

NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report

Implementation of the NSW Government's response to the
NSW Bushfire Inquiry.

Reporting Period
April to June 2021



Resilience
NSW

KEY HIGHLIGHTS BY THEME

Protecting Frontline Firefighters



- 66 new firefighting vehicles delivered to NSW RFS this quarter with appropriate crew protection systems, including:
 - 23 heavy tankers (Category 1 vehicles)
 - 22 medium tankers (Category 7 vehicles)
 - 21 light tankers (Category 9 vehicles)
- 11 heavy tankers (Category 1 vehicles) retrofitted with crew protection safety systems this quarter.
- \$22.7 million invested to deliver specialised personal protective clothing for FRNSW firefighters in 2021-2022.
- NSW RFS and Monash University commenced research to develop an improved understanding of cabin protection in frontline vehicles.

Improving Operational Capability



- NSW RFS Aviation Simulator integrated into aviation training courses, including the interstate Air Attack Course conducted in June 2021.
- Twenty NSW RFS Rural Fire Districts integrated and operating from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
- State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) provided with access to the Public Safety Network.
- NSW RFS completed a review of Fire Control Centres in areas that were heavily affected by fire.
- \$20 million investment over two years to upgrade Fire Control Centres, Emergency Operations Centres, and Station/Neighbourhood Safe Places.
- \$6.7 million investment in fire ground tracking, training and accreditation of heavy plant machinery announced June 2021.
- \$5.2 million investment to build additional RPAS capability for FRNSW, announced June 2021.

Hazard Reduction



- 4,800km fire break works completed by NSW RFS mitigation crews this financial year, providing protection for more than 27,000 homes.
- 28 new Community Safety Specialists recruited by NSW RFS, responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and ensuring bush fire hazards are addressed.
- Five fire trails, comprising of 15.3kms, have had certification inspections completed.
- Rollout of the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is ongoing with \$8.5 million in resilience activities successfully delivered, and work continuing on the Pacific, Kings, Oxley and Bruxner Highways.

Increasing Community Resilience



- 50 NSW RFS vehicles retrofitted with UHF CB Radios and all new NSW RFS firefighting vehicles being fitted with UHF radios to facilitate safe, effective communication with local landholders.
- Four Aboriginal communities developed Bushfire Community Protection plans, and emergency management plans for their communities as part of the Aboriginal Community Emergency Management Pilot project.
- LEMC online training package re-developed and released including guidance on the role and responsibility of Local Emergency Management Officers.
- 200 wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary professionals received subsidised bush fire awareness training.

Strengthening Research, Technology, Governance & Accountability



- \$16 million investment in a Bushfire Technology Fund (BTF) to support and encourage investment in the private sector development and commercialisation of new bush fire technologies, creating jobs and building an industry sector.
- NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework (AQFF) enhanced by:
 - adding real-time wood smoke and power station emissions into the system;
 - addition of the US EPA's Community Multiscale Air Quality Modeling System to the AQFF ensemble; and
 - incorporating new national air quality standards into the NSW air quality alert and warning system.
- Second NSW RFS Cessna Citation aircraft arrived in Australia and is being fitted with the Overwatch scanning and sensing system.
- Updates to the Fires Near Me App have introduced fire spread prediction maps.

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	5
The Independent Bushfire Inquiry	5
Reporting on Implementation of the Inquiry’s recommendations	5
METHODOLOGY	6
Schema for Quarterly Reporting	6
STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	7
More than \$460 million allocated to respond to NSW Bushfire Inquiry recommendations	7
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2021	8
ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS	52

BACKGROUND

The Independent Bushfire Inquiry

The 2019-20 bush fire season was without a doubt one of the most catastrophic on record. The bush fire season lasted eight months, from 1 July 2019, with a total of 11,774 fire incidents throughout the season.

In NSW, 26 people lost their lives, including seven firefighters – three RFS contracted air crew and four RFS volunteers. Each one of these deaths was a tragedy and greatly affected the community.

The 2019-2020 bush fire season saw 2,476 homes destroyed, and 1,034 damaged. 5,559 outbuildings and 284 facilities were also destroyed in the fires.

Over 2.7 million hectares of national park was impacted by the fires. 55 national parks had more than 99% of their area affected by fire. The habitats of at least 293 threatened animals were affected by fire.

On 30 January 2020 the Premier announced an inquiry into the 2019-20 bush fire season to make recommendations in relation to bush fire preparedness and response.

The Independent Bushfire Inquiry was led by Dave Owens APM, former Deputy Commissioner of NSW Police Force and Professor Mary O’Kane AC, Independent Planning Commission Chair and former NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

The Inquiry report was released on 24 August 2020, with the NSW Government accepting all recommendations.

Reporting on Implementation of the Inquiry’s Recommendations

The NSW Government committed to providing regular reports against progress on the implementation of actions to address the recommendations in the Inquiry report. Resilience NSW has been assigned to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Inquiry’s recommendations.

The NSW Parliament passed amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* in late 2020 to require quarterly reporting to both houses of Parliament. This is the second quarterly report produced in response to this amended legislation. The report captures the activities of the NSW Government agencies leading implementation of initiatives and projects to address the Inquiry’s recommendations and sub-recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the process which Resilience NSW has established to work with the other agencies to implement, monitor and report on the agreed actions to address the Inquiry's recommendations to improve how NSW plans and prepares for, and responds to, bush fires.

The process for assigning status to a recommendation is as follows.

- Step 1:** Recommendations/Sub-recommendations are referred by Resilience NSW to a nominated lead agency to prepare a Project Plan to implement an agreed action for the recommendation and submit this to Resilience NSW for review.
- Step 2:** The lead agency is responsible for working with nominated supporting agencies in implementing the agreed action. Resilience NSW then monitors progress of all accepted and allocated responses to track that the lead agency is meeting the agreed implementation timeframes.
- Step 3:** Once the lead agency has completed the required action it will submit to Resilience NSW a claim for closure of the recommendation. This application indicates that the lead agency believes it has completed the required action and/or ongoing work has been integrated into the lead agency's 'business as usual' operations.
The status of the recommendation is changed to "Completed".

This process will continue until all recommendations are closed.

It is acknowledged that many recommendations are contingent on collaboration with other jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth Government and other States and Territories.

The report will identify any change to target timeframes or to actions proposed to be taken to address the inquiry recommendations.

Schema for Quarterly Reporting

BEING SCOPED		A recommendation that has a project being scoped, or does not have an approved Project Plan yet.
IN-PROGRESS		A recommendation that has a project that is being progressed as at the end of the reporting period.
COMPLETED		A recommendation that has been delivered, including those incorporated into an ongoing program of work.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Inquiry makes 76 recommendations. 37 recommendations include a further 109 sub-recommendations which require implementation of discrete actions or projects.

Consequently, Resilience NSW is reporting against a total of 148 recommendations and sub-recommendations.

At the end of the reporting period, the implementation progress for all 148 recommendations was as follows:

- 147 recommendations completed or in progress (99.3%)
- 1 recommendation being scoped (0.7%)

More than \$460 million allocated to respond to NSW Bushfire Inquiry recommendations

In June 2021, the NSW Government announced a further \$268.2 million over four years as part of its response to the recommendations of the Inquiry.

This takes the total amount committed by Government to more than \$460 million. The latest funding package included:

- A further \$50.9 million to support firefighting tanker replacement and safety retrofits for frontline NSW RFS, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Corps NSW fleet, following an initial investment of \$17 million in 2020-21;
- \$37.6 million for the continued funding of additional mitigation crews in the NSW RFS and NPWS to deliver greater hazard reduction;
- \$34.4 million to accelerate the state-wide delivery of strategic fire trails, following an initial \$9.5 million investment in 2020-21;
- \$22.7 million for a personal protective clothing replacement program for FRNSW;
- \$19.9 million to upgrade the FRNSW dispatch systems, ensuring greater integration across the fire agencies;
- \$17.2 million to operationalise two black hawk helicopters to replace existing NSW RFS helicopters;
- \$10.6 million to assist with the implementation of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System;
- \$6.7 million to enhance firefighter safety through fire ground tracking, training, and accreditation of heavy plant machinery operators; and
- \$5.2 million for additional FRNSW drones for firefighting operations.

Further measures to address recommendations from the Inquiry will continue to be considered as part of future budget processes.

