

NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report

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

Reporting Period
April to June 2022



Resilience
NSW

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Protecting Frontline Firefighters

- \$105.6 million to NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) to deliver new trucks and retrofit old trucks, following an earlier investment of \$67.9 million.
- 71 new compliant Light Tankers built and handed over to NSW RFS since January 2021.
- 156 new compliant Medium Tankers and Heavy Tankers built and handed over to RFS Brigades since January 2021, including 28 Medium and Heavy Tankers delivered this quarter.
- 55 in service Heavy Tankers refurbished with appropriate crew protection safety systems and returned to service since January 2021.
- \$45 million for additional personal protective clothing to NSW RFS and Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) members.
- NSW RFS is continuing to issue second sets off personal protective clothing to all volunteers.
- FRNSW has completed an extensive trial on a new bushfire jacket across a variety of stations.

Improving Operational Capability

- NSW RFS has developed and is continuing trials to produce thermal scan images, to allow for the early detection of bush fire danger, using its two Citation aircraft.
- District information packs and maps are complete for all districts and have been uploaded to the NSW RFS website, and made available on the Firefighter Pocketbook app.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will receive \$27.7 million over four years to upgrade its radio network.
- NSW Government has approved funding for 50 new permanent roles in NPWS to meet new statutory requirements for protecting Assets of Intergenerational Significance.
- The Public Information Functional Area has completed the training package for media liaison officers.
- Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has developed a bush fire risk assessment process for State roads and bridges.

Hazard Reduction

- \$75.4 million for ongoing NSW RFS Mitigation Crew positions to deliver hazard reduction mitigation works for the community.
- NSW Government is delivering 200 permanent firefighter roles in NPWS to deliver increased hazard reduction targets.
- More than 40,500 hectares of bush treated in 2021-22, protecting almost 47,223 properties directly on the urban and bush interface.
- 12 NSW RFS Fire Trail projects completed, 71 are in the planning and design phase, and construction has started on another 28 projects.
- 29 Fire Access and Fire Trail Plans approved by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

Increasing Community Resilience

- “Tell Your Story Once” project has completed an initial digital product prototype and moved into the Beta phase to streamline disaster registration and longer-term recovery assistance (including links to financial support) for disaster affected people.
- The Cultural Fire Management Unit is funding Aboriginal community-led projects to implement cultural land management projects for holistic healing of Country.
- NSW RFS has reviewed the effectiveness of 20 bush fire preparedness programs.
- All aged care facilities are now recorded on the Emergency Services Spatial Information Layer available via the State Emergency Operations Centre operating system.

Strengthening Research, Technology, Governance & Accountability

- All Bush Fire Management Committees (BFMCs) have a valid BFRMP and Section 52 Operations Plan, with 33 Next Generation BFRMPs currently in development.
- The University of Wollongong has provided a draft report to the NSW RFS evaluating backburning on five fires during the 2019-20 fire season.
- A review of Functional Area Arrangements was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee on 2 June 2022.
- NSW RFS has established new regionally based Community Safety Teams responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and taking regulatory action.

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BACKGROUND

NSW Bushfire Inquiry

The 2019-20 bush fire season was without a doubt one of the most catastrophic on record. It lasted eight months, from July 2019 until February 2020, with a total of 11,774 fire incidents throughout the season and 5.5 million hectares burned.

In NSW, 26 people lost their lives, including four NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) volunteers and three contracted air crew. Each one of these deaths was a tragedy and greatly affected the community.

The 2019-20 bush fire season saw 2,476 homes destroyed and 1,034 damaged. 5,559 outbuildings and 284 facilities were also destroyed in the fires.

More than 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 on the progress of the implementation of actions to address the recommendations in the 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 sixth quarterly report produced in response to this amended legislation. This 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 Resilience NSW has established to work with 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. They then 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 monitors progress of all accepted and allocated responses to help ensure 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.

This report identifies any change to target timeframes or to actions proposed to be taken to address the Inquiry’s 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 made 76 recommendations. 37 recommendations included 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:

- 74 recommendations completed (50%); and
- 74 recommendations in progress (50%).

More than \$830 million allocated to respond to recommendations

Since the release of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry Final Report in August 2020, the NSW Government has announced more than \$830 million to address the recommendations of the Inquiry.




As part of the 2022-23 Budget, the NSW Government has committed:




- \$191 million for NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) to keep NSW communities safe, including:
 - \$105.6 million to deliver new trucks and retrofit old trucks;
 - \$75.4 million to significantly boost the number of mitigation crews; and
 - \$10 million to enhance strategic fire trails.
- \$56.5 million for the NSW RFS to construct new co-located Emergency Operations Centres and Fire Control Centres at Moruya, Tumut, Hawkesbury, Grafton, Narrabri and Cooma.
- \$9 million to Fire and Rescue NSW to acquire 16 firefighting tankers.
- \$201.5 million over four years for National Parks and Wildlife Service for:
 - 200 additional permanent firefighter roles to deliver increased hazard reduction and boost capacity to respond to bushfires;
 - 50 additional permanent roles to protect and manage Assets of Intergenerational Significance;
 - Upgrades to the NPWS firefighting fleet; and
 - Upgrades to the NPWS radio infrastructure.
- \$44.8 million over 10 years for a state-wide environmental and air-quality monitoring program

This builds on the existing funding invested in 2020-21 and 2021-22, including:






- \$45.7 million in additional personal protective clothing for frontline firefighters.
- \$36 million for a new first responder mental health strategy for emergency services.
- \$54 million to accelerate the state-wide delivery of strategic fire trails.
- \$19.9 million to upgrade the FRNSW dispatch systems, ensuring greater integration across the fire agencies.
- \$2.5 million for improvements to NSW RFS's Fires Near Me app.

