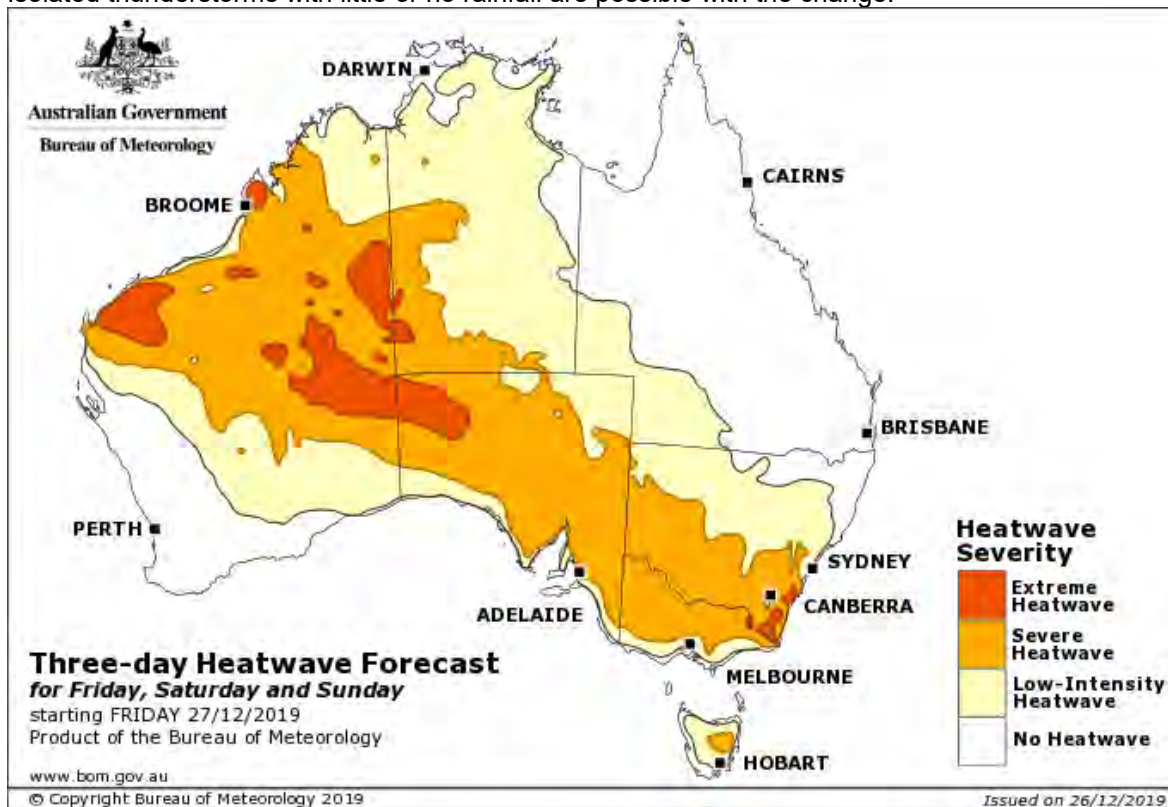
Tomorrow, **Saturday 28 December**, A low pressure trough across the north and west will trigger showers and thunderstorms, heavy across the tropics. Another trough could bring a few showers and storms to South Australia, northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Onshore winds will bring a shower or two along the QLD coast.

- **Heatwave Forecast for Friday 27 December**

Severe to extreme heatwave conditions over central and northwestern Australia will extend across the southeast of the country this weekend.

Maximum temperatures in the mid to high 40's are occurring over the northern interior of Western Australia, while maximum temperatures are expected to reach the high 30's and low 40's this weekend for much of the southeast interior of Australia.

A significant cold front will move over South Australia/Victoria/Tasmania during Monday and through New South Wales on **Tuesday 31 December**. North to northwesterly winds will be fresh and gusty ahead of the front with areas of raised dust. Cooler Southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage of the front. Isolated thunderstorms with little or no rainfall are possible with the change.

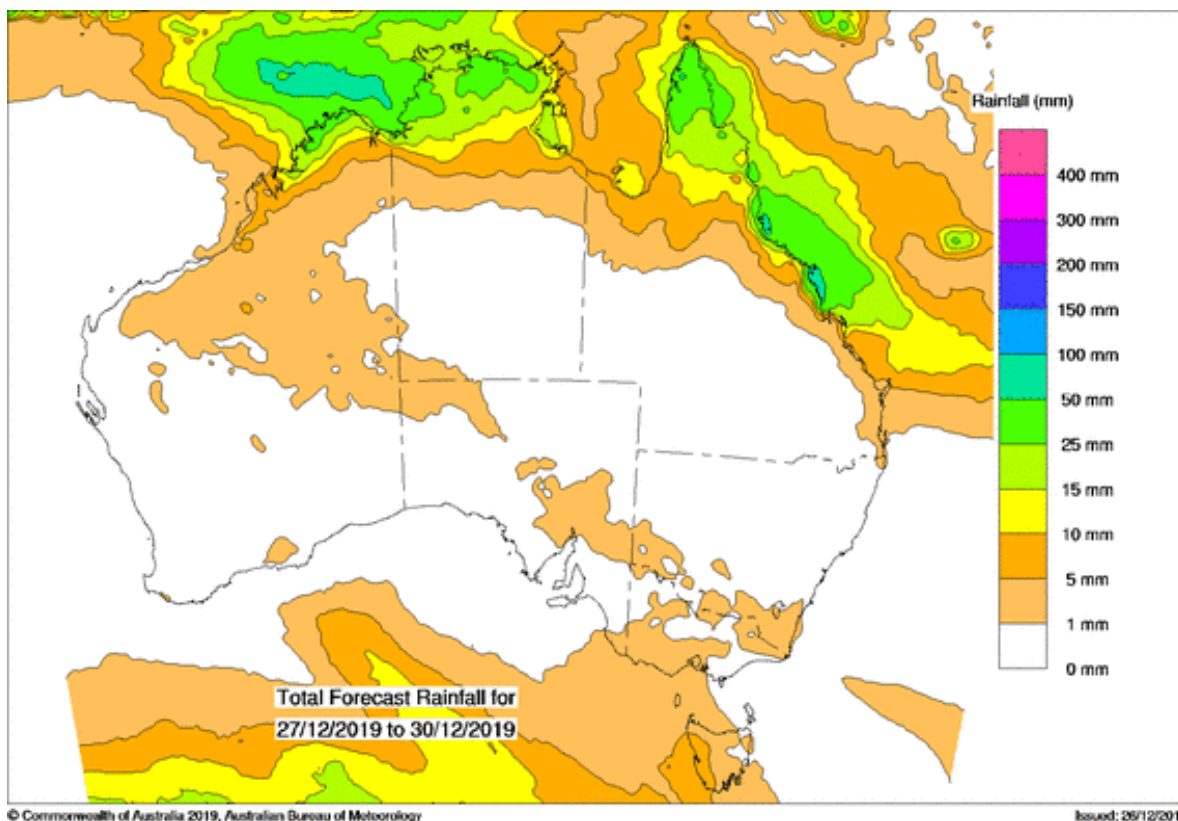


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- **Total Forecast Rainfall from Friday 27 December – Monday 30 December**



Showers and thunderstorms occurring in eastern Queensland are likely to be hit and miss, thus not guaranteed to provide relief at ongoing fire sites. The showers and thunderstorms will contract northwards through Queensland over the coming days. Increasing moisture and instability may trigger thunderstorm activity across South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales from the weekend, but no significant rainfall totals are expected.

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#), [weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 27 December 2019 – Update 15

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## 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 convened today, **Friday 27 December**.
- A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee was convened today, **Friday 27 December**.
- 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 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.

### 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.

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- 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.
    - The AGDRP has been activated in the twenty-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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.

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- 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.

#### **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.

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- 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 – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

#### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Saturday 28 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) <a href="#">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a>	



## Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

### Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 28 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 9

*New information is in italics*

#### National Summary

##### National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	2	91	93
NT	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	0	2	2
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	0	1	14	15
WA	0	1	6	7
National	0	4	114	118

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, **two** NSW RFS volunteer 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.
- A *Total Fire Ban* is in place from **Friday 27 December** until midnight tonight, **Saturday 28 December**.

Source: [ESA](#)

##### New South Wales

- Two** fires are currently burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A *Total Fire Ban* is in place for tomorrow, **Sunday 29 December**, for the Southern Ranges and Central Ranges.
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.
- More than **39** people have been injured, including approximately **29** firefighters.



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- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **894** houses, **71** facilities and an additional **2,081** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Tuesday 24 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.
- **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 South Australia and Tasmania.
- 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**.
- **11** road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires.
- 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 have transitioned to council as of **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has received approximately **3,076** calls since **Friday 7 November**.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
  - *Landline services in Berambing, Clarence and Wolgan Valley – 217 customers impacted.*
  - *ADSL broadband services at Mountain Lagoon – 47 customers impacted.*
  - *Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across Bell and Clarence areas.*
  - *Fire repair technicians completed optic fibre repair work at Wallerawang yesterday, **Friday 27 December**.*
  - *The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. Power technicians are being dispatched to impacted sites 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 – 1800 hrs 24 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1600 hrs 25 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 24 December 2019, NSW RFS – Declaration 29 December, Telstra Update 12 – 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.
- **121** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **28** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.

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- The total area burnt across Queensland for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil** tasked as at **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- 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; and
  - Peter Pan Early Learning and Kindergarten, Coorparoo.

Source: [QFES](#), [QldTraffic](#), [QldGov](#), Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal

### South Australia

- All fires are burning at the ADVISE level or below.
- **One** fatality 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.
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **102** houses, and an additional **500** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed.
- **23** firefighters 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.
- ***Two Relief Centres in Highbury and Mt Barker are open as of 1230 hrs yesterday, Friday 27 December.***

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 18 – 27 December 2019, Telstra Update 10 – SA Bushfires, [ABC News](#)

### Tasmania

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

Source: [TFS](#)

### Victoria

- ***One** fire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other fires are burning at the ADVISE level or below.*
- **One** fatality 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 **120,000** hectares.
- ***60** aircraft were available today, **Saturday 28 December**, comprised of a mix of firebombing and aerial intelligence gathering craft.*
- *A Relief Centre at Orbost is open from 1600 hrs today, **Saturday 28 December**, should residents in Goongerah need to relocate.*

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EMA84616

- The Great Alpine Road remains closed between Bruthen and Ensay, and is estimated to be closed for a further 10 to 14 days. A number of other minor roads are closed across the east of the state.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at **Tier 2 (Orange)**.

Source: Emergency Management Victoria – State Operational Situational Report – 27 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

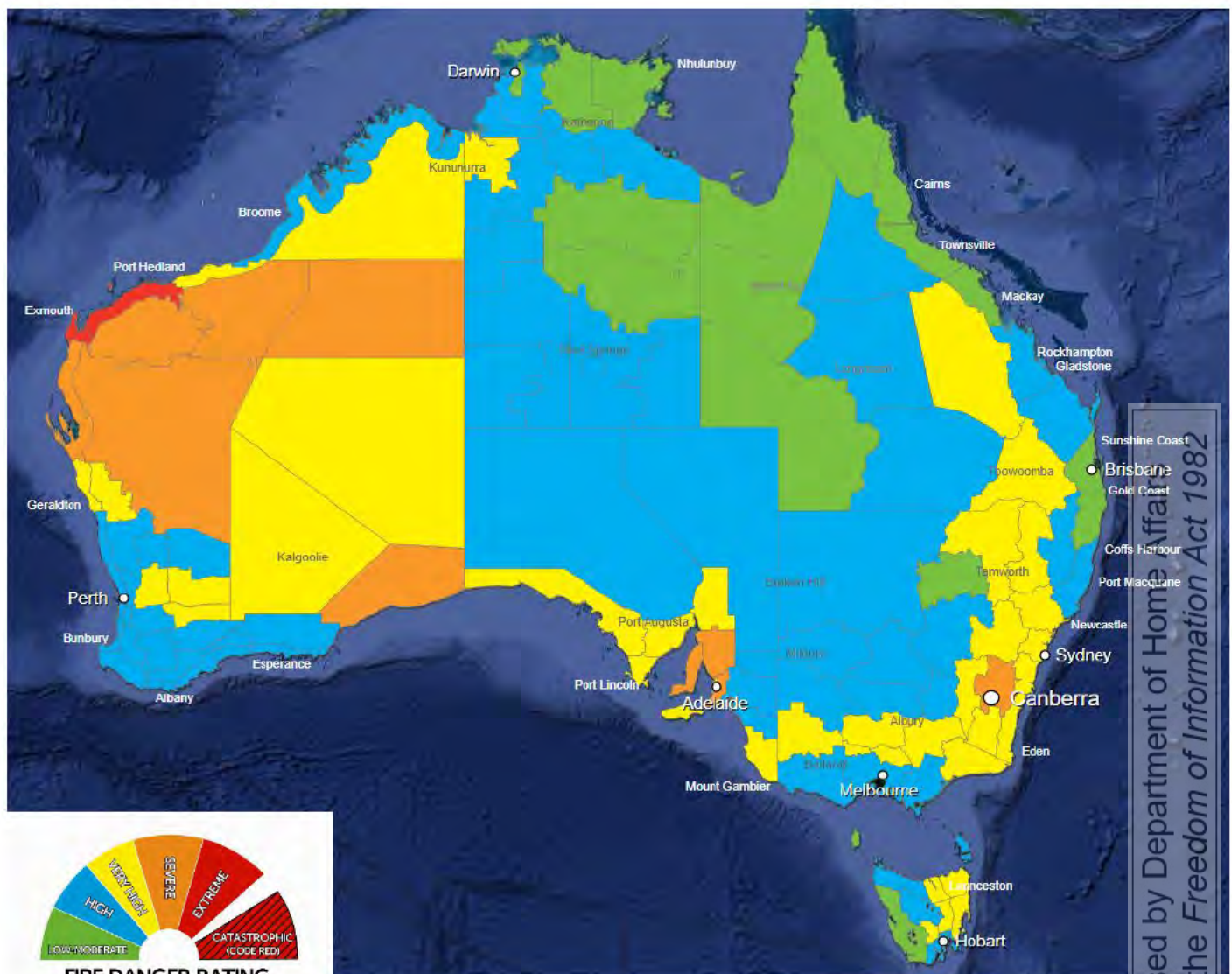
### Western Australia

- *One fire is currently burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- *All other 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 by recent bushfires.
- *The fire in the Stirling Range National Park, currently at WATCH AND ACT level, has burnt over 25,000 hectares.*

