

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Implementation of Recommendations

As at 14 May 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for the Australian Government	Australian Government response	Responsible Australian Government minister(s)/agencies	State and territory government responses	Delivery Date
<p>Recommendation 3.3 – Revise COMDISPLAN</p> <p>The Australian Government should revise the COMDISPLAN thresholds to provide that a request for Australian Government assistance, including defence assistance, is able to be made by a state or territory government when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) it has exhausted, or is 'likely to exhaust', all government, community and commercial resources 2) it cannot mobilise its own resources (or community and commercial resources) in time, or 3) the Australian Government has a capability that the state or territory does not have. 	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives The Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) administrative review to address recommendations by end 2020. A full review is in progress and will be completed in 2021.</p> <p>A full review of COMDISPLAN to be conducted every three years.</p> <p>Progress Update Completed.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports this recommendation and is responsible for action against it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.4 - Integrating disaster management of the Australian Government</p> <p>Australian Government agencies should work together across all phases of disaster management.</p>	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) was first announced by the Prime Minister on 13 November 2020, and officially established on 5 May 2021. From 1 July 2021 the NRRRA will incorporate the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions from Department of Home Affairs, and will take on responsibility for management of the Rural Financial Counselling Program from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This will complement the NRRRA's on the ground network of regional officers.</p> <p>Reform of Emergency Management Australia – announced 13 November 2020.</p> <p><i>National Emergency Declaration Act 2020</i> – passed Parliament 10 December 2020.</p> <p>Progress Update On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the NRRRA to provide support to local communities to respond to large-scale natural disasters and undertake new initiatives to manage the impact of future events and the changing climate.</p> <p>The NRRRA will provide support to local communities during the relief and recovery phases following major disasters.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports this recommendation and is responsible for action against it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>National Recovery and Resilience Agency established 5 May 2021.</p> <p>Updated AGCMF due to be released 1 July 2021.</p>

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	<p>The NRRRA will also provide advice to Government on policies and programs to mitigate the impact of future major disaster events.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also updating the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF), due to be released mid-2021. The AGCMF outlines the Australian Government's crisis arrangements, including for natural disasters. The changes will reflect the creation of the new Agency mentioned above, as well as the changing nature of crises. The AGCMF will undergo an annual review to ensure crisis arrangements remain up to date and are continuously improved as required.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 3.5 – Establishing a standing resilience and recovery entity</p> <p>The Australian Government should establish a standing entity that will enhance natural disaster resilience and recovery, focused on long-term disaster risk reduction.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation and welcomes the finding of the Royal Commission that the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Relief and Recovery Agency are compelling illustrations of the beneficial role the Commonwealth can achieve through its leadership in recovery from natural disasters.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, the Commonwealth will establish a national resilience, relief and recovery agency to commence operations no later than 1 July 2021.</p> <p>This new agency will coordinate and align Australia's national capability to build resilience, better prepare for natural disasters, and recover from all hazards.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>Reform of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) – announcements made on 13 November 2020 and 5 May 2021.</p> <p>The reform of EMA will be phased. Phase 1 is complete with interim arrangements in place. Phase 2 will commence from 1 July 2021 with improved, clear lines of responsibility and accountability between a re-structured EMA, the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and the Australian Climate Service (ACS).</p> <p>EMA, the NRRRA and the ACS will have complementary governance arrangements to ensure that they work seamlessly.</p> <p>EMA is working with the NRRRA to ensure that transition is seamless and services to states and territories maintained. Interim Recovery arrangements are in place and these functions will progressively transfer to the NRRRA. EMA will retain responsibility for Disaster Recovery Financial Arrangements until 1 July 2021.</p> <p>Enhancements to EMA will be supporting the NRRRA in preparedness, response and relief phases of the disaster management continuum.</p> <p>The NRRRA was first announced by the Prime Minister on 13 November 2020, and officially established on 5 May 2021. From 1 July 2021 the NRRRA will incorporate the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions from Department of Home Affairs, and will take on responsibility for management of the Rural Financial Counselling Program from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This will complement the NRRRA's on the ground network of regional officers.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management Prime Minister</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p><i>States and territories will need to be involved in the establishment of the new entity</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports this recommendation and is taking action to address it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Phase 1 – complete</p> <p>Phase 2 – from 1 July 2021</p> <p>National Recovery and Resilience Agency established 5 May 2021.</p>

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	<p>Progress Update</p> <p>On 13 November 2020, the establishment of a new national resilience, relief and recovery agency was announced.</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the NRRRA to provide support to local communities to respond to large-scale natural disasters and undertake new initiatives to manage the impact of future events and the changing climate.</p> <p>The NRRRA will provide support to local communities during the relief and recovery phases following major disasters.</p> <p>The NRRRA will also provide advice to Government on policies and programs to mitigate the impact of future major disaster events.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 3.6 – Enhanced national preparedness and response entity</p> <p>The Australian Government should enhance national preparedness for, and response to, natural disasters, building on the responsibilities of Emergency Management Australia, to include facilitating resource sharing decisions of governments and stress testing national disaster plans.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will implement changes to Emergency Management Australia in order to enhance its roles, functions and capabilities, including, where appropriate, assisting the states and territories in resource prioritisation decision making.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>Reform of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) – announcements made on 13 November 2020 and 5 May 2020.</p> <p>The reform of EMA will be phased. Phase 1 is complete with interim arrangements in place.</p> <p>Phase 2 will commence from 1 July 2021 with improved, clear lines of responsibility and accountability between a re-structured EMA, the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and the Australian Climate Service (ACS).</p> <p>This work will include the uplift of the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre to become the National Situation Room with the capability to provide near real time ‘common operating picture’ to assist in situational awareness and decision support. The enhanced EMA will operationalise the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF), as well as development of a national multi-agency exercise regime.</p>	Minister for Emergency Management Department of Home Affairs	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports this recommendation and is taking action to address it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Phase 1 – complete</p> <p>Phase 2 – from 1 July 2021</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.4 – Features of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability</p> <p>The National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability should include tools and systems to support operational and strategic decision making, including integrated climate and disaster risk scenarios tailored to various needs to relevant industry sectors and end users.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government will establish ‘Resilience Services’ at the federal level, based on findings of the National Climate and Disaster Risk Information and Services Capability pilot and aligned climate adaptation initiatives. Resilience Services will better connect and leverage the Commonwealth’s extensive data, information and capabilities to manage climate and disaster risk, including those of the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The capability will focus on meeting the information needs of Emergency Management Australia and the new national resilience, relief and recovery agency.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government welcomes an opportunity to work with state and territory governments to further progress implementation and establish a truly national capability.</p>	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p>	<p>Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021</p> <p>ESCI - 30 June 2021</p>

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<p><i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i></p>	<p>Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government's extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA).</p> <p>(The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as 'Resilience Services' and referred to as 'Climate and Resilience Services Australia'.)</p> <p>Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) project The ESCI project is targeted at improving the reliability and resilience of the National Electricity Market to the risks from climate change and extreme weather events. The work is being undertaken by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology in collaboration with the Australian Energy Market Operator and is funded through the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. ESCI includes several climate and disaster 'case studies' which provide climate risk scenarios tailored to the needs of the electricity sector.</p> <p>Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.</p>		<p>ACT response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive of enhancing support for operational and strategic decision making. The inclusion of jurisdictional data requires careful consideration noting the potential legal issues (associated with the harmonisation of data) and resource implications involved.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	
<p>Recommendation 5.1 – Make provision for a declaration of a state of emergency</p> <p>The Australian Government should make provision, in legislation, for a declaration of a state of national emergency. The declaration should include the following components: 1) the ability for the Australian Government to make a public declaration to communicate the seriousness of a natural disaster 2) processes to mobilise and activate Australian Government agencies quickly to support states and territories to respond to and recover from a natural disaster, and 3) the power to take action without a state or territory request for assistance in clearly defined and limited circumstances.</p>	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports and welcomes this recommendation which recognises that such a declaration is necessary in an 'all hazards' approach to national natural disaster events, including those beyond fires and floods.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation the Commonwealth will introduce into Parliament legislation to enable the declaration of a national emergency. The initial legislation will establish the declaration power and focus on streamlining the exercise of existing Commonwealth powers to support the rapid response to, and recovery from, a national emergency.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will subsequently work with states and territories to examine actions that the Commonwealth could take to complement actions by the States and Territories once a Commonwealth declaration has been made.</p> <p>A National Emergency Declaration will facilitate expeditious national responses, allowing provision of capabilities beyond the capacities of individual states and territories.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives The National Emergency Declaration Act 2020 and National Emergency Declaration (Consequential Amendments) Act 2020 establish a legislative framework to enable the Governor-General to declare a national emergency on the Prime Minister's advice. The Acts were passed by Parliament on 10 December 2020 and received Royal Assent on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>Progress Update Phase 2 work to identify further opportunities to improve Australia's national emergency declaration framework as established by the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020 commenced in early 2021.</p>	<p>Prime Minister and Cabinet Attorney-General's Department</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Do not support.</i> <i>Tasmania supports arrangements for the Australian Government to be able to declare a national disaster and to quickly support states and territories to respond to natural disasters, provided it is done in consultation with states and territories.</i> <i>Tasmania, however, does not support the Australian Government having the power to take action without the agreement of states and territories.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports the provision for the Australian Government to make a declaration for a state of national emergency.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes the passing of the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020, and the provisions that require consultation between the Australian Government</i></p>	<p>Phase 1 – Delivered 10 December 2020</p> <p>Phase 2 – Completion planned for 31 December 2022 subject to identifying opportunities to further improve Australia's national emergency framework</p>

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			<p><i>and the government of the impacted state and territory before a national emergency declaration is made.</i></p> <p><i>This consultation will be critical to ensure that a proposed declaration does not conflict with state or territory declaration and cause unnecessary community confusion or alarm.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	
<p>Recommendation 6.6 – Employment protections for fire and emergency services volunteers</p> <p>The Australian Government should consider whether employment protections under the <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> are sufficient to ensure that fire and emergency services volunteers will not be discriminated against, disadvantaged or dismissed for reasons associated with their volunteer service during natural disasters.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation, but notes there are already substantial provisions in place which provide employment protections for emergency management volunteers.</p> <p><i>The Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> has broad coverage across Australia for national system employers and employees. State or territory laws that provide for emergency services duties operate concurrently with the <i>Fair Work Act</i> (s27).</p> <p>In relation to participation in voluntary emergency management activity, the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> expressly provides for the operation of state and territory laws where those laws provide entitlements that are more beneficial (s112).</p> <p>Progress Update</p> <p>The Attorney-General’s Department is continuing to examine the issue, having regard to state and territory responses.</p>	<p>Attorney-General’s Department</p> <p>Attorney-General</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government recognises the critical role that volunteers play in Australia’s emergency management arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government supports measures to reduce the risk of discrimination, disadvantage or dismissal in relation to volunteer employment when volunteer duties are performed in accordance with workplace agreements and in a manner agreed with by employers.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports in principle this recommendation and is responsible for action against it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing, with progress subject to state and territory responses.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 7.2 – Review of Defence Assistance to the Civil Community</p> <p>The Australian Government should review the content of the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community to ensure consistency of language and application with a revised COMDISPLAN.</p>	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Australian Department of Defence in conjunction with Emergency Management Australia has already undertaken a comprehensive review of the <i>Defence Assistance to Civil Community (DACC) manual</i> and has publicly released the manual for the first time.</p> <p>The Department of Defence and Emergency Management Australia will continue to work together to further refine the manual.</p> <p>Progress Update Completed.</p>	<p>Minister for Defence</p> <p>Minister for Emergency Management</p> <p>Defence Home Affairs</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes the Australian Government supports this recommendation and is responsible for action against it.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	Completed
<p>Recommendation 7.3 – Legal protections for Australian Defence Force members</p> <p>The Australian Government should afford appropriate legal protections from civil and criminal liability to Australian Defence Force members when conducting activities under an authorisation to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.</p>	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The <i>Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> has been introduced into Parliament. Once passed, the Bill will address protections and immunities for Defence personnel and streamline the process for call-out of the reserve for natural disaster responses.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives Implementation of the <i>Defence Legislation Amendment (Enhancement of Defence Force Response to Emergencies) Bill 2020</i> – passed both houses of Parliament 8 December 2020.</p> <p>Progress Update Completed.</p>	<p>Defence</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT notes that this is a policy matter for the Australian Government.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	Completed