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 assigned Resilience NSW to track the implementation of recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, 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 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, and the 2021-22 Fire Season Statement tabled in Parliament on 13 October 2021. Work is underway to develop the 2022-23 Fire Season Statement. This will continue to be completed annually as part of agency BAU.
R3 That the NSW Government, along with other Australian governments, ask AFAC to establish a national bush fire database. This database would enable: <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. 	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.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	NSW RFS continues to collaborate on projects that are working towards the establishment of a national bushfire database. Key activities include working with Natural Hazards Research Australia on examining how the database could be established and participating in the establishment of the National Bushfire Intelligence Capability project.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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.</p> <p>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>	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022.</p> <p>The NSW Government has established the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and the Bushfire Response R&D Mission, with an investment of \$69.8 million over four years, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.</p> <p>NSW RFS is continuing trials using its two Citation aircraft to produce thermal scan images to allow for the early detection of bush fire danger.</p> <p>The NSW RFS has also participated in Forestry Corporation NSW trials in early fire and smoke detection, via both camera and satellite systems.</p>
<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>	Resilience NSW	Q3 2022	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2021 ahead of target date.</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. This funding includes \$16 million over four years to establish an early-stage Bushfire Commercialisation Fund, to enable small and medium enterprises to develop and commercialise products related to bush fire technologies, which opened for applications in July 2022.</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>	NSW RFS	Q3 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021.</p> <p>NSW RFS has developed and delivered Local Weather Effects training to over 60 NSW RFS and interagency Fire Behaviour Analysts. This training has enhanced their knowledge and ability to consider local weather effects and their influence on bush fires.</p>


Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	NSW RFS to recruit additional fire behaviour analysts and trainers in regional NSW.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. NSW RFS continues to increase its Fire Behaviour Analyst capacity. Additional Fire Behaviour Analysts have been recruited, meaning each Area Command has this specialised capacity.
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	Q1 2022	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q1 2022. The NSW RFS in partnership with the BoM continues to build greater capacity for meteorologists to provide assistance at the RFS State Operations Centre. Meteorologists rotated through RFS State Operations over the 2021-22 summer period. During this time a training and induction checklist was piloted, detailing training and induction steps for meteorologists to assist in RFS Headquarters.
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 ■	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. 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 ■	Program design is currently under consultation with key stakeholders to deliver Scholarship Program focused on researching challenging firefighting problems.
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	Q3 2022*	In Progress ■	A draft protocol for the reallocation of resources during simultaneous emergency events continues to be developed between the Deputy Commissioners from NSW RFS and FRNSW. Completion of this action has been delayed due to operational demands.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. A review of BFCC members has been completed.
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 Rural Fires Act as soon as practicable	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. All Bush Fire Management Committees (BFMCs) have a valid BFRMP and Section 52 Operations Plan. 29 FAFT Plans have been approved by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q4 2021. This recommendation is addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19. 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. NSW RFS has commenced development of qualitative audit plan for Bush Fire Management Plans defined by S52 of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> .
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	Q3 2022*	In Progress 	NSW RFS has created and launched a webpage dedicated to existing and draft BFRMPs. They can be accessed at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk . Content has been created to support BFMCs BFRMP as they prepare for early 'Have Your Say' consultation and Public Exhibition. The first Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plan, for the Lower Hunter, is being prepared for public exhibition and will be hosted on the NSW RFS website for minimum 42 days.
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.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. All BFMC Executive Officers have reviewed their membership and ensured 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	Q3 2022*	In Progress ■	The review of the BFMC handbook will commence in collaboration with the BFCC and initiated at the next meeting of the BFCC. Procedures have been put in place by the BFCC to provide an interim update to the procedures.
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	Completed ■	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. The 2021 National Statement of Capability has been completed and published by AFAC. The <i>Bush Fires Amendment Bill 2020</i> passed by Parliament in 2020 did not include changes relating to industry based brigades. The NSW RFS continues to work with industry stakeholders.
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 ■	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. 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.
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 ■	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. LEMC online training package has been re-developed and released including guidance on the role and responsibility of Local Emergency Management Officers.
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. The Regional Disaster Preparedness Program, piloted in four regions, is being transitioned into core business for Resilience NSW through its regional teams.

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.
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	Q2 2022	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. NSW RFS has reviewed the effectiveness of 20 bush fire preparedness programs. Three programs have been identified as leading programs which are highly effective and efficient. The remaining programs have been identified as effective but with opportunities to improve them through program design and delivery updates. This will ensure all programs are highly effective and efficient.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW SBC</p>	<p>Q4 2022</p>	<p>Completed </p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. On 9 September 2021, NSW Government launched a set of new guides to bolster tourism businesses resilience to bush fires and other natural disasters. The guides were developed by Destination NSW, working closely with Resilience NSW and NSW RFS. They address tourism industry needs and provide straightforward and practical advice to help tourism businesses keep everyone safe and informed.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress </p>	<p>The NSW and Commonwealth governments 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. NSW RFS is in the final stages of the tender process for the infrastructure enhancement at Bell Rural Fire Brigade station, Blue Mountains. Two Rural Fire Brigade stations in the Southern Highlands have been assessed for infrastructure enhancements with approval granted to proceed.</p>




