

NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report

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

Reporting Period
January to March 2022



Resilience
NSW

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Protecting Frontline Firefighters

- Since January 2021, 71 new compliant Light Tankers built and handed over to NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) brigades including 12 Light Tankers delivered this quarter.
- 128 new compliant Medium Tankers and Heavy Tankers built and handed over to RFS Brigades in 2021, including 25 Medium Tankers and Heavy Tankers delivered this quarter.
- 12 in service Heavy Tankers refurbished with appropriate crew protection safety systems and returned to service this quarter.

Strengthening Cross-Border Communication

- The Cross Border Mutual Aid Agreement template was finalised this quarter.
- The new template ensures all agencies have a clear understanding of cross-border communication channels during bush fires.
- The new template will be implemented ahead of the 2022/23 bush fire season.

Raising Situational Awareness

- Fire and Rescue NSW's (FRNSW) Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) capability is a pivotal tool in protecting NSW communities, and has been expanded this quarter.
- Two additional fire stations (Wagga Wagga and Sawtell) were commissioned and are now online with RPAS Tier 1 capability.
- Wagga Wagga used this capability at a multi-agency incident, which resulted in a missing person being located.

Improving Operational Capability

- 120 existing NSW RFS vehicles have been retrofitted with new UHF CB Radios.
- A successful night time fire bombing mission was completed over Cataract NSW in March 2022.
- NSW RFS has completed the development of a training package to enhance the knowledge of embedded Bureau of Meteorology meteorologists within the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.
- NSW RFS has completed training package upgrades for planning and conducting prescribed burning. These packages use the latest national standards and training material.

Strengthening Research, Technology, Governance & Accountability

- NSW RFS are working with Monash University to determine the feasibility of fitting Falling Object Protective Structure (FOPS) to new and existing fleet.
- NSW RFS provided 5 years of accident data to the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) for trends analysis.
- MUARC have commenced an engineering review of appliance and designs, visiting a number of brigades.

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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. The bush fire season lasted eight months, from July 2019 until February 2020, with a total of 11,774 fire incidents throughout the season.

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

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

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

The NSW Parliament passed amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* in late 2020 to require quarterly reporting to both houses of Parliament.

This is the fifth quarterly report produced in response to this amended legislation. The report captures the activities of the NSW Government agencies leading implementation of initiatives and projects to address the Inquiry’s recommendations and sub-recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the process 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 makes 76 recommendations. 37 recommendations include a further 109 sub-recommendations, which require implementation of discrete actions or projects.

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

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

- 59 recommendations completed (40%); and
- 89 recommendations in progress (60%).

More than \$510 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 \$510 million to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry.




These funding packages include:

- \$50.9 million to support firefighting tanker replacement and safety retrofits for frontline NSW RFS, FRNSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Forestry Corporation of NSW's fleet, following an initial investment of \$17 million in 2020-21;
- \$45.7 million in additional personal protective clothing for frontline firefighters;
- \$36 million for a new first responder mental health strategy for emergency services;
- \$37.6 million for the continued funding of additional mitigation crews in the NSW RFS and NPWS to deliver greater hazard reduction;
- \$34.4 million to accelerate the state-wide delivery of strategic fire trails, following an initial \$9.5 million investment in 2020-21;
- \$19.9 million to upgrade the FRNSW dispatch systems, ensuring greater integration across the fire agencies;
- \$17.2 million to operationalise two black hawk helicopters, which will replace existing NSW RFS helicopters;
- \$2.5 million for improvements to NSW RFS's Fires Near Me app; and
- \$56.5m for the construction of six (6) new co-located Emergency Operations Centres and Fire Control Centres at Moruya, Tumut, Hawkesbury, Grafton, Narrabri and Cooma.





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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 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. The 2021-22 Fire Season Statement was tabled in Parliament on 13 October 2021. 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 advocate for a comprehensive national bushfire database through a number of working groups, namely the National Bush Fire Intelligence Capability and Natural Hazards Research Australia.

