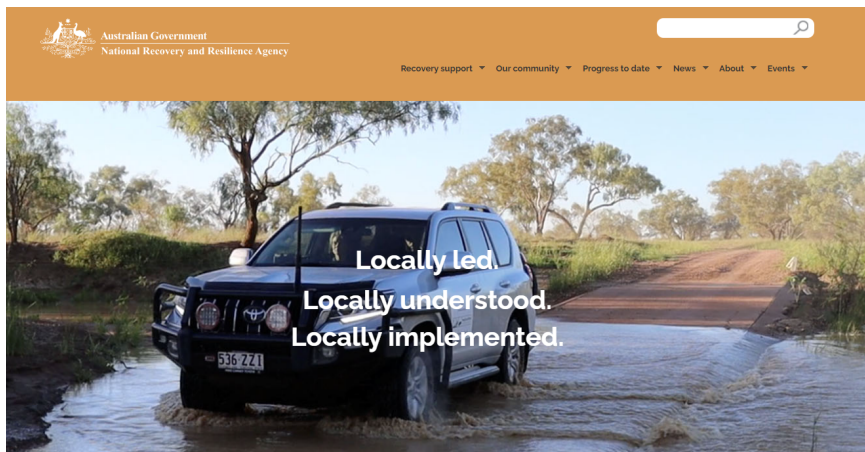


# Emergency Management

June 2021

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

### NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE AGENCY



In response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, the Prime Minister has announced the formation of the **National Recovery and Resilience Agency**. The agency combines expertise in natural disaster response, recovery and resilience, working with affected communities and all levels of government and industry.

From 1 July 2021 the agency will incorporate National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency. It will also include the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions Department of Home Affairs as well as take responsibility for the Rural Financial Counselling Program.

The agency will support communities impacted by disaster, with a strong on the ground presence and a guiding principle of locally-led recovery. They also deliver initiatives to reduce risk and lessen the impacts of future shocks.

Led by Coordinator-General Shane Stone, the National Recovery and Resilience Agency will bring together the former National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency and the National Bushfire Recovery Agency, including the \$2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund.

For further information, visit the [National Recovery and Resilience Agency website](#).

### National Volunteer Week 2021

National Volunteer Week was an opportunity to celebrate and thank the efforts of all Australian volunteers.

*"In Australia, research shows that volunteers contribute more than \$17.3 billion of unpaid labour a year, with 4% of these volunteers working in the fire and emergency services sector."*



*"Volunteers are critical to our sector, with AFAC member organisations collectively engaging over 250,000 volunteers, equating to around 87% of the sector's capability."*

For further information, visit the [National Council for Fire and Emergency Services \(AFAC\) website](#).





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## FEDERAL BUDGET 2021-2022

The Australian Government Federal Budget 2021-22 has included budget measures aimed at improving Australia's capability to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.

The following budget allocations have been announced which will impact the Emergency Management sector:



\$90m to enhance Emergency Management Australia's capabilities, to improve national disaster preparedness and response.

Funding committed for the National Recovery and Resilience Agency

\$210m to establish the Australian Climate Service to help inform risk reduction and resilience investments

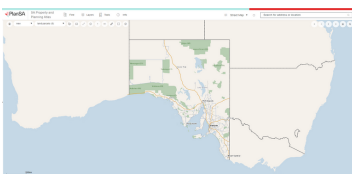
\$895m to improve resilience of Australian communities and support the recovery needs of those impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires

\$40m to make strata buildings in Northern Australia more resilient to extreme weather events.

Underwrite a \$10b reinsurance scheme for cyclone and related flood for privately owned homes, strata corporations and small businesses.

The Local Government Association of South Australia has also provided a response to the Federal Budget announcement, which provides greater detail in relation to the budget implications for Local Government within South Australia. The following links include further information in relation to the [Federal budget measures](#) and the [LGA response to the Federal budget](#).

## PLANSA BUSHFIRE HAZARDS OVERLAY



The State Planning Commission has initiated the preparation of a Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment. The principal aim of the Amendment is to update the spatial application of the Bushfire Hazards

Overlays across the State (including refinement to the boundaries of the high, medium, general and urban interface areas, as part of an updated spatial layer in the South Australian Planning and Property Atlas (SAPPA)).

Public consultation on this Code Amendment is anticipated in the middle of the year. More information can be found on the [PlanSA website](#).



*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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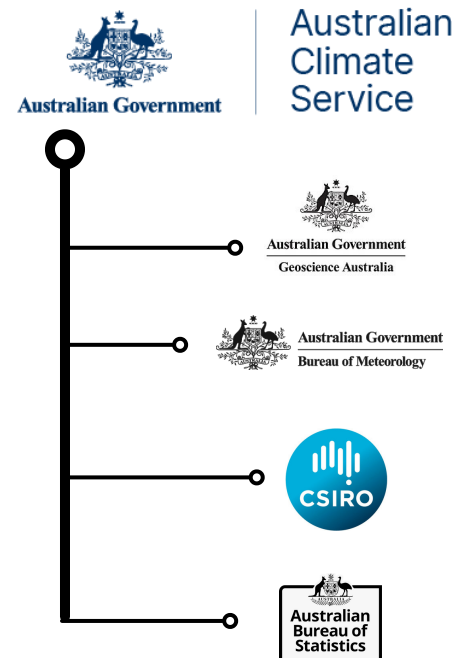
# NEW AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE SERVICE

On 5th May 2021, the Prime Minister announced a \$210 million investment to establish the Australian Climate Service. The service will connect and leverage the Commonwealth's extensive climate and natural hazard information into a central location.