NSW BUSHFIRE INQUIRY ACTION PLAN

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2021

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R1 That, in order to ensure recommendations accepted by the Government are implemented in a timely and transparent manner, Government establish a central accountability mechanism to track implementation of recommendations from bush fire-related reviews and inquiries and consider expanding this to other policy areas.	Assign Resilience NSW to oversee recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry and bush fire related reviews. NSW Government to establish a legislative function for the SEMC to oversee lessons arising from emergencies.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The NSW Government has assigned Resilience NSW to track the implementation of recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry across government, and develop a public reporting framework for the Inquiry and related reviews. Legislation was passed in November 2020 to establish an explicit statutory function for the SEMC to promote the continuous improvement to policy and practice in the NSW emergency management sector, including through consideration of reviews and inquiries and their recommendations.
R2 That at the start of each fire season, based on advice from the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC), Government provide a public statement with an evaluation of the likely fire season risk and the effectiveness of the planning and preparation for the upcoming season. This should be based on sophisticated monitoring of the key risk factors and signals for an extreme fire season. It should form the basis for clear public communication about these risks on a regional basis and the actions that Government proposes in preparation.	NSW RFS Commissioner (Chair of BFCC) will prepare a report outlining the State's preparedness for the upcoming season, which is endorsed by the BFCC and presented to the Minister.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The inaugural Fire Season Public Statement was tabled in Parliament on 17 November 2020. This will continue to be completed annually as part of agency BAU.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R3 That the NSW Government, along with other Australian governments, ask AFAC to establish a national bush fire database. This database would enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ monitoring of trends in bush fire activity and impacts, including timing, cause, extent and intensity across all land tenures and vegetation types ▪ tracking trends and identifying patterns in associated weather and climate signals that contribute to severe bush fires ▪ evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of risk mitigation efforts, including hazard reduction, and fire suppression activities so we have a better understanding of what works. 	<p>NSW RFS will collaborate with AFAC and the Disaster Research Centre (announced by the Commonwealth Government 23 July 2020) to ensure a national repository for bush fire history including those elements listed within the recommendation.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>The NSW RFS continues to collaborate with AFAC and Natural Hazards Research Australia to coordinate work on a national repository for bush fire history including elements listed within the recommendation.</p>
<p>R4 That, in order to improve capability to detect ignitions and monitor accurately all fire edge intensity and progression automatically across the State in near real time, Government establish a spatial technology acceleration program to maximise the information available from the various remote sensing technologies currently in use and to plan for inclusion of new remote sensing systems that can sense precisely and rapidly through heavy smoke, cloud, fog and dust. This will require work within the State and with partners nationally and internationally.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will develop a project to trial new NSW RFS Citation aircraft for early detection by increasing surveillance flights during and before heightened fire dangers. NSW RFS will also, working with other agencies, examine the feasibility and trial an integrated detection and monitoring camera surveillance network across high risk bush fire areas area of the state.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>The first NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation aircraft and one contract aircraft has and will continue to undertake inflight scanning trials and image production using the Overwatch scanning/sensing system to evaluate the most effective operational parameters and develop standard mission profiles. Additionally, the second NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation aircraft has arrived in Australia and is being fitted with scanning equipment and the Overwatch scanning/sensing system.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R5 That Government establish NSW as a major world centre of bush fire research, and technology development and commercialisation. This should include:</p> <p>a) establishing a Bush Fire Technology Fund, modelled on the Medical Devices Fund, to assist with the rapid development of technologies and services to sense, fight, mop up after and protect from bush fires</p> <p>b) commissioning further research into extreme fire behaviour and building up the research and research training capacity in this field. This will improve our ability to understand, model and predict the likelihood of extreme fire behaviour in the landscape and enable targeting of fire fighting resources to areas where fires are likely to become most damaging.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW in collaboration with relevant agencies will scope the potential establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Acceleration Program. It is proposed to consider proposals to address this recommendation in detail in mid-2021.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.</p> <p>This funding includes \$16 million over four years to establish an early-stage Bushfire Technology Fund, to enable small and medium enterprises to develop and commercialise products related to bush fire technologies.</p> <p>Resilience NSW and Investment NSW will be responsible for administering this funding over the next four years.</p>
<p>R6 That Government support training initiatives to increase the capacity of fire authorities to fight the kind of megafires seen in the 2019-20 season. The training initiatives should include:</p>					
<p>a) targeted training in local weather effects for fire behaviour analysts who are embedded in Incident Management Teams</p>	<p>NSW RFS to enhance existing multiagency Fire Behaviour Analyst training programs, to improve knowledge of local weather effects.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q3 2021*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW RFS is expanding training delivered to Fire Behaviour Analysts. Enhanced training about local weather effects has been developed and a pilot course was run in May 2021.</p> <p>An advanced training course in local weather effects is being developed and is scheduled to be delivered in August 2021. An additional Fire Behaviour Analyst position focused on training development and delivery is being recruited by the NSW RFS.</p>
<p>b) an increase in the number of trained fire behaviour analysts so that, should there be a repeat of the scale of these fires, all Incident Management Teams can have an embedded analyst and there is some redundancy under more normal conditions</p>	<p>NSW RFS to recruit additional fire behaviour analysts and trainers in regional NSW.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>An additional 24 firefighters have been trained in Fire Behaviour Analysis in 2020-21. Further training is scheduled in September to bolster this capability.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
c) training of more meteorologists in fire behaviour so there are more expert resources available to embed within the NSW RFS State Operations Centre	NSW RFS to develop a specific training package to enhance the knowledge of embedded BOM meteorologists within the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Meteorologists continue to rotate through the NSW RFS State Operations Centre fortnightly as part of on the job training. An additional training package for meteorologists is under development.
d) dedicated training for firefighters in extreme fire behaviour	NSW RFS to develop an extreme fire behaviour training module and online training package, incorporated into existing foundational training frameworks.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Extreme fire behaviour content has been included in all mainstream firefighting training packages. This includes Bush Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter and Crew Leader training packages.
e) support for research training in challenging firefighting problems.	NSW RFS will work with RFSA to develop annual scholarship program for RFS volunteer members.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	Mainstream and specialist training programs are being revised to incorporate lessons learned and the latest research regarding extreme fire behaviour. Research scholarships will also be established to ensure operational knowledge helps inform future research priorities. NSW RFS is continuing engagement with the NSW Rural Fire Service Association regarding partnership opportunities for scholarship programs.
R7 That the NSW RFS Commissioner consult with the Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner and other emergency services to develop a protocol in the event that simultaneous emergency events necessitate the re-allocation of resources while a Section 44 declaration is in place.	The NSW RFS Commissioner to consult with the Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner, to establish an agreed position on minimum standards of fire protection to be afforded to Communities within a declared Section 44 area.	NSW RFS FRNSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	A draft protocol has been developed that outlines the re-allocation of resources while simultaneous emergency events are in place.
R8 That, to strengthen cross-agency accountability and deliver improved bush fire risk management outcomes:					
a) Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) members from NSW government agencies are at the level of Coordinator General/Deputy Secretary/Agency Head/Deputy Commissioner (or equivalent)	NSW RFS will review BFCC membership and make appropriate recommendations for appointment by the Minister.	NSW RFS	Q3 2021*	In Progress 	BFCC Chair wrote to 14 representatives in May 2021 requesting confirmation that they are of appropriate rank and title. This has resulted in one representative change.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) the BFCC ensures all Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs), Operation Coordination Plans and Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans are compliant with the timeframes outlined in section 52 of the <i>Rural Fires Act</i> as soon as practicable	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	New Bush Fire Risk Management Plans have been created. All BFMCs have a valid BFRMP and Section 52 Operations Plan. All BFMCs have submitted drafted FAFT Plans for approval.
c) the BFCC develops a risk-based performance auditing cycle to ensure Bush Fire Risk Management Plans, Operation Coordination Plans and FAFT Plans are fit-for-purpose and any opportunities for improvement are identified and actioned	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	This recommendation is addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.
d) the NSW RFS considers the best way of enhancing the transparency of BFCC decision-making, for example by publishing BFCC membership and minutes on its website	NSW RFS will enhance its website to provide BFCC content.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Design work has commenced on enhancements to the NSW RFS website to include a dedicated BFCC page and a page for each BFMC.
e) the BFCC endorses the annual statement to Parliament on the likely fire risk and the effectiveness of planning and preparation	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 2.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. This recommendation has been addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 2.
f) relevant agencies review Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) membership and confirm to the NSW RFS that members have sufficient discretion and authority to agree and implement risk mitigation activities at the local level	NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC to update BFMC Policy and Handbook, the BFCC secretariat to provide a report to Commissioner NSW RFS regarding agency endorsement of all BFMC members in alignment to this recommendation.	NSW RFS	Q3 2021*	In Progress 	All BFMC Executive Officers have been requested to review their current membership, to ensure representatives are of appropriate level of seniority.
g) the NSW RFS Commissioner amends the BFMC Policy to require BFMCs to refer unresolved issues to the BFCC for resolution.	NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC will update the BFMC Policy and Handbook.	NSW RFS	Q1 2022*	In Progress 	All BFMC Executive Officers have been advised of issue resolution pathways, whilst the BFMC Policy and Handbook are being reviewed. BFMC Policy and Handbook to be reviewed in 2022.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R9 That the NSW RFS work with AFAC to analyse the impact of changing fire seasons on inter-jurisdictional resource sharing agreements, both domestic and international, and determine any flow-on effects for NSW firefighting personnel capacity.	NSW RFS to work with NRSC to update policies and plans, and to undertake annual resource analysis between jurisdictions.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The 2021 National Capability Statement prepared by the Australasian Fire & Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) is currently being considered by the Commissioners Chief Officers Standing Committee (CCOSC) for approval.
R10 That, in order to expand NSW's specialist aviation personnel safety and capacity, Government expand simulator capabilities at the NSW RFS Training Academy.	NSW RFS will install an aviation simulator and engage additional trainers at RFS Academy.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	The NSW RFS Aviation Simulator is now integrated into aviation training courses, including the interstate Air Attack Course conducted in June 2021 at the NSW RFS Dubbo Training Academy. The NSW RFS is working with Dubbo Regional Council to progress development application for a building dedicated to house simulators at the NSW RFS Training Academy in Dubbo.
R11 That, in order to strengthen the capability of local councils in future emergency events:					
a) Resilience NSW, in consultation with local government, develop specific training that focuses on the role, responsibilities and expected functions of the Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO), including regular 'refresher' components	Resilience NSW will expand the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program, with modules on local council emergency management capability development.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	Completed 	LEMC online training package has been re-developed and released including guidance on the role and responsibility of Local Emergency Management Officers. Further work is continuing in this space. Two eCreator's have been engaged and work has commenced on additional eLearning training packages; including Emergency Management Overview & Evacuation Management.
b) Councils support their staff to participate in LEMO training on an ongoing basis, and ensure that staff who are LEMOs are appropriately senior and have the authority to commit resources.	Local Council Capability Development Program	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Regional Disaster Preparedness Program continues to operate in four regions, partnering with local councils and joint organisations to strengthen the capability of local government. The ongoing delivery of this Program is being built into the new regional functions of Resilience NSW.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R12 That Government work with other Australian governments to provide long-term funding certainty to AFAC, including the National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC) and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC).	This will be progressed by national forums to also address related recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. NSW continues to support the AFAC arrangements through existing national forums including the National Emergency Management Minister's Meeting (NEMMM) and Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC).
R13 That, to ensure updated resource-sharing arrangements are in place, the NSW and Victorian Governments progress and finalise a multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding before the 2020-21 fire season commences.	NSW RFS to review all Memoranda of Understanding including Victoria ahead of the 2020/21 bush fire season.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. All Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were reviewed ahead of the 2020-21 bush fire season. MoUs will be reviewed annually.
R14 That in order to provide greater consistency in public information and warnings, especially in border areas: a) the finalisation of the Australian Warning System be prioritised to provide greater consistency in public information and warnings b) the NSW State Emergency Management Committee, including the Public Information and Warnings Sub-Committee, prioritise the implementation of the Australian Warning System and data standards for relevant hazards within NSW.	NSW RFS will continue to work with the National Warnings Group to finalise the National Warning System framework and engage with SEMC to implement the system.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. On 19 March 2021, ANZEMC endorsed the adoption of the Australian Warning System across multiple hazards. In advance of this, the nationally agreed bush fire warning icons were implemented and displayed on NSW RFS systems from December 2020.
R15 That Government commit to: a) evaluating existing bush fire preparedness programs to determine the most effective and efficient approach given increased frequency of extreme fire seasons, and develop outcomes-based measures to monitor programs' impact over time b) post-evaluation roll out the most effective bush fire preparedness programs to all communities and at-risk cohorts in bush fire prone areas across NSW.	NSW RFS will establish a comprehensive review of all preparedness programs, to identify and prioritise those programs that provide better outcomes for communities.	NSW RFS	Q1 2022	In Progress 	The NSW RFS is reviewing all of its existing community engagement programs, ranging from large scale public awareness campaigns to targeted engagement activities. This allows for a comparison of the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs, while maintaining the importance of targeted programs for at-risk communities.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R16 That, in order to ensure tourism businesses are prepared for natural disasters including bush fires, Resilience NSW work with NSW RFS and Destination NSW to develop bush fire preparedness support for tourism businesses, based on research into existing models. Over time, this support could be expanded to include other natural hazards.	Resilience NSW will review Get Ready materials, and other appropriate business disaster preparedness tools, and tailor for the tourism market using behavioural insights and testing with tourism businesses to ensure effectiveness of message delivery.	Resilience NSW SBC	Q4 2022	In Progress 	A business continuity toolkit has been released by NSW Government to assist businesses with preparing for disaster and disruption. Resilience NSW, RFS and Destination NSW are working closely to prepare further resources and activities to help tourism businesses be better prepared.
R17 That the NSW RFS identifies remote bush fire prone areas that do not already have an indoor Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) and upgrades the relevant NSW RFS Stations to meet NSP guidelines. These stations would require adequate Asset Protection Zones and active/passive protection systems to provide short-term protection.	NSW RFS will undertake analysis of how many remote locations do not have an indoor NSP and a NSW RFS station is in the same locality. NSW RFS will trial the upgrade of three remote RFS stations in areas that do not have an indoor NSP.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	The NSW and Commonwealth Government have allocated \$5 million to trial the upgrade of NSW RFS stations in remote areas to support an indoor NSP to be co-located at these stations. NSP standards being finalised of those sites co-located with RFS stations, trial sites to be confirmed by end of 2021.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R18 That, in order to equip NSW RFS with comprehensive information on all structures and assets at risk of bush fire, Government ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ there is a single whole-of-government procurement and acquisition program for imagery and LiDAR and that Government accelerate the building of the State Digital Twin and associated Digital Workbench ▪ owners/managers of assets (apart from private home owners whose information will be provided through local councils) in bush fire prone land are required to provide to the Digital Twin at least the following information/metadata with quality control certification on an annual basis (with annual census at least two months before the start of the fire season): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise geolocation • description of asset including picture • value level • fire treatment on asset • Asset Protection Zone (APZ) details and how it is maintained • access details • what redundancy is available if relevant • any metadata requirements specific to the asset class • emergency contact and instructions on how to access where more information is held • any restrictions on data access and sharing. <p>The Digital Twin must also be able to incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ information about the hazard reduction results for road verges, fire trails, APZs and other defensible space ▪ local information supplied by organisations such as local NSW RFS brigades. 	<p>Department of Customer Service (DCS) Spatial Services to coordinate whole-of-government option for procurement and acquisition of imagery and LiDAR. NSW government agencies to engage with current activity of the Commonwealth Government to deliver significant reforms in this area.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW DCS</p>	<p>Q4 2024</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>DCS continues to progress LIDAR and imagery capabilities, in cooperation with NSW SES, Public Works Advisory and NSW RFS, adding 15,000km² of post catastrophe imagery capability in Q2. DCS has also expanded capacity of the ReSSE Imagery Panel to assist with imagery procurement. For the digital workbench, DCS has expanded data sourcing capacity and is working with data custodians across government to create data pipelines into State Digital Twin and Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL). DCS has secured additional infrastructure data from Utilities and Telco companies during this period, and continues to work with peak industry groups, Commonwealth Government and NSW agencies on critical infrastructure data. DCS has released the Spatial Information Mapping System v2 on the State Digital Twin infrastructure, providing Local and Regional emergency managers and Functional areas access to reporting on structures, assets and other relevant information held in the ESSIL database.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R19 That Government re-commit to the current, regionally based approach to planning and coordinating hazard reduction activities across all tenures through Bush Fire Management Committees but ensure that it is actually being implemented at a high-level of quality across NSW. Getting it to a high-level of quality requires:					
a) implementing the Inquiry's recommendation about performance auditing of Bush Fire Risk Management Plans	The Government to introduce legislation to expand NSW RFS Commissioner's existing powers to audit the implementation of bush fire risk management plans, and provide for the specific power to audit 'Fire Access and Fire Trail Plans' and 'Plans of Operations'. NSW RFS Commissioner to establish a performance, audit and implementation unit to undertake ongoing review of BFCC and BFMC functions, plans and outcomes.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to provide new powers for the Commissioner to audit implementation of Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. The NSW Government has invested \$24.9 million over five years (commencing in 2020-21) to establish new, regionally based Community Safety Teams within NSW RFS responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and taking regulatory action to ensure land managers address bush fire hazards. 28 of 42 Community Safety Specialists have been recruited within the reporting period, with recruitment for the remaining positions to continue throughout Q3 2021. In addition, a further 7 Fire Trail Specialists will be recruited during Q3 2021.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) prioritising implementation of revised processes for bush fire risk management planning that incorporate new modelling and methods for quantifying risk and the residual risk profile as a result of proposed hazard reduction works	A new Bush Fire Risk Management Planning process to be created which incorporates new modelling and methods of quantifying risk and the residual risk profile as a result of proposed hazard reduction works. Relevant policies to be updated to support new BFRMP and implementation plan for roll out created.	NSW RFS	Q3 2021*	In Progress 	Methodology for new risk plan was finalised by the University of Melbourne in December 2020. NSW RFS have signed a Service Agreement with the University of Melbourne to deliver bush fire risk assessments for all BFMCs. The NSW RFS has commenced agency workshops and volunteer engagement for all ten Bush Fire Management Committee areas in Phase 1 of the rollout, with the second round of modelling and workshops conducted in two (Hunter Valley and Lower Hunter) of these Bush Fire Management Committee Areas. NPWS continue to support the NSW RFS to address this recommendation. As part of this initiative, NPWS are delivering cultural and environmental risk information and treatment advice to Bushfire Management Committees to inform the preparation of a Bushfire Risk Management Plan for their local area.
c) ensuring regional priorities for hazard reduction, and how they are determined, are communicated clearly to the community, and their implementation is reported on transparently. This will include being very clear about the objectives of hazard reduction activities and communicating that hazard reduction does not eliminate the risk of fire affecting properties	NSW RFS will collaborate with the BFCC to update the BFMC handbook and Policy to require that regional annual risk plans are communicated to all agency members and the community.	NSW RFS	Q3 2021*	In Progress 	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 19(a) and 19(b). Refer to updates on recommendation 8(g) regarding the review of the BFMC Handbook.
d) the methodology for assessing and planning for risk reduction becomes an ongoing area of research and the frameworks are formally reviewed every three years.	This recommendation will be addressed through recommendation R3 and R5(b).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	New Bush Fire Risk Management Plans are still in the initial rollout phase which will take place over a three-year period. The review of the methodology for assessing and planning for risk reduction will commence in the final year of rollout. Risk reduction remain a key priority area of current research efforts.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R20 That Government, noting that hazard reduction targeted in proximity to assets is on balance more likely to provide help than hinder, should:					
a) support local councils and partner agencies to implement more comprehensive hazard reduction at a local level around towns/cities, communities and local infrastructure assets, and provide incentives for communities to organise themselves to prioritise and implement local hazard reduction initiatives. This will involve a suite of hazard reduction techniques depending on the landscape including prescribed burning, clearing, mowing, and mechanical treatments, and easy disposal of green waste into processors turning it into bioenergy or biofuels	NSW RFS to increase access to mitigation resources to support local government and land managers with implementation of Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) works.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated an additional \$37.6 million to extend the mitigation crew programs for NSW RFS and NPWS for a further year. The NSW Government has also invested \$5.5 million to trial and procure two new mitigation vehicle designs, and 'posi-track' equipment with mulching attachments, enhancing capacity to undertake mitigation works. Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews across the State have completed some 4,800km of mechanical and manual fire break works providing protection for 27,241 properties from bush fires. In addition, the NSW RFS continues to provide bush fire mitigation grants to Local Council and land management agencies to undertake critical APZ and SFAZ works.
b) beyond the local level priorities for hazard reduction, prioritise prescribed burning in parts of the landscape where fuel treatment may help reduce probability of fires escalating quickly and where terrain and potential atmospheric interactions are likely to escalate fires into fire-generated thunderstorms. This will likely involve a proactive program of treating ridge tops that are prone to dry lightning where reduced fuels may help reduce speed of spread when the fire first starts, or particular windward or lee-slopes that are susceptible to generating extreme fire behaviour and drive fire towards towns.	NSW RFS and NPWS to extend mitigation programs, with the addition of increased resource capabilities to focus on areas of potential bush fire ignition.	NSW RFS DPIE	Q2 2022	In Progress 	This recommendation is being addressed through recommendation 21(a).