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<p>Recommendation 9.4 – Collective awareness and mitigation of risks to critical infrastructure</p> <p>The Australian Government, working with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators, should lead a process to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identify critical infrastructure 2) assess key risks to identified critical infrastructure from natural disasters of national scale or consequence 3) identify steps needed to mitigate these risks 4) identify steps to make the critical infrastructure more resilient, and 5) track achievement against an agreed plan. 	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation.</p> <p>An ‘all hazards’ approach to protecting critical infrastructure is already in place for many critical sectors, such as telecommunications.</p> <p>Building on this, the Commonwealth has commenced work with critical infrastructure owners and operators to identify critical infrastructure and systems of national significance, and assess key risks and mitigations, including for nationally significant incidents. Ensuring our critical infrastructure is resilient remains a priority for the Commonwealth.</p> <p>To support this, on 12 May 2020 the Government committed \$37.1 million through the <i>Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND)</i> package to improve the resilience of Australia’s communications networks in bushfire and disaster prone areas.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.</p> <p>(The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.)</p> <p>Enhanced framework to protect Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance - Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 introduced to Parliament on 10 December 2020.</p> <p>The Government is also working with industry to further improve the resilience of its telecommunications networks through the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program – announced 12 May 2020.</p> <p>Progress Update</p> <p>The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is administering the STAND package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the STAND package, \$10 million is allocated to purchase portable communications facilities such as cells on wheels (COWs), mobile exchanges on wheels (MEOWs) and NBN Road Muster trucks, which can be positioned in bushfire affected areas to allow communications services to be restored quickly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the program, five road muster trucks and 12 flyway kits have been delivered and are currently positioned throughout Australia. Contracts have been signed for the provision of temporary facilities with NBN Co, Optus and TPG Telecom. • Of the package, \$7 million is allocated to fund the deployment of satellite services at rural fire service depots and evacuation centres. To date, 103 sites have been installed. 	<p>Minister for Home Affairs</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development</p> <p>Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts</p> <p>Minister for Industry</p> <p>Minister for Emergency Management</p> <p>Minister for the Environment</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications</p> <p>Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>support.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government supports measure to improve the awareness of critical infrastructure and the mitigation of risks posed during natural disasters.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT remains engaged with the Australian, state and territory governments and critical infrastructure owners and operators through the national Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council to progress this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT’s own critical infrastructure arrangements and linkages also support progress against this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two-stage <u>Mobile Network Hardening Program</u> is providing grants to Mobile Network Operators and infrastructure providers for resilience upgrades to mobile infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Stage 1, \$12 million has been funded to Telstra, Optus and TPG to extend battery back-up at 467 mobile base stations to at least 12 hours of back-up power. The second stage will include a \$6 million grants program for further resilience upgrades, expected to open for application in the near future. <p>Industry group Communications Alliance (CA) have developed a draft Guideline titled G665:2021 Telecommunications – Facilities Information Sharing (draft Guideline). The draft Guideline aims to facilitate the sharing of telecommunications infrastructure location data between telecommunications carriers and the Australian Government, state and territory agencies. CA recently completed a round of consultation on the draft Guideline.</p> <p>To underpin legislative amendments in the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020, the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) commenced co-design of the risk management program in early March 2021. Co-design started with the development of governance rules to apply across all sectors where the risk management program will be ‘switched on’. The Department of Home Affairs has now commenced sector specific co-design with the electricity sector, focussing on developing rules to support owners and operators of critical infrastructure to mitigate risks to their assets. Sector specific co-design will commence with the gas sector in the last week of April.</p> <p>The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 9.5 – Improving coordination arrangements between critical infrastructure sectors and with government</p> <p>The Australian Government should work with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators to improve information flows during and in response to natural disasters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) between critical infrastructure operators, and 2) between critical infrastructure operators and governments. 	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will continue to work with states and territories and critical infrastructure owners and operators, including on communications, to ensure Australia has a coordinated response to disasters.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.</p> <p>(The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.)</p> <p>Utilising the Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Resilience (TISN) and the National Coordination Mechanism to ensure better connections between owners and operators and different levels of government.</p>	<p>Minister for Home Affairs</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development</p> <p>Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts</p> <p>Minister for Industry</p> <p>Minister for the Environment</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Completed.</i></p> <p><i>This recommendation is already implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Mature coordination arrangements already exist between critical infrastructure providers and the ACT Government as well as Commonwealth Government during emergency arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

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	<p>Progress Update</p> <p>In August 2020, the Government released its Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance Consultation Paper, through which it committed to enhancing the TISN. A key element of the enhanced network will be ensuring there is more effective engagement between critical infrastructure sectors and government, particularly at the state and territory level.</p> <p>The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.</p>	<p>Development and Communications</p> <p>Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources</p>		
<p>Recommendation 13.5 – The development of national standards for mobile applications</p> <p>The Australian Government should facilitate state and territory governments working together to develop minimum national standards of information to be included in bushfire warning apps.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth supports the objective of this recommendation and looks forward to build on existing collaboration with states and territories to improve national hazard information, including bushfire warning apps, through the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>The National Emergency Ministers’ Meeting will progress this work, supported by Data and Digital Ministers’ Meeting as appropriate.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management</p> <p>Minister for Government Services</p> <p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Services Australia</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p><i>Tasmania supports the development of minimum national standards of information on the basis that (1) the standards are for all-hazard warning apps (not limited to bushfire) and (2) Tasmania retains ownership of its intellectual property.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p><i>Noting the technical and resource implications of this initiative, the ACT Government supports the Australian Government facilitating collaboration between states and territories to identify how minimum standards of information to be included in bushfire warning apps can be best achieved.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	June 2022

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<p>Recommendation 21.3 – National coordination forums</p> <p>The Australian Government, through the mechanism of the proposed standing national recovery and resilience agency, should convene regular and ongoing national forums for charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups, with a role in natural disaster recovery, with a view to continuous improvement of coordination of recovery support.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation and welcomes the finding of the Royal Commission that the National Bushfire Recovery Agency is a compelling illustration of the beneficial role the Commonwealth can achieve through its leadership in recovery from natural disasters.</p> <p>The Commonwealth's experience through the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Relief and Recovery Agency has demonstrated the critical need for integrated support between levels of government, and with non-government organisations, for affected communities.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) was first announced by the Prime Minister on 13 November 2020, and officially established on 5 May 2021. From 1 July 2021 the NRRRA will incorporate the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions from Department of Home Affairs, and will take on responsibility for management of the Rural Financial Counselling Program from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This will complement the NRRRA's on the ground network of regional officers.</p> <p>As an already established practice, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC) may be convened to coordinate the Australian Government's relief and recovery response to severe/catastrophic disasters.</p> <p>Progress Update</p> <p>The National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) is currently operating under an interim arrangement for charity coordination until 1 July 2021 when the new National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) will take the lead. The NCM will await advice from the AGDRC/Australian Government Crisis Committee and/or Emergency Management Australia for advice on when to convene an NCM meeting with national charities, volunteer groups and Non-Government Organisations to support particular emergencies or crises.</p> <p>The NRRRA is working with Australian Government, state and territory counterparts, charities, philanthropic, volunteer and not-for-profit organisations to develop a national charities coordination model.</p> <p>This model is undergoing extensive stakeholder consultation with draft terms of reference provided to the Minister for Emergency Management in mid-April 2021. The National Recovery and Resilience Agency will assume responsibility for this work once established.</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the NRRRA to provide support to local communities to respond to large-scale natural disasters and undertake new initiatives to manage the impact of future events and the changing climate.</p> <p>The NRRRA will provide support to local communities during the relief and recovery phases following major disasters.</p> <p>The NRRRA will also provide advice to Government on policies and programs to mitigate the impact of future major disaster events.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management</p> <p>Minister for Charities</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Treasury</p>	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst a matter for the Australian Government, the ACT Government is supportive of measures to enhance information flows and coordination between charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups, with a role in natural disaster recovery.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>National Recovery and Resilience Agency established 5 May 2021.</p>

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for the Australian Government	Australian Government response	Responsible Australian Government minister(s)/agencies	State and territory government responses	Delivery Date
<p>Recommendation 24.1 – Accountability and assurance mechanisms at the Australian Government level</p> <p>The Australian Government should establish accountability and assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.</p>	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports establishing accountability and assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) was first announced by the Prime Minister on 13 November 2020, and officially established on 5 May 2021. From 1 July 2021 the NRRRA will incorporate the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions from Department of Home Affairs, and will take on responsibility for management of the Rural Financial Counselling Program from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This will complement the NRRRA's on the ground network of regional officers.</p> <p>Further work to improve and streamline accountability and assurance mechanisms will be prioritised in the first year of the new agency in 2021-22.</p> <p><u>Australian Government Crisis Management Framework</u> The Australian Government is also updating the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF), due to be released mid-2021. The AGCMF outlines the Australian Government's crisis arrangements, including for natural disasters. The changes will reflect the creation of the new Agency mentioned above, as well as the changing nature of crises. The AGCMF will undergo an annual review to ensure crisis arrangements remain up to date and are continuously improved as required.</p> <p><u>Measurement, evaluation and learning framework for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework</u> The Department of Home Affairs is developing a measurement, evaluation and learning framework to help assess the effectiveness of effort to implement the <i>National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework</i>, and effect systemic change. This will support continuous improvement and best practice in risk reduction.</p> <p><u>Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) project to establish principles for recovery lessons management and sharing</u> The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) is building a lessons management capability through a project to establish principles for recovery lessons management and sharing.</p> <p>This capability will enable the identification and sharing critical areas of interest and recovery learnings from previous disasters – to inform current recovery operations and decision-making.</p> <p>This capability will also inform and enhance inter-jurisdictional recovery preparedness for future disasters. This project aims to establish a regular lessons management and sharing process, through a Recovery Lessons Community of Practice – represented by all levels of government.</p>	<p>Minister for Emergency Management Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>NSW response <i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response <i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes that the Australian Government supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	<p>National Recovery and Resilience Agency established 5 May 2021.</p> <p>AGCMF due to be released mid-2021</p> <p>CORS project to be delivered by June 2022</p>

