



Government
of South Australia



RESCUE

Emergency Management

August 2020

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER



Photo credit: CSIRO

BUSHFIRE ROYAL COMMISSION CONTINUES

The Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements continues this month, with Hearing Blocks 1 and 2 now complete.

Also referred to as the "Bushfire Royal Commission", this significant undertaking will provide recommendations with the aim to prevent, respond to and recover from bushfires and other natural disasters. Hearing Block 3 commenced in Canberra

on Monday, August 3, and is focusing on national coordination across areas including:

- Situational awareness
- Decision making
- Resource sharing
- Response to COVID-19

Hearing Block 4 will begin the week beginning September 21, with themes to be announced. The Royal Commission's final report is due 28 October 2020.

[More information about the Royal Commission can be found here.](#)



Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters – or more resilient to them. Thus disaster risk reduction involves every part of society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector." United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.



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KEELTY REVIEW FINDINGS ANNOUNCED

Last month saw the release of the Keelty Review, an independent review into the 2019-20 South Australian bushfires designed to assist in planning for the 2020-21 fire season.

The review found that across the emergency services sector the response was remarkable considering the conditions faced were the worst on record. The report made a point of acknowledging the combined efforts of the agencies involved in reducing the devastation caused by the fires.

It also made 15 recommendations including the need for investment in enhanced technology.

In response, the State Government has committed to implement a significant number of immediate action items, with a total funding response of \$48.5 million, including \$16.7 million in federal and state funding which will be invested over five years for the South Australian Disaster Risk Reduction Grants Program.

A further response into the remaining actions will be delivered by 30 September.



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Review produced 15 recommendations. Suggested next steps include:

- Investment in the upgrade and integration of ICT platforms
- Improving coordination of public information and warnings
- Investment in fireground leadership and incident management training for CFS, SES and MFS personnel to improve safety on the fireground.

For more information, you can [access the Keelty Review in full here.](#)



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RESILIENCE RESOURCE LAUNCHES

June 2020 saw the launch of the Australian Disaster Resilience Index, a resource created by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre in partnership with the University of New England, providing a snapshot of the capacities for disaster resilience in Australian communities.

The Australian Disaster Resilience Index aims to support communities, governments and industry to work together to respond to natural hazards, such as bushfire, flood, storm and earthquake.

It provides a valuable opportunity for Emergency Management leaders to drill down into their specific region and learn more about factors impacting disaster resilience. The Index also allows users to identify areas with similar resilience profiles, creating opportunity for connection and information sharing between similar regions around Australia.



Australian Disaster
Resilience Index

[You can explore the Australian Disaster Resilience Index for yourself here.](#)

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER FORECAST

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

- September – November is looking wet, with above average rainfall expected
- An increased likelihood of below average daytime temperatures
- Overnight conditions look to be warmer than average

HOW HAVE WE PREPARED FOR THESE CONDITIONS?

- SES has established Memorandums of Understanding with the Local Government Association and councils for the storage and distribution of sandbags, ensuring a coordinated approach to flood risk reduction
- Self-serve sandbag caches exist throughout the state, providing easy access to communities likely to be affected by flooding
- 400 local government staff have completed swiftwater risk awareness training, familiarising them with the hazards associated with fast moving water areas, such as stormwater drains and creeks



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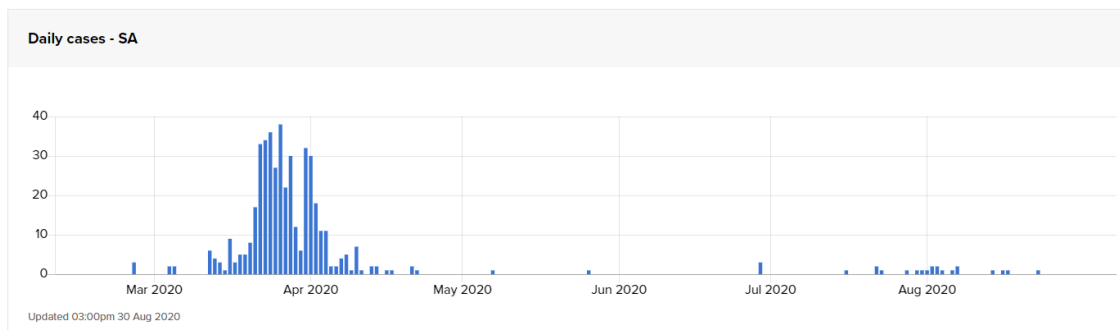
COVID-19 SNAPSHOT

Sunday 30 August 2020

This information is updated every day following the release of national data at approximately 5:30 pm. The data displayed is based on data current at 2:00 pm the same day.

New cases today	0	Patients in hospital	0	Deaths	4
Active cases	1	Patients in ICU	0	Tests yesterday	3,111
Total cases	463	Recovered	458	Total tests	376,562

[Totals for Australia](#) - Australian Government Department of Health



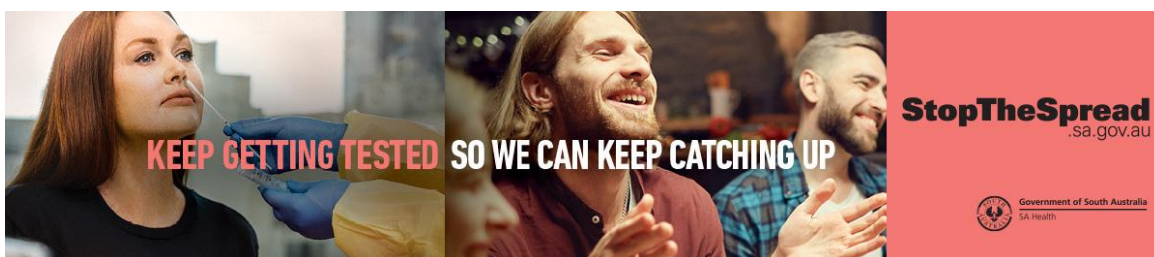
LATEST UPDATES FOR SA

- South Australians are asking those who have recently traveled to the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas to particular watchful for COVID-19 symptoms
- Anyone in SA who has visited [any venues listed here by the Queensland Government](#) should self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their attendance at the venue
- SA travelers returning from Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas should avoid visiting vulnerable people (including nursing and disability homes) for 14 days from their return

You can access the [SA COVID-19 dashboard here](#).

STAY INFORMED

- Current information regarding South Australia's restrictions can be [found here](#)
- National COVID-19 updates can be [found here](#)
- Mental health resources and information can be [accessed here](#)



Dashboard and heatmaps sourced from [SA Health Website](#) - Heatmaps show total cases to date



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