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): 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; and 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.</p> <p>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>Whole of Government procurement and acquisition program for imagery and LiDAR through the Remote Sensing Services and Equipment Prequalification Scheme (ReSSE) is available for agencies to use, although the scheme is not currently mandated.</p> <p>The Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL) continues to be updated, managed, maintained and improved by the Spatial Services EICU, in order to obtain, collate, and disseminate comprehensive infrastructure data.</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 (BFRMPs)	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	Q3 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 BFRMPs. Following the NSW Government investment of \$24.9 million over five years, the NSW RFS has established new regionally based Community Safety Teams responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and taking regulatory action to ensure land managers address bush fire hazards. Audit and compliance staff are finalising a qualitative audit and compliance plan for BFRMPs, Section 52 Operations Plans and Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans. The ongoing audit plan and compliance program is due to commence roll out in Q3 2022.
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 2022*	In Progress 	The Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Planning process has been developed incorporating new modelling and methods of quantifying risk. The rollout is continuing, with NSW RFS facilitating workshops and volunteer engagement on the Next Generation BFRMPs. Almost 60% of BFMCs have commenced development of a Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.
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 2022*	In Progress 	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 19(a) and 19(b). Updates regarding the review of the BFMC Handbook and policy is noted against recommendation 8(g).




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 	The rollout of the Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is continuing with key knowledge and research gaps being captured to inform the next review of the methodology. The tender for the NSW Bush Fire and Natural Hazards Research Centre has closed and responses are being evaluated. The new research centre will be an important part of delivering this recommendation.
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. On 12 June 2022, the NSW Government announced \$75.4 million for 318 ongoing RFS Mitigation Crew positions. These ongoing positions will improve continuity of service delivery such as hazard reduction mitigation works to the community. Since 1 July 2021, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews have assisted with completing more than 3,551 inspections and completed over 1504 site works. Additionally, despite significant wet weather, between 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2022, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mitigated the bush fire risk and provided protection to 20,402 properties ▪ Assisted with 9 hazard reduction burns for a total of 960ha burnt ▪ Constructed 1,457km of control lines ▪ Completed 814 Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) mitigation works ▪ Completed 118ha of Asset Protection Zone works. The RFS also continue to administer and manage funds to assist land managers which local government can access to undertake mitigation works and resilience activities to protect the NSW community from bush fires.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS and NPWS to extend mitigation programs, with the addition of increased resource capabilities to focus on areas of potential bush fire ignition.</p>	<p>NSW RFS DPE</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. This recommendation is being addressed through recommendation 21(a).</p>
<p>R21 That, in order to improve understanding of optimal hazard reduction techniques and their application in the landscape:</p>					
<p>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)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS DPE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. On 12 June 2022, the NSW Government announced \$75.4 million for 318 ongoing RFS Mitigation Crew positions. These ongoing positions will improve continuity of service delivery such as hazard reduction mitigation works to the community. The NSW Government has committed \$201.5 million over four years to NPWS to support ongoing implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations in national parks, including 200 permanent firefighter positions from 2023 onwards, and 50 additional permanent roles to protect Assets of Intergenerational Significance. The NPWS firefighter capacity enhancement program will also train 70 additional firefighters for the 2022-23 fire season. Despite above normal rainfall across large areas of the State, from July 2021 to June 2022, NSW RFS along with other fire authorities and land managers have treated more than 40,500 hectares of bush, protecting almost 47,223 properties directly on the urban and bush interface. Extensive planning continues to ensure that NSW RFS and NPWS is positioned to take full advantage of any favourable weather conditions for burning.</p>




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Q1 2022	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2022. The NSW RFS has completed training package upgrades for planning and conducting prescribed burning. The NSW RFS is also working with research organisations including Natural Hazards Research Australia to ensure that research into optimising hazard reduction burning outcomes is undertaken.
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 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. A NSW government funded research Centre of Excellence is being established. An open market procurement activity is currently underway. The NSW RFS is also continuing grazing trials through the state. These trials have been extended to December 2022.
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 	Both NSW RFS Citation aircrafts are configured for scanning and transport. Scanning operator training is ongoing and scoping works continue to examine different mission profiles including Asset Protection Zone scanning. Operational scan flight tests have also confirmed the ability for the RFS Citation aircraft to produce a thermal scan image for both fire and water, further increasing the range of missions this machine can support the community with. Additionally, NSW RFS continues to collaborate with Minderoo Foundation to explore opportunities for remote sensing technologies.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>DPE and AANSW to develop a long term Cultural Fire Management Strategy working in partnership with Aboriginal communities.</p>	DPE AANSW	Q2 2023*	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government 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. The Cultural Fire Management Unit (CFMU) has been established and is working across government and with Aboriginal communities to coordinate cultural fire implementation in NSW.</p> <p>An Aboriginal Working Group has been established to lead the development of the NSW Cultural Fire Strategy and advise on cultural fire matters within NSW whilst working collaboratively alongside the Cross Government Group to develop a NSW Cultural Fire Strategy, improve coordination, wider implementation and uphold cultural integrity in NSW.</p>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>DPE 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.</p>	<p>DPE AANSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress </p>	<p>This recommendation is being addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 25. The CFMU has established relationships with around nine Aboriginal communities and have funded Aboriginal community led projects to implement cultural fire in their communities and cultural land management projects for wholistic healing of Country outcomes. DPE are working with these communities to tell their own story through a variety of quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation tools that fits their needs and aspirations.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will work with DPE to design and establish a new bush fire planning framework. The Framework will incorporate a new strategic planning approach and 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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q1 2024</p>	<p>In Progress </p>	<p>NSW RFS, in partnership with DPE, developed a delivery strategy and implementation road map for the embedding of enhanced strategic planning processes for bush fire resilience into the NSW planning system. The strategy was endorsed by SEMC in December 2021. NSW RFS is working with DPE to implement the works plan for commencement in 2022 up until 2024.</p>




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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.
<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 	The NSW Government has strengthened the oversight and management of planning and development on bushfire prone land with changes to the regulatory framework. The NSW Government continues to provide support to local government in the exercise of their functions with a range of funding and support programs to build council capacity and capability, including the recent establishment of Regional Housing Flying Squad Program to help councils with the assessment of DAs for regional councils.
<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 	A multi-agency project working group developed the Bushfire-Resilient Housing Toolkit. The final product delivers a transferable and scalable product that combines tools, data and partnerships with a deep understanding of the local population and behavior change principles to build resilience. The Canberra Region Joint Organisation are hosting the resources online at www.crjo.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-resilient-housing-toolkit .