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R21 That, in order to improve understanding of optimal hazard reduction techniques and their application in the landscape:					
a) Government extend the recently introduced program of mitigation crews so that hazard reduction activities can be undertaken when conditions are optimal (throughout the week and potentially at night)	The Government will extend the existing 12-month funding for NSW RFS and NPWS mitigation programs, including extension of NPWS fire fighter roles to undertake additional hazard reduction activities and enhance rapid bush fire response capacity.	NSW RFS DPIE	Ongoing	In Progress 	In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated an additional \$37.6 million to extend the mitigation crew programs for NSW RFS and NPWS for a further year, and to purchase machinery to assist with hazard reduction works. This is in addition to the \$71.1 million allocated in 2020-21, delivering a total increased investment of \$108.7 million. Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews across the State have completed some 4,800km of mechanical and manual fire break works providing protection for 27,241 properties from bush fires. As part of the enhancement to its firefighting capacity, NPWS are also committed to a 20% increase of hazard reduction in asset protection zones (APZ) and strategic fire advantage zones (SFAZ).
b) all fire authorities review prescribed burning techniques and their implementation, and commission further research into optimal prescribed burning regimes and techniques. This should include research to understand critical thresholds that, when breached, may render fuel treatment ineffective (i.e. fuel moisture thresholds), and the short, medium and long-term outcomes of hazard reduction burning regimes	All fire agencies to review and ensure that the prescribed burn plans clearly identify the outcome that the Hazard Reduction activity is to deliver, and that those undertaking Hazard Reduction activities are appropriately trained.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The NSW RFS is upgrading its prescribed burn training packages to deliver improved training for prescribed burn planners and supervisors. The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
c) Government commission research into a range of other hazard reduction techniques to understand better the cost versus benefit and effectiveness of different practices in various circumstances, including grazing.	The NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC and universities to research initiatives for hazard reduction practices, techniques, and technologies.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The NSW RFS is working with researchers from the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (University of Wollongong) to evaluate the effectiveness of hazard reduction activities on fire behaviour during the 2019-20 fire season. The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.
R22 That, as part of the spatial technology acceleration program, Government support deployment of remote sensing and picture processing technologies to monitor and audit how well Asset Protection Zones and defensible space are being maintained, especially around towns.	The NSW RFS will develop project to trial use of its owned Cessna Citation jets fitted with remote sensing technology to monitor APZs. The NSW RFS will work with NSW Spatial Services to develop emerging technologies and methods for monitoring APZs.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	One NSW RFS Owned Cessna Citation aircraft and one contracted aircraft is continuing to undertake inflight scanning trials and image production using the Overwatch scanning/sensing system. The Department of Customer Service (DCS) continues to progress LIDAR and imagery capabilities, in cooperation with SES, Public Works Authority and RFS, adding 15000 km2 of post catastrophe imagery capability in Q2. DCS has also expanded capacity of the ReSSE Imagery Panel to assist with imagery procurement. The Australian Research Data Commons has announced a total investment of \$5 million (including co-contributions from partner agencies) to establish a 'bush fire data commons', including a new project led by the Australian National University which will contribute towards compiling and sharing existing field and remote sensing observations for fuel loads, structure and moisture in a national database. This national database will be used to improve remote sensing products and will be publicly available to support other research programs.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R23 That Government amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> so that all public land management agencies be required to forward complaints received about bush fire hazards to the Commissioner of the NSW RFS. As an interim measure, heads of agencies should commence this practice immediately.	The Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to require all public land managers to provide any hazard complaints they receive to the NSW RFS Commissioner within 14 days consistent with requirements already placed upon local authorities, and ensure that public and private land holders are treated consistently.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to require public land managers to report complaints on bush fire hazards to the NSW RFS.
R24 That government agencies managing land (at all levels and through all agencies) be the best neighbours possible by considering their neighbours when undertaking activities related to bush fire preparation and having clear, two-way communication about these activities, with the aspiration that government landholders will be seen as highly desirable neighbours.	The Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to remove the capacity for certain land (including those managed by public authorities) to be exempted from the requirements for land managers to repair and replace any dividing fences damaged by bush fire.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to remove the capacity for certain land (including those managed by public authorities) to be exempted from the requirements for land managers to repair and replace any dividing fences damaged by bush fire.
R25 That Government adopt the principle that cultural burning is one component of a broader practice of traditional Aboriginal land management and is an important cultural practice, not simply another technique of hazard reduction burning.	DPIE and AANSW to develop a long term Cultural Fire Management Strategy working in partnership with Aboriginal communities.	DPIE AANSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Government has committed \$1.29 million over two years to enable the commencement of a community driven, co-design process, leading to the development of a long-term Cultural Fire Management Strategy and business model.
R26 That, in order to increase the respectful, collaborative and effective use of Aboriginal land management practices in planning and preparing for bush fire, Government commit to pursuing greater application of Aboriginal land management, including cultural burning, through a program to be coordinated by Aboriginal Affairs and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. This should be accompanied by a program of evaluation alongside the scaled-up application of these techniques.	DPIE will measure benefits of Aboriginal land management (cultural burning) to conservation, soil properties, and community wellbeing, and to work with Aboriginal communities to foster and deliver cultural burning.	DPIE AANSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation is being addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 25. DPIE has been funded through the Commonwealth Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Package to develop a framework to assess the vulnerability of Cultural Heritage to fire and determine how key management actions, such as prescribed burning and fire suppression, can mitigate fire risk to Cultural Heritage.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R27 That Government commit to shifting to a strategic approach to planning for bush fire, and develop a new NSW Bush Fire Policy similar to the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy in order to accommodate changing climate conditions and the increasing likelihood of catastrophic bush fire conditions; to build greater resilience into both existing and future communities; and to decrease costs associated with recovery and rebuilding.	NSW RFS will work with DPIE designing and establishing a new bush fire planning framework incorporating a new strategic planning approach and how that would fit into the existing Planning for Bush Fire Protection regulatory scheme. The SEMC will consider the development of a new NSW Bush Fire Planning Policy to support this new approach as part of the work program of its land use advisory group.	NSW RFS Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	NSW RFS are working with DPIE on identified Growth Areas and proposed developments designing, establishing and implementing new bush fire planning frameworks incorporating new strategic planning and assessment approaches. NSW RFS continue to work with DPIE on identified Growth Areas in the Greater Macarthur, Wilton, Ingle side and Snowy Activation Precincts.
R28 That Government, acknowledging that a strategic approach to planning for bush fire will take time, and in order to protect, prepare and build resilience into existing communities better, should immediately:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare, in association with the insurance sector, a model framework and statutory basis for the establishment of an enforcement, compliance and education program which adopts a risk-based approach to routine inspection of local bush fire prone developments to ensure that every local development on bush fire prone land is prepared for future bush fire seasons in accordance with bush fire protection standards of the day, that account for worsening conditions 	The Government to introduce legislation to expand NSW RFS Commissioner's existing powers to audit the implementation of bush fire risk management plans, and resource a new implementation unit to undertake ongoing review of risk plans, including Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ).	NSW RFS	Q4 2024	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to provide new powers for the Commissioner to audit implementation of Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. The NSW Government has invested \$24.9 million over five years commencing in 2020-21 to establish new, regionally-based Community Safety Teams within NSW RFS responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and taking regulatory action (including issuing notices and fines) to ensure land managers (including public land managers) address bush fire hazards.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure local government is resourced to enable effective audit, enforcement and compliance powers in respect of local developments and assets on bush fire land 	Consider potential strategies to increase local government capability to undertake audit, enforcement and compliance activities in accordance with existing powers.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	A new NSW Bush Fire Planning Policy to support this new approach as part of the work program of its land use advisory group is planned to be considered by SEMC in December 2021. The SEMC Capability Development Sub Committee have been tasked to scope and prepare a strategy to address this recommendation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the introduction of subsidies for property owners to undertake site mitigation works to reduce bush fire risk and work with the Insurance Council of Australia to develop an agreed set of measures to insure against with a view to risk reductions resulting in lower insurance premiums 	Partner with Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) to investigate a Household Resilience Program for NSW	Resilience NSW	Q4 2024	In Progress 	As part of the Get Ready baseline risk and preparedness project, benchmarking research was conducted at the LGA level and has been completed. A multi-agency project working group has been established with representatives from Bega Valley Council, Canberra Region Joint Organisation, Resilience NSW, Insurance Council of Australia and Minderero Foundation to conduct a pilot program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review vegetation clearing policies to ensure that the processes are clear and easy to navigate for the community, and that they enable appropriate bush fire risk management by individual landowners without undue cost or complexity. 	The Government will implement legislation to empower rural landholders to clear their property boundaries in accordance with a code of practice but otherwise without further approval.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to simplify vegetation management for rural land holders and allow the clearing of vegetation within 25 metres of their property boundary. This vegetation clearing work may be carried out without the need for a licence, approval, consent or other authorisation under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> or any other Act or instrument, provided it is consistent with a Rural Boundary Clearing Code to be established under the Act.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R29 That, in order to maximise the protection of critical infrastructure in a bush fire, Australian governments revise the regulatory framework for the provision to government authorities of information about all critical infrastructure (public and private) including a possible change to compel the owners of critical assets to provide all needed metadata, updated annually, for appropriate planning, preparation and response for bush fire. This would include information about location, ownership, access, details of service the infrastructure supports, and fire treatments of building and surrounding zones.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 18.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW NSW RFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 18. The NSW Government is engaging collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government on critical infrastructure reporting requirements. The Commonwealth Government introduced the <i>Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020</i> in December 2020 which will expand identification of critical infrastructure assets across 11 industry sectors. The Bill is currently under review by the Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security. Where action by the Commonwealth does not deliver required enhancements, NSW will examine the potential for NSW based legislative options.</p>
<p>R30 That, in order to minimise communication outages and extend basic communication coverage during bush fires, the NSW Government work directly, or together with other Australian governments and/or their relevant power and telecommunications regulatory, policy and market bodies, to:</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure there are sufficient redundancy options available (e.g. backup diesel generators, deployed temporary telecommunications facilities, etc.) to supply power to essential telecommunication infrastructure or alternative telecommunications infrastructure 	<p>NSW Telco will continue to deliver against the NSW Operational Communications Strategy 2020.</p>	<p>NSW Telco Authority</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>NSW Telco Authority has commenced procurement of solutions to provide sufficient redundancy options for the Public Safety Network (PSN). Increasing battery backup on selected sites and manufacturing of an increase to the mobile radio asset pool of cell-on-wheels and generators is planned to commence by August 2021. This will provide additional redundancy options to maintain telecommunications coverage during unplanned outages. Plans are being put in place to deal with any lack of information from commercial carriers.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that the telecommunication entities' and electricity network providers' Bush Fire Risk Management Plans are updated annually and reported on in the NSW RFS Commissioner's annual statement to Parliament on the upcoming bush fire season and include details of all actions taken to mitigate those risks including maintenance of APZs and access roads 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2. NSW Telco Authority will liaise with carriers.</p>	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>Engagement with commercial carriers on information required for monitoring of coverage, risk plans and auditing of such is continuing through multiple forums such as Digital Twin implementation via TELCOFAC, Spatial Services and EUSFAC.</p> <p>Information received is fed into Bush Fire Risk Management Plan and NSW RFS Commissioner's annual statement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure there is appropriate auditing of distributors' preparedness for risks arising from network assets being affected by bush fire, as well as the risk of networks initiating a bush fire 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2.</p>	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>An upgraded 'PRACTICE NOTE - Telecommunication Towers in Bush Fire Prone Areas' is being developed in consultation with the Telco providers and Commonwealth agency partners to provide improved guidance for protection measures for telecommunications facilities using performance based modelling.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitate cross-carrier roaming arrangements between carriers and the public for basic text, voice and data during the period of emergency in areas directly affected by fire 	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is affected by Commonwealth regulations. NSW Telco Authority will engage with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC).</p>	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>As the telecommunications sector is regulated by the Commonwealth, primarily operating under the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i>, the implementation of this recommendation is reliant upon Commonwealth intent and action, promoted by the NSW Telco Authority.</p> <p>The recommendation was the subject of initial discussion at the Communications Sector Group (CSG) Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) meeting, hosted by the DITRDC in September 2020.</p> <p>NSW Telco Authority briefed DITRDC and the carriers on the recommendation, however some carriers considered there would be operational and technical difficulties in implementing emergency cross-carrier roaming. Further consultation will continue through the CSG TISN.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable NSW RFS to require carriers to provide regular information on the status of outages and areas affected by fire. 	Implementation of this recommendation is affected by Commonwealth regulations.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	NSW continues to promote the sharing of further information by carriers, essential to government agencies for emergency management purposes, that is not currently provided to them. Consultation will continue with carriers, their industry groups and the Commonwealth as the telecommunications industry regulator.