Source: DFES

### Fire Danger Ratings

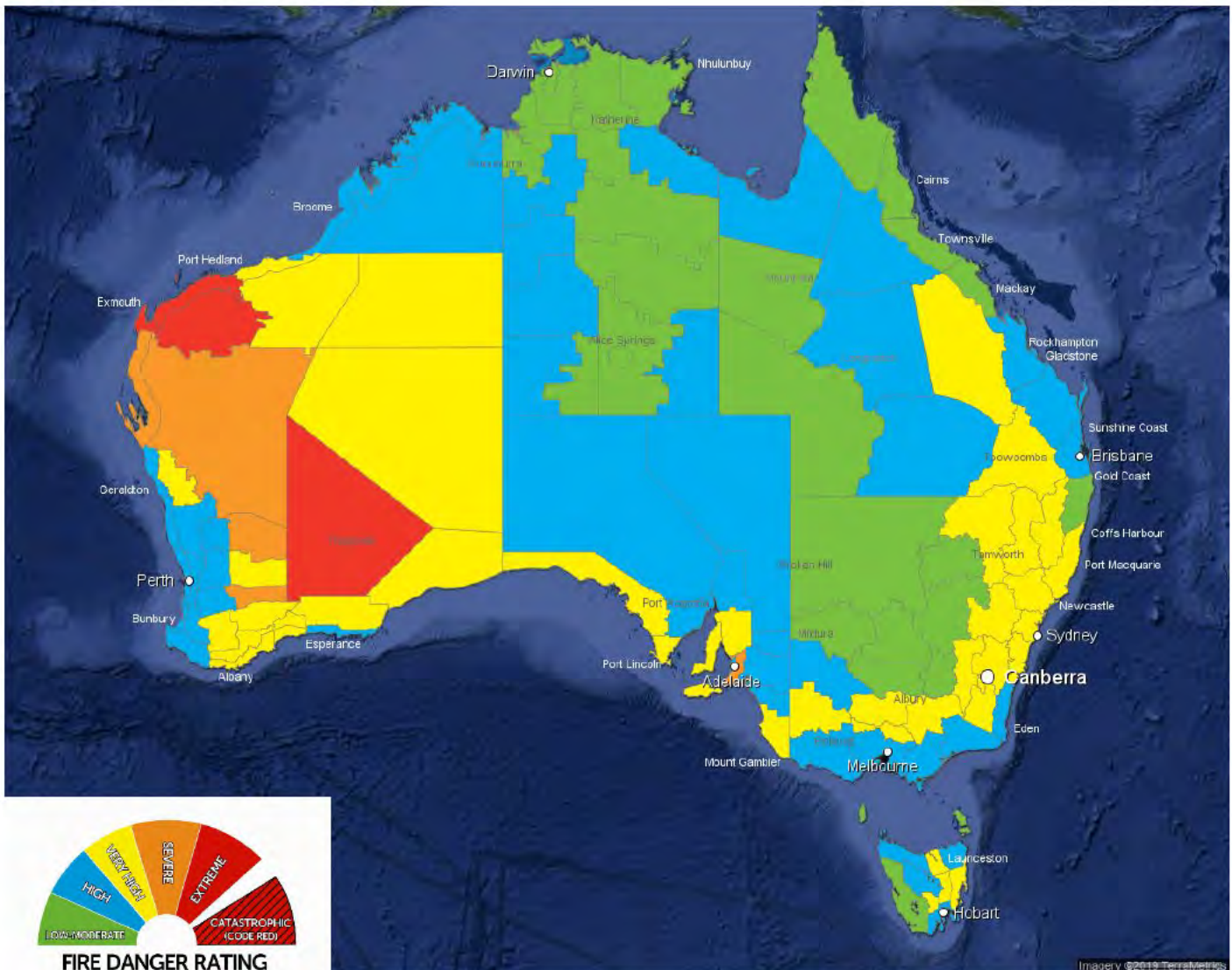
Saturday 28 December





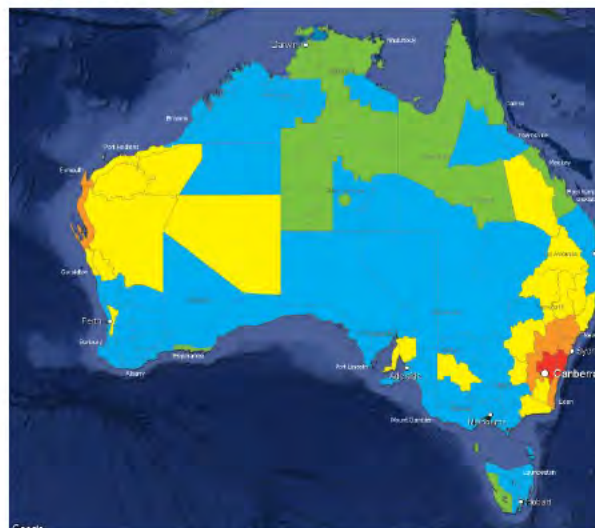
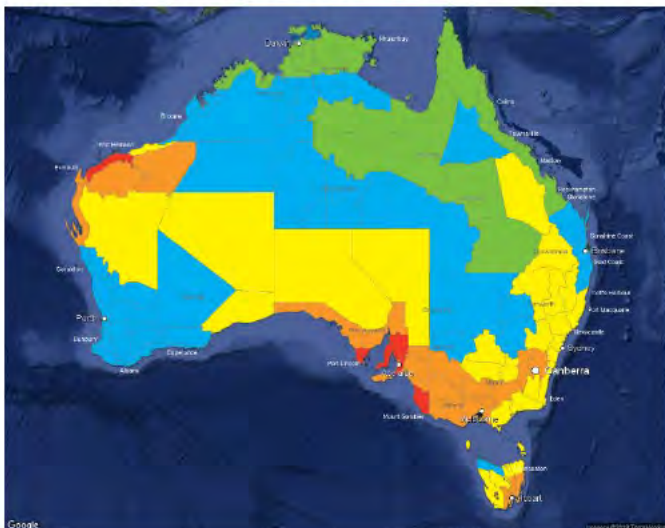
EMA84616

Sunday 29 December



- Fire Danger Ratings are expected to remain at LOW-MODERATE to VERY HIGH levels in Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland across the weekend. The next peak in Fire Danger Ratings for South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania will be on **Monday 30 December** and for New South Wales during **Tuesday 31 December**, coinciding with a significant cold front that will produce north to north-westerly winds ahead of a cool change. Isolated thunderstorms with little to no rainfall are also possible.

**Fire Danger Ratings for Monday 30 December and Tuesday 31 December:**



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### National Weather Summary

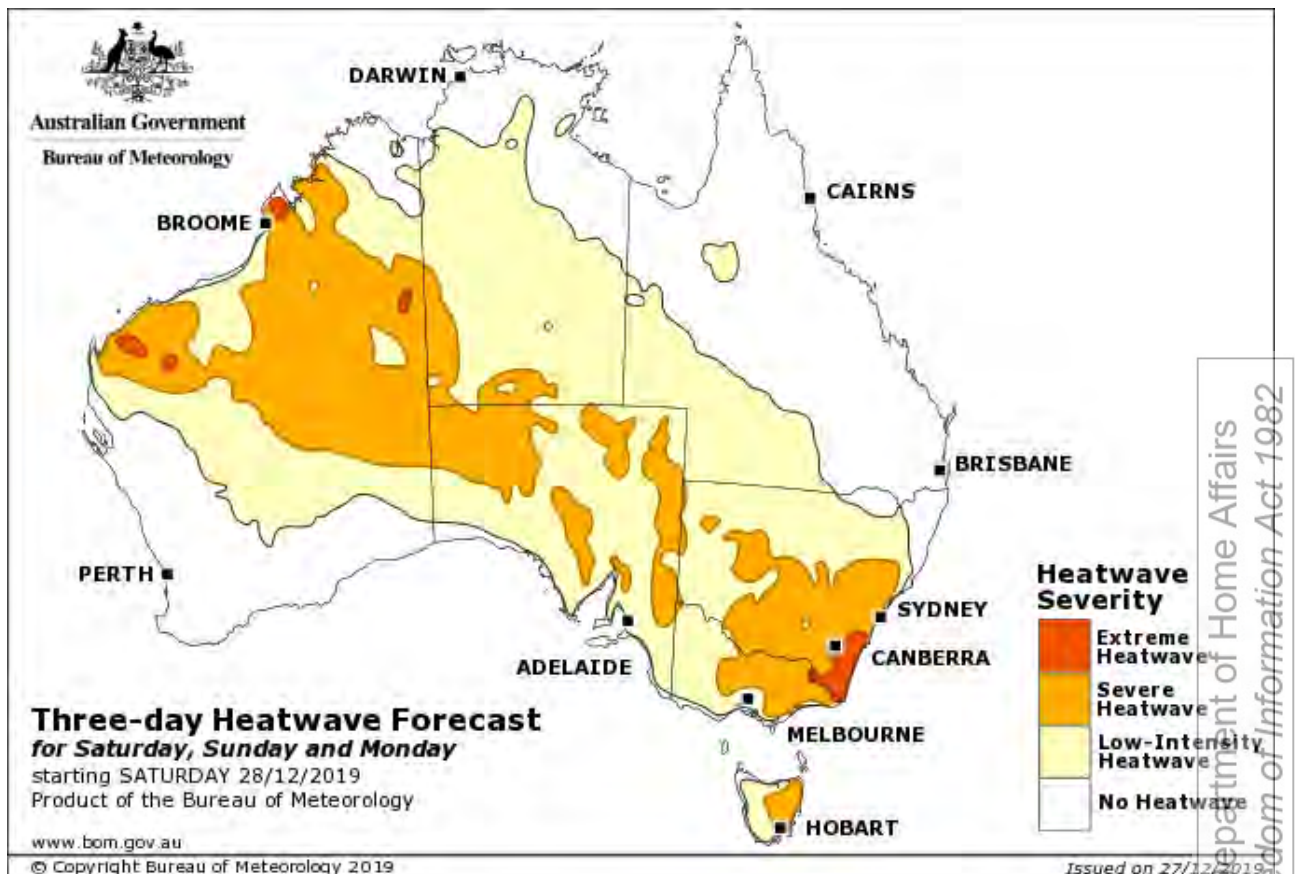
- The Christmas to New Year period is likely to be drier than average for much of the north and east, and wetter in the west of the country. January to March 2020 sees a reduction in the likelihood of drier conditions, with most of the country having roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average three months.
- 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 parts of southeast Australia.
- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is weakening and will likely end in early January, while the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is likely to persist until the end of December and then rapidly decay.
- **Weather Forecast**

Today, **Saturday 28 December**, a low pressure trough across the north and west will trigger showers and thunderstorms, heavy across the tropics. Another trough could bring a few showers and storms to South Australia, northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Onshore winds will bring a shower or two along the Queensland coast.

Tomorrow, **Sunday 29 December**, heat will be drawn across the south and east ahead of a broad low pressure trough, while triggering showers and storms in its wake. Another trough across the north will generate widespread heavy showers and storms. A cold front may clip the southwest, bringing light showers.