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	In Progress 	<p>Both NSW RFS Citation aircraft are configured for scanning and transport. Testing of the Overwatch System continues.</p> <p>NSW RFS continues to work with Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) to participate in FCNSW trials of early fire and smoke detection 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.</p> <p>The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.</p> <p>This funding includes \$16 million over four years to establish an early-stage Bushfire Technology Fund, to enable small and medium enterprises to develop and commercialise products related to bush fire technologies.</p> <p>Resilience NSW and Investment NSW will be responsible for administering this funding over the next four years.</p>
<p>R6 That Government support training initiatives to increase the capacity of fire authorities to fight the kind of megafires seen in the 2019-20 season. The training initiatives should include:</p>					
<p>a) targeted training in local weather effects for fire behaviour analysts who are embedded in Incident Management Teams</p>	<p>NSW RFS to enhance existing multiagency Fire Behaviour Analyst training programs, to improve knowledge of local weather effects.</p>	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 ■	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 currently under development in 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	Q2 2022	In Progress ■	Major operational activity relating to the flooding emergency events over recent months has delayed the finalisation of this matter. A draft protocol has been considered internally by both agencies. Deputy Commissioners from FRNSW and RFS will be meeting during the next quarter to finalise prior to submitting to respective Commissioners for sign off.
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.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) the BFCC ensures all Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs), Operation Coordination Plans and Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans are compliant with the timeframes outlined in section 52 of the <i>Rural Fires Act</i> as soon as practicable	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	All Bush Fire Management Committees (BFMCs) have a valid BFRMP and Section 52 Operations Plan. The final draft Section 52 Operations Plan Template was distributed for consultation in Q1 2022. Comments are being collated and expected to be finalised in Q2 2022. 32 Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs) are currently in development. 14 Fire Access and Fire Trail (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> . It is expected the rollout will occur and audits will commence in 2022.
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	Q2 2022*	In Progress 	NSW RFS has created and launched a webpage dedicated to existing and draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. They can be accessed at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk . Content has been created to support BFMCs Bush Fire Risk Management Plan as they prepare for early 'Have Your Say' consultation and Public Exhibition.
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	Q2 2022*	In Progress ■	Review of the handbook will commence in the next quarter. Procedures have been put in place by the BFCC to provide 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.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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. Resilience NSW regional teams will enhance and expand work from this program across NSW such as the Local Recovery and Regional recovery planning and capacity building.
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*	In Progress 	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>Tender released 11 April 2022. Close of tender contact by mid May 2022 and awarded by end June 2022.</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>DCS Spatial has commenced procurement process for Post Catastrophe Imagery capability for 22/23 FY. DCS Spatial is completing procurement for whole-of-government access to Geoscape building footprints (all buildings in NSW).</p> <p>DCS Spatial has released March version of the Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL), updating infrastructure, utility and telco data for all of NSW.</p> <p>The whole-of-government ReSSE imagery and LiDAR panel continues to operate.</p> <p>Telco mobile towers containing most information required in R18b has been supplied to Telco and included in ESSIL.</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)	<p>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'.</p> <p>NSW RFS Commissioner to establish a performance, audit and implementation unit to undertake ongoing review of BFCC and BFMC functions, plans and outcomes.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to provide new powers for the Commissioner to audit implementation of BFRMPs.</p> <p>The NSW Government has invested \$24.9 million over five years (commenced in 2020-21) to establish new, regionally based Community Safety Teams within NSW RFS responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans and taking regulatory action to ensure land managers address bush fire hazards.</p> <p>NSW RFS continues to develop a qualitative audit plan for Bush Fire Management Plans defined by S52 of the Rural Fires Act 1997. It is expected the rollout will occur and audits will commence throughout 2022.</p> <p>NPWS Bushfire Risk and Evaluation Team continues to work with the NSW RFS and support Bush Fire Management Committees in the preparation of a new Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for their local area.</p> <p>To date, NPWS has delivered cultural and environmental risk information coupled with treatment advice to Bush Fire Management Committees in the Hunter, northern Sydney, south-west and north-west parts of the state.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Relevant policies to be updated to support new BFRMP and implementation plan for roll out created.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>NSW RFS continues to facilitate workshops and volunteer engagement for rollout of the Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. This rollout is now commencing year two of a three year project.</p> <p>27 BFMCs have now commenced a draft Next Generation plan.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Q2 2022*	In Progress 	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 19(a) and 19(b). Refer to updates on recommendation 8(g) regarding the review of the BFMC Handbook.
d) the methodology for assessing and planning for risk reduction becomes an ongoing area of research and the frameworks are formally reviewed every three years.	This recommendation will be addressed through recommendation R3 and R5(b).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plans are in the third phase of rollout which will take place over a three-year period. During the rollout, local knowledge and research gaps are being captured to inform the next review of the methodology. Risk reduction remains a key priority area of current research efforts. A NSW government funded research Centre of Excellence is being established. Tender documents have been released with this recommendation specifically identified as a deliverable.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R20 That Government, noting that hazard reduction targeted in proximity to assets is on balance more likely to provide help than hinder, should:					
a) support local councils and partner agencies to implement more comprehensive hazard reduction at a local level around towns/cities, communities and local infrastructure assets, and provide incentives for communities to organise themselves to prioritise and implement local hazard reduction initiatives. This will involve a suite of hazard reduction techniques depending on the landscape including prescribed burning, clearing, mowing, and mechanical treatments, and easy disposal of green waste into processors turning it into bioenergy or biofuels	NSW RFS to increase access to mitigation resources to support local government and land managers with implementation of Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) works.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	<p>In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated an additional \$37.6 million to extend the mitigation crew programs for NSW RFS and NPWS for a further year. The additional temporary mitigation crews employed across NSW continue to provide enhanced protection for communities.</p> <p>For example, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews have been assisting with the interface program which includes identifying, mapping and managing areas of bushland around urban interfaces, where properties could be threatened by fire. Since 1 July 2021, NSW RFS Mitigation Crews have assisted with completing more than 3,488 inspections and completed over 800 site works.</p> <p>Additionally, this financial year NSW RFS Mitigation Crews have also mitigated the bush fire risk and provided protection to 17,837 properties and assisted with 9 hazard reduction burns, constructed 1,366km of control lines, and completed 664 Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) mitigation jobs.</p> <p>For this financial year, the NSW RFS have committed over \$6 million in grant funding for bush fire risk mitigation works.</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.	NSW RFS and NPWS to extend mitigation programs, with the addition of increased resource capabilities to focus on areas of potential bush fire ignition.	NSW RFS DPE	Q2 2022	In Progress 	This recommendation is being addressed through recommendation 21(a).