R31 That, in order to improve bush fire planning and protection of road infrastructure and to ensure communities, freight movers and firefighting agencies have appropriate access and egress in a bush fire event, Government, working with local government as needed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges, to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'high-risk' communities where access and egress in the event of a fire will be affected, for example rural communities connected by a single road surrounded by bushland, and ensure community bush fire planning processes (i.e. Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs) or Community Protection Plans) include plans to 'leave early' or enforce mandatory evacuation orders how waterways can be integrated better into the transport network as evacuation routes or places of shelter when road and rail transport is unavailable – waterways should be included in regional emergency management plans route options for rapid identification of needed road closures in the event of fire key sections of the State's road network for future upgrade to ensure whole corridors are resilient to fire impacts, regardless of who manages the asset 	<p>TfNSW and NSW RFS will work with key partners to include critical transport networks in BFRMPs prepared by BFMCs and LEMCs across the State, and develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges.</p> <p>TfNSW will roll out the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program (see recommendation 32). The program comprises a prioritised program of works to identify and apply risk assessment processes for State roads and bridges.</p>	TfNSW NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>As part of the new NSW RFS Bush Fire Risk Management Plan methodology, high-risk communities with limited access routes/egress have been identified to assist bush fire and evacuation planning. TfNSW has initiated development of integrated corridor resilience plans that describe to the community the plan for preparation, response and recovery to natural disaster events along key NSW road corridors. Consultation on draft resilience plans with community and freight customers is expected to start later this year.</p> <p>TfNSW's multi-modal emergency management plans are tested and reviewed regularly, including practical scenario testing and full-scale simulated emergency exercises. Incident Response plans to natural disasters (fires and floods) have been reviewed.</p> <p>The Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is being progressively rolled out across eight key corridors, in line with recommendation 32.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> audit, through the NSW RFS Audit Unit (to be established) the inclusion of critical road infrastructure in BFRMPs prepared by Bush Fire Management Committees (ensuring that appropriate transport representation is provided to BFMCs) and Local Emergency Management Committees across the State. 	<p>NSW RFS and TfNSW to review the 62 NSW BFRMPs to verify that appropriate State road infrastructure is identified, and for BFMCs to consider any unidentified State road infrastructure for inclusion in the BRMPs.</p> <p>TfNSW will work with NSW RFS to ensure appropriate representation from TfNSW on BFMCs.</p>	NSW RFS TfNSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>An audit of State road infrastructure identified in BFRMP's will be included in the risk-based performance auditing program (see recommendation 8(c)). TfNSW is included in BFMC memberships under the <i>Rural Fires Regulation 2013</i>.</p> <p>BFRMPs and Transport incident response plans have been updated across the State. This includes identification of critical road infrastructure and alternative route options in the event of critical road closures.</p>
<p>R32 That, in order to ensure outcomes-based roadside vegetation management to reduce roadside tree fall and grass ignitions in planning and preparing for bush fire, Transport for NSW, working with local government and NSW RFS, establish a consistent framework for roadside vegetation management that analyses road priority, utility, amenity, strategic value and risk. The framework should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> take into consideration landscape characteristics like distance, slope, set back, vegetation maturity and type. Acceptable outcomes under this framework could include clear verges, or alternatives such as safe zones/pull-outs. tie in formally with other strategic land use and biodiversity processes. 	<p>TfNSW will roll out the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program, designed to improve the resilience of evacuation and emergency services access routes and increase the speed of return to service post a fire event. The program comprises a prioritised program of works to identify and apply risk assessment processes for State roads and bridges.</p>	TfNSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government has allocated \$28 million over three years to deliver TfNSW's Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program, which is designed to improve the resilience of evacuation and emergency services access routes and increase the speed of return to service post a fire event.</p> <p>Roll out of the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is continuing progressively across eight key corridors, with \$8.5 million in resilience activities successfully delivered.</p> <p>Key locations on the Princes and Gwydir Highways are complete. Delivery of works across the Pacific, Kings, Oxley and Bruxner Highways will continue over the 2021-22 FY.</p> <p>TfNSW has led and coordinated asset resilience initiatives via Infrastructure NSW Resilience Working Group to carry out additional vegetation management and other bush fire asset resilience measures.</p> <p>The Vegetation Management framework is operational, with opportunity to review the framework with Local Government and NSW RFS later in 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R33 That as a matter of urgency, in order to accelerate and finalise a State-wide strategic fire trail network, the NSW RFS Commissioner and Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC):	NSW RFS to lead acceleration of strategic fire trail network.	NSW RFS	Q2 2029	In Progress 	In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated a further \$34.5 million to the NSW RFS to expand the delivery of a strategic fire trial network. This is in addition to the \$9.5 million allocated in 2020-21, delivering a total investment to date of \$44 million.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set a deadline for Bush Fire Management Committees to complete all outstanding Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans for submission to BFCC for approval, and a related deadline for BFCC consideration of these 	NSW RFS to lead acceleration to complete FAFT plans. NPWS to support NSW RFS response through continuation and acceleration of the delivery of the NPWS fire road and trail upgrade project.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. All BFMCs have submitted draft FAFT plans for approval, with eleven approved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess the completed suite of FAFT Plans to identify high-priority trails of relative strategic importance across the State for urgent construction or upgrades with particular reference to the needs of upcoming fire seasons 	NSW RFS to review all draft FAFT plans for endorsement by BFCC including identification of priority strategic trails and develop a risk based construction and upgrade program.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	Over \$12 million of works have been identified by NSW RFS in the last 8 months across 38 fire trails, comprising of 303kms of works. 5 fire trails comprising of 15.3kms have had Certification inspections completed and will soon be registered. Further works are planned for the 2021/22 financial year based on analysis of bush fire risk in upcoming seasons after the 2019/20 bush fires. In 2020/21 NPWS delivered \$30 million of fire trail upgrades and maintenance resulting in 618km and 20 bridges upgraded to the FAFT standard with a further 2110km maintained to ensure open and safe access.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enforce completion of annual fire trail condition assessment reporting by relevant landholders. Following this, the BFCC should, as part of its standard business, undertake an audit of all FAFT Plans and annual fire trail condition assessment reports 	NSW RFS to implement annual audit and reporting requirement to be overseen by audit unit established under recommendation 19(a).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	Recruitment is ongoing for area-based specialists. Additionally, funding was provided in June 2021 for a further 7 Fire Trail Specialists and these positions will be recruited during Q3 2021.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a single asset management system to capture the outcomes of annual fire trail condition assessment reporting on a tenure-blind basis to support BFCC strategic and budgetary prioritisation and inform funding allocation to agencies for capital works programs 	NSW RFS to upgrade the Guardian mitigation management system to include fire trail mapping and management including provision for the annual fire trail condition assessment reporting.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	Preliminary design work to upgrade the Guardian mitigation system to register, manage and report on the strategic fire trail network has commenced and is on track to be completed during Q3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> commission a review of FAFT Plans, with particular assessment of containment line potential, following a significant bush fire event in their area, as part of the planned review of BFCC Policy and NSW RFS Standards in 2020-21. 	NSW RFS to review fire trail standards and BFCC policy to ensure fit for role.	NSW RFS	Q4 2022	In Progress 	Standards to which fire trails are being constructed are currently being reviewed to ensure lessons learned in the 2019-20 fire season become part of the fire trail network in the future, with a particular focus on improved effectiveness as an operational asset.
<p>R34 That, in order to capture and understand the impacts of bush fire smoke better, Government invest in operational air quality forecasting and alert systems, and public health research and policy development. This would involve investment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a comprehensive system of forecasting and alerts for air quality incidents and all pollutants of concern, including but not limited to bush fire smoke, ozone and dust, and which is ideally nationally consistent investigate further the health impacts of bush fire smoke, based on improved data collection and including research on the long-term health impacts of poor air quality as a result of sustained exposure to severe bush fire smoke, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk segments of the community (children, elderly, firefighters, etc). 	<p>Enhancements to the NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework, to improve smoke emissions modelling and better forecast smoke impacts.</p> <p>DPIE to increase capacity for Emergency Air Quality Monitoring, to provide additional air quality monitoring pods and sensors to ensure sufficient air monitoring during emergencies.</p>	DPIE NSW RFS	Q4 2022	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government has invested \$4.1 million over five years, (commencing 2020-21) and \$0.85 million ongoing for enhancements to the NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework, further deployable air quality monitoring pods and other monitoring resources, and targeted information campaigns. DPIE continues to enhance and expand the NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework.</p> <p>Recent improvements include: adding real-time wood smoke and power station emissions to the system to better assess cumulative impacts of pollution; addition of the US EPA's Community Multiscale Air Quality Modeling System (CMAQ) to the NSW AQFF ensemble; improvements to AQFF data visualisation using NASA's Worldview platform; incorporating new national air quality standards into the NSW air quality alert and warning system.</p> <p>DPIE through its role on the National Air Quality Technical Advisory Group (NATAG) is continuing to advocate for updated, nationally consistent air quality categories, alerts and messages for PM10, ozone and other pollutants, building on the success of the national PM2.5 categories and alerts.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R35 That, in order to improve the provision of evidence-based public health messaging about air quality during bush fire events, Government develop a public education campaign and supporting systems before the next bush fire season. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a public education campaign (like sun exposure), to help people make their own decisions about exposure to bush fire smoke tailored messaging to target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ smoke-vulnerable cohorts of the community ▪ general practitioners, particularly in rural and regional areas, so they can advise patients with relevant, susceptible comorbidities ▪ employers, to support development of appropriate workplace health and safety guidance for outdoor workers ▪ an improved air quality alert system such as an enhanced Air Rater app. 	<p>DPIE will work with NSW Health to develop key messaging which will align with the Clean Air Strategy, and a targeted information campaign.</p>	<p>DPIE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>NSW is working with Asthma Australia to investigate new and improved ways to communicate air quality information. DPIE is continuing updates to the air quality website with the next improvements due by September 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R36 That Government invest in long-term ecosystem and land management monitoring, modelling, forecasting, research and evaluation, and harness citizen science in this effort. This will include, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tracking and trying to forecast what is happening to ecosystems over decades under projected changes to climate extremes, including fire regime change ▪ better understanding interaction of fire with other disturbances, e.g. drought, hydrological changes in the landscape ▪ commissioning experiments and feasibility studies for ecosystem adaptation experiments – for example, facilitating shift of high conservation-value rainforest vegetation communities further south as climatic conditions change ▪ better understanding the influence of different land management practices on landscape flammability (in different landscapes) over the short, medium and long-term, and enabling an adaptive management approach. 	<p>DPIE to enhance capability to assess priority at-risk species and ecosystems and identify long term recovery actions.</p>	<p>DPIE</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.</p> <p>The NSW Government has separately committed \$2 million over three years to support DPIE projects to examine the effect bush fires have on NSW water quality objectives through an assessment of aquatic ecosystems, and assess and mitigate against the risk to soil health during hazard reduction activities.</p> <p>Research to understand the impacts of bush fire and hazard reduction activities on soils and aquatic ecosystems commence in July 2021.</p> <p>In November 2020, the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Services Act 1974</i> was amended to allow the Minister to declare land in a national park as ‘an environmental or cultural asset of intergenerational significance’. An area of 5,000 hectares containing and surrounding the Wollemi pine population in Wollemi National Park has now been declared an asset of intergenerational significance and work is progressing to identify further proposed declarations of land under the Act.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R37 That, in order to ensure all firefighters understand how local situational awareness reflects (or may not reflect) the broader scale situation presented by a large/extreme bush fire and the implications this may have on asset protection and fire suppression strategies, the NSW RFS:					
a) develops information packages for all types of operating environments to improve out-of-area crews' understanding of the local terrain and fuels, and distributes information to out-of-area crew members from all fire authorities	NSW RFS will update the Firefighter Pocketbook App to make available information to out of area crews including information such as topography, vegetation, fuels and firefighting matters unique to each RFS District.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	District operating environments template has been developed and currently being completed. The template includes information such as topography, terrain, vegetation and fuels unique to that geographic location.
b) accelerates the roll out of Mobile Data Terminals into all fire fighting vehicles to improve delivery of briefings and incident information/intelligence to field commanders.	NSW RFS to implement 'Mobile Data Terminal' technology and solutions across firefighting fleet.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	Mobile Data Terminal tender negotiations are underway.