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. 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 to reduce the potential for the spread of bush fires. The supporting Rural Boundary Clearing Code was gazetted on 11 September 2021.
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.	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 18.	Resilience NSW NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 18. The Commonwealth Government has progressed a number of amendments to the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act, however, these have not addressed the provision of data on critical infrastructure to assist in planning, preparation and response for bush fire. Resilience NSW has commenced consideration of proposed models for changes to the NSW Critical Infrastructure framework, which include consideration of a method for obtaining data and metadata on critical infrastructure as recommended by the Inquiry.
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:					
<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 	NSW Telco will continue to deliver against the NSW Operational Communications Strategy 2020.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	NSW Telco Authority continues to procure solutions and services to provide sufficient redundancy options for the Public Safety Network (PSN). Increasing battery backup on selected sites has commenced with site analysis and initial rollout. Manufacturing has commenced and continues to increase the mobile radio asset pool of cell-on-wheels and generators.


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 the TELCOFAC, EUSFAC and Spatial Services. NSW Telco Authority continues to engage with carriers to improve the value and timeliness of infrastructure information they share. Information received is fed into Bush Fire Risk Management Plans 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>NSW Telco Authority continues to facilitate pre-season presentations for the carriers delivered by the NSW RFS and SES highlighting potential risk to critical infrastructure, and liaise regularly with the carriers to discuss network risk.</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>The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is undertaking a Regional Mobile Infrastructure Inquiry, which commenced on 1 July 2022 with the release of a consultation paper. The Inquiry has two points of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to towers in regional, rural, remote and peri-urban areas to supply communications services; and feasibility of temporary roaming between carrier networks during natural disasters and emergencies. <p>The NSW Government is making a submission supporting 'emergency roaming' in addition to other actions to improve regional digital connectivity. The Inquiry's final report is due by 30 June 2023.</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. 	<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 	NSW continues to hold discussion with Telstra, TPG, Optus and nbn on their provision of minimum and additional data sets outlined in the Communications Alliance Industry Guideline G665:2021 Telecommunications – Facilities Information Sharing. NSW is promoting that Commonwealth regulation be introduced to require carriers to provide real-time network operational status information through the ACCC's Regional Mobile Infrastructure Inquiry, the Commonwealth's PSMB Strategic Review and consultation with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
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. 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	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. A bushfire risk assessment process to identify 'high-risk' communities has been developed. This includes considerations for roads and rail links in the event of a fire that may affect access and egress. The status of waterways and other considerations such a freight, industry and investment considerations for the risk assessment have been incorporated. TfNSW will continue consultation with local emergency management stakeholders across the state including the New England Northwest region to develop the framework and data for the for the Customer Journey Resilience Plans.</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 BFRMPs.</p> <p>TfNSW will work with NSW RFS to ensure appropriate representation from TfNSW on BFMCs.</p>	TfNSW NSW RFS	Q3 2022*	In Progress 	<p>TfNSW has completed an audit of the inclusion of critical road infrastructure in BFRMPs and Local Emergency Management Committees across the State. BFRMPs and Transport incident response plans have been updated including identification of critical road infrastructure and alternative route options in the event of critical road closures.</p> <p>Audit of State road infrastructure identified in Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs) will also be included in the risk-based performance auditing program addressed in Recommendation 19. The ongoing audit plan and compliance program is due to commence roll out in Q3 2022.</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	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021.</p> <p>The TfNSW Vegetation Management framework is operational, and was developed in consultation with arborists and other vegetation management experts.</p> <p>The NSW Government allocated \$28 million over three years to deliver TfNSW's Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program to improve the resilience of evacuation and emergency services access routes and increase the speed of return to service post a fire event. The roll out of the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is continuing progressively across eight key corridors.</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 	The NSW Government has invested \$44 million to expand the delivery of a strategic fire trail network, with a further \$10 million committed on 12 June 2022. Despite significant wet weather impacts, with the entire state recording "well above average" or "wettest on record" rainfall, \$31 million has been committed to fire trail projects since 1 July 2021 with approximately \$10 million of fire trial works already delivered.
<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 prepared draft FAFT plans for approval.
<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 	All BFMCs have prepared draft FAFT plans and risk modelling across the state has been completed to determine fire trail priority, along with consultation with BFMCs, Crown Lands and FCNSW to develop a four year rolling plan based on strategic priorities. Despite significant wet weather impacts, with the entire state recording "well above average" or "wettest on record" rainfall, \$31 million has been committed to fire trail projects since 1 July 2021 with approximately \$10 million of fire trial works already delivered. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 71 Fire Trail projects currently in the initiation and planning and design phase; ▪ 28 projects either have construction works underway, or ready to commence; and ▪ 12 fire trails have been completed. NPWS continues to prioritise investment based adopted FAFT plans. As plans are adopted, they are incorporated into the NPWS forward works plan. In the 2021/22 financial year NPWS completed \$46.1 million of fire trail maintenance and upgrades.