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for the Australian Government	Australian Government response	Responsible Australian Government minister(s)/agencies	State and territory government responses	Delivery Date
	<p>Progress Update</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the NRRRA to provide support to local communities to respond to large-scale natural disasters and undertake new initiatives to manage the impact of future events and the changing climate.</p> <p>The NRRRA will provide support to local communities during the relief and recovery phases following major disasters.</p> <p>The NRRRA will also provide advice to Government on policies and programs to mitigate the impact of future major disaster events.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 24.3 – A public record of national significance</p> <p>The material published as part of this Royal Commission should remain available and accessible on a long-term basis for the benefit of individuals, communities, organisations, business and all levels of government.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The material published as part of this Royal Commission is a publicly-funded national resource and should remain available and accessible on a long-term basis for the benefit of all Australians.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives</p> <p>The Australian Government will ensure the documents published by the Royal Commission remain available through established records management processes.</p> <p>The <i>Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements</i> website, including its document library, is publicly available at https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/.</p>	Attorney-General	<p>NSW response</p> <p><i>New South Wales notes all recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p> <p>Tas. response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p>ACT response</p> <p><i>Support.</i></p> <p><i>All other state and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>	Completed

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 3.1 – Forum for Ministers Australian, state and territory governments should restructure and reinvigorate ministerial forums with a view to enabling timely and informed strategic decision-making in respect of: 1) Long-term policy improvement in relation to natural disasters 2) National preparations for, and adaption to, natural disasters, and 3) Response to, and recovery from, natural disasters of national scale or consequence including, where appropriate, through the National Cabinet or equivalent intergovernmental leaders' body.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth recognises the value of restructuring and reinvigorating existing ministerial forums as set out in this recommendation, through a dedicated body for emergency management issues. The Commonwealth will work with state and territory governments to agree an appropriate, and more targeted, forum for governments to work collaboratively on strategic decision-making in response to national natural disasters. Supporting Initiatives On 13 November 2020, National Cabinet announced the establishment of a National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM). The inaugural NEMMM meeting was held on 19 February 2021, and focussed on delivery of key Royal Commission priorities set by the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC). NEMMM agreed to progress these key priorities through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee. The key Royal Commission priorities set by the NFRC are: i. The Australian Warning System (Recommendations 13.3 – 13.4) ii. The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (Recommendation 13.1) iii. Nationally consistent, pre-arranged, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (Recommendation 22.5) iv. A review of the path to expeditiously deliver the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (Recommendation 6.4) v. Substantial progress to reform fundraising laws (Recommendation 21.2) vi. Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code (Recommendations 4.4 - 4.7, 19.3-19.4) vii. Share hazard reduction data and information across jurisdictions to maximise its utility and value for hazard risk reduction (Recommendation 17.3) Priority recommendations are identified throughout this document.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Department of Home Affairs	Establishment of NEMMM completed Report on work to progress NFRC priorities due late 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>On 26 June 2020 the National Cabinet accepted and has implemented the recommendations of the Reviewing of Council of Australia Government (COAG) Councils and Ministerial Forums.</i> <i>On 13 November 2020, the National Cabinet announced the establishment of the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) to lead and coordinate the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission.</i> <i>The ACT Government notes that the Australian Government supports this recommendation and proposed to work with states and territories to identify an appropriate and more targeted forum for governments to work together on strategy national natural disaster matters.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 3.2 – Establishment of an authoritative disaster advisory body Australian, state and territory governments should establish an authoritative advisory body to consolidate advice on strategic policy and relevant operational considerations for ministers in relation to natural disasters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation and agrees to work with state and territory governments to ensure consolidated advice on strategic policy and operational considerations is available for ministers. Instead of establishing another layer of bureaucracy through a new advisory body, the Commonwealth would initially propose strengthening existing Commonwealth and state and territory advisory groups and mechanisms with appropriately skilled and experienced individuals who could achieve the objective underpinning this recommendation. The Commonwealth proposes to work with states and territories to deliver this effect without the need to form another body. Supporting Initiatives Australian Government senior officials are working with state and territory counterparts to consider the necessary architecture to strengthen existing governance mechanisms.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Department of Home Affairs	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle. Tasmania supports strengthening existing advisory bodies rather than the establishment of a new body.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Noted.</i> <i>The ACT Government views that the Australia- New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) already provides a long standing, experienced and qualified authoritative body to provide consolidated advice on strategic policy and operational advice on natural disasters to ministers.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 4.1 – National disaster risk information Australian, state and territory governments should prioritise the implementation of harmonised data governance and national data standards. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. Data standards and the open sharing and transparency of climate, disaster risk and impact information is essential for reducing risk, crisis-related planning, community and economic recovery, and building resilience. The Commonwealth has committed to establishing a new virtual climate and disaster risk information and services centre, ‘Resilience Services’, by 1 July 2021. ‘Resilience Services’ will connect and leverage the Commonwealth’s extensive data, information and capabilities to manage climate and disaster risk, including those of the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Resilience Services will deliver harmonised disaster risk data governance within the Commonwealth to support the information needs of Emergency Management Australia and the new National Recovery and Resilience Agency. It will assist in supporting long-term risk reduction and adaptation to natural disasters. The Commonwealth welcomes the opportunity to work with state and territory governments to implement harmonised data governance and national standards for national disaster risk information. Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.)	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Department of Home Affairs	Phase 1 – 1 July 2021 Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
		<p>The National Bushfire Intelligence Capability delivered by CSIRO in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs will provide nationally consistent and authoritative bushfire hazard and risk information. The National Bushfire Intelligence Capability to be implemented in phases. Phase 1 has commenced.</p> <p>In December 2020, First Ministers committed that hazard reduction data and information will be shared across jurisdictions to maximise its utility and value for hazard risk reduction and will underpin new arrangements being developed for states and territories to share hazard reduction information. Data agreements are dependent on negotiations.</p> <p>A progress update on the Fuel Management Information Sharing and Transparency Framework will be provided to the National Federation Reform Council towards the end of 2021.</p> <p>Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.</p>		
	NSW	<p>Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p>		
	Tas.	<p>Response <i>Support in principle.</i></p>		
	ACT	<p>Response <i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government recognises the benefit and importance of using data about natural disaster risks to help reduce future risk and support better emergency responses.</i></p> <p><i>The ACT Government is supportive of working with the Australian and state and territory governments to harmonise and govern the management and application of this data, whether through national data standards or other means.</i></p>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	<p>Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>		
<p>Recommendation 4.2 – Common information platforms and shared technologies</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should create common information platforms and share technologies to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.</p> <p><i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to</i></p>	Aus Gov	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth has committed to establishing a new virtual climate and disaster risk information and services centre, ‘Resilience Services’, by 1 July 2021. ‘Resilience Services’ will connect and leverage the Commonwealth’s data, information and capabilities to manage climate and disaster risk, including those of the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Commonwealth Government welcomes the opportunity to work with state and territory governments to create common information platforms and share technologies to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.</p> <p>(The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.)</p>	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code		Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish and deliver the ACS by 1 July 2021.		
	NSW	Response New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.		
	Tas.	Response Support in principle.		
	ACT	Response Support in principle. The ACT Government is supportive of measures to provide for the timely, efficient and effective sharing of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks where there is an identified business requirement and benefit. The manner in which this is achieved, either through common information platforms or other measures, will need to be carefully considered noting the potential resource implication involved.		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.		
Recommendation 4.3 – Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability Australian, state and territory governments should support the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability and aligned climate adaptation initiatives. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth will establish ‘Resilience Services’ at the federal level, based on findings of the National Climate and Disaster Risk Information and Services Capability pilot and aligned climate adaptation initiatives. Resilience Services will better connect and leverage the Commonwealth’s extensive data, information and capabilities to manage climate and disaster risk, including those of the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Commonwealth Government notes the state and territory governments hold datasets relevant to disaster risk and information planning. The Commonwealth welcomes an opportunity to work with state and territory governments to further progress implementation of this capability to deliver a truly national approach. Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) National Bushfire Intelligence Capability delivered by CSIRO in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs will provide nationally consistent and authoritative bushfire hazard and risk information. Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of Home Affairs	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive of the establishment of the National “Resilience Services” (at a Federal level) as a means of managing extensive Commonwealth data sets relating to climate and disaster risk. The inclusion of jurisdictional data sets as part of the National Resilience Services capability requires careful consideration noting the potential legal issues (associated with the harmonisation of data) and resource implications involved.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 4.5 – National climate projections Australian, state and territory governments should produce downscaled climate projections: 1) to inform the assessment of future natural disaster risk by relevant decision-makers, including state and territory government agencies with planning and emergency management responsibilities 2) underpinned by an agreed common core set of climate trajectories and timelines, and 3) subject to regular review. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation and welcomes the opportunity to work with state and territory governments to better understand their information needs and how such projections can inform planning and emergency management decision-making. Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) The Australian Government notes the state and territory governments hold datasets relevant to disaster risk and information planning. The Australian Government welcomes an opportunity to work with state and territory governments to further progress implementation of this capability to deliver a truly national approach. The Australian Government, in collaboration with the state and territory governments, is developing a roadmap to guide the development and delivery of the next generation of climate change projections. Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) project The ESCI project will provide an initial set of downscaled climate projections for the electricity sector, which will help deliver this recommendation. Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021 ESCI - 30 June 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Involvement from states and territories will be important to support national consistency and to ensure fit-for-purpose projections are developed for all states and territories that meet end-user needs and provide the best information for local-scale decision making.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT government supports the use of and application of national climate projections and notes the work across multiple Commonwealth Agencies in progressing the use of climate projections.</i> <i>The ACT recognises the importance of this work and the need to carefully consider projections, noting the potential resource implications involved in developing and implementing responses.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 4.6 – Consistent impact data standards Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop consistent data standards to measure disaster impact. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation, noting it also is directed at the states and territories. Data standards and the open sharing and transparency of climate, disaster risk and impact information, is essential for reducing risk, crisis-related planning, community and economic recovery, and building resilience. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming disseminator and recipient of such information. This may better inform and guide Commonwealth agencies, requested by states and territories to render assistance in a crisis event or events. It will also support long-term risk reduction and adaptation to natural disasters. The Commonwealth’s commitment to establish ‘Resilience Services’ is an important step towards developing consistent data standards to measure disaster impact. Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) The Department of Home Affairs manages the National Impacts Assessment Framework and the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) Program Management Office. CORS is progressing a Recovery Needs Assessment project that will inform and contribute to the development and implementation of strong evidence-based recovery programs that are timely and specifically targeted to assist disaster-affected communities recover and become more resilient to future events. The project will initially produce guidance for conducting recovery needs assessments, noting that all disaster events are inherently different and each event may identify unique recovery needs for a community. This project also aims to include recovery needs assessment data definitions within the existing National Impact Assessment Model (NIAM) Data Dictionary, to improve the comparability of recovery needs assessments. Progress update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (reporting to Minister Robert)	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the benefit of achieving national consistency in measuring and reporting disaster impacts. The ACT Government notes the previous work by the Australian, state and territory governments to progress the National Impact Assessment Framework and the National Impact Assessment Model. It is timely that the current application of these be reviewed.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 4.7 – Collection and sharing of impact data Australian, state and territory governments should continue to develop a greater capacity to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi. - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation and would welcome an opportunity to work with state and territory governments to implement it. The Commonwealth Government’s commitment to establish ‘Resilience Services’ is an important step towards achieving a greater capacity to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data. Supporting Initiatives On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) See response to recommendation 4.6. Progress Update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.	Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (reporting to Minister Robert)	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive of measures to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data, but the purpose and benefits of doing so must be clearly identified. These should be assessed against the resource implications, noting the requirement to maintain the data's accuracy.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 6.2 - A national register of fire and emergency services personnel and equipment Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle the objective of this recommendation but notes that acquisitions and management of operational response capabilities are primarily the responsibility of states and territories.	Department of Home Affairs	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports in principle measures to increase strategic awareness of national fire and emergency services capabilities through its personnel and equipment.</i> <i>However, the purpose and benefits of establishing a national register will need to be carefully considered against the resource implications to establish and maintain the register. This is on the basis that the register will be subject to regular change.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 6.4 - Delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation iv. - A review of the path to expeditiously deliver the Public Safety Mobile Broadband</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation and notes work is already underway, through the roadmap agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in December 2018 to roll out the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) capability. In order to expedite this rollout, agreement will be needed on the Commonwealth's spectrum offer to the states and territories as well as completion of proof of concept trials. The Commonwealth is ready to work with states and territories to expedite these outcomes and is also exploring additional opportunities and technologies, such as satellite communications, that might augment a PSMB capability into the future. Supporting Initiatives On 31 March 2021 the NSW Government, on behalf of all state and territories and the Australian Government have committed to working with Nokia, TPG Telecom and Optus to develop and test technology for a PSMB. This will take place as a proof-of-concept trial commencing in May 2021 and will run for 12 months. The National Federation Reform Council agreed on 11 December 2020 to prioritise this work.	Department of Home Affairs Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Phase 1 – December 2021