R38 That, in order to ensure the safety of local landholders on firegrounds, the NSW RFS emphasises the importance of local landholders using protective clothing while firefighting as part of the RFS' 'Farm Fire Unit Integration' priority for 2020-21.	NSW RFS to finalise the Farm Fire Unit Initiative, and to facilitate safe and effective communication between local landholders and NSW RFS at fires, UHF radios will be installed in all relevant appliances.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021*	In Progress 	The NSW Government has allocated \$1.5 million over four years for the installation of UHF radios in all relevant NSW RFS appliances. Work continues on the Farm Fire Unit project. Representatives from the NSW RFS were joined by members of the NSW Farmers Association to conduct workshops on the draft Operational Guide and Fact Sheet. 50 existing NSW RFS vehicles have been retrofitted with new UHF CB Radios. All new firefighting vehicles are being fitted with UHF radios.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R39 That, in order to ensure frontline personnel have appropriate personal protective clothing during bush fires:</p> <p>a) FRNSW review the current design of its bush fire jacket, noting improvements that have been made since 2002 that meet AS/NZS4824:2006 Protective clothing for firefighters, and increase the allocation of bush fire coats to two jackets per member</p> <p>b) NSW RFS issue two sets of personal protective clothing to operational members, and others as appropriate.</p>	<p>The NSW RFS and FRNSW will update personal protective clothing (PPC) allocation to facilitate two sets of PPC to be issued to firefighters.</p>	<p>NSW RFS FRNSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress </p>	<p>The NSW Government has allocated \$22.7 million to deliver the replacement of PPC for FRNSW firefighters.</p> <p>This is in addition to the \$23 million allocated in 2020-21 over five years to deliver additional required PPC to NSW RFS and FRNSW members, delivering a total enhancement of more than \$45 million.</p> <p>NSW RFS Service Standard 5.1.5 Personal Protective clothing is being revised and will outline requirements for second set of PPC for operational members.</p> <p>Additionally, NSW RFS supplier has commenced manufacturing material to assist with the second set of PPC roll out.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R40 That, in order to improve firefighter safety, Government fire authorities:					
<p>a) ensure all light tankers used as part of active frontline bush firefighting operations are fitted with a single point crew protection safety spray system and radiant heat protection blankets as a minimum standard across all NSW fire authorities</p> <p>b) ensure all medium/heavy tankers are fitted with radiant heat protection blankets, wheel and 'halo' sprays fitted as a minimum standard across all NSW fire authorities</p>	<p>Multi-agency Fleet Retrofit and Tanker Replacement Program. Additional equipment to be fitted to light and medium / heavy tankers to enhance crew protection.</p>	NSW RFS DPIE	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated a further \$50.9 million to support firefighting tanker replacements and safety retrofits for frontline NSW RFS, FRNSW, NPWS and Forestry Corp NSW fleet.</p> <p>This is in addition to \$17 million allocated in 2020-21, delivering a total enhancement of \$67.9 million to date.</p> <p>The NSW RFS Tanker refurbishment project continues and between 1 April to 30 June 2021, 11 Category 1 firefighting vehicles (heavy tankers) were retrofitted with crew protection safety systems.</p> <p>Additionally, the NSW RFS has received 66 new firefighting vehicles within Q2, which all have the appropriate crew protection systems, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 23 Category 1 vehicles (Heavy Tankers) ▪ 22 Category 7 vehicles (Medium Tankers) ▪ 21 Category 9 vehicles (Light Tankers) <p>The first rollout of radiant heat protection curtains for NPWS Category 9 vehicles was delivered in June 2021 with the remaining curtains to be installed in July 2021. The installation of cabin protection sprinklers for these vehicles will commence from September 2021. Design and implementation of cabin protection systems on medium and heavy firefighting appliances is scheduled to start in October 2021.</p>
<p>c) undertake additional research to determine the most appropriate cabin protection for the different frontline vehicles.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will work with Monash University to determine the feasibility of fitting FOPS to new and existing fleet. Additionally, the NSW RFS will seek industry engagement next financial year to look for a new generation fire tankers.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2022*	In Progress 	<p>Research works have commenced in conjunction with Monash University to capture appropriate data to assist in driving a better understanding of cabin protection.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
d) provide ongoing investment for NSW RFS fleet upgrades.	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 40(a) and 40(b).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 40(a) and 40(b).
R41 That, in order to ensure all NSW RFS members can access the mental health support they need, the NSW RFS expands in-house mental health support for members.	NSW RFS to provide additional frontline access to direct clinical care as part of a Board of Commissioner's endorsed Emergency Services Mental Health Strategy.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The NSW Government allocated \$36 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) and \$7.65 million ongoing to support the implementation of a new mental health strategy for emergency services (including the NSW RFS, FRNSW, NSW SES and Resilience NSW). This investment is supporting a significant scaling of services for personnel, including up to 20 additional psychologists across the three fire and emergency services agencies to provide direct clinical care, 16 of which will provide direct support for NSW RFS members.
R42 That, to ensure firefighters can access mental health support through GPs, Government work with the Commonwealth Government to: a) provide a free mental health screen to firefighters post-fire event and waive any gap payments if additional treatment is required b) create a new Medicare Benefits Scheme item number to enable Governments to track demand for mental health services from firefighters over time and ensure an appropriate level of support is available.	NSW will collaborate with the Department of Home Affairs on the National Mental Health Review and will pursue this recommendation through the Commonwealth Taskforce.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	Resilience NSW is continuing to advocate for access to mental health screening through GPs, and for additional work to explore the creation of a dedicated Medicare Benefits Scheme number to be included as priority actions in the Commonwealth's National Action Plan, as issues of national importance. The National Action Plan remains in development.
R43 That, in order to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality, the NSW RFS reviews food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety, as well as the viability of sourcing commercial contracts and providing 12-hour food packs to firefighters.	NSW RFS to review food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety. NSW RFS to provide meal packs to all appliances to provide initial sustenance to all firefighters.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Government allocated \$500,000 to NSW RFS to undertake a review of different food and ration pack options for volunteers. A draft Catering Service Standard and associated handbook have been developed and are pending finalisation and release to the broader NSW RFS membership for consultation.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R44 That, in order to ensure suitably skilled and experienced personnel operate as Divisional Commanders during major fire incidents, Bush Fire Management Committees identify appropriate personnel as part of their plan of operations.	The NSW RFS augment existing IMT personnel listing within the Operations Coordination Plan to include Divisional Commanders.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. A new S52 Operations Coordination Plan has been finalised which includes the pre-identification of Divisional Commanders.
R45 That, in order to prioritise early suppression and keep fires small:					
a) Government set a KPI for NPWS regarding the percentage of fires that start on-park and are contained within 10 hectares, and consider whether 70% is an appropriate KPI for the NSW RFS and NPWS	NSW RFS will update the state-wide target KPI of keeping fires within 10 hectares or less, to 80% of the time.	NSW RFS	Dec 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. NSW RFS has adopted this target and will report annually.
b) NSW fire authorities deploy remote area firefighting resources based on enhanced research and predictive modelling. In some circumstances, this may require prioritising the deployment of RART to enable rapid initial attack of new remote area ignitions over ongoing suppression operations, where supported by a relative risk assessment.	NSW RFS will develop a predictive model for prioritised deployment of Rapid Aerial Response Teams (RART) for rapid initial attack in remote areas.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	A trial predictive model is now operating within the Common Operating Picture (COP) that forecasts ignition potential and identifies areas expected to reach (and exceed) RART triggers up to four days in advance.
R46 That, in order to improve early fire suppression, the NSW RFS trial initial aerial dispatch in areas of high bush fire risk. The trial should identify the most appropriate and cost-effective mix of aircraft, and any associated infrastructure improvements that would be required.	NSW RFS will develop a trial for the 2020-21 fire season, to automatically dispatch Single Engine Air Tractor (SEAT) and reconnaissance Aircraft concurrently with land based firefighting resources.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Pre-determined Dispatch Trial was conducted between December 2020 and February 2021 in Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Bankstown. The trial will be expanded during the 2021-22 bush fire season to include Narrabri, Armidale, Scone, Kempsey and those locations identified during the 2020/21 season.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R47 That, in order to enhance firefighting strategies in severe conditions, the NSW RFS implements the following in respect to backburning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish protocols for each category (tactical and strategic) within their operational and training doctrine. These protocols should include lessons learnt from the 2019-20 season b) modify 'ICON' to implement the capability to record all backburns, including whether or not they break containment lines c) when fire conditions are approaching Severe or above, an independent review must be undertaken at State Operations Level before strategic backburns are implemented d) where there is significant concern within a community regarding a backburn, the NSW RFS should undertake a community engagement session with affected residents to discuss the backburn, including any investigation and relevant findings. 	<p>The NSW RFS will develop operational doctrine to ensure strategic back burns are independently reviewed and affected communities are advised of back burns, this will include defining what is strategic and what is tactical. In addition our operational system (ICON) will be upgraded to enable recording of back burns.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Operational Protocol Backburning released on 26 February 2021 to all fire authorities. Backburning can be recorded in ICON intel module.</p>
<p>R48 That Government commission further research on the potential risks and benefits of backburning during severe, extreme and catastrophic conditions and/or in particular terrain, and that the NSW RFS use this research to inform future backburning protocols and training.</p>	<p>NSW RFS and DPIE to continue support for the University of Wollongong's NSW Bush Fire Risk Management Research Hub and include back burning into the research program.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW RFS has engaged the University of Wollongong to undertake research that evaluates factors influencing the performance of backburning operations.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R49 That, in order to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of heavy plant used in dry firefighting techniques, the NSW RFS expand and introduce the following in respect to heavy plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increase the number of trained Heavy Plant Supervisors and Managers to ensure an appropriate level of supervision in future significant fire seasons b) expand ARENA software to include the Heavy Plant Register, including the introduction of GPS tracking for all agency and contracted plant, to improve contractual compliance and to facilitate better the identification and tasking of appropriate localised heavy plant contractors; and review the feasibility of linkage to the SAP system for invoicing improvements. This should be introduced prior to the 2020-21 fire season. c) review the existing contractual process to ensure all heavy plant is categorized into types, size and functionality along with exploring potential for a standardised hourly rate for that category of equipment d) work with Soil Conservation Service to ensure appropriate standards for the engagement and management of heavy plant to deliver safe and effective heavy plant service, including the delivery of standards and auditing. 	<p>The NSW RFS to review existing training, streamline delivery and engage trainer to increase capacity and trial ARENA aviation system for HP Management and tracking. The NSW RFS in partnership with other agencies including SoilCon to review existing Heavy Plant engagement process.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q1 2024</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The NSW Government has allocated \$6.7 million over four years to enhance firefighter safety through fire ground tracking, training and accreditation of heavy plant machinery over four years.</p>
<p>R50 That, in order to ensure Australia's firefighting aerial capacity capitalises on existing assets and is made up of the right mix, Government:</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request the Commonwealth to conduct a trial with NSW RFS on the feasibility of retrofitting RAAF C130 aircraft with modular airborne firefighting systems to provide the Australian Defence Force with the capacity to augment aerial firefighting during major disasters 	<p>NSW RFS will request NAFC to initiate a RAAF C-130 trial of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS).</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) have advised that the Department of Defence will make available previous research and trial outcomes.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) work with states and territories through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre to review the current mix of aviation assets and determine whether it is fit-for-purpose, noting the current lack of mid-sized firefighting aircraft.	NSW RFS will work with NAFC on the preparation of a strategic review of the provision of aerial firefighting capability across Australia.	NSW RFS	Q4 2022	Completed 	NSW RFS has engaged with NAFC for a tender process relating to Type 1 and Type 2 Helicopters.
R51 That, in order to enhance NSW's ability to improve situational awareness, Government expand FRNSW's Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) capability (both capital assets and trained operators) to major regional centres and ensure the NSW RFS and other NSW government agencies can access this capability as required.	FRNSW to explore expansion of existing RPAS capability in accordance with the FRNSW Plus Plan.	FRNSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Government has allocated \$5.2 million over five years, from 2021-22, to acquire additional RPAS capability for FRNSW. FRNSW has commenced the scoping and procurement process which should allow for the delivery of platforms and sensors in Q3-4.
R52 That, in order to enhance NSW's firefighting capacity, Government trial aerial firefighting at night in the 2020-21 season with a view to full implementation if successful.	The NSW RFS will ensure that its aircraft (RFS Owned) are night firefighting capable (aerial attack, supervision, insertion and extraction, and ignition), and where appropriate suitable fixed wing contracted machines that deliver effective night firefighting capabilities (e.g. Large Air Tankers).	NSW RFS	Q4 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government has invested \$5.4 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) for NSW RFS to enhance the aerial fleet and aviation training facilities. Mission profile to enable firefighting night operations is being finalised in conjunction with NSW RFS Aircraft operators. Trials to occur during the 2021/22 fire season.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R53 That Government develop and implement a policy on injured wildlife response, rescue and rehabilitation including:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a framework for the co-ordination and interaction with emergency management structures b) guidelines for Incident Management Plans to include wildlife rescue and rehabilitation as a consideration c) a requirement for all vets and wildlife rescue volunteers to obtain the Bush Fire Awareness accreditation 	<p>NPWS has commenced development of a framework for wildlife in emergencies under the AASFA supporting plan of the EMPLAN.</p> <p>NPWS is working with the RFS to develop guidelines and training for wildlife response teams. This will include bush fire awareness training for wildlife responders, as well as other relevant training.</p>	DPIE NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<p>The Government is investing \$1 million over three years for development and implementation of an improved framework for injured wildlife response, commencing 2021-22.</p> <p>NPWS is working with DPI, the NSW RFS, and the wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary sectors to improve coordination and capability for wildlife emergency response.</p> <p>Wildlife emergency response taskforces are being established with the wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary, firefighting and emergency management sectors. A Technical Advisor (wildlife) role is being established by NPWS for incident management teams to help inform wildlife response in bush fires and other emergencies. Tools are being developed to help guide wildlife response planning in incidents.</p> <p>200 wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary professionals have received subsidised bush fire awareness training.</p>