*For Monday 30 December, a broad trough over WA, SA, Vic. and southern NSW looks to produce widespread showers and storms. Another trough across the west and north should generate thundery showers. A gusty front crossing Tas. may cause showers. Onshore winds could bring a cool change to SA and southern Vic.*

- **Heatwave Forecast for Saturday 28 December**



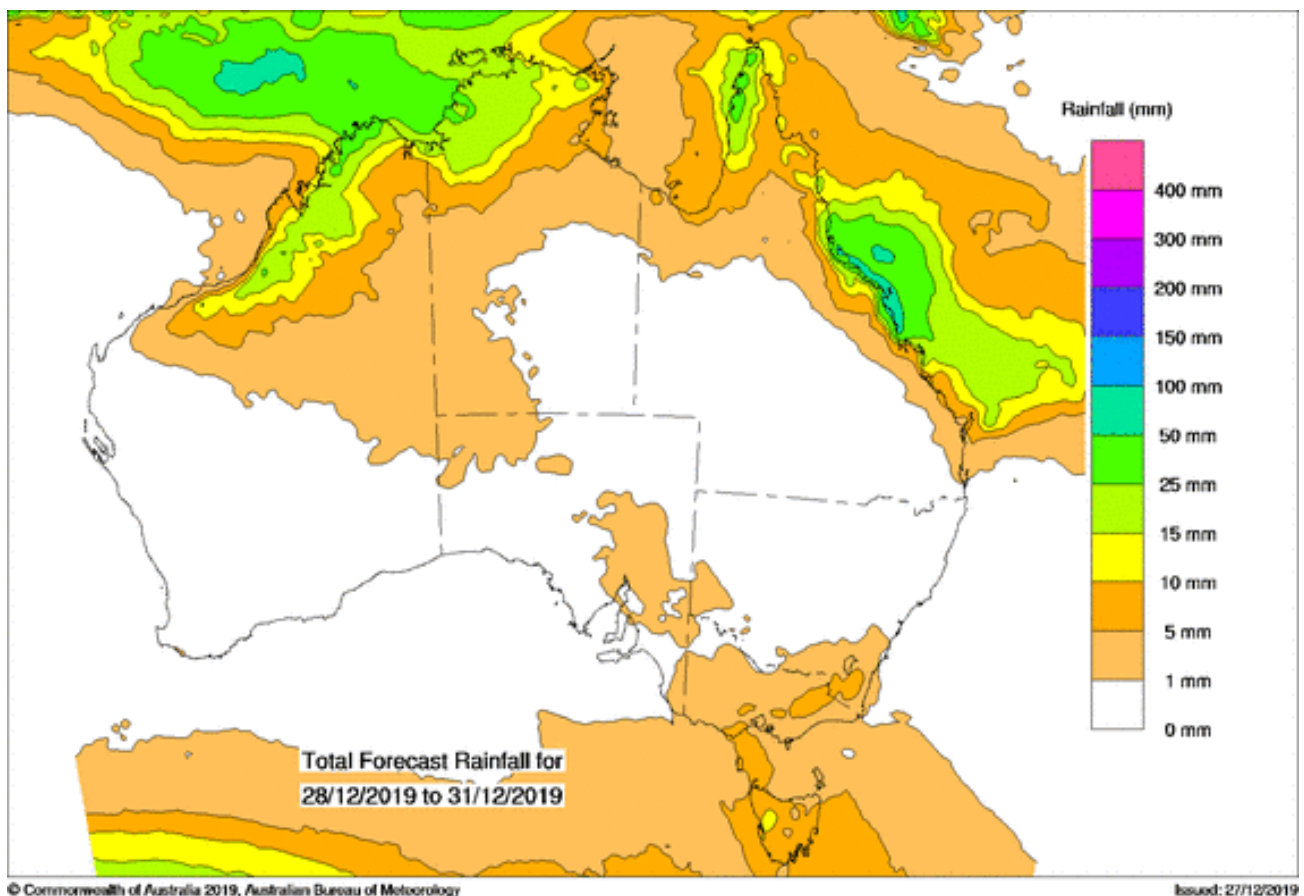
Maximum temperatures in the mid to high 40's are occurring over the northern interior of Western Australia, while maximum temperatures are expected to reach the high 30's and low 40's this weekend for much of the southeast interior of Australia.

*From Monday 30 December, low intensity heatwave conditions span much of northern and central Australia to NSW. SEVERE intensity is forecast for southern Qld and eastern NSW.*



EMA84616

- **Total Forecast Rainfall from Saturday 28 December – Tuesday 31 December**



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 27 December 2019 – Update 15

### 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 convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee was convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- 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 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 27 Task Requests (one with 13 sub-taskings) for NSW since 31 October 2019, of which 27 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.



EMA84616

**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.
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- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - support for people suffering personal hardship to help with their immediate emergency needs
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  - 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-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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 *four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, Mid-Murray, Mount Barker and Yorke Peninsula.*
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
  - personal and financial counselling.
- *Eligible South Australians who are uninsured and have had their principal residence damaged by bushfires can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to help them re-establish their homes.*
  - *Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items.*
  - *Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible home owners to help with repairs.*
- 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).

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- 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

#### 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 180 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 next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Sunday 29 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) <a href="mailto:@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a>	

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## Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

### Incident Brief

As of 1730 hrs (AEDT), 29 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 10

*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	96	96
NT	0	0	7	7
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	0	4	4
Tas.	0	0	0	0
Vic.	2	3	14	19
WA	1	2	7	10
National	3	5	129	137

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, **two** NSW RFS volunteer 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.
- A total fire ban has been declared for the ACT today, **Sunday 29 December** and tomorrow **Monday 30 December**.

Source: [ESA](#)

##### New South Wales

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A total fire ban has been declared for the Southern Ranges and Central Ranges fire districts for today, **Sunday 29 December**. For **Monday 30 December**, total fire bans have been declared for the Greater Hunter, Greater Sydney Region, Illawarra/Shoalhaven, Far South Coast, Monaro Alpine, Southern Ranges, Central Ranges, Southern Slopes, Eastern Riverina and Southern Riverina fire districts.
- Eight** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **two** firefighters.

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- 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 **2,081** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Sunday 29 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.*
- **616** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **2,054** firefighters are currently deployed.
- *567 Incident Management Team and support personnel are currently deployed.*
- **180** firefighters (including assisting personnel) are currently deployed from South Australia and Tasmania.
- 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.
- **11** road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires.
- 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 have transitioned to council as of **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has received approximately **3,076** calls since **Friday 7 November**.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
  - *Landline services in Clarence and Howes Valley – 122 customers impacted.*
  - ADSL broadband services at Mountain Lagoon – **47** customers impacted.
  - Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across Bell and Clarence areas.
  - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. Power technicians are being dispatched to impacted sites 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 – 1800 hrs 24 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1600 hrs 25 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 0900 hrs 29 December 2019, Telstra Update 13 – 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.
- *A total fire ban has been declared for today, **Sunday 29 December** and tomorrow, **Monday 30 December** for Toowoomba, Southern Downs, Western Downs, Goondiwindi, Moreton Bay, Brisbane, Redland, Bundaberg, North Burnett, Cherbourg, South Burnett, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Logan, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Central Highlands, Woorabinda, Banana, Gladstone, Livingstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac Local Government Areas.*
- **121** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **28** houses and **56** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed as of **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.

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- The total area burnt across Queensland for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil** tasked as at **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- More than **44** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services closed due to fires:
  - Peregrin Beach College Early Learning Centre, Peregrin Beach;
  - Peregrin Kids, Peregrin Beach;
  - Goodstart Early Learning, Coorparoo; and
  - Peter Pan Early Learning and Kindergarten, Coorparoo.

Source: Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal, [QFES](#), [QldTraffic](#), [QldGov](#),

### South Australia

- All fires are burning at the ADVISE level or below.
- *A total fire ban has been declared for today, **Sunday 29 December** for the Mount Lofty Ranges district and for the entire state on **Monday 30 December**.*
- **One** fatality has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **87** 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.
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **103** houses, and an additional **500** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed.
- **23** firefighters 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.
- **Two** Relief Centres are operational at the Turramurra Recreation Centre, Highbury and Mount Barker High School, Mount Barker.

Source: SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 18 – 27 December 2019, Telstra Update 10 – SA Bushfires, [CFS](#), [SAPower](#), [adelaidenow](#)

### Tasmania

- All fires are burning at the ADVISE level or below.
- *A total fire ban has been declared for today, **Sunday 29 December** and tomorrow, **Monday 30 December** for the Break O'Day, George Town, Northern Midlands, Dorset, Launceston, West Tamar, Flinders, Meander Valley, Brighton, Derwent Valley, Hobart, Sorell, Central Highlands, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Huon Valley, Southern Midlands, Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough and Tasman municipalities.*

Source: [TFS](#)

### Victoria

- **Two** bushfire is burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and **three** at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVISE level or below.
- *A total fire ban has been declared for the Mallee fire district for today, **Sunday 29 December** and for the entire state on **Monday 30 December**.*
- **One** fatality has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.



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- **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**.
- More than **120,000** hectares have been burnt in the current fires.
- **70 aircraft** are currently available today, **Sunday 29 December**, comprised of a mix of firebombing and aerial intelligence gathering aircraft.
- *Relief Centre is opened in Orbost, to provide support to residents impacted by the fires.*
- The Great Alpine Road remains closed between Bruthen and Ensay with a number of other minor roads closed across the east of the state.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at **Tier 2 (Orange)**.

Source: EMALO – verbal – 29 December 2019, Emergency Management Victoria – State Operational Situational Report – 27 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

### Western Australia

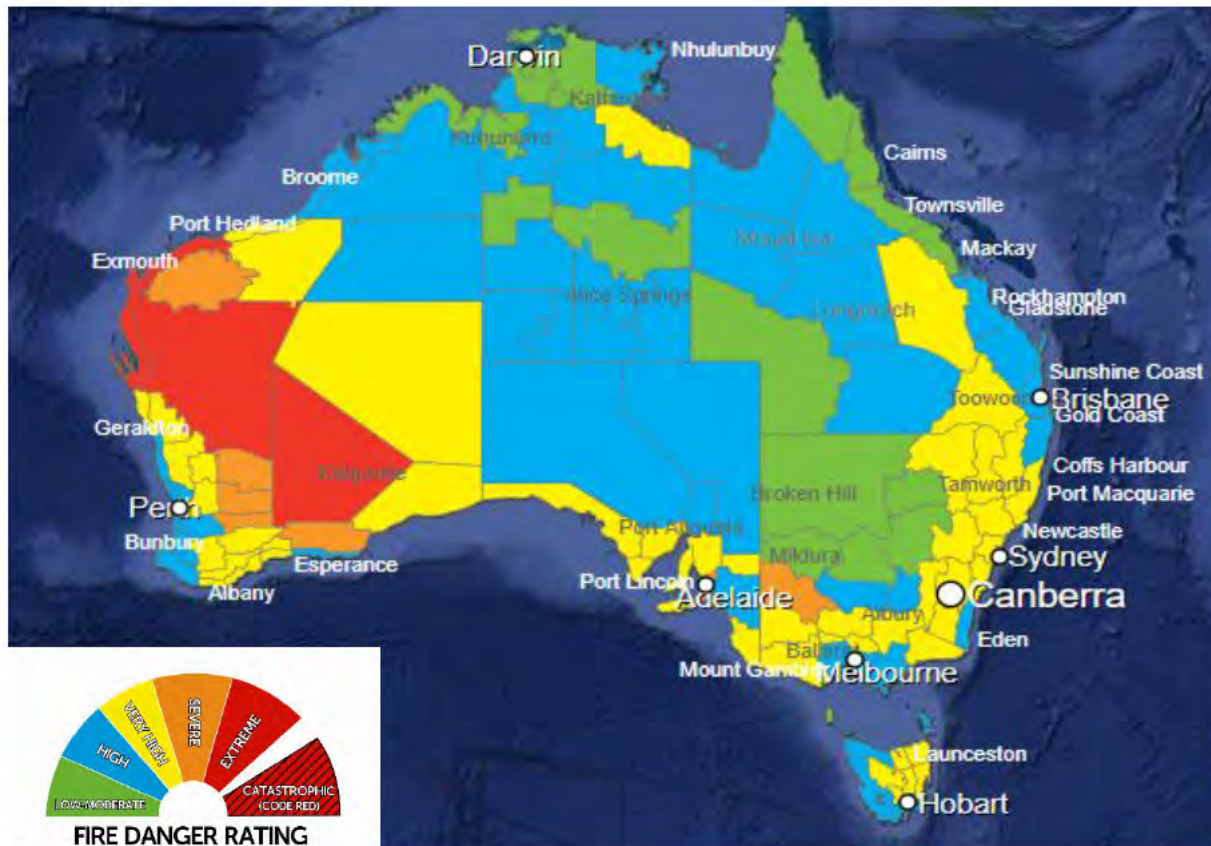
- **One** bushfire is burning at the **EMERGENCY WARNING** level and **two** at the **WATCH AND ACT** level.
- *All other fires are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
- *A total fire ban has been declared for Ashburton, Karratha, Exmouth, Carnarvon, Cue, Meekatharra, Menzies, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Yalgoo, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Coolgardie, Dundas, Laverton and Leonora fire districts for today, **Sunday 29 December**.*
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **six** outbuildings have been destroyed by recent bushfires.
- The fire in the Stirling Range National Park, currently at **WATCH AND ACT** level, has burnt over 25,000 hectares.