The establishment of the service is based on a recommendation by the Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements following the Black Summer bushfires in 2019-2020.

The service will be a partnership between Geoscience Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, the CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The partnership will develop an integrated web platform to house collective data, tools and applications that will increase agencies effectiveness and decision making within the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery model of emergency management.

For more information, visit the [Bureau of Meteorology's media release](#) or the [Australian Climate Service website](#).



# TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND SCIENTISTS WORKING TO TACKLE COMMON CLIMATE CHALLENGE

As part of the National First People's Gathering on Climate Change (Gathering) more than 120 Traditional Owners representing more than 40 different First People's Groups have joined scientists for a five-day meeting to empower and enhance First People's-led response to climate change.

*"We always had dialogue together, between different Traditional Owner groups, as climate changed in the past. We need to continue these dialogues today."*

**Yirrganydji Traditional Owner**

The event is part of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Earth Systems & Climate Change (ESCC) Hub, which is led by CSIRO.

For further information is available on [CSIRO's website](#).

*"The Gathering is an Indigenous-led, co-designed process that has been developed with a First Peoples-led Steering Committee of ten Traditional Owners and the ESCC Hub. It's all about First Peoples having a genuine seat at the table, and the way we have designed this event reflects just that."*

**Dr David Karoly**



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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## NEW AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE SERVICE

Evidence-based support for recruitment and retention of volunteers is an important part of strengthening Australia's emergency services workforce capability. A new toolkit is supporting leaders in the way they recruit, onboard, manage and retain volunteers.



Communities often rely upon volunteer emergency services personnel for support when a natural hazard or an emergency strikes. This puts pressure on not only the volunteers, but also on their leaders; many of whom are not trained as managers when they become a volunteer leader.

*'Volunteer management and recruitment is complex. The drivers are different to any paid work.'*

Ensuring that volunteer leaders are as well-supported as possible in areas of training, recruitment, management and staff retention is essential to deliver crucial emergency services. Researchers at Curtin University and the University of Western Australia, through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, worked with DFES to develop an evidence-based Recruitment and Retention Toolkit for Emergency Volunteer Leaders.

The toolkit was one of the outputs of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project, and is grounded in relevant models of organisational psychology and researchers worked with leaders and volunteers of brigades, groups and units to ensure the resources were as useful and easily applicable as possible.

For more information, and to access the Toolkit, visit the [BNHCRC website](#).

## FRUIT FLY OUTBREAKS



South Australia's fruit fly outbreaks are continuing to threaten thousands of jobs, businesses and livelihoods.

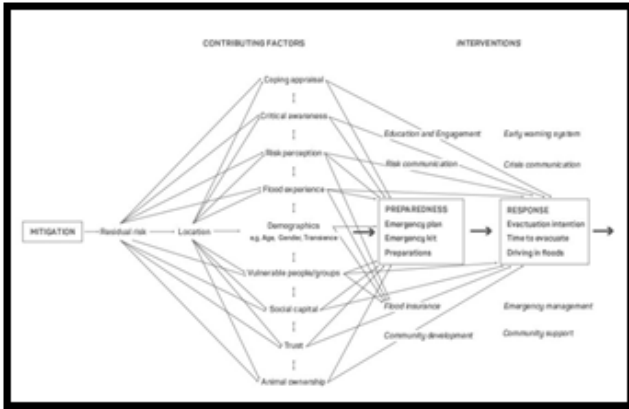
Restrictions on the movement of some fruit and vegetables continue in several parts of the state, including metropolitan Adelaide and the Riverland. Port Augusta and Warradale have also recently been added to the list of affected locations.

The state has been divided into red, yellow and green zones (see map) with different restrictions for each. Fines of \$405 are being issued for those not complying with directives.

Details of what can and cannot be moved within and into each of the zones is available on the [FruitflySA website](#) or via the fruit fly hotline, 1300 666 010, which is available 24 hours a day.



## UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND REPOSNSE



A research framework has been developed which considers the underlying causes of preparedness and response and possible interventions for the Wimmera region of Victoria, Australia. The research framework was developed in conjunction with the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and tested in a social research project across six communities identified with a full range of flooding in the Wimmera region.

It is intended to be used in the examination of community flood preparedness and response and can be adapted for use with other hazards and the other stages of the disaster management cycle.

## Social Research

The social research conducted through surveys with 800 at risk households. The survey results identified a general 'optimism bias' that most people underestimate flood risk when in comparison to the actual predicted flood risk levels. This was also the case for people who had experienced previous floods.

The statistics also indicated that most people were willing to help others and there was a high level of trust in emergency responders. Most would evacuate, except for those with animals who were more likely to stay.

## Findings

The framework was used as a basis for a social research project in the region, which found low preparedness levels, potential reasons for these levels and possible ways to increase the levels.

It identified aspects of community response that require attention including unwillingness to evacuate and willingness to drive through floodwaters. It also identified high levels of social capital in the region which indicate a potential positive impact of using community support mechanisms in future flood events.

For further information visit AIDR's website.

## DISASTER RESILIENCE

To stay up to date between editions of EM News, sign up for Neil Dufty's [\*This Week in Disaster Resilience\*](#) for a range of articles related to disaster resilience throughout Australia and the world.