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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 	NSW RFS is developing a Certification and Condition Monitoring System to enable the collection and reporting of condition assessments. NSW RFS has also collaborated with Crown Lands to develop an aerial inspection program. NSW RFS audit and compliance staff are finalising a qualitative audit and compliance plan which will include FAFT Plans.
<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	Q4 2022	In Progress 	NSW RFS has rolled out phase 1 of the online Guardian mitigation platform. Phase 2 of Guardian continues to be developed. This combined with the Certification and Condition Monitoring system will form the basis of the asset management system.
<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 	Revised NSW RFS Fire Trail Standards have been subject to agency consultation and are in the process of being finalised.
<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>DPE 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>	DPE NSW RFS	Q4 2022	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government is investing \$44.8 million over 10 years for a state-wide environmental and air-quality monitoring program.</p> <p>DPE continues to update air quality reporting through the Enhanced Website and Data Delivery (EWADD) project. There has been a slight delay primarily due to the need to deploy the new data acquisition, management and reporting system in the cloud environment. The new system now is being deployed in the test environment with user acceptance testing (UAT). The system will be rolled out across the network through 2023.</p> <p>NSW RFS is also collaborating with NSW and Commonwealth agencies on methods to share model input data to help improve air quality forecasting at state and national scales. Development is integrating with the National Smoke Forecasting System (formerly AQFx) and will share information with DPE air quality forecasters.</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: smoke-vulnerable cohorts of the community; general practitioners, particularly in rural and regional areas, so they can advise patients with relevant, susceptible comorbidities; and 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>DPE will work with NSW Health to develop key messaging which will align with the Clean Air Strategy, and a targeted information campaign.</p>	<p>DPE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>DPE continues to partner with Asthma Australia on their Air Smart communications pilot. This pilot has developed a new app and a targeted media campaign to be run across southern NSW during July/August 2022, with further information available at asthma.org.au/what-we-do/current-projects/airsmart/. Work is continuing to support statewide air quality forecasting. Currently, regionally and locally specific forecasts are available during emergency incidents. Subregional forecasts for metropolitan areas outside Sydney have been on internal trial. DPE will be enabling this as a routine service for all days over the coming quarters. In addition, DPE is in the process of upgrading the air quality forecasting model related computing infrastructure.</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>DPE to enhance capability to assess priority at-risk species and ecosystems and identify long term recovery actions.</p>	<p>DPE</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$2 million over three years to support DPE projects to examine the effect bush fires have on NSW water quality objectives, and assess and mitigate the risk to soil health during hazard reduction activities.</p> <p>Substantial progress has been made to improve the methods of representing the environment response of species/ecosystems (and traditional ecological knowledge) to fire and how this information will be represented in planning tools associated with the regional bushfire risk planning process. Case studies are being set up in the Blue Mountains and South Coast of NSW to test assumptions of the risk models as well as designing the approach to be used for a long-term monitoring program.</p> <p>To investigate the impacts of the 2019-20 bush fires on NSW waterways, fieldwork continues to regularly be undertaken to collect data from sites across the state to better understand the impacts of, and recovery from, the 2019/20 fires. Funding has been leveraged by engaging with key collaborators and successfully securing research grants, such as a Research Partnership Grant (\$30k) with the University of Wollongong and a Research Portal Grant (\$27k) with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. In order to extend our smart sensor network and monitoring capabilities, a further three state-of-the-art water quality monitoring buoys have been purchased.</p> <p>To date, 279 sites have been declared as Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) and eight Conservation Action Plans prescribing targeted actions to protect 21 declared AIS sites have been approved.</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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. District information packs and maps, including information such as local topography, terrain, vegetation and fuels unique to that geographic location, have been completed for all Districts and uploaded to the RFS website. District information packs and maps can also be accessed through the RFS Pocketbook app.
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 2025	In Progress 	NSW RFS has finalised the data design for the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) and are expected to commence rolling out MDTs from Q1 2023. The MDTs in firefighting vehicles will support NSW RFS members in operational response such as displaying information regarding the incident, road routing information intelligence gathering, as well as assist with brigade incident reporting.
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 2023	In Progress 	The Farm Fire Unit guidelines are complete and were launched with NSW Farmers in August 2022. In Q2 2022, the NSW RFS installed a further 215 UHF Radios across the Fire Fighting Fleet. The RFS is continuing to work with districts and scheduling the remaining 700 installations. These installations will be completed this FY as the last funding year for the program.