Source: Commissioner Daily Report - Sunday 29 December 2019, [DFES](#)

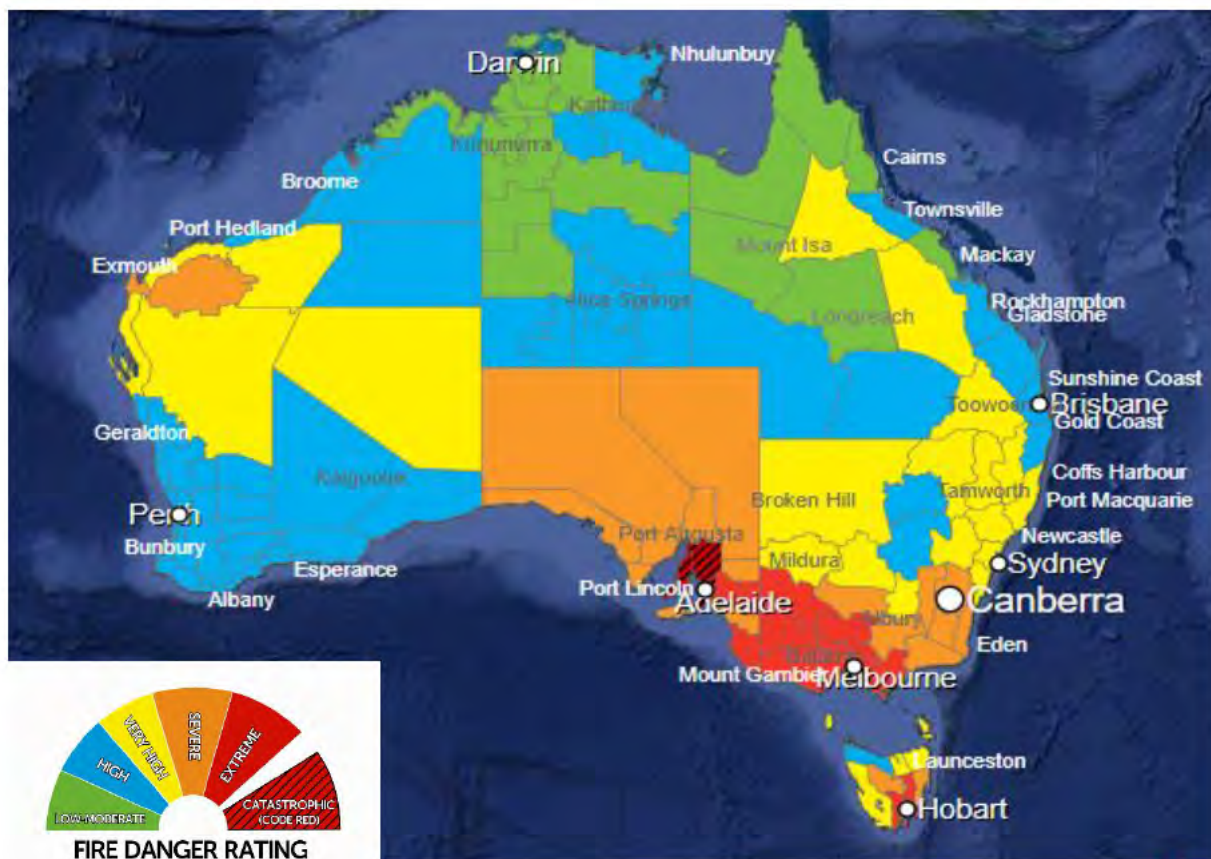
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## Fire Danger Ratings

Sunday 29 December



Monday 30 December

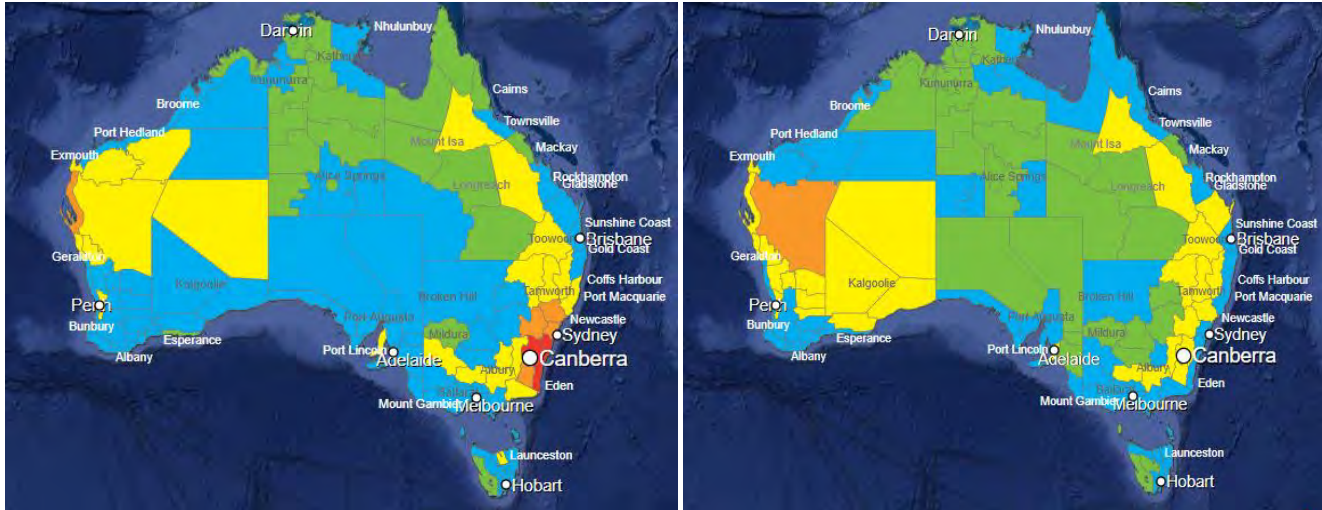
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- SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions are extending from the northwest of Australia to the southeast over the next three days. The next peak in Fire Danger Ratings for South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania will be on **Monday 30 December** and for New South Wales during **Tuesday 31 December**, coinciding with a significant cold front that will produce north to north-westerly winds ahead of a cool change. Isolated thunderstorms with little to no rainfall are also possible.

#### Fire Danger Ratings for Tuesday 31 December and Wednesday 1 January:



#### National Weather Summary

- The Christmas to New Year period is likely to be drier than average for much of the north and east, and wetter in the west of the country. January to March 2020 sees a reduction in the likelihood of drier conditions, with most of the country having roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average three months.
- 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 parts of southeast Australia.
- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is weakening and will likely end in early January, while the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is likely to persist until the end of December and then rapidly decay.
- Weather Forecast**

Today, **Sunday 29 December**, heat will be drawn across the south and east ahead of a broad low pressure trough, while triggering showers and storms in its wake. Another trough across the north will generate widespread heavy showers and storms. A cold front may clip the southwest, bringing light showers.

Tomorrow, **Monday 30 December**, a significant cold front will move over South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Very hot north/northwesterly winds will be fresh and gusty ahead of the front with areas of raised dust. Cooler southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage of the front. Isolated thunderstorms with little or no rainfall are possible with the change.

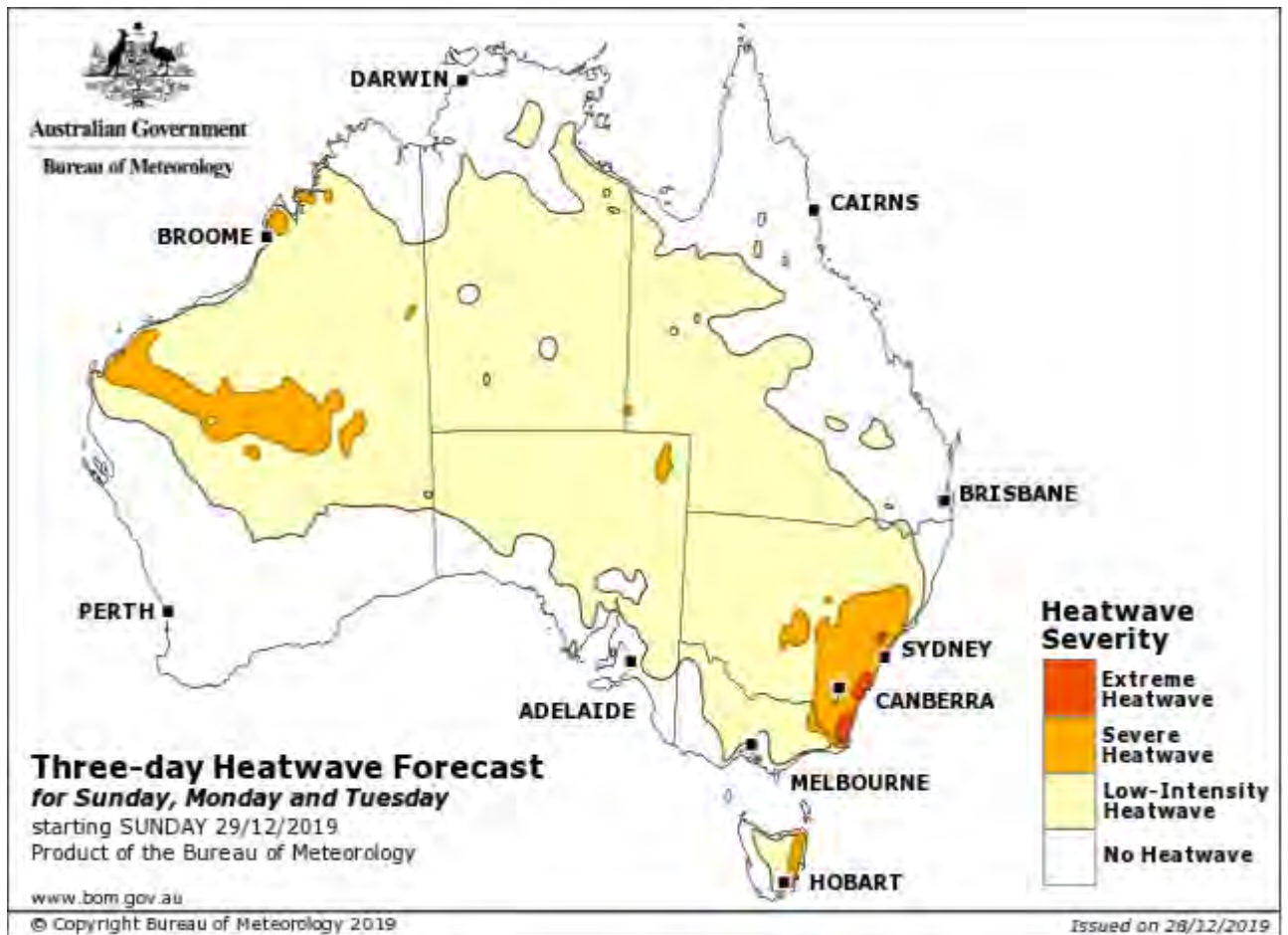
For **Tuesday 31 December**, cooler southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage of the front with a 'southerly buster' to extend along the NSW coast. Dangerous fire weather conditions are expected through eastern New South Wales.

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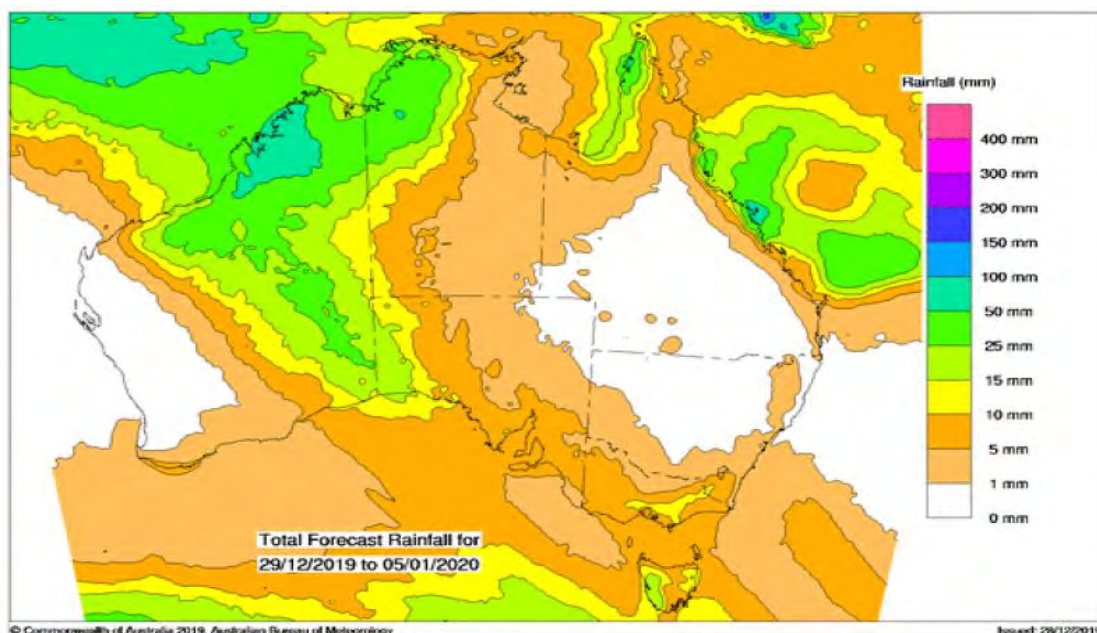
- Heatwave Forecast for Sunday 29 December



Conditions are forecast to gradually ease with mostly low intensity heatwave conditions spanning the northwest to southeast of the country. SEVERE intensity is still likely for northern parts of Western Australia and eastern New South Wales with small areas of extreme conditions.

From **Monday 30 December**, low intensity heatwave conditions span much of northern and central Australia to New South Wales. Severe intensity is forecast about the Queensland/Northern Territory/South Australia border and for eastern New South Wales. Heatwave conditions ease through Victoria and Tasmania.

- Total Forecast Rainfall from Sunday 29 December – Sunday 5 January



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Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](#), [weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 28 December 2019 – Update 16, BOM Severe weather brief – 29 December 2019

## 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 convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee was convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- 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 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 **27** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) for NSW since **31 October 2019**, of which **27** 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.

### 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, Bellinger, 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.

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- 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.

#### Financial support for NSW RFS volunteer firefighters

*The Australian Government will provide financial support for loss of income to Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW who are self-employed or work for small and medium businesses, and who have been called out for more than 10 days this fire season.*

- *This financial support will be tax-free, non means tested payments, that are intended to cover for lost income of up to \$300 per day, up to a total of \$6,000 per person.*
- *Those able to apply for the payments will include farmers, small business owners, tradies and contract workers in rural and regional areas who have been hit especially hard by this fire season.*
- *The payments will be administered by the NSW Government and are expected to be available before the end of January 2020.*
- *Information on how to apply for assistance will be made available soon. Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW can register their interest at: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-interest-volunteer-firefighters-financial-support-program>*

#### 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-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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)

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- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for 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 four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, Mid-Murray, Mount Barker, Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
  - personal and financial counselling.
- Eligible South Australians who are uninsured and have had their principle residence damaged by bushfires can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to help them re-establish their homes.
  - Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items.
  - Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible home owners to help with repairs.
- 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.