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R21 That, in order to improve understanding of optimal hazard reduction techniques and their application in the landscape:					
a) Government extend the recently introduced program of mitigation crews so that hazard reduction activities can be undertaken when conditions are optimal (throughout the week and potentially at night)	The Government will extend the existing 12-month funding for NSW RFS and NPWS mitigation programs, including extension of NPWS fire fighter roles to undertake additional hazard reduction activities and enhance rapid bush fire response capacity.	NSW RFS DPE	Ongoing	In Progress 	<p>In June 2021, the NSW Government allocated an additional \$37.6 million to extend the mitigation crew programs for NSW RFS and NPWS for a further year, and to purchase machinery to assist with hazard reduction works. This is in addition to the \$71.1 million allocated in 2020-21, delivering a total increased investment of \$108.7 million.</p> <p>Despite above normal rainfall resulting in localised flooding across large areas of the State, from the start of July 2021 to end of March 2022, NSW RFS, with along with other fire authorities and land managers treated more than 32,183 hectares of bush, protecting almost 9,830 properties directly on the urban and bush interface.</p> <p>Extensive planning continues to ensure that NSW RFS and NPWS is positioned to take full advantage of any favourable weather conditions for burning.</p> <p>NPWS firefighter capacity enhancement program was initiated in March 2022 with seven additional Crew Member courses scheduled for the winter season.</p>
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 	<p>The NSW RFS has completed training package upgrades for planning and conducting prescribed burning. These packages use the latest national standards and training material.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The NSW RFS has undertaken a review of the interagency Field Operations template for undertaking hazard reduction burning.</p>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
c) Government commission research into a range of other hazard reduction techniques to understand better the cost versus benefit and effectiveness of different practices in various circumstances, including grazing.	The NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC and universities to research initiatives for hazard reduction practices, techniques, and technologies.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government has committed \$69.8 million over four years for the establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Program, and Bushfire Response R&D Mission, to accelerate research and development and promote new and emerging industries and technology to better prepare the state for future bush fires.</p> <p>A NSW government funded research Centre of Excellence is being established. Tender documents have been released with this recommendation specifically identified as a deliverable.</p> <p>Goat grazing trials have been undertaken on 7 sites within NSW. Further trials are planned in the North West, Central and South West of the state. Data has been collected during these trials and evaluation continues.</p>
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 defendable space are being maintained, especially around towns.	<p>The NSW RFS will develop project to trial use of its owned Cessna Citation jets fitted with remote sensing technology to monitor APZs.</p> <p>The NSW RFS will work with NSW Spatial Services to develop emerging technologies and methods for monitoring APZs.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	<p>Both NSW RFS Citation aircraft are configured for scanning and transport. Testing of the Overwatch System continued throughout this quarter.</p> <p>NSW RFS continues to work with Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) to participate in FCNSW trials of early fire and smoke detection camera and satellite systems.</p> <p>NSW RFS also continues to collaborate with the Minderoo Foundation, and the Smart Sensing Network and the Natural Hazards Research & Development Program Committee to explore opportunities for remote sensing technologies.</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.	The Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to require all public land managers to provide any hazard complaints they receive to the NSW RFS Commissioner within 14 days consistent with requirements already placed upon local authorities, and ensure that public and private land holders are treated consistently.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021.</p> <p>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>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R24 That government agencies managing land (at all levels and through all agencies) be the best neighbours possible by considering their neighbours when undertaking activities related to bush fire preparation and having clear, two-way communication about these activities, with the aspiration that government landholders will be seen as highly desirable neighbours.	The Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to remove the capacity for certain land (including those managed by public authorities) to be exempted from the requirements for land managers to repair and replace any dividing fences damaged by bush fire.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to remove the capacity for certain land (including those managed by public authorities) to be exempted from the requirements for land managers to repair and replace any dividing fences damaged by bush fire.
R25 That Government adopt the principle that cultural burning is one component of a broader practice of traditional Aboriginal land management and is an important cultural practice, not simply another technique of hazard reduction burning.	DPE and AANSW to develop a long term Cultural Fire Management Strategy working in partnership with Aboriginal communities.	DPE AANSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	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 (CFM) Strategy and business model. The CFM Unit was established by DPIE, AANSW and Department of Regional NSW to coordinate, explore wider implementation, and preserve and promote the cultural integrity of cultural fire as a component of Aboriginal land management.
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.	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.	DPE AANSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation is being addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 25.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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>
<p>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:</p>					
<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 	<p>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).</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2024</p>	<p>Completed ■</p>	<p>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.</p>
<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 	<p>Consider potential strategies to increase local government capability to undertake audit, enforcement and compliance activities in accordance with existing powers.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>NSW Emergency Management Program eLearning has been publicly released. A LEMO community of practice has been established to connect LEMOs across NSW and identify if there are knowledge gaps that require development. The SEMC Capability Development Sub-Committee is progressing the development of strategies to increase local emergency management capability.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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 	The multi-agency project working group has completed developing the Climate 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. While the project focused on bushfire, there is capacity for it to be adapted for other natural hazards and risks including floods and storms. The Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) will host all of the assets and resources online and will seek opportunities to present the project through local government networks including with other Joint Organisations across NSW.
<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/metadata 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 Bushfire Inquiry.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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. This will provide additional redundancy options to maintain telecommunications coverage during unplanned outages.
<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 	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2. NSW Telco Authority will liaise with carriers.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress ■	Engagement with commercial carriers on information required for monitoring of coverage, risk plans and auditing of such is continuing through multiple forums such as Digital Twin implementation via TELCOFAC, Spatial Services and EUSFAC. Information received is fed into Bush Fire Risk Management Plans and NSW RFS Commissioner's annual statement. NSW Telco Authority continues to engage with carriers to improve the value and timeliness of infrastructure information they share.
<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 	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress ■	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. NSW Telco liaise regularly with the carriers to discuss network risk.


Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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 	As the telecommunications sector is regulated by the Commonwealth, implementation of this recommendation is reliant upon Commonwealth intent and action in consultation with commercial telecommunications carriers. NSW Telco Authority will continue to promote this outcome in its engagements with DITRDC.
<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.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R31 That, in order to improve bush fire planning and protection of road infrastructure and to ensure communities, freight movers and firefighting agencies have appropriate access and egress in a bush fire event, Government, working with local government as needed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges, to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'high-risk' communities where access and egress in the event of a fire will be affected, for example rural communities connected by a single road surrounded by bushland, and ensure community bush fire planning processes (i.e. Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs) or Community Protection Plans) include plans to 'leave early' or enforce mandatory evacuation orders • how waterways can be integrated better into the transport network as evacuation routes or places of shelter when road and rail transport is unavailable – waterways should be included in regional emergency management plans • route options for rapid identification of needed road closures in the event of fire • key sections of the State's road network for future upgrade to ensure whole corridors are resilient to fire impacts, regardless of who manages the asset 	<p>TfNSW and NSW RFS will work with key partners to include critical transport networks in BFRMPs prepared by BFMCs and LEMCs across the State, and develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges.</p> <p>TfNSW will roll out the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program (see recommendation 32). The program comprises a prioritised program of works to identify and apply risk assessment processes for State roads and bridges.</p>	TfNSW NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>Development of a formal bushfire impact risk assessment process is progressing. Consultation with stakeholders, especially local councils has been delayed across some regions due to flood events.</p> <p>Initial consultation with member councils of the Namoi Unlimited Joint Organisation were completed last Quarter, with consultation activities with the New England Joint Organisation deferred from March to April/May 2022. There are 12 local councils across the New England North West planning region that are actively engaged in this activity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ audit, through the NSW RFS Audit Unit (to be established) the inclusion of critical road infrastructure in BFRMPs prepared by Bush Fire Management Committees (ensuring that appropriate transport representation is provided to BFMCs) and Local Emergency Management Committees across the State. 	<p>NSW RFS and TfNSW to review the 62 NSW BFRMPs to verify that appropriate State road infrastructure is identified, and for BFMCs to consider any unidentified State road infrastructure for inclusion in the BRMPs.</p> <p>TfNSW will work with NSW RFS to ensure appropriate representation from TfNSW on BFMCs.</p>	TfNSW NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>TfNSW has completed all of its required actions for Recommendation 31b.</p> <p>Transport for NSW will continue to work closely with RFS.</p> <p>NSW RFS planning for a modelling platform to support Next Generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plans has commenced. The design will include identification of 'high-risk' communities where access and egress in the event of a fire will be affected. The proposal is currently in review.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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>	<p>TfNSW</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q3 2021. The TfNSW Vegetation Management framework is operational, and was developed in consultation with arborists and other vegetation management experts. 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>
<p>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):</p>	<p>NSW RFS to lead acceleration of strategic fire trail network.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2029</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW government has invested \$44M to expand the delivery of a strategic fire trail network. NSW RFS has been working with agencies to create fire trail standards.</p>
<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 	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. All BFMCs have prepared draft FAFT plans for approval.</p>
<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 	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Since 1 July 2021, \$31 million has been committed to fire trail projects with \$21.7 million worth of projects are underway. 71 Fire Trail projects are in the initiation and planning and design phase, construction works are underway, or ready to commence on a further 28 projects, and 12 fire trails have been completed. As of 30 March 2022, NPWS has successfully delivered \$10.744 million of FAFT Infrastructure upgrades with a further \$13.787 million under contract. \$7.637 million of fire trail maintenance has been delivered with a further \$6.950 million under contract for priority fire trail maintenance.</p>