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the importance and benefit of providing police and emergency services with reliable access to mobile broadband to support emergency response.</i> <i>However, the ACT notes the significant commercial, technical, financial and inter-government challenges that will need to be resolved to achieve this recommendation.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 6.5 – Multi-agency national-level exercises Australian, state and territory governments should conduct multi-agency, national-level exercises, not limited to cross-border jurisdictions. These exercises should, at a minimum: 1) assess national capacity, inform capability development and coordination in response to, and recovery from, natural disasters, and 2) use scenarios that stress current capabilities.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. National multi-agency exercises are important for building communications links and understanding among jurisdictions of each states’ and territories’ capabilities and processes, including non-government and private sectors, which is knowledge essential for more seamless cooperation. The Commonwealth will establish and mature an exercising capability within Emergency Management Australia. This capability will serve a range of essential purposes, including testing national disaster plans. The Commonwealth will also engage with states and territories to build a national multi-agency exercise regime, through existing Commonwealth and state and territory forums, noting it is a complex undertaking if exercises are to be productive. Supporting Initiatives Reform of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) – announcements made on 13 November 2020 and 5 May 2020 . The reform of EMA will be phased. Phase 1 is complete with interim arrangements in place. Phase 2 will be implemented from 1 July 2021 with improved, clear lines of responsibility and accountability between a re-structured EMA, the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) and Australian Climate Service (ACS). EMA, the NRRA and the ACS will have complementary governance arrangements to ensure that they work seamlessly. This work will include the uplift of the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre to become the National Situation Room with the capability to provide near real time ‘common operating picture’ to assist in situational awareness and decision support. The enhanced EMA will include a capability that will develop a national multi-agency exercise program to ensure that all phases of the Disaster Management Continuum are exercised and the Australian Government is well prepared and plans tested. EMA is working closely with the NRRA in developing this capability to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to national disaster exercising is embedded in the program.	Department of Home Affairs	Phase 1 – complete Phase 2 – from 1 July 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised it either supports or supports in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the benefits of conducting exercise to enhance preparedness for emergencies.</i> <i>However, as national-level exercises are resource intensive to plan, execute and evaluate, progressing action against this recommendation within existing resources will need to be carefully considered.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 8.1 – A sovereign aerial firefighting capability Australian, state and territory governments should develop an Australian-based and registered national aerial firefighting capability, to be tasked according to greatest national need. This capability should include: 1) a modest, very large air tanker/large air tanker, and Type-1 helicopter capability, including supporting infrastructure, aircrew and aviation support personnel, and 2) any other aerial firefighting capabilities (e.g. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), line-scanning, transport, and logistics) that would benefit from a nationally coordinated approach.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government acknowledged, before the Royal Commission, the maturity, experience and effectiveness of the operational response capabilities of the states and territories. The Commonwealth has no desire to replicate or replace these capabilities, including in aerial firefighting. The Commonwealth notes the suggestion at paragraph 65 of the Royal Commission Report concerning a role for Emergency Management Australia; but it is comfortable with the present arrangements of the states and territories involving the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC). The Commonwealth will continue its annual contribution of \$26 million to the NAFC, indexed from 2020-21. The Commonwealth encourages states and territories to work collaboratively and with industry to build Australian-based aerial fire-fighting capacity, consistent with their sovereign obligations to maintain appropriate operational response capabilities.	Department of Home Affairs	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Noted.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the critical requirement for aerial firefighting resources and the competing international and national pressures that are placed on these resources.</i> <i>Noting the significant costs of acquiring and maintaining an Australian-based fleet, the cost versus the benefit of this approach will remain an item for assessment.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 8.2 – Research and evaluation into aerial firefighting Australian, state and territory governments should support ongoing research and evaluation into aerial firefighting. This research and evaluation should include: 1) assessing the specific capability needs of states and territories, and 2) exploring the most effective aerial firefighting strategies.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. On 23 July 2020, the Commonwealth Government announced \$88.1 million to extend and scale-up funding for critical research into bushfires and natural hazards. The Commonwealth would support the use of some of these funds, and/or some of the Commonwealth’s annual contribution of \$26 million to the NAFC, indexed from 2020-21, for research into aerial firefighting capabilities. However, before any decision or long term commitment is made regarding particular aircraft in the fleet, ownership and strategic operation, it is imperative we have a full and evidence-based understanding of the capability actually required. The Government sees this recommendation as being pivotal to informing decisions on the future of aerial firefighting to deliver an operationally effective fleet that is scalable, adaptive and provides value for money. Supporting Initiatives The new Disaster Resilience Research Centre (the Centre) is to commence 1 July 2021, after which time consideration may be given to the appropriateness of the Centre undertaking research into aerial firefighting. Geoscience Australia is working with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre to develop a system, using satellite data, to inform pilots of the location of water sources close to fire grounds.	Department of Home Affairs Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Research Centre commencement – 1 July 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the benefit of supporting ongoing research and evaluation into aerial firefighting to improve the national understanding of how these vital firefighting assets are best applied and managed.</i> <i>The nature and quantum of this support will need further exploration.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 8.3 – Developing the aerial firefighting industry’s capability Australian, state and territory governments should adopt procurement and contracting strategies that support and develop a broader Australian-based sovereign aerial firefighting industry.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives The Australian Government continues to engage with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre and all states and territories through the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee on future aerial firefighting options and requirements to meet Australia’s fire risk. It is imperative that the Australian Government has a full understanding and informed by evidence, of the capability actually required. This will be pivotal to informing decisions on the future of aerial firefighting to deliver an operationally effective fleet nationally that is scalable, adaptive and provides value for money. This ensures that states and territories are able to access appropriate aerial firefighting capacity when needed most, and can introduce new technology as it becomes available.	Department of Home Affairs	

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.		
	Tas.	Response Support in principle.		
	ACT	Response Support in principle. The ACT Government supports measures to ensure the guaranteed availability of aerial firefighting resources to support a lengthening bushfire season across Australia. Whether these measures are best achieved through an Australia-based sovereign aerial firefighting fleet or other means remains an issue for assessment.		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.		
Recommendation 9.1 – Supply chains – government review Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth is prepared to work with states and territories to examine national supply chain vulnerabilities which could prove critical to coordinated and timely responses to nationally significant natural or other disasters. Supporting Initiatives <u>Supply Chain Resilience Initiative</u> On 1 October 2020, the Australian Government announced the new \$107.2 million Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to position Australia to better respond to future supply chain disruptions, including those caused by significant events such as natural disasters or pandemics. SCRI includes the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DITRDC) working with industry and other government departments to understand and address supply chain vulnerabilities for critical products. A grant program to incentivise businesses to establish or scale a capability that addresses an identified supply chain vulnerability will be open from July 2021. <u>National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy</u> The 20 year <i>National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy</i> led by DITRDC provides a strong framework for improving supply chain performance, including resiliency. Key areas of focus are: smarter and targeted investment; enable improved supply chain efficiency; better planning, coordination and regulation; and better freight location and performance data. The first Strategy annual report (2020) features updates on over 350 initiatives across the country, with DITRDC projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Freight Data Hub, to improve national freight data • International Supply Chain Benchmarking, evaluating Australian supply chain performance, and including development of a CSIRO Benchmarking Tool • Urban Freight Planning Principles, a principles-based approach to integrating freight into land use planning systems. 	Department of Home Affairs Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Grant program open from July 2021