### 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

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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 – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

#### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Monday 30 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) <a href="mailto:@homeaffairs.gov.au">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a>	

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## Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

### Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 30 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 11

*New information is in italics*

#### National Summary

##### National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	2	4	98	104
NT	0	0	7	7
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	3	2	5
Tas.	1	2	0	3
Vic.	10	10	18	38
WA	0	1	9	10
National	13	20	135	168

- 10 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since **Friday 6 September**. On **Thursday 19 December**, **two** NSW RFS volunteer 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.*
- A Total Fire Ban is current for the ACT.*

Source: [ESA](#)

##### New South Wales

- Two** bushfires are burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and **four** at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.*
- A total fire ban is current for the Greater Hunter, Greater Sydney Region, Illawarra/Shoalhaven, Far South Coast, Monaro Alpine, Southern Ranges, Central Ranges, Southern Slopes, Eastern Riverina, Southern Riverina fire districts.*



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- A total fire ban has been declared for tomorrow, **Tuesday 31 December**, for the Greater Hunter, Greater Sydney Region, Illawarra / Shoalhaven, Far South Coast, Monaro Alpine, Southern Ranges, Central Ranges, Northern Slopes, North Western, Southern Slopes and Eastern Riverina fire districts.
- **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 **911** houses, **72** facilities and an additional **2,095** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Sunday 29 December**).
- More than **3 million** hectares have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- **104** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **583** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **1,719** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **628** Incident Management Team and support personnel are currently deployed.
- **104** interstate (ACT and Tasmania) and international firefighters (including assisting personnel) remain deployed.
- 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.
- **11** road closures are in place across the state as a result of the fires.
- 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 have transitioned to council as of **20 December 2019**.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has received approximately **3,076** calls since **Friday 7 November**.
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
  - Landline services in Clarence and Howes Valley – **122** customers impacted.
  - ADSL broadband services at Mountain Lagoon – **47** customers impacted.
  - Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across Bell and Clarence areas. *Loss of 3G Mobile phone services at Putty.*
  - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. Power technicians are being dispatched to impacted sites 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 – 2200 hrs 29 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1600 hrs 25 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 30 December 2019, Telstra Update 14 – 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](#)

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**Queensland**

- *All fires are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
- *A Total Fire Ban is current for Toowoomba, Southern Downs, Western Downs and Goondiwindi, Moreton Bay, Brisbane and Redland, Bundaberg, North Burnett, Cherbourg, South Burnett, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Logan, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset, Central Highlands, Woorabinda, Banan, Gladstone, Livingstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac Local Government Areas.*
- **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 Queensland for this event is approximately **249,604** hectares as at **0900 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- **28** aircraft are currently available with **nil** tasked as at **0800 hrs Tuesday 24 December**.
- More than **14** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.
- While the 2019 school year has finished, there are a number of early childhood education and care services remain closed due to fires:
  - Peregrin Beach College Early Learning Centre, Peregrin Beach;
  - Peregrin Kids, Peregrin Beach;
  - Goodstart Early Learning, Coorparoo; and
  - Peter Pan Early Learning and Kindergarten, Coorparoo.

Source: Queensland Emergency Management Report – 1000 hrs 24 December 2019, QFES – verbal, [QFES](#), [QldTraffic](#), [QldGov](#)

**South Australia**

- ***Three** bushfires are burning at the **WATCH AND ACT** level.*
- *All other fires are burning at the **ADVICE** level or below.*
- ***CATASTROPHIC** fire danger ratings are current for the Mid North, Mount Lofty and Yorke Peninsula districts.*
- *A Total Fire Ban is current for the entire state.*
- **One** fatality has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- ***87** 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.*
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **103** houses, and an additional **500** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed.
- **23** firefighters 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.
- *Approximately **16,000** customers have been affected by power outages across the state.*
- **Two** Relief Centres are operational at the Turrumurra Recreation Centre, Highbury and Mount Barker High School, Mount Barker.

Source: SA SES – Heatwave Notice – 21 December 2019, EMA LO – verbal, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 21 December 2019, SA SES State Report 18 – 27 December 2019, Telstra Update 10 – SA Bushfires, [CFS](#), [SAPower](#), [adelaidenow](#)

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**Tasmania**

- **One** bushfire is burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and **two** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A Total Fire Ban is current for the Break O'Day, George Town, Northern Midlands, Dorset, Launceston, West Tamar, Flinders, Meander Valley, Brighton, Derwent Valley, Hobart, Sorell, Central Highlands, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Huon Valley, Southern Midlands, Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough and Tasman municipalities.

Source: [TFS](#)**Victoria**

- **Nine** bushfires are burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and **11** at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A Total Fire Ban is current for the entire state.
- **One** fatality 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**.
- More than **120,000** hectares have been burnt in the current fires (figures as at 29 December 2019).
- **70** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking, comprised of a mix of firebombing and aerial intelligence gathering aircraft.
- Relief Centres are open in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Sale, Omeo, Delegate (NSW), to provide support to residents impacted by the fires.
- The Great Alpine Road remains closed between Bruthen and Ensay with a number of other minor roads closed across the east of the state.
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at **Tier 3 (Red)**.

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Emergency Management Victoria – State Operational Situational Report – 27 December 2019, Australian Energy Market Operator – verbal, Telstra Update 9 – Vic. Bushfires, [Vic Emergency](#)

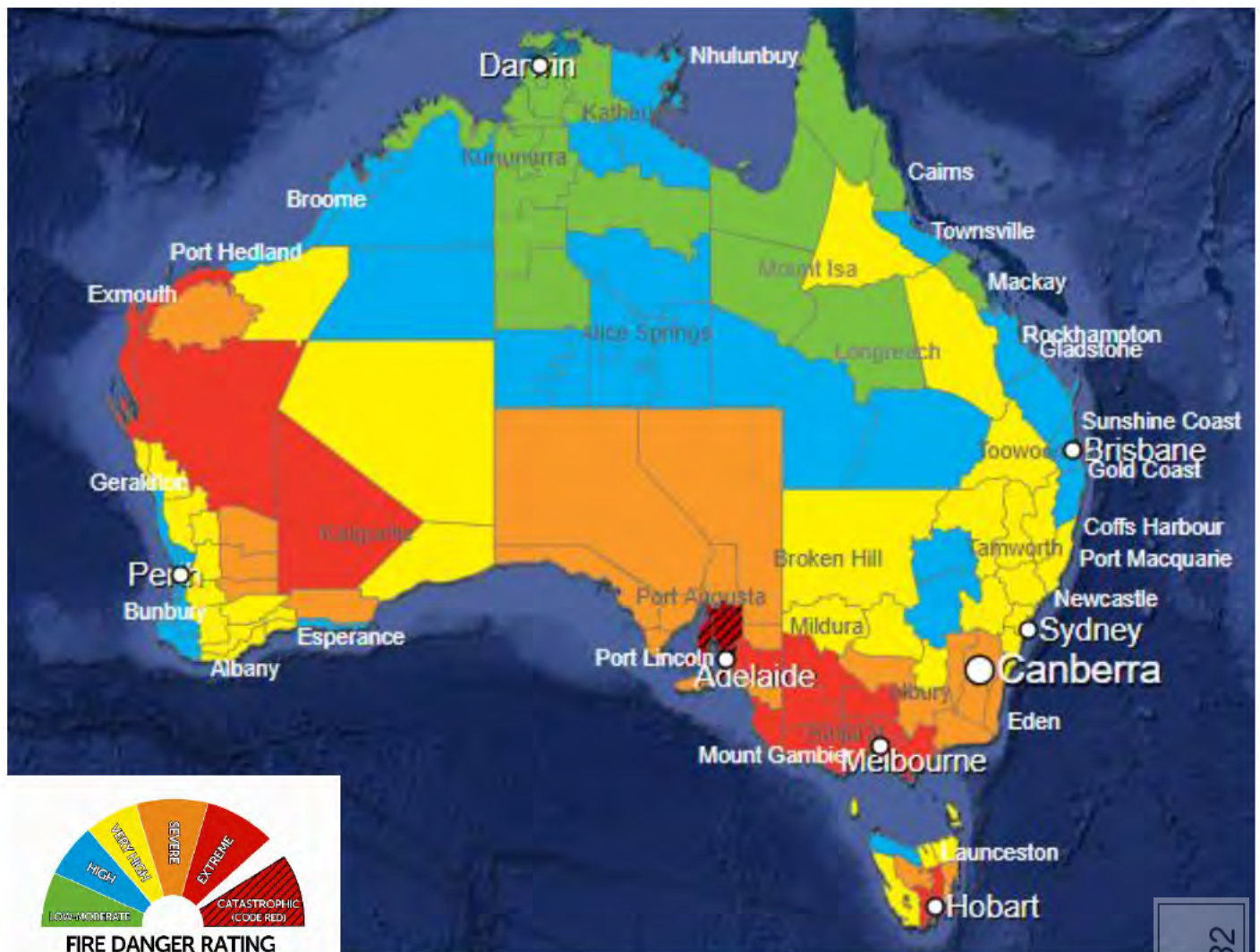
**Western Australia**

- **One** bushfire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A Total Fire Ban is current for Albany, Ashburton, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Esperance, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Karratha, Katanning, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Ravensthorpe fire districts.
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **six** outbuildings have been destroyed by recent bushfires.
- The fire in the Stirling Range National Park, currently at WATCH AND ACT level, has burnt over 25,000 hectares.

Source: Commissioner Daily Report - Sunday 29 December 2019, [DFES](#)



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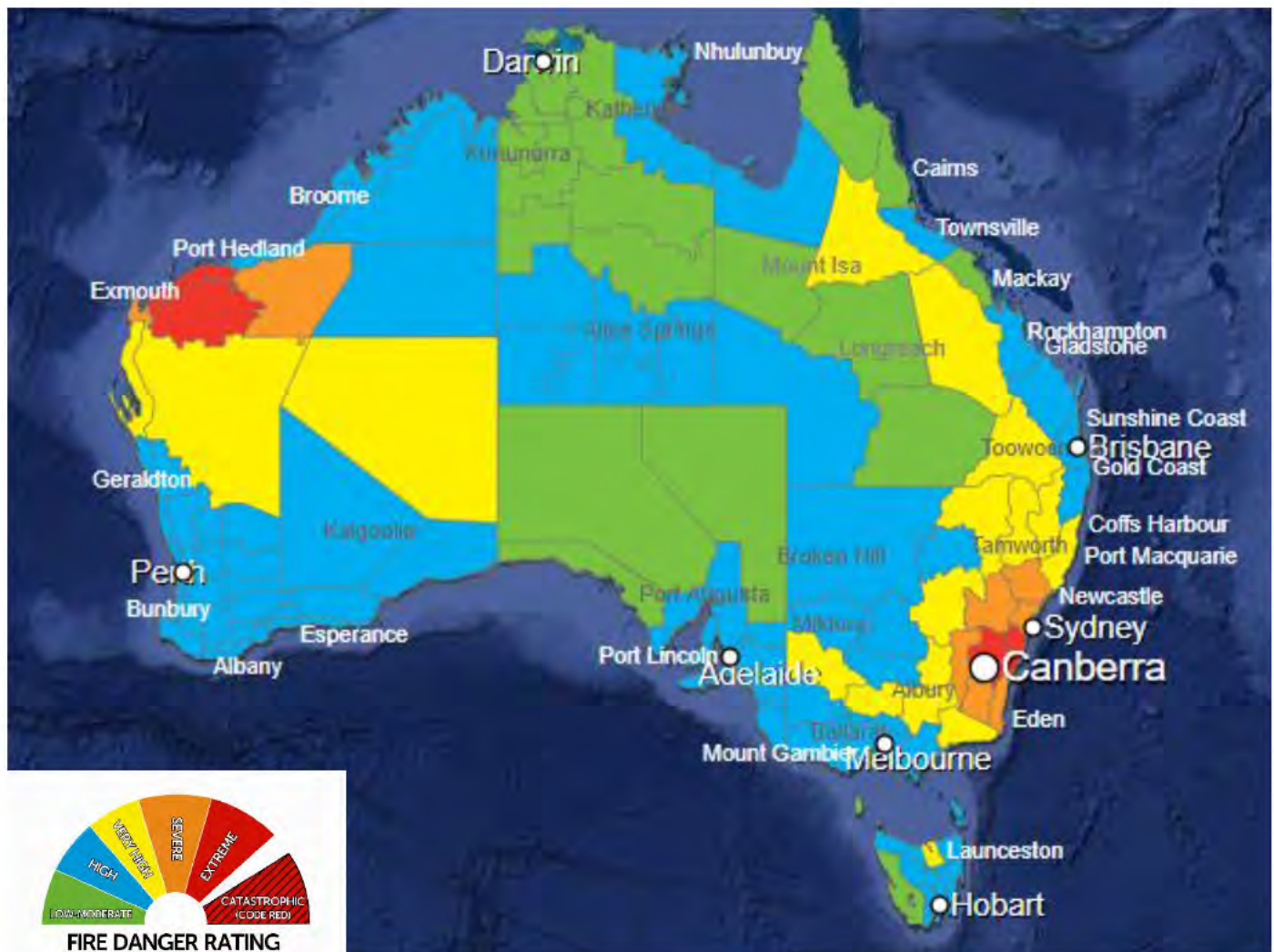
**Fire Danger Ratings****Monday 30 December**