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>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022.</p> <p>The NSW Government has allocated more than \$45 million to deliver additional PPC to NSW RFS and FRNSW members with rollout continuing.</p> <p>The NSW RFS continues to issue second sets of PPC to all volunteers and are encouraging members who have not yet received their second set to place an order.</p> <p>FRNSW has completed an extensive trial of a new bush fire jacket across a variety of stations. FRNSW has placed an initial sizing order of 90% of jacket replacement requirements. Due to supply chain disruptions, the delivery date has been revised to September 2022.</p>
<p>R40 That, in order to improve firefighter safety, Government fire authorities:</p>					
<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>Multi-agency Fleet Retrofit and Tanker Replacement Program. Additional equipment to be fitted to light and medium / heavy tankers to enhance crew protection.</p>	<p>NSW RFS DPE</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>To address Recommendation 40a and 40b, in June 2022, the NSW Government allocated a further \$105.6 million to the NSW RFS to deliver new trucks and retrofit old trucks. This builds on the \$67.9 million allocated since the bush fires to support firefighting tanker replacements and safety retrofits for all frontline NSW RFS, FRNSW, NPWS and Forestry Corp NSW fleet.</p> <p>From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2022, 71 new compliant Light Tankers (Category 9) have been built and handed over to RFS Brigades.</p> <p>NSW RFS continues to build new CAT 9 appliances to replace the Light Tankers identified as requiring improved firefighting safety.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 40(a).	NSW RFS DPE	Q2 2024	In Progress 	28 new compliant Medium Tankers (Category 7) and Heavy Tankers (Category 1) have been built and handed over to NSW RFS Brigades. 4 in-service Heavy Tankers (Category 1) were refurbished with appropriate crew protection systems and returned to the Service. Therefore, since 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 156 new compliant Medium Tankers (Category 7) and Heavy Tankers (Category 1) have been built and handed over to RFS brigades; and 55 existing Heavy Tankers have been refurbished with appropriate crew protection systems and returned to RFS brigades.
c) undertake additional research to determine the most appropriate cabin protection for the different frontline vehicles.	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.	NSW RFS	Q4 2022*	In Progress 	NSW RFS has provided five years of accident and health and safety data to the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) for trends analysis. In addition, MUARC have completed a member wide survey and are preparing for further data analysis through utilisation of targeted focus groups by Members. An engineering review of Appliance design is also being conducted. MUARC were also able to travel to an RFS site and inspect vehicles in production as well as recent damaged vehicles.
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 has supported a significant scaling of services for personnel, including additional psychologists across the three fire and emergency services agencies to provide direct clinical care.





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R42 That, to ensure firefighters can access mental health support through GPs, Government work with the Commonwealth Government to:</p> <p>a) provide a free mental health screen to firefighters post-fire event and waive any gap payments if additional treatment is required</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>NSW will collaborate with the Department of Home Affairs on the National Mental Health Review and will pursue this recommendation through the Commonwealth Taskforce.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p></p>	<p>Resilience NSW has advocated 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 by the Commonwealth Government.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p></p>	<p>The draft Catering Handbook, which was developed following consultation with key RFS stakeholders, has now been finalised. Further consultation regarding the draft Catering Service Standard is continuing. Both documents are expected to be released in Q3 2022.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The NSW RFS augment existing IMT personnel listing within the Operations Coordination Plan to include Divisional Commanders.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p></p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. A new S52 Operations Coordination Plan has been finalised which includes the pre-identification of Divisional Commanders.</p>
<p>R45 That, in order to prioritise early suppression and keep fires small:</p>					
<p>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</p>	<p>NSW RFS will update the state-wide target KPI of keeping fires within 10 hectares or less, to 80% of the time.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p></p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. NSW RFS has adopted this target and will report annually.</p>






Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will develop a predictive model for prioritised deployment of Rapid Aerial Response Teams (RART) for rapid initial attack in remote areas.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. NSW RFS has embedded a predictive model into its systems that forecast ignition potential and identifies areas expected to reach (and exceed) RART triggers up to four days in advance.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. Pre-determined Dispatch Trial was conducted between December 2020 and February 2021 in Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Sydney.</p>
<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>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Operational Protocol Backburning was 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 DPE 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>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. The University of Wollongong has provided a draft report to the NSW RFS that has evaluated back burning on five fires during 2019-20 fire season. The NSW RFS is currently evaluating the report.</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> <p>a) increase the number of trained Heavy Plant Supervisors and Managers to ensure an appropriate level of supervision in future significant fire seasons</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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>	<p>The NSW RFS to review existing training, streamline delivery and engage trainers to increase capacity and trial ARENA aviation system for HP Management and tracking.</p> <p>The NSW RFS in partnership with other agencies including SoilCon to review existing Heavy Plant engagement process.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2024	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<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.</p> <p>28 new Heavy Plant Supervisors are ready for this coming fire season. The NSW RFS has implemented the Arena HP system with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 329 suppliers in the process of being on boarded; ▪ 110 heavy plant engagements have been made through Arena HP to date; and ▪ 3,784 total pieces of plant have been registered on the system. <p>Integration of GPS into current systems is currently being scoped and should be available in the coming months.</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>					
<p>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>	<p>NSW RFS will request NAFC to initiate a RAAF C-130 trial of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS).</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021.</p> <p>Emergency Management Australia (EMA) advised that the Department of Defence would make available previous research and trial outcomes.</p> <p>Further discussions with the Department of Defence identified that the trial information from previous research would not assist in providing any relevant information to the NSW RFS beyond its existing knowledge.</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 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. NAFC published the National Aerial Firefighting Strategy 2021-26 in July 2021.
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	Q3 2022*	In Progress 	The NSW Government allocated \$5.2 million over five years from 2021-22 to acquire additional RPAS capability for FRNSW. Procurement of hardware for regional stations, FRNSW's Aviation team, Hazmat, counter-terrorism, and Natural Disaster/Humanitarian, has been completed. Recruitment into full-time positions within Aviation team has been completed. Remote Pilot Licence training has been delivered to Regional stations included in the RPAS expansion project. Fifteen fire stations have been commissioned and online with RPAS Tier 1 capability. This capability has been used to great effect in many operations to date including the recent flood event. Operational demands due to the current flood event, combined with the adverse weather conditions precluding flying, has resulted in slight delays to the roll out of the two day internal induction and night visual line of sight (NVLOS) qualification being delivered.
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 	Operating helicopters at night will allow the NSW RFS to directly attack fires at times when weather conditions are typically more favourable. Over the 2021-22 fire season, the NSW RFS completed night time firebombing trials, which involved a RFS Bell 412 helicopter and a contracted Chinook specially brought out from the United States. The RFS helicopter was fitted with infrared technology to identify power lines and other hazards, safely guiding the Chinook to drop water on a fire. The evaluation report of 2021-22 night time aerial firebombing is complete. Further trials are planned for 2022-23 fire season, including night time Aerial Incendiary, Observation, Winching and Transport operations. Aviation contract discussions, to support further trials, are underway.