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government maintains close working relationships with the private sector through its critical infrastructure arrangements. These arrangements were used extensively during the Black Summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic to share information about critical infrastructure and supply chain matters. Assessing options to mitigate risk to supply chains is an important part of the emergency management cycle.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 13.6 – Exploring the development of a national, all-hazard warning app Australian, state and territory governments should continue to explore the feasibility of a national, all-hazard emergency warning app.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes the recommendation and supports in principle the underpinning objective of the recommendation. This is presently an aspirational goal and would require an evolutionary approach given states and territories each have, to a varying degree, sovereign mapping tools and systems to accomplish this function. The Commonwealth is aware of work underway in some states on national multi-hazard services. The Commonwealth is prepared to discuss this recommendation with states and territories with the possible objective of building a longer term roadmap that moves both the Commonwealth and states and territories collectively toward this goal. Supporting Initiatives Since these recommendations were published, the <i>Strategic Review into the efficacy of new and emerging telephony-based emergency warning technologies</i> (the review) considered, among other priority interests, how a national all hazard warning app may support public warnings. The review’s final report was delivered in March 2021. Data and Digital Ministers are overseeing the development of a national multi-hazards service that will provide a collaborative and coordinated response to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and storms.	Department of Home Affairs Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	March 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle. Tasmania supports this recommendation on the basis that states and territories retain ownership of their intellectual property.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the potential benefit that a single national, all-hazard emergency warning app may provide. However, noting that most states and territories have advanced apps that reflect their operating environment and community information needs, such an app remains an aspirational goal. The development of such an app is likely to present significant inter-governmental, commercial, technical, cost sharing and risk challenges.</i> <i>Exploring options to harmonise end-user experience may be a preferred approach.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 14.1 – Nationally consistent air quality information, health advice and interventions Australian, state and territory governments should: 1) develop close to real-time, nationally consistent air quality information, including consistent categorisation and public health advice 2) greater community education and guidance, and 3) targeted health advice to vulnerable groups.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government is contributing to the development of a national air quality framework as a member of the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth - a sub-committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee). Together with environment agencies, enHealth has developed a nationally agreed one hour air quality framework including categories and general health messaging to be implemented by all states and territories through their existing channels. A national 24-hour air quality framework is currently being developed by enHealth. Supporting Initiatives States and territories are currently updating their websites and guidance information to reflect the agreed one-hour reporting framework. The national 24-hour air quality framework for health advice, based on the World Health Organisation guidelines, is progressing through enHealth.	Department of Health Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>The ACT Government has completed changes to its online public information about air quality to reflect the recently adopted national categories and public health messaging for 1-hour PM2.5 exposure.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 14.2 – National Air Quality Forecasting Capability Australian, state and territory governments should develop national air quality forecasting capabilities, which include broad coverage of population centres and apply to smoke and other airborne pollutants, such as dust and pollen, to predict plume behaviour.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government is accelerating the roll-out of a prototype national bushfire smoke forecasting capability developed by the CSIRO. This project includes transition to an ongoing operational capability and public access to smoke forecasting information using air quality related applications. The Commonwealth seeks state and territory cooperation to expand this capability’s application to that envisaged by the recommendation, including to other airborne pollutants.	Department of Home Affairs Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Bureau of Meteorology Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Initial prototype capability by June 2021 with progressive features added by end of October 2021. Anticipated operational delivery by October 2022.
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports measures to strengthen air quality forecasting capabilities but notes the resource implications and costs to achieve this need to be assessed against the application and benefits obtained.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 15.1 – Australian Medical Assistance Teams Australian, state and territory governments should review Australian Medical Assistance Team capabilities and procedures and develop necessary training, exercising and other arrangements to build capacity for domestic deployments.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation, noting this has already been deployed domestically in support of COVID-19, and also involves the states and territories. Supporting Initiatives Australian state and territory governments are all represented on the Australia Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), which has an ongoing role advising on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC works with states and territories to develop and adopt national health protection policies, guidelines, standards and alignment of plans. AHPPC will oversee the work required on this recommendation aiming to complete a capabilities and procedures review by mid-2022. The Department of Home Affairs is collaborating with the Department of Health on a set of interim working arrangements to support the deployment of Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) in a domestic capability. It is anticipated that these arrangements will be finalised within the first quarter of 2021.	Department of Health Department of Home Affairs Department of Defence	Mid-2022
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive in principle of working with the Australian, state and territory governments to ensure the capabilities of Australian Medical Assistance Teams are proportionate to their most likely operational needs.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 15.2 – Inclusion of primary care in disaster management Australian, state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including: representation on relevant disaster committees and plans and providing training, and education and other supports.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government will enhance the role of Primary Health Networks in local disaster response, in particular through engagement with state and local emergency response coordination mechanisms.	Department of Health	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Noted.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the important role that primary healthcare providers can play in responding to natural disaster. However, any increase to the role of primary healthcare providers must be in response to an identified need.</i> <i>The ACT's emergency management arrangements provide effective mechanisms for the participation of primary healthcare providers in disaster planning (including cross-border), and their activation to support responses to natural disasters.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 15.3 - Prioritising mental health during and after natural disasters Australian, state and territory governments should refine arrangements to support localised planning and the delivery of appropriate mental health services following a natural disaster.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The National Mental Health Commission is leading the development of a National Natural Disaster Mental Health Framework by June 2021 to guide action and investment on mental health during natural disasters, as part of the Commonwealth's \$76 million mental health bushfire recovery package. Preparatory work on the framework will inform preparations for this coming 2020-21 summer season. The Commonwealth also provided \$13.4 million in May 2020 for Primary Health Networks to provide critical localised emotional and mental health support for bushfire affected individuals announced as part of \$650 million support package. The Commonwealth has further ensured that Medicare funded mental health services have been available via telehealth to support Australians impacted by the recent flood, bushfire and COVID-19 pandemic events.	Department of Health Department of Home Affairs	Second half of 2021

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
		Supporting Initiatives The Department of Home Affairs through the Mental Health Policy Taskforce is delivering \$15.9 million in mental health initiatives for emergency services workers. This includes an \$11.5 million grants program and \$4.4 million to develop the first mental health national action plan for emergency services workers, including volunteers, and former and retired emergency services workers to lower suicide rates and improve mental health outcomes among Australia's current and former emergency services workers.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the impact that natural disasters may have on the mental health of communities.</i> <i>The ACT's recovery arrangements provide disaster-ready arrangements to support the delivery of appropriate mental health services following a natural disaster.</i> <i>These arrangements have been extensively exercised during the COVID-19 pandemic.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 15.4 – Enhanced health and mental health datasets Australian, state and territory governments should agree to: 1) develop consistent and compatible methods and metrics to measure health impacts related to natural disasters, including mental health, and 2) take steps to ensure the appropriate sharing of health and mental health datasets.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation and would welcome the opportunity to work with the states and territories to implement it, building on the work underway in response to COVID-19. Supporting Initiatives In 2020, the Australian, New South Wales and Victoria established arrangements for weekly sharing of detailed data about mental health and crisis support service use during the COVID-19 pandemic. This enabled the delivery of comprehensive evidence to the Australian, NSW and Victorian governments, and National Cabinet, to inform the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the Australian Government will work with all jurisdictions to expand these data sharing arrangements nationally to support timely policy responses including managing the impacts of natural disasters.	Department of Health	2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports the ongoing strengthening of health and mental health datasets to better measure mental health impacts related to natural disasters and to ensure the appropriate sharing of health and mental health datasets.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 16.1 – Environmental data Australian, state and territory governments should ensure greater consistency and collaboration in the collation, storage, access and provision of data on the distribution and conservation status of Australian flora and fauna.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth, with all states and territories, has agreed to establish a common method for the assessment and listing of threatened species. The common assessment method will maintain the current high level of scientific rigour in the assessment and listing of threatened species across Australia, while promoting a more consistent, efficient and harmonised process. The Commonwealth welcomes further discussion with states and territories to fully implement this recommendation. Supporting Initiatives The Common Assessment Method for listing of threatened species and threatened ecological communities is operating under an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding, published on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment’s website. The memorandum provides for collaboration in the provision of information to support consistent national assessment and listing of threatened species across jurisdictions. The Australian Government and all states and territories, except South Australia, have signed the agreement. All jurisdictions, including South Australia, are participating in an intergovernmental working group which meets regularly to coordinate implementation. The Australian Government is supporting greater consistency and collaboration in the collation, storage, access and provision of data on the distribution and conservation status of Australian flora and fauna through a range of environmental funding programs. This includes data collected via research and on-ground restoration projects funded under the Australian Government’s \$200 million to help native wildlife and their habitats recover from the 2019-20 bushfires, along with other ongoing sources of funding (such as the National Landcare Program and the National Environmental Science Program). Many of the initiatives under these programs are being delivered collaboratively with the states and territories, for example, \$2 million has been provided to establish a national Koala monitoring program which will address data gaps and support coordinated national effort. Through the Digital Environmental Assessments Program (DEAP) – Biodiversity Data Repository Project, the Australian Government, state and territory governments are also working together to improve the quantity and quality of data on the distribution and condition of Australian flora, fauna and ecological communities. The project is piloting data exchange with Western Australia and national standards for data capture, exchange and integration. Further discussion with states and territories, and policy/funding decisions, would be required to fully implement this recommendation including any additional research and monitoring of flora and fauna across all land tenures.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports measure to ensure greater consistency and collaboration in the storage and sharing of data relating to Australian flora and fauna, where there is an identified business requirement or need.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 17.1 – Public availability of fuel load management strategies Public land managers should clearly convey and make available to the public their fuel load management strategies, including the rationale behind them, as well as report annually on the implementation and outcomes of those strategies.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government supports the objective underpinning this recommendation. It further notes it is primarily directed at states and territories. Fuel load management strategies have landscape-level implications. Greater transparency is in the national interest.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>The ACT Governments makes available to the public online its annual bushfire operations plans that describes its plan to reduce fuel.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 17.2 – Assessment and approval processes for vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction Australian, state and territory governments should review the assessment and approval processes relating to vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction to: 1) ensure that there is clarity about	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Fire prevention activities only require federal environmental approval if they are likely to have a significant impact on a nationally protected matter, and they are not specifically exempted by the national environment law. The Commonwealth urges states and territories to cut red tape for landholders and land managers to allow them to adequately manage fire hazards on their lands and share hazard reduction data widely and transparently.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		