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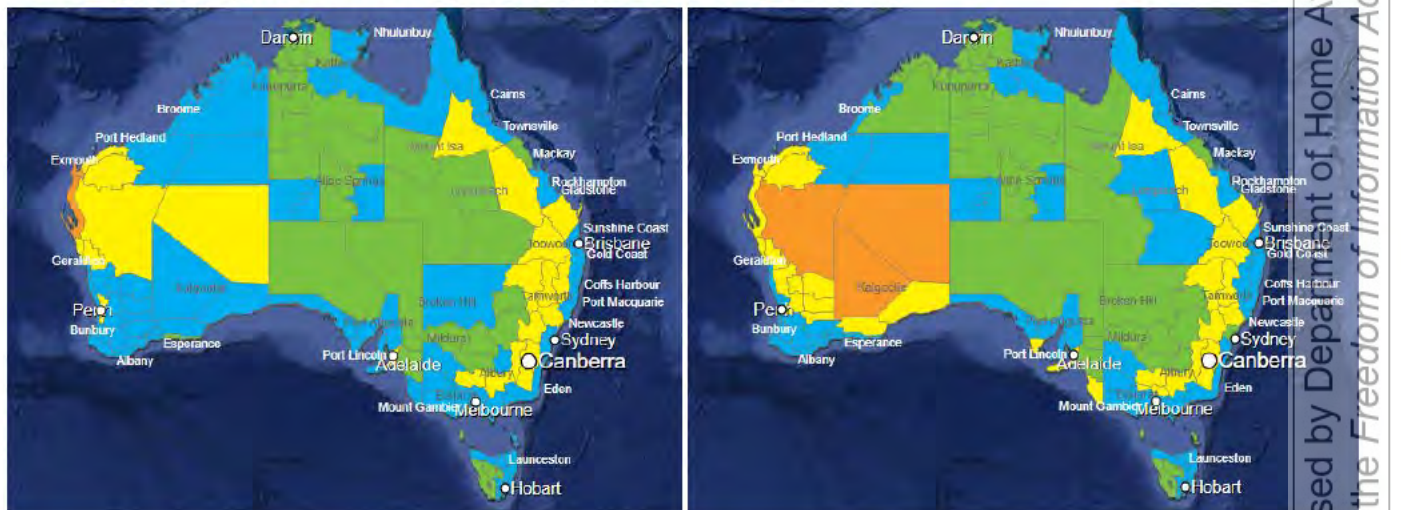
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Tuesday 31 December



- SEVERE to EXTREME heatwave conditions are currently affecting the northwest to the southeast interior of Australia. The next peak in Fire Danger Ratings for New South Wales is during **Tuesday 31 December**, coinciding with a significant cold front that will produce north to north-westerly winds ahead of a cool change. Isolated thunderstorms, with little to no rainfall, are also possible.

Fire Danger Ratings for Wednesday 1 January and Thursday 2 January:



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### National Weather Summary

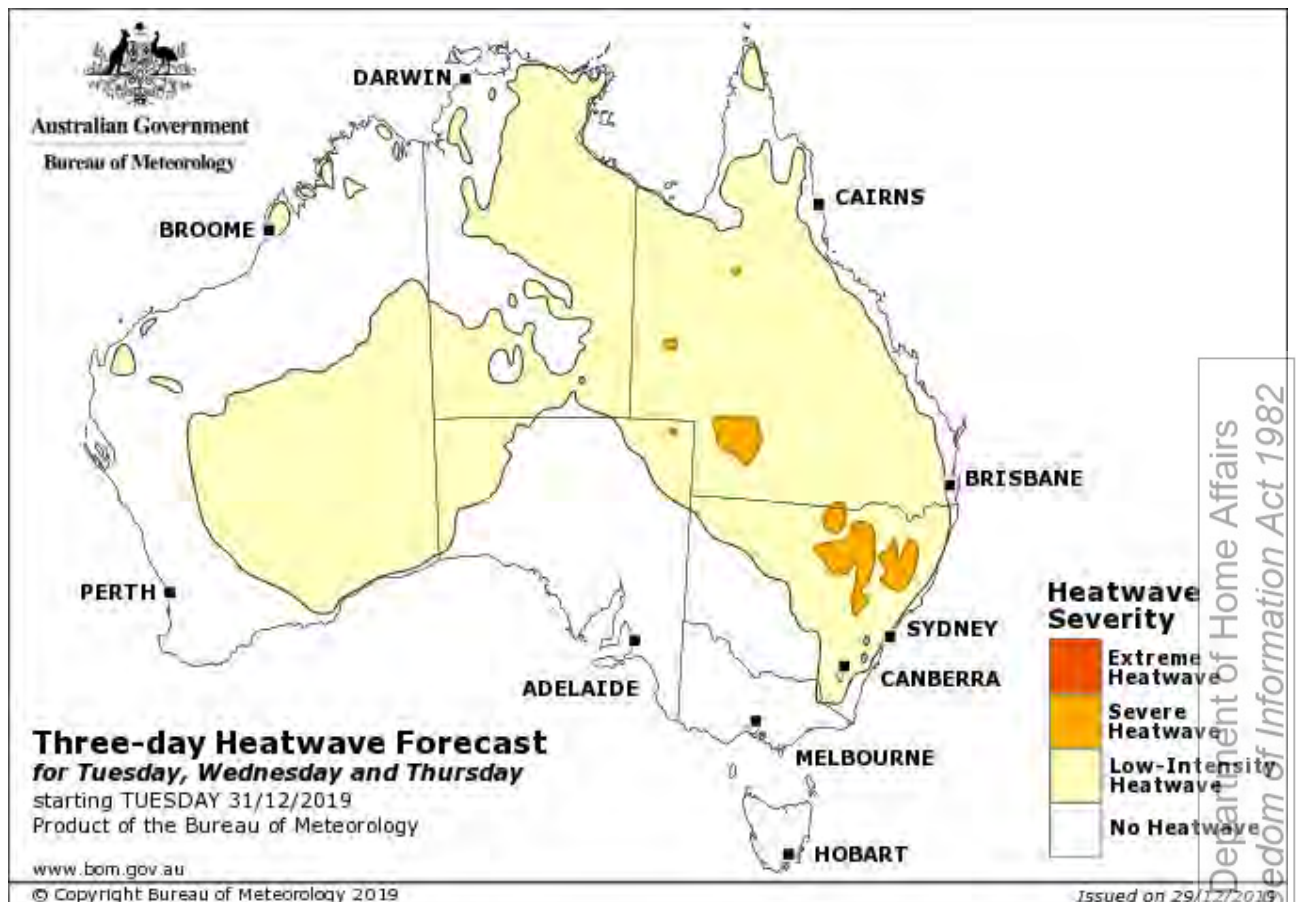
- The Christmas to New Year period is likely to be drier than average for much of the north and east, and wetter in the west of the country. January to March 2020 sees a reduction in the likelihood of drier conditions, with most of the country having roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average three months.
- 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 parts of southeast Australia.
- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is weakening and will likely end in early January, while the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is likely to persist until the end of December and then rapidly decay.
- **Weather Forecast**

Today, **Monday 30 December**, a significant cold front will move over South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Very hot north/northwesterly winds will be fresh and gusty ahead of the front with areas of raised dust. Cooler southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage of the front. Isolated thunderstorms, with little or no rainfall, are possible with the change.

For **Tuesday 31 December**, cooler southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage of the front with a 'southerly buster' to extend along the NSW coast. Dangerous fire weather conditions are expected through eastern New South Wales.

Longer term, the southerly wind change will provide some temporary relief from the heat for the southeast of the country, but temperatures are forecast to climb again through the eastern interior towards the end of the week and over next weekend. Heatwave conditions are forecast to ease through inland Western Australia from **Wednesday 1 January**.

- **Heatwave Forecast for Tuesday 31 December**



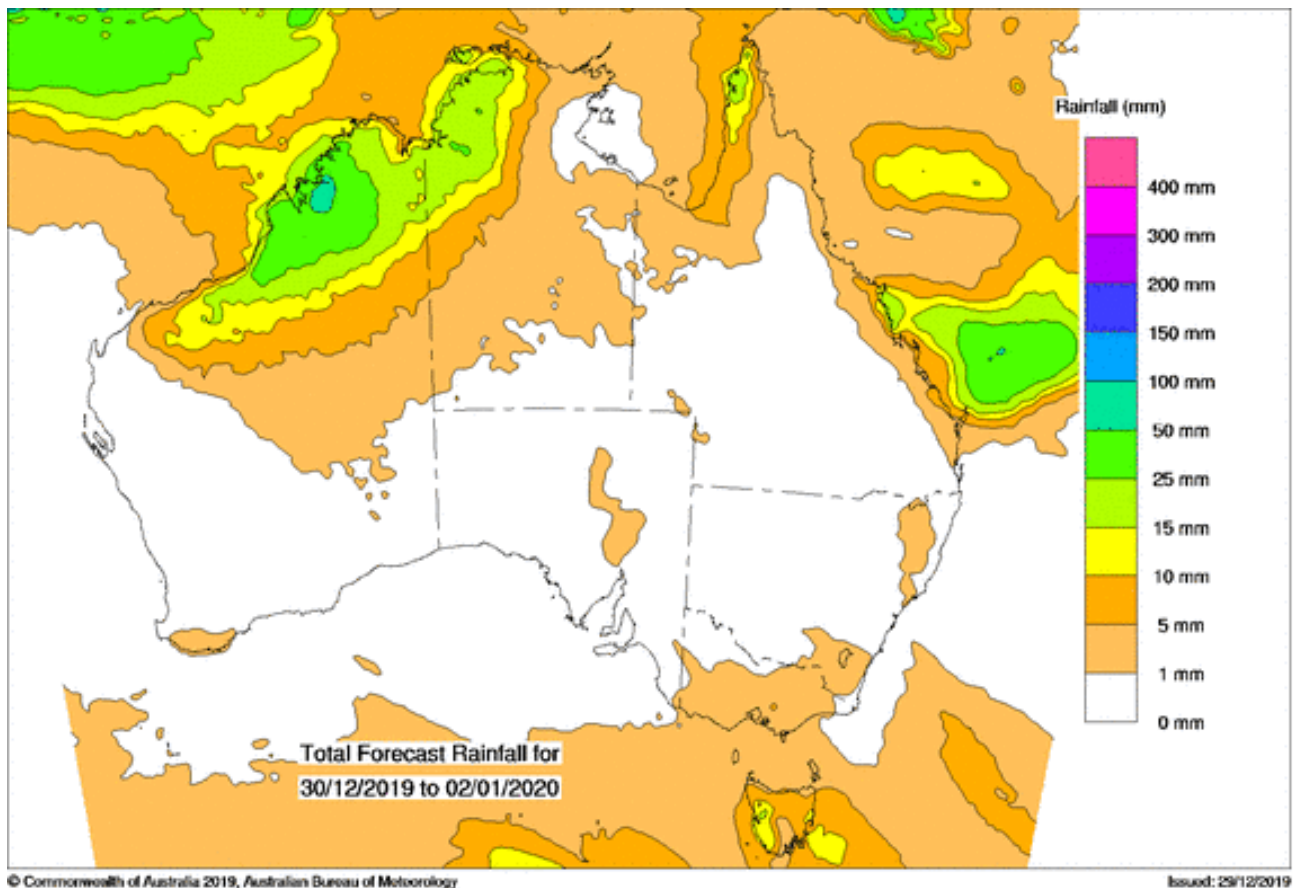
SEVERE heatwave conditions are forecast through southwest Queensland to northeast New South Wales. Low intensity heatwave conditions are forecast elsewhere from the Eucla, through Western Australia's interior, central Australia to New South Wales, Queensland and across the far north of the country.

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- **Total Forecast Rainfall from Monday 30 December – Thursday 2 January**



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, weatherzone](#), BOM Critical Event Brief – 28 December 2019 – Update 16, BOM Severe Weather Brief – 29 December 2019

### 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 convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee was convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- EMA liaison officers have been deployed in NSW, Vic. and SA.
- 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 ADF support as listed below can be found at:**  
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-continues-bushfire-support>

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**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 **28** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) for NSW since **31 October 2019**, of which **27** 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.

**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.

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Financial support for NSW RFS volunteer firefighters

The Australian Government will provide financial support for loss of income to Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW who are self-employed or work for small and medium businesses, and who have been called out for more than 10 days this fire season.

- This financial support will be tax-free, non means tested payments, that are intended to cover for lost income of up to **AUD300** per day, up to a total of **AUD6,000** per person.
- Those able to apply for the payments will include farmers, small business owners, tradies and contract workers in rural and regional areas who have been hit especially hard by this fire season.
- The payments will be administered by the NSW Government and are expected to be available before the end of January 2020.
- Information on how to apply for assistance will be made available soon. Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW can register their interest at: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-interest-volunteer-firefighters-financial-support-program>

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 **AUD1,000** 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-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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 four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, Mid-Murray, Mount Barker, Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
  - personal and financial counselling.
- Eligible South Australians who are uninsured and have had their principle residence damaged by bushfires can apply for grants of up to **AUD10,000** to help them re-establish their homes.
  - Grants of up to **AUD10,000** are available for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items.
  - Grants of up to **AUD10,000** are available for eligible home owners to help with repairs.

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- 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 **AUD1,000** 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.

#### **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 **AUD1,000** 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)

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- A short-term income support payment to assist individuals who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
- The DRA has been activated in the 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 – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

#### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Tuesday 31 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) <a href="#">@homeaffairs.gov.au</a>	



## Australian Government

### Crisis Coordination Centre

#### Incident Brief

As of 1600 hrs (AEDT), 31 December 2019

#### National Bushfire Overview – Version 12

*New information is in italics*

#### National Summary

##### National Fire Summary

	EMERGENCY WARNING	WATCH AND ACT	ADVICE	TOTAL
ACT	0	0	0	0
NSW	8	9	88	105
NT	0	0	7	7
Qld	0	0	1	1
SA	0	1	3	4
Tas.	0	5	1	6
Vic.	8	3	22	33
WA	0	1	13	14
National	16	19	135	170

- *13 fatalities have been confirmed nationally since Friday 6 September. On Monday 30 December, one NSW RFS volunteer was killed and two were injured in a vehicle roll over. On Thursday 19 December, two NSW RFS volunteer members were killed and three other members were injured in a vehicle roll over. Eight 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.*

#### Situation Details

##### Australian Capital Territory

- All fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A Total Fire Ban remains current for the ACT.