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 	<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>	DPE	Q1 2023*	In Progress <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<p>The NSW Government has invested \$1 million over three years to develop and implement an improved framework for injured wildlife response. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is working with Department of Primary Industries, the NSW Rural Fire Service, and the wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary sectors to improve coordination and capability for wildlife emergency response.</p> <p>The NSW Environmental Trust Major Programs - Bushfire Relief Fund Wildlife Rehabilitators was completed in December 2021. New project planning and staff recruitment is being undertaken to further develop and enhance the initiatives and collaborations achieved in that program.</p> <p>Wildlife emergency response taskforces continue to be established in collaboration with the wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary, firefighting and emergency management sectors, with development of operating procedures, resource tools and trials ongoing.</p> <p>The Technical Advisor Wildlife role has been established by NPWS for incident management teams to help inform wildlife response in bush fires and other emergencies. Operating procedures, policies and resource tools are being developed to help guide wildlife response planning in incidents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) a requirement for all vets and wildlife rescue volunteers to obtain the Bush Fire Awareness accreditation 	<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>	DPE	Q4 2022*	In Progress <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<p>More than 200 wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians have been trained in the nationally accredited bushfire awareness training, which is a minimum requirement for accessing firegrounds. 18 additional vets and/or vet nurses have received subsidised training in wildlife care by Taronga Conservation Society. 20 sets of fireground Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been purchased by National Parks and Wildlife Service for use by wildlife responders. Further training of vets/wildlife rescue volunteers in Bushfire Awareness and Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System will be offered.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q4 2021. NPWS has released the Wildlife First Responder Training Program, which consists of online training and a supporting field handbook. The training package was published on 1 December 2021 and has been provided to NSW RFS, Forestry Corporation NSW and Fire and Rescue NSW. Ongoing consultation will occur with these agencies on the training and establishment of new IMT roles.
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.	DPE	Q4 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q4 2021. The Mobile Generator Deployment Strategy has been completed by the Energy & Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator and the Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator. The Strategy was endorsed by the SEMC in December 2021 for use by the NSW Government.
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 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. 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 the NSW Government's 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 with requirements being developed by AFAC. Engagement with Victorian counterparts has commenced to develop a roadmap for interoperability. Finalised roadmap targeted for this financial year.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. Resilience NSW and NSW Telco Authority have secured an agreement to provide PSN capability for SEOC.
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 Commonwealth has initiated a PSMB Strategic Review to report findings and recommendations for options for the most efficient and effective approach to PSMB implementation. The review's final review report is due to the Commonwealth in October 2022, with states and territories to be engaged on its findings and recommendations before the end of 2022. NSW Telco Authority is engaged with the review and is providing information to inform its progress while concurrently continuing independent PSMB development activities on behalf of, and in consultation with, NSW Emergency Services Organisations to expedite PSMB development outcomes including the identification of spectrum solutions. NSW Telco Authority is leading the PSMB National Program's Spectrum Workstream and is developing a Spectrum Options Paper for consideration of the cross-jurisdictional PSMB Senior Officials Committee.
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 2022*	In Progress 	All Cross Border and Interstate Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) are current ahead of the 2022-23 bush fire season, with the exception of Victoria. NSW RFS and Victoria continue to work together to finalise the MoU prior to the 2022-23 fire season.
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 	Phase 3 of the Integrated Dispatch Project commenced in March 2022 with an additional 16 Rural Fire Districts scheduled to be on-boarded by September 2022.
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	Q3 2022	In Progress 	The Emergency Logistics System project is in the delivery phase, with the project management office and System Integrator contracts in place for delivery.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 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 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. NSW RFS completed a review of FCCs and identified 13 FCCs that would benefit from priority upgrades. The NSW Government has allocated \$15 million to support the build program in 2021-22 and 2022-23. In early 2022, the NSW Government announced a further \$56.5m for the construction of six new co-located Emergency Operations Centres and Fire Control Centres at Moruya, Tumut, Hawkesbury, Grafton, Narrabri and Cooma.
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed Q4 2021. Resilience NSW and the State Emergency Operations Controller completed the State Emergency Operations Centre review in December 2021. The final report and its findings were endorsed by SEMC on 2 December 2021. SEMC tasked Resilience NSW and NSW Police to develop an implementation plan to progress the findings of 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 to reflect recommendations from the Royal Commission in December 2020. The Commonwealth also updated the DACC policy and manual in August 2020.
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.	NSW Police	Q2 2022	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. PIFAC has completed the training package, and is currently working with agencies to deliver training.