d) guidance for firefighters on handling injured wildlife.	The NSW RFS will enhance its fire fighters pocket book (application) to incorporate a section related to this topic.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021*	In progress <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	The NSW RFS alongside NPWS have developed a wildlife first aid training program to be supplemented by online training being developed by the Taronga Conservation Society.
R54 That, to ensure mobile generators are sourced and distributed on a priority basis during natural disasters, the EUSFAC work with the NSW Telco Authority, relevant NSW government agencies and commercial stakeholders to develop a mobile asset deployment strategy. The strategy should reduce duplication in purchasing, maintaining and housing mobile generators and improve agility in deployment.	EUSFAC to coordinate with relevant NSW government agencies and commercial stakeholders to support the development of a mobile power asset deployment strategy.	DPIE	Q4 2021	In progress <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<p>The mobile asset deployment strategy working group is on track for delivery by Q4 2021.</p> <p>The working group includes both industry and government cross-agency participation. The working group is currently gathering information on existing processes and approaches of mobile asset deployment for comparison between industry stakeholders, commercial suppliers and government agencies to enable synergies to be developed and practices to be shared.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R55 That, in order to improve fire ground communications between NSW agencies and interstate personnel:					
a) Government ensure all NSW fire authority personnel and vehicles can access and utilise the Public Safety Network (PSN). This should include access to NSW RFS Private Mobile Radio (PMR) networks where PSN coverage is not yet available.	NSW RFS will provide approval for NSW firefighting agencies to program their radios with RFS PMR channels in accordance with standard protocols.	NSW RFS NSW Telco Authority	Ongoing	Completed 	NSW RFS has provided approval for NSW firefighting agencies to program their radios with RFS PMR channels in accordance with standard protocols.
b) the NSW Telco Authority review cross-border communications availability and planning and advise NSW fire authorities on next steps to enable multi-state interoperability for wide area communications.	NSW Telco will review jurisdictional interoperability and continue to deliver against the Operational Communications Strategy 2020.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2025	In Progress 	Cross-border communications and inter-operability is a key tenet of NSW Telco Authority Operational Communications Strategy. Implementation continues for operational communications networks across the NSW-QLD border. A tactical solution to bridge the period between now and full integration between the states networks is being developed.
R56 That, in order to ensure the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) can maintain communications during emergencies, the Government provide the SEOC with independent Public Safety Network functionality.	Resilience NSW will work with NSW Telco to get PSN capability for SEOC.	Resilience NSW	Q2 2021	Completed 	Resilience NSW and NSW Telco Authority have secured an agreement to provide PSN capability for SEOC. This will be reflected in a formal service agreement.
R57 That, in order to ensure emergency response agencies can communicate across state and territory borders, the Commonwealth Government allocate 10 + 10 MHz as a dedicated spectrum for Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) at no cost to states and territories.	This recommendation will be progressed through engagement with the Commonwealth Government, particularly through the PSMB SOC and ministerial liaison.	NSW Telco Authority	Q1 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government is investing \$6.2 million to continue supporting the PSMB program in 2021-22. NSW is leading a PSMB proof of concept (POC) trial on behalf of all states and territories, which will inform the full spectrum requirements for a nationally interoperable PSMB capability. Regular spectrum workshops will be conducted with all jurisdictions during the POC to work towards determining the spectrum requirements and potential access options. First of the spectrum workshops was conducted in April 2021. The Commonwealth Government has issued a temporary scientific licence for the POCs spectrum requirements.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R58 That, in order to ensure all agencies have a clear understanding of cross-border communication channels during bush fires, all MoUs between state or territory agencies include an agreed protocol about how agencies will communicate across borders and that these are reflected in Incident Action Plans.	NSW RFS will upgrade border MoU's to include a communications protocol and include this information in Operational Coordination Plans.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Agency Memorandum of Understanding and local Mutual Aid Agreement templates are being reviewed to ensure there is a clear understanding of cross-border communication channels and an agreed protocol how agencies will communicate across borders.
R59 That, in order to improve response times to Triple Zero calls, the NSW RFS implements the integrated dispatch system before the 2020-21 fire season commences.	NSW RFS is implementing an integrated dispatch system. The system will be implemented during the 2020-21 fire season for 18 of 45 Districts. NSW RFS will accelerate transition of the remaining 27 Districts.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government has allocated \$8.3 million for extension of an integrated dispatch system for the NSW RFS. 20 of 45 NSW RFS Rural Fire Districts have been integrated and commenced operating from the Computer Aided Dispatch system.
R60 That, in order to ensure timely payment and maintain positive ongoing supplier relationships during large-scale bush fires, the NSW RFS implements an automated logistics solution, informed by the outcomes of the Emergency Logistics Project.	NSW RFS to develop an automated emergency logistics and resource management solution.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	Being scoped 	The NSW RFS is scoping a system-based solution to integrate with the existing systems and future resource management solutions.
R61 That, in order to improve cross-agency communication and coordination during bush fires, the NSW RFS review Fire Control Centres (FCCs) in areas that were heavily affected by fire. The results should be combined with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Facilities Review to identify areas that would benefit from a purpose-built FCC, enabling co-location with the EOC.	The NSW RFS to review fire control centres in areas heavily affected by fire to identify priority areas where purpose built FCCs should will include support for an EOC. The review is to be undertaken in conjunction with the NSW Emergency Services Board of Commissioners EOC review.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	The NSW RFS has completed a review of FCCs and identified 13 FCCs that would benefit from priority upgrades, which would include support for an EOC. Following the completion of the review, further work is underway to scope requirements for upgrades across the 13 sites. The NSW Government has allocated \$15 million to support the build program in 2021-23. 2021/22 projects currently underway for Armidale and Mudgee FCCs.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R62 That, in order to ensure State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) interoperability during all natural disasters, Resilience NSW review the current SEOC arrangements and location including responsibilities for ongoing resourcing and maintenance.	Resilience NSW will review the current SEOC arrangements and location including responsibilities for ongoing resourcing and maintenance.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The State Emergency Management Committee agreed to the terms of reference for the review of SEOC on 3 June 2021. The review will be conducted in partnership between the State Emergency Operations Controller and Resilience NSW. A working group is being established to progress the review.
R63 That, in order to ensure the guiding principles and approval processes are contemporary, streamlined and more flexible, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments review the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements. This review should include the circumstances in which the State can request Commonwealth assistance, and the level of information provided by the ADF to the State on available resources and capabilities.	This recommendation will be progressed through engagement with the Commonwealth Government, particularly with EMA.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. EMA completed an administrative change to COMDISPLAN, which outlines the guiding principles and approval processes for the request of Commonwealth assistance, to reflect recommendations from the Royal Commission in December 2020. The Commonwealth also updated the DACC policy and manual in August 2020. To ensure clarity within NSW in relation to accessing Australian Government non-financial assistance in an emergency, Resilience NSW and the State Emergency Operations Controller have prepared a draft policy on how these arrangements are accessed within the NSW context which will be considered by the SEMC in December 2021.
R64 That, in order to expand the pool of trained personnel able to undertake the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator (PIFAC) role, Resilience NSW and the NSW Police Media Unit (PIFAC) develop and deliver a training package for Emergency Management Media Liaison Officers.	Resilience NSW to design, develop and deliver Media Liaison Officer training specific to the Emergency Management Arrangements in consultation with the PIFAC.	Resilience NSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	Resilience NSW and NSW Police Force are continuing to participate on the National Working Group (NWG) established by AFAC, which is investigating a national training package for public information officers. The NWG is meeting monthly to progress and determine educational programs to address the identified issues.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R65 That, in order to improve information flows and increase public awareness of ABC emergency broadcasts, Government:					
a) include an ABC Manager in the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator (PIFAC) team within the State Operations Centre.	The NSW RFS will review its media facilities at the State Operations Centre, and in collaboration with the NSWPF (PIFAC) consider improved liaison arrangements with the ABC, as well as other media outlets.	NSW RFS PIFAC	Q4 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. NSW RFS has established a process for ABC to be based at NSW RFS headquarters on days of significant fire danger or activity. Other media outlets also have access to NSW RFS headquarters on days of significant fire danger or activity.
b) strategically place roadside signage with local/regional ABC station frequency band throughout the State.	TfNSW to consider options to support enhanced public information through fixed and portable variable electronic messaging signage across the road network, together with the Live Traffic website and app, and TfNSW social media.	TfNSW	Q4 2022	In Progress 	TfNSW supports communication of early warning advice of bush fire events as issued by the NSW RFS on the Live Traffic website and mobile application, TfNSW social media, portable and permanent electronic messaging signs around the state. In September 2020, TfNSW rolled out interstate road data on Live Traffic NSW. This helps drivers avoid congestion by showing the impact of fire, flood, snow, roadworks, crashes and other disruptions on roads across five jurisdictions. TfNSW is also progressively integrating available Local Council road network information onto the Live Traffic platform where Councils have the technological capability to provide the data.
R66 That, in order to provide real-time information on evacuation door-knocking during emergency events, Government explore a shared data gateway for NSW agencies based on the NSW State Emergency Service Collector app and a common mapping and analytics platform.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The NSW Emergency Services Board of Commissioners is overseeing the Door-knocking Data Collection Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU), NSW SES, NSW RFS, FRNSW, NSW Police Force and Resilience NSW, which is working through standardising data entry forms, developing standard operational policy for activation, collection and sharing, and developing guidance materials.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date	
R67	That, in order to ensure people can access clear information on cross-border fires, the NSW RFS:					
a)	incorporate information on fires in neighboring states and territories into Fires Near Me NSW	The NSW RFS will work with interstate jurisdictions on data sharing to establish a 50km buffer areas across interstate boundaries within the Fires Near Me app.	NSW RFS	Q1 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Incidents within 50km of the NSW border have been incorporated into NSW RFS systems and released in March 2021.
b)	collaborate with other states and territories to develop a national app as part of the Australian Warning System being developed through the AFAC Warnings Group.	COAG requested the Australian Data and Digital Council to improve national natural hazard data and intelligence to enable the development of new information products such as a national fire map in 13 March 2020. NSW will continue to participate in national forums to progress integration and tactical sharing of hazard information across all hazards and implementation of this recommendation and Royal Commission recommendations 13.5 and 13.6.	DCS	Ongoing	In Progress 	A program of work to consider a national multi hazards app is being overseen by the Data and Digital Minister's Meeting. NSW is leading two streams of work, including working with all jurisdictions and the Commonwealth to develop a national storms, cyclones and floods service, and a national fires service.
R68	That the NSW RFS include the following priorities in the Fires Near Me improvements roadmap:					
▪	text enlargement functionality	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021.
▪	a clear statement about the app's limitations and the importance of heeding public warnings and relying on personal observations	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q3 2021*	In Progress 	The NSW RFS Fires Near Me NSW app is one of a range of products available for the community. A statement identifying that users should source information from a range of channels including apps, websites, social media, traditional media and their own observations is scheduled to be deployed in advance of the 2021-22 fire season.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fire spread prediction maps on extreme/catastrophic days 	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	The NSW RFS published fire spread prediction maps through its Fires Near Me NSW app during the 2019-20 bush fire season. These maps will continue to be published through a range of channels, including the app. Future work will help improve the display of these maps, as the source information continues to improve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> update fire map information as technology improves. 	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Further improvements will continue to be implemented as technology such as Overwatch are implemented.
R69 That, in order to ensure evacuation arrangements can be scaled up when needed, Resilience NSW:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure staff who are willing to be deployed to evacuation centres are trained as soon as possible to bolster evacuation centre staff surge capacity b) train council and NSW government regional staff in evacuation centre establishment and management, supported by a one-page 'start up sheet' for opening an evacuation centre c) enable interested community members to be trained to assist in evacuation centre establishment and management and provide an avenue for skilled volunteers to register their interest 	Resilience NSW to deliver an enhanced training strategy for evacuation management and consider if development of a supplement to Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.	Resilience NSW	Q3 2021	In Progress 	ResNSW and DCJ are continuing planning on another round of training for DCJ staff. The new compliment of 1,100 trained staff was evidenced as no issues around staffing capacity were experienced during the March flood events. The Welfare Services Functional Area have produced a guide for Evacuation Centre Facility Managers. This guide has been distributed to REMOs to support LEMCs and Facility Managers in their role in an Evacuation Centre. Funding of \$50,000 has been approved for each of the four Community Partners for ongoing volunteer training. Work is progressing on a recruitment campaign to assist in attracting volunteers to each of these organisations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) develop an exercise for the management of multiple evacuation centres dealing with large numbers of people for a protracted period over a widespread area. 	Resilience NSW will also develop evacuation exercises for catastrophic events for the local, regional and state context.	Resilience NSW	Q3 2021	Completed 	This was exercised in a real scenario. The Welfare Services Functional Area opened 33 evacuation centres in the March Flood, with 20 open simultaneously. The operation ran smoothly with support provided to nearly 3,000 people. Lessons learned during the March Floods will be incorporated into future operational planning