Source: [ESA](#)

##### New South Wales

- *Eight bushfires are burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and nine at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- A Total Fire Ban is current for the Greater Hunter, Greater Sydney Region, Illawarra / Shoalhaven, Far South Coast, Monaro Alpine, Southern Ranges, Central Ranges, Northern Slopes, North Western, Southern Slopes and Eastern Riverina fire districts.



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- **11** fatalities have been confirmed since **Friday 6 September**, including **three** firefighters.
- *More than **41** people have been injured, including approximately **31** firefighters.*
- *During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **915** houses, **73** facilities and an additional **2,105** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed (figures as of **Tuesday 31 December**).*
- More than **3.6 million** hectares have been burnt since the start of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- **110** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking.
- **804** vehicles are on scene at fires across the state.
- **2,130** firefighters are currently deployed.
- **670** Incident Management Team and support personnel are currently deployed.
- **21** interstate (ACT and Tasmania) and **83** international firefighters (including assisting personnel) remain deployed.
- 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.
- *There are **16** evacuation centres are open in the state at the following locations:*
  - *Eurobodalla LGA*
    - *Hanging Rock Sports Club*
    - *Moruya Basketball Stadium*
    - *Narooma Leisure Centre*
  - *Bega Valley LGA*
    - *Bega Showground*
    - *Eden Fisherman Club*
    - *Merimbula Sapphire Club*
    - *Bermagui Surf Club*
    - *Tathra Surf Club*
  - *Snowy Valley LGA*
    - *Tumbarumba RSL*
    - *Adelong Services and Citizens Club*
  - *Shoalhaven LGA*
    - *Ulladulla Civic Centre*
    - *Bomaderry Bowling Club*
    - *St Georges Basin Country Club*
  - *Goulburn – Mulwaree LGA*
    - *Goulburn Recreation Centre*
  - *Snowy Monaro LGA*
    - *Bombala Community Centre*
  - *Greater Hume LGA*
    - *Holbrook Library Complex*

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- Multiple road closures remain in place across the state as a result of the fires.
- Disaster Welfare Assistance Points in Picton and Lithgow are operating in conjunction with council recovery centres.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is operating **seven** days a week between 0830 hrs and 1630 hrs daily.
- The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has received approximately **3,076** calls since **Friday 7 November**.
- *A mass power outage has occurred in the South Coast in NSW. Multiple townships are affected.*
- Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:
  - Landline services in Clarence, *Bilpin* and Howes Valley – **128** customers impacted.
  - ADSL broadband services at Mountain Lagoon – **47** customers impacted.
  - Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across Bell and Clarence areas. *Loss of 3G coverage at Putty and 4G coverage at Jingellic.*
  - The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. Power technicians are being dispatched to impacted sites when it is safe to do so.
  - *There are currently **four** Red Zones in place across NSW. Unless under escort by emergency services, Red Zones are inaccessible to Telstra staff.*
  - *A Disaster Assistance Package has been issued for a number of affected customers in NSW.*

Source: NSW RFS – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 – Building Impact Analysis Summary – 2000 hrs 30 December 2019, NSW SEOC – Situation Report - NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – Significant Fires from 8 November 2019 and Extreme Heatwave Conditions – 1600 hrs 25 December 2019, NSW RFS – Operational Update – NSW Bushfire Season 2019-20 – State Operations Overview – 1100 hrs 31 December 2019, Telstra Update 16 – NSW Bushfires, EMA LO, [NSW RFS](#), [NSWPol](#), [NSW Government Office of Emergency Management](#), [Live Traffic NSW](#), [Essential Energy](#)

### 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.
- **124** firefighters have been injured since **Friday 8 November**.
- **38** houses and **53** outbuildings are confirmed destroyed.
- More than **249,604** hectares have been burnt in the current fires.
- **16** aircraft are currently available with **two** tasked.
- More than **24** appliances are on scene at fires across the state.

Source: QFES – 31 December 2019, [QFES](#), [QldTraffic](#), [QldGov](#)

### South Australia

- ***One** bushfire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** fatality has been confirmed as a result of these bushfires.
- **88** homes and almost **500** outbuildings have been destroyed in the **December 2019** bushfires. **Seven** homes have sustained major damage in the Cudlee Creek area. As damage assessments continue, this number is likely to rise.

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- During the 2019-2020 bushfire season so far, a total of **104** houses, and **500** outbuildings have been confirmed destroyed.
- *SA bushfire statistics were correct as at **31 December 2019** when the State Emergency Centre stood down.*

Source: EMA LO – verbal, SA State Emergency Centre Briefing Summary 30 December 2019, SA SES State Report 18 – 27 December 2019, [CFS](#), [adelaidenow](#)

## Tasmania

- ***Five** bushfires are burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.

Source: [TFS](#)

## Victoria

- ***Eight** bushfires are burning at the EMERGENCY WARNING level and **three** at the WATCH AND ACT level.*
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- **One** fatality 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**. *There are unconfirmed reports of multiple houses been lost in Cudgewa, Reedy Flat and Mallacoota.*
- *More than **470,000** hectares have been burnt in the current fires (figures as on **31 December 2019**).*
- *More than **1,000** firefighters are currently deployed.*
- **71** aircraft are currently tasked or on standby for tasking, comprised of a mix of firebombing and aerial intelligence gathering aircraft.
- *Relief Centres are open in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Sale, Omeo, Mallacoota, Corryong, Tallangatta and Wodonga.*
- *The following road closures are in place:*
  - *The Princess Highway remains closed between the Bairnsdale intersection and NSW border.*
  - *Sections of the Murray River Road, Shelley Walwa Road and the Murray Valley Highway.*
  - *The Great Alpine Road remains closed between Bruthen and Ensay with a number of other minor roads closed across the east of the state.*
- The Victorian State Control Centre is at **Tier 3 (Red)**.
- *More than **21,000** customers are without power.*
- *Telstra has reported disruptions to various services as a result of the bushfires:*
  - *Landline services in Sarsfield, Bruthen Marlo and Buchan – **667** fixed line telephony and **two** ISDN customers impacted.*
  - *ADSL broadband services at Sarsfield – **69** customers impacted.*
  - *Loss of 3G and 4G Mobile phone services across **ten** sites including Nowa Nowa, Mt Nowa Nowa, Metung, Sarsfield, Marlo, Tambo Crossing, Bruthen, Buchan, Buchan South, and Tintaldra.*
  - *Emergency Services Regional Managed Radio site at Pheasant Hill (confirmed fire damaged) and Jersey West SMR/RMR sites are both impacted and non-operational.*
  - *The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. Power technicians are being dispatched to impacted sites when it is safe to do so.*
  - *There are **21** Red Zones in place across Victoria.*

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- *National Broadband Network (NBN) has reported disruptions to various services in Corryong, Orbost, Khancoban NSW (near the Vic. border), Towong, Bransholme, Buchan, Buchan South, Marlo, Newmerella, Myamyn, and Nowa Nowa as a result of the bushfires:*
  - *NBN Fixed Wireless – 705 end-users impacted across nine sites*
  - *NBN Fibre to The Premise (FTTP) – 119 end-users impacted across one site*
  - *NBN Fibre to The Node (FTTN) – 362 end-users impacted across five sites*
  - *The majority of service impact is attributed to a loss of AC power to network sites, followed by the subsequent depletion of backup battery reserves. It is currently unsafe for power technicians to attend the impacted sites to deploy generators.*

Source: EMA LO – verbal, Emergency Management Victoria – State Operational Situational Report – 31 December 2019, Department of Health and Human Services – State SITREP 30 December 2019, [Vic Emergency](#), Notice of Service Disruption - Bushfires East Gippsland – 31 December 2019 1230 hrs, Telstra Update 16 – NSW Bushfires

### Western Australia

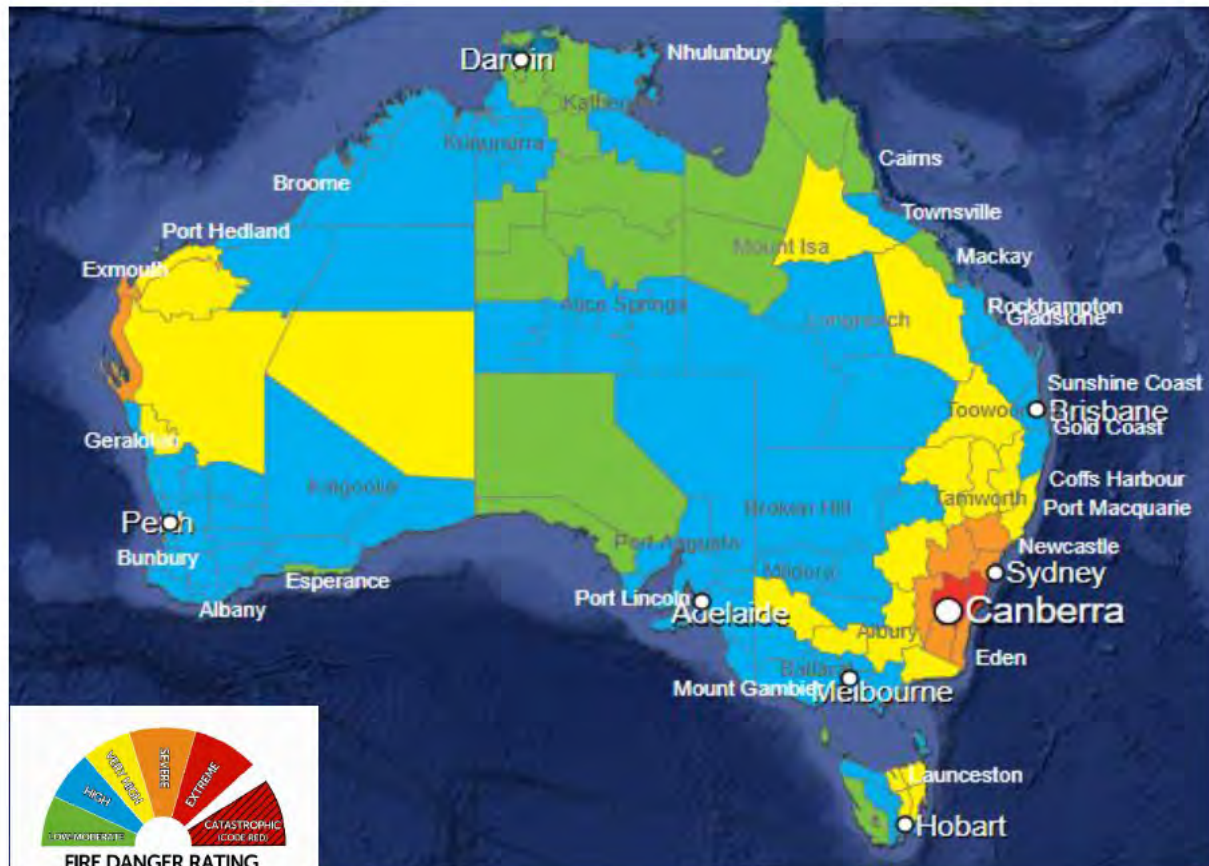
- **One** bushfire is burning at the WATCH AND ACT level.
- All other fires are burning at the ADVICE level or below.
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services has advised that **two** homes and **seven** outbuildings have been destroyed by recent bushfires.
- *The fire in the Stirling Range National Park, currently at WATCH AND ACT level, has burnt over 30,391 hectares.*

Source: Commissioner Daily Report – 31 December 2019, [DFES](#)

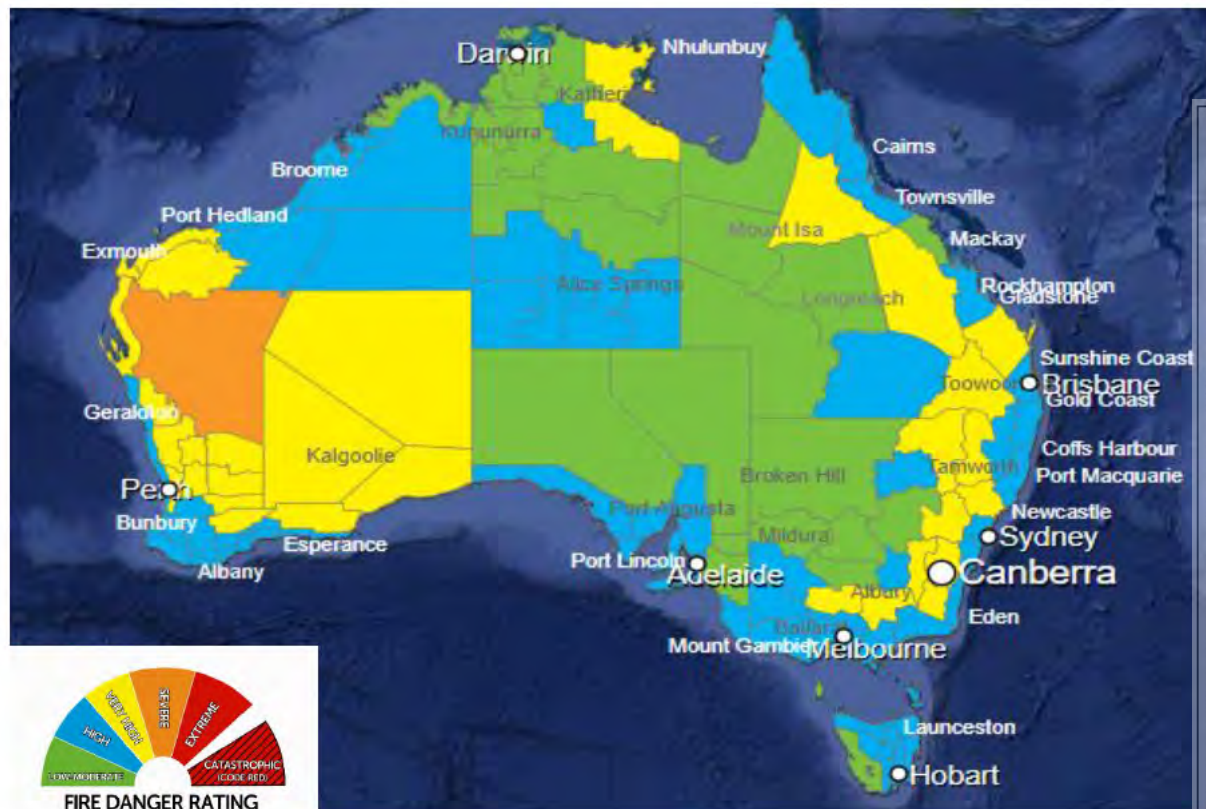
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## Fire Danger Ratings