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Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
the requirements and scope for landholders and land managers to undertake bushfire hazard reduction activities, and 2) minimise the time taken to undertake assessments and obtain approvals.	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT maintains a 10, 5 and 1 year hierarchy of fire planning and risk mitigation strategies, incorporating residual risk modelling. These strategies are translated into annual bushfire operations plan. The bushfire operations plan is approved and implemented on annual cycle incorporating vegetation management including gazing slashing and burning achieving a reduction in bushfire risk.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 17.3 – Classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data Australian, state and territory governments should develop consistent processes for the classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vii. - Share hazard reduction data and information across jurisdictions to maximise its utility and value for hazard risk reduction</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government is committed to working with states and territories as a priority to develop consistent processes to classify, record and share fuel load data. The Commonwealth has commenced work with the states and territories on the <i>National Bushfire Information Capability</i> (NBIC). The NBIC will be led by the CSIRO in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs and in close collaboration with the NSW Rural Fire Service and Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council. Supporting Initiatives In December 2020, Emergency Management ministers from Australian Government and state and territory governments agreed in principle the Fuel Management Information Sharing and Transparency principles that will underpin new arrangements for states and territories to share hazard information. National Bushfire Intelligence Capability, delivered by CSIRO in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs, will provide nationally consistent and authoritative bushfire hazard and risk information. The National Bushfire Intelligence Capability to be implemented in phases. Phase 1 has commenced. The National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) agreed on 11 December 2020 that hazard reduction data and information will be shared across jurisdictions to maximise its utility and value for hazard risk reduction and will underpin new arrangements being developed for states and territories to share hazard reduction information. The National Emergency Management Ministers’ Meeting will develop the hazard reduction information sharing and transparency agreement. Data agreements are dependent on negotiations. A report will be provided to the National Federation Reform Council towards the end of 2021.	Department of Home Affairs	National Bushfire Intelligence Capability Phase 1 – 1 July 2021 Report to NFRC due late 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT will continue to work with other jurisdictions on consistency of data, classification and sharing of information. This work is already occurring.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 18.1 – Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience Australian, state, territory and local governments should engage further with Traditional Owners to explore the relationship between Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works closely with Indigenous land managers, funding 127 Indigenous ranger groups across Australia to manage natural and cultural values of Country, including fire management. NIAA and Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) also support Traditional Owners to manage more than 74 million hectares of land under the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program. Indigenous rangers and IPA managers undertake fire management as part of their regular activities for a range of benefits including natural disaster resilience on Indigenous and state held land. The Commonwealth’s National Bushfire Recovery Fund provides \$2 million to empower Traditional owners to share knowledge and build understanding of traditional indigenous fire management practices, as part of the \$149.7 million support for native wildlife and habitat restoration following the 2019/20 fires. The Commonwealth urges the states and territories to similarly invest in exploring the relationship between indigenous land management and natural disaster resilience. Supporting Initiatives The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is coordinating environmental recovery following the Black Summer bushfires in 2019-20 in collaboration with the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (formally the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA)) and the states and territories. Other programs (beyond the Indigenous Fire and Land Management Workshops Program) under the \$200 million investment in bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats include Traditional Owner engagement and partnerships. For example, the Australian Government is investing more than \$9.5 million in Traditional Owner-led activities including cultural burning, through Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations and state governments under the Bushfire Recovery Regional Fund.	National Indigenous Australians Agency Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government works in close partnership with the Ngunnawal community on all aspects of Land Management. The application of fire in the practice of culture on country is a high priority for the partnership.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 18.2 - Indigenous land and fire management and public land management Australian, state, territory and local governments should explore further opportunities to leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of public land management activities.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works closely with Indigenous land managers, funding 127 Indigenous ranger groups across Australia to manage natural and cultural values of Country, including fire management. NIAA and Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) also support Traditional Owners to manage more than 74 million hectares of land under the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program. Indigenous rangers and IPA managers undertake fire management as part of their regular activities for a range of benefits including natural disaster resilience on Indigenous and public lands. The Commonwealth’s National Bushfire Recovery Fund provides \$2 million to empower Traditional owners to share knowledge and build understanding of traditional Indigenous fire management practices, as part of the \$149.7 million support for native wildlife and habitat restoration following the 2019/20 fires. The Commonwealth urges the states and territories to similarly leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of their land management activities. Supporting Initiatives The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is coordinating environmental recovery following the Black Summer 2019-20 bushfires in collaboration with the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (formally the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA)) and the states and territories. Other programs (beyond the Indigenous Fire and Land Management Workshops Program) under the \$200 million investment in bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats include Traditional Owner engagement and partnerships. For example, the Australian Government is investing more than \$9.5 million in Traditional Owner-led activities including cultural burning, through Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations and state governments, under the Bushfire Recovery Regional Fund.	National Indigenous Australians Agency Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>This recommendation is already being implemented with actions identified in ACT’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement and Action Plan.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 19.1 – Communication of natural hazard risk information to individuals State and territory governments should: 1) each have a process or mechanism in place to communicate natural hazard risk information to households (including prospective purchasers) in ‘hazard prone’ areas, and 2) work together, and with the Australian Government where appropriate, to explore the development of a national mechanism to do the same.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government agrees with the Royal Commission – governments cannot entirely protect the public from natural disasters. The Commonwealth supports the principle that households in ‘hazard prone’ areas should have access to information that helps build resilience. The Commonwealth urges states and territories to provide households with information that helps them to build their resilience to natural disasters, and would welcome the opportunity to work with other jurisdictions to ensure such information is communicated nationally. Supporting Initiatives Understanding disaster risk continues to be a priority for the Australian Government through the <i>National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework</i> . This includes improving public awareness of, and engagement on, disaster risks and impacts. The Commonwealth Government will continue to work with partners to improve public awareness of the systemic nature of disaster risks. The Australian Government will establish the Australian Climate Service (ACS) at the federal level, based on findings of the National Climate and Disaster Risk Information and Services Capability pilot and aligned climate adaptation initiatives, which will provide the underlying foundational authoritative information from which partners can communicate with individuals on their risk. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) The First National Action Plan (NAP) was endorsed by Emergency Management Ministers in May 2020, and supports implementation of the <i>National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework</i> . The next NAP will be developed through 2021. Progress Update On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the ACS. The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.	Treasury Department of Home Affairs	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021 Next NAP to be finalised early 2022
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports measures to communicate natural hazard risk information to individuals, particularly those individuals that reside in hazard prone areas.</i> <i>The ACT’s release of flood maps, and door-knock campaigns for those individuals that live in bushfire prone areas are examples of how the ACT supports this recommendation.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
<p>Recommendation 19.4 – National Construction Code</p> <p>The Australian Building Codes Board, working with other bodies as appropriate, should:</p> <p>1) assess the extent to which AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, and other relevant building standards, are effective in reducing risk from natural hazards to lives and property, and</p> <p>2) conduct an evaluation as to whether the National Construction Code should be amended to specifically include, as an objective of the code, making buildings more resilient to natural disasters.</p> <p><i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i></p>	Aus Gov	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth would welcome the opportunity to work with the states and territories to implement this recommendation, and notes the work already underway by Building Ministers to adapt the built environment to future climate and hazard conditions.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives As part of the Australian Building Codes Board’s (ABCB) core business, the ABCB Office participates in the ongoing maintenance of building standards referenced in the National Construction Code (NCC), including working with Standards Australia on its review of AS 3959: 2018.</p> <p>Objectives for the NCC are currently set out in an intergovernmental agreement between all states and territories and the Australian Government. This intergovernmental agreement also establishes the ABCB. The ABCB is currently considering the strategic objectives of the NCC.</p> <p>However, the ABCB is overseen by the Building Ministers’ Meeting (BMM) and all states, territories and the Australian Government set the forward work program and strategic direction of the ABCB. Building Ministers’ may decide to task the ABCB with a scope of work in relation to Recommendation 19.4, informed by other relevant bodies.</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources</p> <p>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment</p>	Ongoing End 2021
	NSW	<p>Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i></p>		
	Tas.	<p>Response <i>Support in principle.</i></p>		
	ACT	<p>Response <i>Support in principle.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst a matter for the Australian Building Codes board, the ACT Government supports measures to ensure Australian Standards and the National Construction code support bushfire mitigation and resilience.</i></p>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	<p>Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i></p>		
<p>Recommendation 20.1 – Debris clean-up arrangements</p> <p>Governments should create and publish standing policy guidance on whether they will or will not assist to clean-up debris, including contaminated debris, resulting from natural hazards.</p>	Aus Gov	<p>Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth’s commitment to cost-share disaster related debris removal and clean-up activities is publicly available in the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>In addition, the Commonwealth is reviewing the DRFA to develop an ‘off-the-shelf’ debris clean-up assistance package for severe and catastrophic disasters.</p> <p>Supporting Initiatives The provision for clean-up of disaster related debris already exists within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The DRFA is currently under review, led by Emergency Management Australia in consultation with states and territories.</p>	<p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs</p>	

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the need to articulate its position on debris clean-up after a natural disaster. The ACT is progressing policy work against this recommendation in 2021.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 21.2 – Reform fundraising laws Australian, state and territory governments should create a single national scheme for the regulation for charitable fundraising. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation v. - Substantial progress to reform fundraising laws</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth responded to a similar recommendation in the <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Legislation Review 2018</i> . In its response (released 6 March 2020) to recommendation 28 of the Review, the Commonwealth noted that: <i>The panel’s proposal for a single national scheme involved a referral of powers by the states. Any referral of powers would require agreement of the states.</i> In light of this hurdle, the Government will continue to work closely with the states and territories (via relevant cross-jurisdictional fora) to streamline and harmonise charities regulation in three important areas. First, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits (ACNC) has led a cross-jurisdictional process since 2013 which has succeeded in streamlining reporting requirements for charities which are incorporated associations in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. These reforms allow registered charities to report financial and governance information to the ACNC alone. Queensland is moving towards similar reforms. Second, state and territory officials are also working with the ACNC to explore options to further reduce the regulatory burden on the sector. This includes considering possible cross-border recognition arrangements for charitable fundraisers. Finally, the Government is consulting with states and territories on the development of a common statutory definition of charity across jurisdictions to replace 45 existing definitions. This will reduce complexity and regulatory burden for charities when seeking tax concessions. In relation to the cross-border recognition model referred to above, the Commonwealth notes the NSW Government released a discussion paper on a proposed cross-border recognition model for charitable fundraisers for public consultation on 31 August 2020.	Treasury	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive of measures to strengthen, and harmonise if possible, the regulations of charitable fundraising. The ACT notes that this recommendation will need to be considered in the first instance from a legal policy perspective.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 21.4 – National recovery resource sharing arrangements Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national mechanism for sharing of trained and qualified recovery personnel and best practice during and following natural disasters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation and welcomes the finding of the Royal Commission that the National Bushfire Recovery Agency is a compelling illustration of the beneficial role the Commonwealth can achieve through its leadership in recovery from natural disasters. The Commonwealth’s experience through the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Relief and Recovery Agency has demonstrated the critical need for integrated support between levels of government, and with non-government organisations, for affected communities. Supporting Initiatives The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) Forward Work Program includes a project to enable the establishment of Functional Recovery Reference Groups, similar in design and function to the Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG). The purpose of functional domain reference groups includes enhancing national recovery and resilience capabilities, provide a platform for sharing lessons and expertise within and across all four-recovery domains, and enhance functional interoperability across jurisdictions to support long-term recovery. Like the SRRG, Functional Recovery Reference Groups would also have an agreed mechanism and guidelines for inter-jurisdictional assistance and sharing of recovery resources specific to that recovery domain (built/infrastructure, environmental, human and social, and economic).	Department of Home Affairs Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports measures, including the expansion of existing memoranda of understanding, to facilitate the easier and more timely sharing of trained and qualified recovery personnel during and following natural disaster.</i> <i>The use of the National Social Recovery Committee or the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee may be an appropriate mechanism to support this sharing.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 21.5 – National level recovery exercises Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop a program for national level recovery exercises, building on the work currently underway through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. National multi-agency exercises are important for building communications links and understanding among jurisdictions of each states’ and territories’ capabilities and processes, including non-government and private sectors, which is knowledge essential for more seamless cooperation. The Commonwealth will establish and mature an exercising capability within Emergency Management Australia. This capability will serve a range of essential purposes, including testing national disaster plans. The Commonwealth will also engage with states and territories to build a national multi-agency exercise regime, through existing Commonwealth and state and territory forums, noting it is a complex undertaking if exercises are to be productive. Supporting Initiatives The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) conducts scenario-based workshops to better understand Australia’s existing national recovery capabilities and capacities and identify where recovery capabilities need to be further developed. CORS is also building a lessons management capability through a project to establish principles for lessons management and sharing. This capability will enable the identification and sharing critical areas of interest and recovery learnings from previous disasters – to inform current recovery operations and decision-making. This capability will also inform and enhance inter-jurisdictional recovery preparedness for future disasters. This project aims to establish a regular lessons management and sharing process, through a Recovery Lessons Community of Practice – represented by all levels of government. The CORS forward work program also includes a project to develop a National Disaster Recovery Capability Development Strategy. This strategy aims to enhance Australia’s recovery capability at the individual and community level, and build a national recovery workforce capable of undertaking, advising and supporting complex recovery across all functional recovery domains. A program of national level recovery exercises could be included as a component of this strategy. These projects are managed by Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and are delivered in collaboration with CORS members from the states and territories, and Australian Local Government Association.	Department of Home Affairs Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	July 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>Similar to the response to recommendation 6.5, the ACT Government recognises the benefit of conducting exercises to better support recovery.</i> <i>However, as national-level exercises are resource intensive to plan, execute and evaluate, how to progress action against this recommendation within existing resources will need to be carefully considered.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Similar to the response to recommendation 6.5, the ACT Government recognises the benefit of conducting exercises to better support recovery.</i> <i>However, as national-level exercises are resource intensive to plan, execute and evaluate, how to progress action against this recommendation within existing resources will need to be carefully considered.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.1 – Evaluation of financial assistance measures to support recovery Australian, state and territory and local governments should evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial assistance measures to inform the development of a suite of pre effective pre-determined recovery supports.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation and is working collaboratively with the states and territories to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Supporting Initiatives This is being progressed under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) review being conducted by Emergency Management Australia. This component of the DRFA review is complete. The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) also has a project on the forward work program to develop guidance on managing financial and non-financial recovery resource supports.	Department of Social Services Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	June 2021
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT remains closely engaged with the Australian, state and territory governments to progress a suite of pre-effective pre-determined recovery supports.</i> <i>The ACT Government is undertaking a phased development of a wider range of pre-approved assistance measures through an expansion of the ACT Disaster Assistance Guidelines.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.2 – Appropriate sharing of personal information Australian, state and territory governments should ensure that personal information of individuals affected by a natural disaster is able to be appropriately shared between all levels of government, agencies, insurers, charities and organisations delivering recovery services, taking	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth supports this recommendation, and welcomes the opportunity to work with those identified in the recommendation to explore ways of implementing it. Supporting Initiatives The delivery of this recommendation will require the collaboration of multiple Australian Government Agencies, state and territory governments, and across sectors. There are currently a number of Australian Government reforms being considered by Government, including work being led by the Digital Transformation Agency and Services Australia (Digital Economy Strategy – Government Services) and work by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA). These initiatives should result in concrete steps to enable the Australian Government aspect of this recommendation. Relevant Australian Government agencies will meet in April 2021 to discuss progress to date, and identify next steps in implementation.	Attorney-General’s Department Digital Transformation Agency Services Australia Department of Social Services Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency	Initial improvements by mid-2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
account of all necessary safeguards to ensure sharing is only for recovery purposes.	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the benefits that the sharing of personal information can have in enhancing emergency response, coordination and the provision of emergency relief and recovery services. However, the sharing of personal information should only occur with the individual's consent and in accordance with privacy laws.</i> <i>Identifying the circumstances where the sharing of information will prove beneficial and addressing these on a case-by-case basis is likely to be an appropriate action to this recommendation.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.3 – Review the thresholds and activation process for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements In reviewing the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Australian, state and territory governments should examine the small disaster criterion, and financial thresholds generally.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. There is scope within the review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to identify, and progress, this recommendation. Supporting Initiatives Will be considered as part of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Review.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports a review of the thresholds and activation process for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. As a small jurisdiction, the ACT views that reducing administrative barriers to promoting joint government responses to natural disasters where necessary is in the interests of all communities.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 22.4 – Nationally consistent Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance measures Australian, state and territory and local governments should develop greater consistency in the financial support provided to individuals, small businesses and primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth supports Australians impacted by disaster being treated more consistently and fairly under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Commonwealth is currently working with the states to develop options on how the program could deliver more equitable, needs-based, assistance for all Australians in time for the 2020-2021 high-risk weather season. One option being explored for the 2020-21 season is to establish benchmarks within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Determination to encourage greater consistency. Supporting Initiatives This is being progressed under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) review being conducted by Emergency Management Australia. Minister Littleproud has written to state and territory emergency management ministers asking them to commit to undertake longer-term reform work to develop National DRFA assistance measures based on best practice, support needs based assistance and ensure consistent levels of support, eligibility criteria, and application processes.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive of developing greater consistency in the provision of financial support under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, where existing state and territory programs allow.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.5 – Develop nationally consistent, pre-agreed Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the development of pre-agreed recovery programs, including those that address social needs, such as legal assistance domestic violence, and also environmental recovery. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation iii. - Nationally consistent, pre-arranged,</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth is currently working with the states and territories to develop options on how the program could deliver more equitable, needs-based, assistance for all Australians in time for the 2020-2021 high-risk weather season. One option being explored for the 2020-21 season is to establish benchmarks within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Determination to encourage greater consistency. Additionally, the Commonwealth is currently exploring the potential for legal assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency	