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R70 That, in order to ensure evacuation centres are fit-for-purpose, Resilience NSW work with Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) to:</p> <p>a) update the guidelines for LEMCs identifying evacuation centres to require a risk assessment of potential locations, which should include identifying alternate sources of power for use by evacuation centres and recording these appropriately</p> <p>b) review existing evacuation centre locations to assess compliance with updated LEMC guidelines and report to the State Emergency Management Committee on their suitability.</p>	<p>SEMC will review the Evacuation Management Guideline to incorporate recommendations from the Inquiry related to evacuation.</p> <p>The review will consider if a supplement to the Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.</p>	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	<p>The SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group is continuing to address this recommendation as part of its work program.</p> <p>The December 2020 audit of evacuation centres is informing the work program.</p> <p>Updated risk assessment requirements are being finalised and are due to be considered by the SEMC in September 2021.</p>
<p>R71 That, in order to ensure people only need to tell their story once to access government agency support following an emergency, Resilience NSW and Service NSW jointly design an inclusive, person-centred approach to information collection at evacuation centres. This should be supported by an opt-in scheme enabling personal information to be shared between NSW government agencies, local councils and non-governmental organisations administering support services for disaster-affected people.</p>	<p>Service NSW and Resilience NSW to develop a customer-centric registration, identification and care capability based on a central register/database of disaster affected people to enable sharing of information between levels of government and other authorised parties for the purposes of delivering support and recovery.</p>	Resilience NSW DCS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>Resilience NSW is working with Service NSW to develop a detailed work program for the development of a new “Tell Your Story Once” CRM.</p> <p>Digital registration in evacuation and recovery centres has been enabled and was trialed in the 2021 state-wide March flooding event.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R72 That, in order to ensure Aboriginal people can access appropriate support during evacuation, Resilience NSW work with Local Emergency Management Committees and Aboriginal Affairs to ensure:					
a) local Aboriginal communities are included in emergency planning and preparation	Aboriginal Affairs NSW, in partnership with Resilience NSW, to support pilot program for enhanced emergency preparedness and capability of discrete Aboriginal communities. The NSW Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to allow the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to appoint a member representing NSW Aboriginal Land Councils to the BFCC.	AANSW Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Aboriginal Affairs NSW, supported by Resilience NSW are continuing a pilot project to work with four discrete Aboriginal communities to understand how they prepare, respond and recover when faced with emergencies and disasters. Communities have been engaged and supported to develop Bushfire Community Protection plans, and emergency management plans for their communities. The project has been extended for an additional twelve months and will be extended to other discrete Aboriginal communities. This will enable the strong foundations that have been established to be built upon, harness community engagement and interest; and continue to build on relationships with local emergency services, other stakeholders and the community. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to expand BFCC membership to include a representative from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, a representative to promote the integrity of cultural burning and a representative from NTSCORP Ltd. The SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group is also continuing to address this recommendation as part of its work program.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) all staff involved in evacuation centres and support services are culturally competent.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	Resilience NSW has launched an improved Emergency Management Training site with enhanced functionality to support best practice education products. NSW Health Northern Sydney LHD have designed a variety of culturally sensitive materials for distribution in evacuation centres and is being trialed in the Northern Sydney LHD. It includes Indigenous branded banners, staff polos and information flyers for distribution in evacuation centres.
R73 That, in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people during an evacuation, Resilience NSW: a) identify aged care facilities in fire and flood prone areas, and ensure that emergency plans are in place and comply with the Evacuation Decision Guidelines for Private Health and Residential Care Facilities b) develop/refresh evacuation centre protocols to specifically address the needs of vulnerable people.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	All aged care facilities are recorded on the Emergency Services Spatial Information Layer available via the SEOC operating system. The SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group is continuing to address this recommendation as part of its work program. Work is continuing to consider specific recommendations concerning persons with a disability, on the advice of the NDIS and research bodies.
R74 That, in order to ensure equitable access to evacuation centres and associated support services for people in border communities, Resilience NSW ensure cross-border access arrangements are reflected in evacuation centre management guidelines.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group is continuing to address this recommendation as part of its work program. Revised Evacuation Management Guidelines will include updated operational doctrine that makes it explicit that no matter where people are from, they will have access to NSW centres and immediate assistance. This is due to be considered by SEMC in September 2021.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R75 That, in order to improve support for people evacuating with animals, the Department of Primary Industries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work with Resilience NSW to develop evacuation protocols and procedures to ensure appropriate supports are provided for both people and animals (informed by the findings from Project Ohana), including a process for animal registration at evacuation centres and mutually agreed naming conventions, and provide this information to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) b) work with LEMCs to identify overflow sites that can be used for evacuated animals when preferred sites are full c) further develop the domestic pets evacuation protocol. 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>The SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group is continuing to address this recommendation as part of its work program. Resilience NSW held a workshop with NSW DPI, Local Land Services, Public Works Authority and TfNSW in May 2021 to consider the process for animal registration at evacuation centres and confirm mutually agreed naming conventions.</p>
<p>R76 That Resilience NSW review existing functional area arrangements to ensure they are closely aligned to agencies responsible for direct service delivery.</p>	<p>The SEMC will conduct a review of functional area arrangements.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>The SEMC has endorsed a review of the functional area arrangements, to be jointly led by Resilience NSW and the State Emergency Operations Controller. Resilience NSW has commenced data and information gathering, and consultation with functional areas and service delivery agencies. The review is scheduled to be finalised by Q4 2021.</p>