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 the 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 	ABC frequency signage is progressing with design work currently being reviewed against signage specifications. Transport for NSW will undertake consultation with key stakeholders, including local and regional Emergency Management Committees, between July and August 2022. TfNSW is aiming to start the rollout of signage in September 2022, ahead of the bushfire season.
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 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Emergency Services Board of Commissioners is overseeing the Door-knocking Data Collection Working Group. Operational activity relating to the flooding emergency events has delayed the finalisation of this project.
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.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 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 	The National Multi Hazards program has had a successful soft launch, with its first agency on the platform. Flood warning information from NSW SES will now be available on hazardwatch.gov.au. The National Multi Hazards program is working with NSW SES on another release which will include the adoption of the Australian Warning System. The program is progressing with working with other jurisdictions to potentially onboard them to the platform.
R68 That the NSW RFS include the following priorities in the Fires Near Me improvements roadmap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ text enlargement functionality ▪ a clear statement about the app's limitations and the importance of heeding public warnings and relying on personal observations ▪ fire spread prediction maps on extreme/catastrophic days ▪ update fire map information as technology improves. 	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	Completed 	Recommendations completed between Q1-Q4 2021.
R69 That, in order to ensure evacuation arrangements can be scaled up when needed, Resilience NSW:					
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	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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. All currently trained staff are able to undertake refresher courses through the online eLearning portal and updates to support COVID safe procedures have been added to training packages. The Welfare Services Functional Area has also 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.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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</p>	<p>This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 69(a) and 69(b).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q3 2021</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. The Community Partners Volunteer Training Scheme has been allocated \$200,000 in 2021-22 to support community organisations including the Red Cross, Anglicare, The Salvation Army, and Uniting Church Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network, to provide volunteers with the training and knowledge to support the Welfare Services Functional Area in evacuation centres.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW will also develop evacuation exercises for catastrophic events for the local, regional and state context.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q3 2021</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. This was exercised in a real scenario. The Welfare Services Functional Area opened 33 evacuation centres in the March 2021 floods, with 20 open simultaneously. The operation ran smoothly with support provided to nearly 3,000 people.</p>
<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. The review will consider if a supplement to the Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q1 2023*</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>The NSW Flood Inquiry and the independent review of evacuation centres initiated by Resilience NSW will likely require changes to the NSW Evacuation Management guideline. Finalisation of this guideline is on hold until these reports and their recommendations are reviewed.</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>	<p>Resilience NSW DCS</p>	<p>Q3 2022*</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>The "Tell Your Story Once" project has completed an initial digital product prototype, which includes an online and offline web form to connect disaster-affected people to government and non-government assistance. The project has moved into the Beta phase, where the initial prototype will be iteratively built into a live pilot digital solution that the NSW Government can use to streamline disaster registration and longer-term recovery assistance (including links to financial support) for disaster affected people. The pilot digital solution will go live by the end of September 2022.</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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q4 2021. AANSW delivered a pilot project with four discrete Aboriginal communities to support a range of emergency planning and preparedness. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to expand BFCC membership to include representatives from NSW Aboriginal Land Council and NTSCORP Ltd, and a representative to promote the integrity of cultural burning.
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 	Evacuation centres are staffed by both government & NGO agencies. Cultural capability training is mandatory for all government agencies. A high level introduction to cultural capabilities is included in the module on Evacuation Centre Management, which is currently under development.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q2 2022	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. All aged care facilities are recorded on the Emergency Services Spatial Information Layer available via the SEOC operating system. The Commonwealth Department of Health & Aging together with the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission have undertaken a large site audit plan to review Business Continuity Management and Emergency Plans to ensure preparedness for large scale events utilising the Evacuation Decision Making Guidelines for Private Health and Residential Care facilities as a benchmark for assessment. A briefing is provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Aging to all aged care facilities prior to the high risk weather season to ensure preparedness for disasters and related risks that may impact business continuity.
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	Q1 2023*	In Progress 	The NSW Flood Inquiry and the independent review of evacuation centres, initiated by Resilience NSW, will likely require changes to the NSW Evacuation Management guideline. Finalisation of this guideline is on hold until these reports and their recommendations are reviewed.
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	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q4 2021. The NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines were updated in 2021. The updated guidelines have been distributed to other jurisdictions confirming the eligibility through the Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG).

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>Q3 2022*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p>	<p>AASFA has drafted procedures in response to this recommendation which will be incorporated into the NSW Evacuation Management Guidelines referred to in Recommendation 70.</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>Q2 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2022. The Review of Functional Area Arrangements was endorsed by the SEMC on 2 June 2022, with all recommendations accepted. SEMC have tasked Resilience NSW and the SEMC secretariat to prepare an implementation plan to address the recommendations.</p>

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AANSW	Aboriginal Affairs NSW
AASFA	Animal and Agriculture Services Functional Area
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AFAC	National Council for Fire and Emergency Services
ANZEMC	Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee
APZ	Asset Protection Zone
BAU	“Business as Usual”
BFCC	Bush Fire Coordinating Committee
BFMC	Bush Fire Management Committee
BFRMP	Bush Fire Risk Management Plan
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
CFA	Country Fire Authority (Victoria)
CFMU	Cultural Fire Management Unit
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COMDISPLAN	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
DCJ	Department of Communities and Justice
DCS	Department of Customer Service
DITRDC	Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DPE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EICU	Emergency Information Coordination Unit
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMPLAN	Emergency Management Plan
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EUSFAC	Energy and Utilities Services Functional Area Coordinator
FAFT	Fire Access and Fire Trail
FBA _n	Fire Behaviour Analyst
FCC	Fire Control Centre
FCNSW	Forestry Corporation of NSW

FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
ICA	Insurance Council of Australia
IMZ	Ignition Management Zone
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LEMO	Local Emergency Management Officer
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LGA	Local Government Area
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAFC	National Aerial Firefighting Centre
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NEMMM	National Emergency Management Minister’s Meeting
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRSC	National Resource Sharing Centre
NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
NSW	New South Wales
PIFAC	Public Information Services Functional Area Coordinator
PMR	Private Mobile Radio
PPC	Personal Protective Clothing
PSMB	Public Mobile Safety Broadband
PSMB SOC	Public Mobile Safety Broadband Senior Officers Group
PSN	Public Safety Network
ResNSW	Resilience NSW
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RPAS	Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems
SBC	Small Business Commissioner
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
SES	State Emergency Service
SFAZ	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
UHF	Ultra High Frequency