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
<i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</i>		Supporting Initiatives On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) agreed to prioritise this work. This recommendation is being addressed through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) review, which is being led by Emergency Management Australia in consultation with states and territories. A key deliverable of the review is to streamline arrangements so that governments can respond quicker and more effectively to community recovery needs. This will be done through the introduction of a new streamlined process for activating community recovery assistance and the development of certain pre-agreed ‘off-the-shelf’ recovery assistance packages across the social, built, economic and environmental recovery domains. The potential for a pre-agreed legal assistance program under the DRFA is also being explored.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the benefit of developing and maintaining pre-agreed recovery programs to support the timely and effective activation of relief and recovery programs.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.6 – Better incorporate ‘build back better’ within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Australian, state and territory governments should incorporate the principle of ‘build back better’ more broadly into the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. Through the review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, work is being undertaken to develop national guidance on how the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements can be used to make infrastructure more resilient through the rebuilding and restoration process. The Commonwealth provided \$450 million for local economic recovery projects from the \$2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund. The Prime Minister approved an exemption from Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Clause 4.5.3 to allow new infrastructure or infrastructure enhancements, as well as new growth initiatives to be supported by this funding. The Commonwealth will establish Resilience Services which will provide the Commonwealth with future-focussed disaster risk information to inform decisions about how to ‘build back better’ effectively. Supporting Initiatives This is being progressed under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) review being conducted by Emergency Management Australia. On 5 May 2021 , the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Climate Service (ACS). The ACS will better connect and leverage the Australian Government’s extensive data, information and capabilities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate impacts to inform the work of Emergency Management Australia and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. (The ACS was previously announced on 13 November 2020 as ‘Resilience Services’ and referred to as ‘Climate and Resilience Services Australia’.) The Australian Government welcomes an opportunity to work with state and territory governments to further progress implementation and establish a truly national capability.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency Minister for Emergency Management Minister for the Environment	Establishment of the ACS by 1 July 2021

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
		Progress Update The Australian Government is on track to establish the ACS by 1 July 2021.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Governments recognises the opportunity to build resilience, and therefore ‘build back better’ in the delivery of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.7 – Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements recovery measures to facilitate resilience Australian, state and territory governments should broaden Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to encompass funding for recovery measures that are focused on resilience, including in circumstances which are not ‘exceptional’.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements are already being used to fund a range of recovery measures that are focused on resilience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infrastructure betterment funds • community resilience grants programs • hazard mapping and warning programs, and • public awareness and education campaigns. Supporting Initiatives The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is already being used to fund a range of recovery measures that are focused on resilience. Further work is also being progressed under the DRFA review being conducted by Emergency Management Australia, in consultation with states and territories, which is considering how DRFA funding can be better used to make damaged infrastructure more resilient through the rebuilding process. As part of the Australian Government’s support for bushfire-affected small business, the Government funded a new business service specifically to support businesses to recover and build resilience into their operations and strategies. The service, known as Strengthening Business , commenced formally on 1 July 2020 and is supporting businesses in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Ongoing
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendations for Australian, state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>As a jurisdiction that has limited requirement to call upon the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), the ACT Government supports measures to expand the DRFA to include resilience building opportunities.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 22.8 – Streamline the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements processes Australian, state and territory governments should create simpler Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements application processes.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation and is working collaboratively with the states and territories to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, including to streamline processes where possible. Supporting Initiatives This recommendation is being addressed through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) review, which is being led by Emergency Management Australia in consultation with states and territories. A key deliverable of the review is to streamline arrangements so that governments can respond quicker and more effectively to community recovery needs. This will be done through the introduction of a new streamlined process for activating community recovery. The new activation process—which will be trialled during 2020-21—recognises that states and territories are best placed to determine whether additional assistance is needed and that activation should be quick and simple so that governments can provide recovery assistance to affected communities as soon as possible. In this context, the Australian Government has agreed that the indicators for activating Category C assistance will not apply and greater emphasis be placed on contextual/qualitative information about recovery needs and a state’s or territory’s commitment to share the cost of the requested assistance equally.	Department of Home Affairs National Recovery and Resilience Agency	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT as part of a national effort of the Australian, state and territory governments has progressed several reforms to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements ahead of the 2020-21 summer season. Further reforms have been identified and are being progressed.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 6.1 – Assessment of the capacity and capability of fire and emergency services in light of current and future natural disaster risk State and territory governments should have a structured process to regularly assess the capacity and capability requirements of fire and emergency services, in light of both current and future natural disaster risk.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government maintains arrangements to ensure that the capacity and capability of its fire and emergency services is proportionate to current and emerging natural disaster risks. This is undertaken within an all-hazards setting.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 6.3 – Interoperable communications for fire and emergency services across jurisdictions State and territory governments should update and implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability, or otherwise agree a new strategy, to achieve interoperable communications across jurisdictions.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government is supportive in principle of measures to strengthen the interoperability of communications between fire and emergency services across jurisdictions to better support emergency response.</i> <i>Noting, these measures have technical and resource implications, reviewing and updating the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability will be important to understanding these implications.</i> <i>The ACT already has strong interoperability with NSW.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 7.1 – Improve understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities State and territory governments should take steps to ensure that	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Australian Department of Defence (ADF) has already reviewed the <i>Defence Assistance to Civil Community (DACC) Framework</i> and has established operational architectures in the jurisdictions to enhance interaction, participate in planning and provide greater awareness of ADF capabilities.	Department of Defence Department of Home Affairs	2020