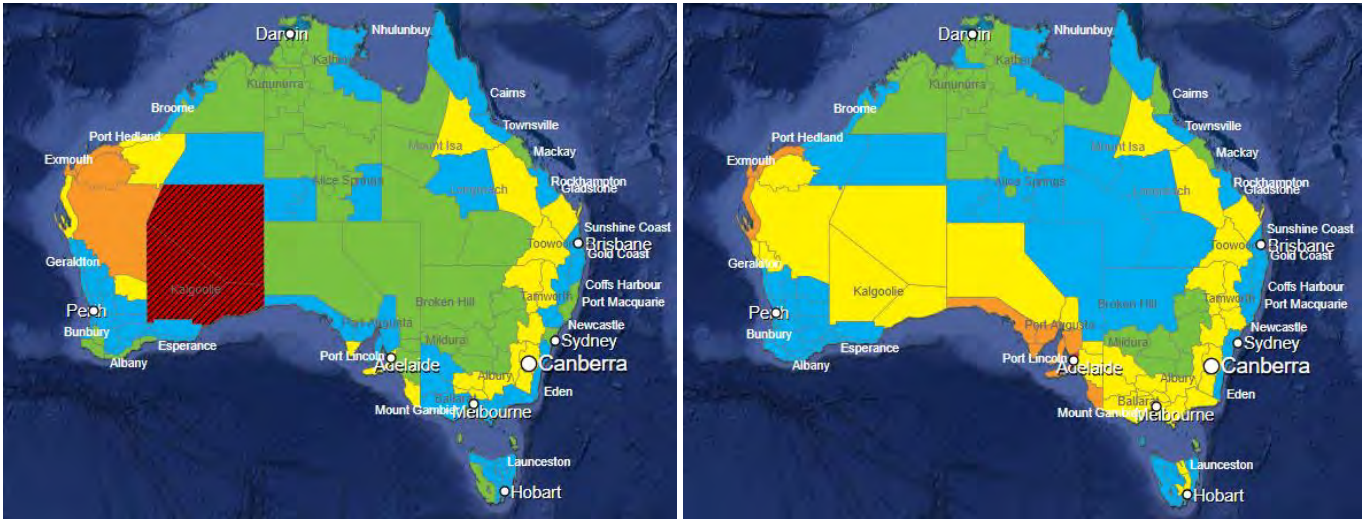
Tuesday 31 December



Wednesday 1 January

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**Fire Danger Ratings for Thursday 2 January and Friday 3 January:****National Weather Summary**

- The Christmas to New Year period is likely to be drier than average for much of the north and east, and wetter in the west of the country. January to March 2020 sees a reduction in the likelihood of drier conditions, with most of the country having roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average three months.
- 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 parts of southeast Australia.
- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is weakening and will likely end in early January, while the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is likely to persist until the end of December and then rapidly decay.

**Weather Forecast**

*A low pressure trough is moving through NSW. Very hot north-northwesterly winds will be fresh and gusty ahead of this trough with areas of raised dust. Cooler south-southwesterly winds will prevail following the passage and a 'southerly buster' is travelling along the NSW coast and expected reach Sydney this evening. Smoky conditions and reduced air quality will continue over the eastern NSW and in the far east of Victoria.*

*Isolated thunderstorms, with little or no rainfall, are affecting southeastern NSW and eastern Victoria today.*

*Longer term, the southerly wind change will provide some temporary relief for parts of NSW, but heatwave conditions forecast to continue for much of NSW. Temperatures are forecast to climb across southeast Australia again from **Friday 3 January** and over the weekend.*

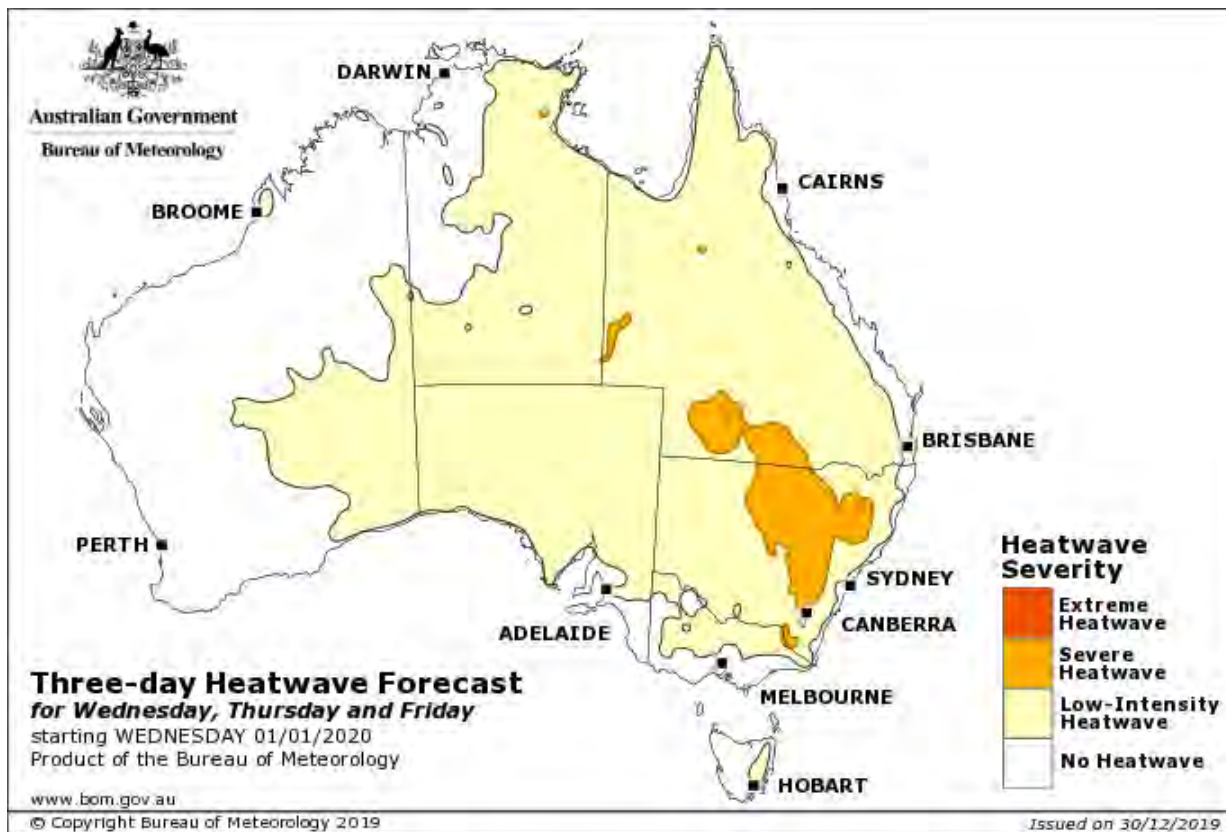
*Temperatures and fire risk will peak in WA on **Thursday 2 January** with CATASTROPHIC fire danger expected in the state's southeast.*

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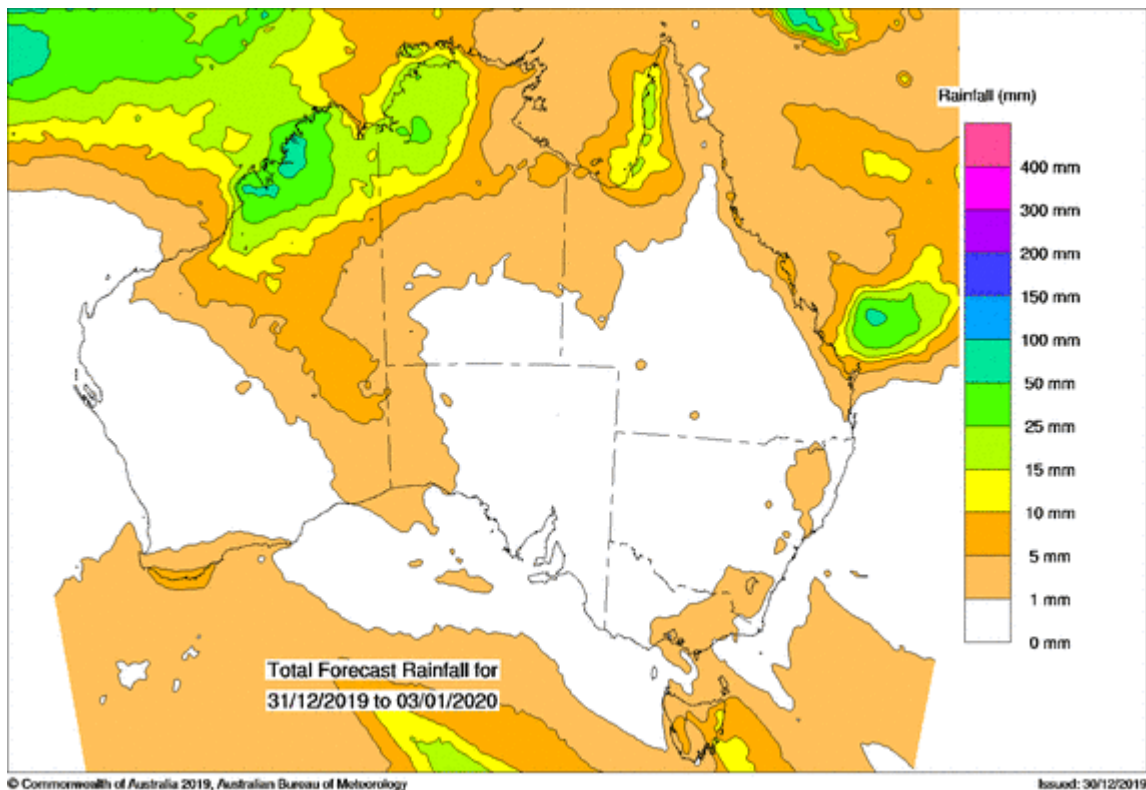
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## Heatwave Forecast for Wednesday 1 January



*SEVERE* heatwave conditions are forecast through southwest Queensland to the interior of New South Wales. Broad low intensity heatwave conditions are forecast for eastern Tasmania, southeastern Western Australia and across much of the remainder of central and eastern parts of mainland Australia.

## Total Forecast Rainfall from Tuesday 31 December – Friday 3 January



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology](https://www.bom.gov.au), [weatherzone](https://www.weatherzone.com.au), BOM Critical Event Brief – 31 December 2019 – Update 19

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## 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 convened today, **Tuesday 31 December**.*
- A Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee was convened on **Friday 27 December**.
- *EMA liaison officers remain deployed in NSW and Vic.*
- 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 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 **28** Task Requests (one with **13** sub-taskings) for NSW since **31 October 2019**, of which **27** 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.

### 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 is **one** Task Request current for assistance to supplement the state's existing damage assessment capability. 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.

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- 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.

#### Financial support for NSW RFS volunteer firefighters

The Australian Government will provide financial support for loss of income to Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW who are self-employed or work for small and medium businesses, and who have been called out for more than 10 days this fire season.

- This financial support will be tax-free, non means tested payments, that are intended to cover for lost income of up to **AUD300** per day, up to a total of **AUD6,000** per person.
- Those able to apply for the payments will include farmers, small business owners, tradies and contract workers in rural and regional areas who have been hit especially hard by this fire season.
- The payments will be administered by the NSW Government and are expected to be available before the end of January 2020.
- Information on how to apply for assistance will be made available soon. Rural Fire Service Volunteers in NSW can register their interest at: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-interest-volunteer-firefighters-financial-support-program>

#### 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 **AUD1,000** 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-five (25) 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, Mid-Western, 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).

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- Anyone who has been adversely affected by the bushfires in NSW should contact DHS on 180 22 66 and test their eligibility for 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 four (4) local government areas of Adelaide Hills, Mid-Murray, Mount Barker, Yorke Peninsula.
- A range of assistance is available, including:
  - personal hardship and distress assistance, and
  - personal and financial counselling.
- Eligible South Australians who are uninsured and have had their principle residence damaged by bushfires can apply for grants of up to **AUD10,000** to help them re-establish their homes.
  - Grants of up to **AUD10,000** are available for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items.
  - Grants of up to **AUD10,000** are available for eligible home owners to help with repairs.
- 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 **AUD1,000** 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.

### 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

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- 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 **AUD1,000** 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 – 24 December 2019, [Disaster Assist](#)

#### Further Information

- The CCC has contacted relevant agencies and continues to monitor the situation closely.
- The next Incident Brief will be issued at 1700 hrs, **Wednesday 1 January**.

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

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