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 ■	Since 1 July 2021, \$31 million has been committed to fire trail projects. 71 Fire Trail projects are in the initiation and planning and design phase, construction works are underway, or ready to commence on a further 28 projects, and 12 fire trails have been completed.
<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. Guardian replaced the Bush Fire Risk Information Management System (BRIMS) and will significantly improve the way all Bush Fire Risk Mitigation activities are undertaken. The development of Phase 2 for Guardian has commenced and includes additional bush fire risk mitigation modules including fire permits and fire trails. Guardian Project Team have commenced user requirement workshops with Subject Matter Experts to inform detail design work for the modules, which are expected to be released by the end of 2022.
<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 ■	Consultation regarding the NSW RFS Fire Trail Standards continued with fire agencies and land managers, with revised Fire Trail Standards being drafted. The draft 2022 NSW RFS Fire Trail Standards will be released for broader consultation in Q2 2022.
<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 ■	NSW RFS is collaborating with NSW and Commonwealth agencies to develop methods to share model input data to help improve air quality forecasting at state and national scales. Development is continuing to integrate with the National Smoke Forecasting System (formerly AQFx) and to share information with DPE air quality forecasters. NSW continues to work with other jurisdictions to improve air quality forecasting by sharing information that is used to run and interpret the smoke modelling.