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
there is better interaction, planning and ongoing understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities and processes by state and territory fire and emergency service agencies and local governments.		Supporting Initiatives The Department of Defence (Defence) will continue to work with Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to integrate planning and preparation for natural disasters and emergencies with the states and territories. Defence has increased the amount of information in the EMA-led high risk weather season preparation briefings to the states and territories. Defence established Joint Task Group command and control nodes with all state and territory emergency authorities at the commencement of the high risk weather season. Defence has provided information brochures to the states and territories, for distribution to relevant stakeholders, which provides an overview of supporting effects which Defence can provide as well as details for requesting the capabilities to achieve the effects. On track with Defence only steps complete. Defence will work with other Australian Government agencies as developments occur in meeting Recommendations 3.3 - 3.6 and in conjunction with steps undertaken by the jurisdictions.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT already maintains a close working relationship with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at various levels to regularly share information about ADF capabilities to support natural disaster responses.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 9.2 – Comprehensive information State and territory governments should include road closure and opening information on all roads within their borders on public apps.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of such information as it may inform Commonwealth agencies, requested by states and territories to render assistance in a crisis.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>Information about road closures during emergencies in the ACT is made available to the public via website, social media, and app updates.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 9.3 - Provision of information State and territory governments should provide information to the public on the closure and opening of roads. Information should be provided in real-time, or in advance based on predictions, where possible.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of such information as it may inform Commonwealth agencies, requested by states and territories to render assistance in a crisis.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>Timely information about road closures during emergencies in the ACT is made available to the public via website, social media, and app updates.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 10.1 – Disaster education for individuals and communities State and territory governments should continue to deliver, evaluate and improve education and engagement programs aimed at promoting disaster resilience for individuals and communities.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth considers that such education programs should include a Commonwealth dimension. This is particularly to cover community expectations and knowledge of how, for example, the Australian Defence Force delivers requested assistance in a crisis, and the recovery services available through Commonwealth agencies – in addition to existing state and territory mechanisms. Supporting Initiatives National Resilience Advisor Network and young Australian engagement program on climate and disaster risk and adaptation; Strategies on Coastal Hazards, Built Environment, National Flood Strategy. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) has representation on the Disaster Resilience Education Strategy Group, which provides leadership for the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Education for Young People program. EMA is a member of the AIDR Working Group to develop a national Disaster Resilience Education for Young People Handbook. The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) is progressing a Disaster Resilience Education Project, which aims to identify opportunities to improve disaster resilience education for Australian students. EMA’s participation in the development of the Disaster Resilience Education Handbook forms part of the delivery of this project. On 16 November 2020, CORS agreed to roll the Disaster Resilience Education Project into the National Disaster Recovery Capability Development Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to enhance Australia’s recovery capability at the individual and community level, and build a national recovery workforce capable of undertaking, advising and supporting complex recovery across all functional recovery domains.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT has legislative provisions under the Emergencies Act 2004 requiring engagement with, and education of the community in relation to emergencies.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 11.1 – Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively able to discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) forward work program includes a project to develop a National Disaster Recovery Capability Development Strategy. This strategy aims to enhance Australia’s recovery capability at the individual and community level, and build a national recovery workforce capable of undertaking, advising and supporting complex recovery across all functional recovery domains. This would include enhancing recovery capabilities for officials working in local government.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Do not support.</i> <i>State and territory Governments should not assume responsibility for functions that are appropriately performed by local government.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Noted.</i> <i>This recommendation is not applicable to the ACT.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 11.2 – Resource sharing arrangements between local governments State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements: 1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and 2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disasters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) forward work program includes a project to enable the establishment of Functional Recovery Reference Groups, similar in design and function to the Social Recovery Reference Group. The purpose of functional domain reference groups includes enhancing national recovery and resilience capabilities, provide a platform for sharing lessons and expertise within and across all four recovery domains, and enhance functional interoperability across jurisdictions to support long-term recovery.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Noted.</i> <i>This recommendation is not applicable to the ACT.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 12.1 – Roadside vegetation management State and territory governments, working with local governments and fire and emergency service agencies, should ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for roadside vegetation management that take into account among other things: 1) priority access and egress routes 2) road priority, utility and strategic value 3) cost, and 4) residual risk to national natural disasters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of this and other hazard reduction information from the states and territories as it relates to strategic planning and preparedness.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government maintains a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, Bushfire Operations Plan and land management arrangements and contracts that provide for the effective management of roadside vegetation.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 12.2 – Evacuation planning – Evacuation routes and seasonal populations State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: 1) roles and responsibilities for state and territory governments, local governments and local communities 2) education and signage about evacuations and evacuation routes, including education of seasonal populations 3) the adequacy of evacuation routes; including contingencies if evacuation routes to centres are assessed as not being able to cope, and 4) the potential inability to evacuate, either by reason of circumstances or person characteristics.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of this and other crisis planning information and a participant in planning in support of the states and territories. This particularly relates to strategic planning and preparedness and is relevant for Commonwealth agencies like the Australian Defence Force, which may be requested to provide assistance.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government maintain emergency plans and arrangements provide for the periodic review of evacuation plans and update where necessary.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 12.3 – Evacuation planning – Essential services and supplies State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: 1) key risks that essential outages have on communities during a severe or catastrophic natural disaster (particularly communications and power) 2) availability of essential supplies, including food and water, and 3) consequence management and compounding events such as the loss of essential services or health impacts.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of this and other crisis planning information and a participant in planning in support of the states and territories. This particularly relates to strategic planning and preparedness and is relevant for Commonwealth agencies like the Australian Defence Force, which may be requested to provide assistance.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government’s emergency management governance arrangements provide mechanisms for the periodic review of evacuation plans.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 12.4 – Sheltering terminology should be nationally consistent State and territory governments should, as a priority, adopt nationally consistent terminology and functions for the different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth supports the development of common/more universal terminology and planning concepts, and would be a welcoming recipient of this and other crisis planning information from the states and territories as it relates to strategic planning and preparedness, particularly for Commonwealth agencies like the Australian Defence Force, which may be requested to provide assistance.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports action to ensure national consistency in the language that is used to refer to sheltering facilities, evacuation centres and associated infrastructure.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 12.5 – National community education State and territory governments should provide further community education on the function and limitations of different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters. This education should be nationally consistent.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth considers that such education programs should include a Commonwealth dimension, particularly to cover community expectations and knowledge of how, for example, the Australian Defence Force delivers requested assistance to affected communities during a crisis in support of state, territory and local governments, as well as the recovery services available through Commonwealth agencies as well as existing state and territory mechanisms.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>Whilst this recommendation has limited application in the ACT, the ACT Government supports action, where necessary, to educate at risk communities about the function and limitations of different sheltering facilities and evacuation centres.</i> <i>The ACT recognises that achieving national consistency is achievable to a point, noting the different types of locations and functions that are used for these facilities.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 12.6 – Evacuation planning – Evacuation centres State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review these plans, and update them where appropriate, to account for the existence and standard of any evacuation centres and safer places (however described) in the community, including: 1) the capacity of a centre to handle seasonal population variation 2) the suitability of facilities to cater for diverse groups, including vulnerable people, and those evacuating with animals, and 3) The existence of communications facilities and alternate power sources.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth should be a participant in planning in support of the states and territories. This particularly relates to strategic planning and preparedness and is relevant for Commonwealth agencies like the Australian Defence Force, which may be requested to provide assistance. Supporting Initiatives The Department of Health is leading the implementation of a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health endorsed National Breastfeeding Strategy. This strategy includes an action to develop a national Feeding Infants and Young Children in Emergencies Policy. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) remains engaged with the Department of Health and will provide input into this policy when the Department of Health seeks to implement this action item. EMA is also engaged with the Department of Social Services in the development of the new National Disability Strategy. This strategy includes a policy priority under Outcome Area 6: Health and Wellbeing. This policy priority specifically focusses on ensuring public emergency planning and responses to appropriately account for and meet the health and wellbeing needs of people with disability.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government emergency management governance arrangements already provide mechanisms for the periodic review of evacuation plans and arrangements to factor in the diversity of communities and the resilience of the evacuation centre.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 12.7 – Evacuation planning – Planning for evacuations across boundaries State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update where appropriate, to provide for coordination between states and	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. The Commonwealth would be a welcoming recipient of this and other crisis planning information and a participant in planning in support of the states and territories. This particularly relates to strategic planning and preparedness and is relevant for Commonwealth agencies like the Australian Defence Force, which may be requested to provide assistance.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
territories in cross border areas and to provide cross border access to evacuation centres.	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the importance of a joint approach to planning where evacuations have cross-border implications.</i> <i>The ACT maintains close working relationships with NSW to ensure coordination and joint approaches to natural disaster planning and operations.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 13.1 - Development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System State and territory governments should expedite the development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. It should ensure that there is national consistency in the visual display of the AFDRS and action to be taken in response to each rating. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation ii. – The Australian Fire Danger Rating System</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council agreed to prioritise this work. Australia Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) / National Bushfire Intelligence Capability (NBIC) initiatives will assist to accelerate aspects of the AFDRS with respect to the granularity of models and the development of enhanced models (i.e. a dynamic vegetation model) which can be fed back into the AFDRS.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Tasmania supports the ongoing development and implementation of the AFDRS but does not support acceleration of the timeframe as doing so would adversely impact the quality of the final product.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>Noting the technical and resources implications of this initiative, the ACT Government remains engaged with the Australian, state and territory governments to focus this recommendation as a matter of priority pursuant to the agreement of the National Federation Reform Council.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 13.2 – Education on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System State and territory governments should deliver education to ensure that the public understands the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System ratings, the potential danger attached to each rating, and the action that should be taken in relation to each rating.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives The Bureau of Meteorology is a key partner in the delivery of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.	Bureau of Meteorology	June 2022
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Tasmania anticipates that this national project will be funded by the Australian Government.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises and will support nationally agreed measures to raise awareness of the Australian Fire Danger Rating system ratings when finalised.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 13.3 – The Australian Warning System State and territory governments should urgently deliver and implement the all-hazard Australian Warning System. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation i. - The Australian Warning System</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council agreed to prioritise this work. The Australian Warnings System (AWS) sits within the remit of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Public Information and Warnings Working Group and reports to the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC). AWS was implemented for bushfire warnings from December 2020 with other hazards to be added over time. The Bureau of Meteorology is a key partner in the delivery of future hazards in the Australian Warning System.	Bureau of Meteorology	Bushfire warnings completed December 2020
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>The new Australian Warning System for bushfires was implemented in the ACT on 1 December 2020.</i> <i>The ACT Government has updated all its public facing platforms with the new warning symbols. Furthermore, the ACT's bushfire education campaign information for the community on the new warning system.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 13.4 – An education campaign on the Australian Warning System State and territory governments should ensure that the implementation of the Australian Warning System is accompanied by a carefully developed national education campaign that considers the needs of all Australians. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation i. - The Australian Warning System</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories. Supporting Initiatives On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council agreed to prioritise this work. The Bureau of Meteorology is a key partner in the delivery of future hazards in the Australian Warning System and an active participant in supporting the education campaign.	Bureau of Meteorology	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Tasmania anticipates that this national project will be funded by the Australian Government.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Completed.</i> <i>The ACT Government has implemented this recommendation.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 19.3 – Mandatory consideration of natural disaster risk in land-use planning decisions State, territory and local governments should be required to consider present and future natural disaster risk when making land-use planning decisions for new developments. <i>*NFRC Priority Recommendation vi - Substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision making such as land-use planning for new development and the construction code</i>	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government supports the objective of this recommendation, noting it is directed to state, territory and local government.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports measures to consider present and future natural disaster risk when making land-use planning decisions for new developments.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for state and territory governments	Australian, state and territory government supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s) and agencies	Delivery Date
Recommendation 21.1 – Arrangements for donated goods State and territory governments should develop and implement efficient and effective arrangements to: 1) educate the public about the challenges associated with donated goods, for example the storage and distribution of donated goods, and 2) manage and coordinate donated goods to ensure offers of support are matched with need.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports this recommendation. The Commonwealth, with states and territories, is planning to develop guidance on managing resource supports, including the coordination of donated goods. Supporting Initiatives The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) forward work program will consider the development of guidance on managing resource supports (financial and non-financial) to provide greater consistency in the provision of recovery supports across jurisdictions and events. The management and coordination of donated goods, and ensuring they address recovery needs would form one element of this guidance.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support.</i> <i>The effective management of donated goods during and after natural disaster remains a significant challenge.</i> <i>The ACT Government recognises the need for clear messaging about donated goods, and that offers of support are matched to those in need.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		
Recommendation 24.2 – An independent accountability and assurance mechanism for each state and territory Each state and territory government should establish an independent accountability and assurance mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government notes this recommendation and supports the objective underpinning it. It further notes it is directed at states and territories.		
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support in principle.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>The ACT Government supports mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.</i> <i>How these mechanisms are best achieved, including through existing mechanisms, remains an issue for consideration by their respective government.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTATION				
Recommendations for Industry	Australian, state and territory government and industry supporting initiatives		Responsible minister(s), agencies, Industry Group	Delivery Date
Recommendation 19.2 – Guidance for insurer recognised retrofitting and mitigation The insurance industry, as represented by the Insurance Council of Australia, working with state and territory governments and other relevant stakeholders, should produce and communicate to consumers clear guidance on individual-level natural hazard risk mitigation actions insurers will recognise in setting insurance premiums.	Aus Gov	Response The Commonwealth Government supports in principle this recommendation. The Commonwealth Government is committed to building the resilience of Australian communities to natural disasters and putting downward pressure on insurance premiums. The Commonwealth urges insurers to provide clear consumer guidance on actions to reduce natural hazard risk that will lower insurance premiums.	Treasury	
	NSW	Response <i>New South Wales advised they either support or support in principle each of the recommendations directed to states and territories, and note those recommendations directed to the Commonwealth. NSW are still considering a formal response.</i>		
	Tas.	Response <i>Support.</i>		
	ACT	Response <i>Support in principle.</i> <i>Whilst primarily a matter for the Insurance Council of Australia, the ACT Government supports measures to increase the transparency of how insurance premiums are set and actions that consumers of insurance can take to mitigate natural hazard risks.</i>		
	Vic. Qld WA SA NT	Response <i>State and territory governments are still considering responses to recommendations.</i>		