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AASFA	Animal and Agriculture Services Functional Area	ICA	Insurance Council of Australia
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	IMZ	Ignition Management Zone
AFAC	National Council for Fire and Emergency Services	LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
ANZEMC	Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee	LEMO	Local Emergency Management Officer
APZ	Asset Protection Zone	LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
BAU	“Business as Usual”	LGA	Local Government Area
BFCC	Bush Fire Coordinating Committee	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BFMC	Bush Fire Management Committee	NAFC	National Aerial Firefighting Centre
BFRMP	Bush Fire Risk Management Plan	NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology	NEMMM	National Emergency Management Minister’s Meeting
CAD	Computer-aided Dispatch	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CFA	Country Fire Authority (Victoria)	NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
COAG	Council of Australian Governments	NRSC	National Resource Sharing Centre
COMDISPLAN	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan	NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	NSW	New South Wales
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community	PIFAC	Public Information Services Functional Area Coordinator
DCJ	Department of Communities and Justice	PMR	Private Mobile Terminal
DCS	Department of Customer Service	PPC	Personal Protective Clothing
DITRDC	Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	PSMB	Public Mobile Safety Broadband
DPI	Department of Primary Industries	PSMB SOC	Public Mobile Safety Broadband Senior Officers Group
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	PSN	Public Safety Network
EMA	Emergency Management Australia	ResNSW	Resilience NSW
EMPLAN	Emergency Management Plan	RFS	Rural Fire Service
EOC	Emergency Operations Center	RPAS	Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems
EUSFAC	Energy and Utilities Services Functional Area Coordinator	SBC	Small Business Commissioner
FAFT	Fire Access and Fire Trail	SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
FBA _n	Fire Behaviour Analyst	SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
FCC	Fire Control Centre	SES	State Emergency Service
FCNSW	Forestry Corporation of NSW	SFAZ	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW	TfNSW	Transport for NSW
		UHF	Ultra High Frequency