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> <p>■</p>	<p>A new air quality website (www.airquality.nsw.gov.au) was launched in October 2021. Further enhancements are underway, with a contract awarded and new system build commenced. When completed, the project will deliver enhanced air quality data, information, and warning system. The new website will also provide improved user access and mobility.</p> <p>NSW has partnered with Asthma Australia in their AirSmart campaign to test effective messaging on air quality alerts, warnings, and information within the community. DPE will use the outcomes of this pilot to guide air quality advice and services.</p> <p>Enhanced air quality forecasting services is being developed to extend to other sub-regional including Lower Hunter, Illawarra and Central Coast. Currently in development and testing phase.</p> <p>DPE have also increased their stock of emergency air quality monitoring pods, which will increase system redundancy during future bushfire events.</p>

<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>DPE has funded a two year Applied Bushfire Science (ABS) Program. One of the core deliverables of this program is to develop a long-term monitoring framework for ecosystems and landscapes. The framework sets out a method to gather a comprehensive understanding of the responses of biodiversity, habitats, fuels and carbon stocks to contemporary fire regimes. It will also produce detailed data for development of predicted responses to future scenarios under climate change. It will provide the evidence base for testing the effectiveness of fire management strategies and operations and the knowledge systems that underpin them. To deliver this framework, long-term monitoring sites backed by data repositories and on-ground and remotes sensing technology are required, along with dedicated capacity to store, process and analyse the large quantities of data that will be produced. Longer term funding sources are being sought to continue this initiative and deliver integrated information against Recommendation 36a.</p> <p>Impacts of Bushfires on Aquatic Ecosystems - Work to understand the impacts of the 2019/20 bushfires on NSW waterways continues with monitoring of the endangered upland swamps under way in the Blue Mountains and Newnes Plateau to better understand the severity of the impacts of the fires on these sensitive systems as well as the processes and timeframes of their recovery. In collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney and Australian National University, oysters collected from NSW estuaries have been analysed for trace metal contamination as a result of the fires. These results will improve understanding of the water quality impacts after fire, and also the implications for aquatic species and the oyster farming industry. Statewide spatial data has been compiled which will contribute to the development of spatial risk assessment and management tools for understanding the impacts of bushfires on aquatic ecosystems in different parts of the diverse NSW landscape.</p> <p>Since the declarations of 221 sites for 93 threatened species were made as Assets of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) on Threatened Species Day, Minister Kean has declared the habitat surrounding the newly described Wollumbin hip-pocket frog as an AIS on 5 November 2021. Minister Kean also declared an additional 57 environmental AIS sites protecting</p>
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Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
					<p>habitat for 14 threatened species on 10 December 2021. To date, 279 sites have been declared as AIS, protecting habitat for 108 species.</p> <p>Publicly available site locations for declared AIS is now accessible for NSW fire agency bushfire response operations through the RFS ICON system.</p> <p>Eight Conservation Action Plans prescribing targeted actions to protect 21 declared AIS sites have now been approved.</p>
<p>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:</p>					
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>District Information Packs and maps have been collated and are currently being reviewed and ground truthed prior to broader distribution across the State.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS to implement 'Mobile Data Terminal' technology and solutions across firefighting fleet.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2025*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Detailed design work has commenced with the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) vendor including the development of a roll-out schedule.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>120 existing NSW RFS vehicles have been retrofitted with new UHF CB Radios. All new firefighting vehicles are being fitted with UHF radios.</p> <p>The NSW RFS continues to work with Transport for NSW to facilitate an appropriate annual inspection and registration process for private farm fire units.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R39 That, in order to ensure frontline personnel have appropriate personal protective clothing during bush fires:</p> <p>a) FRNSW review the current design of its bush fire jacket, noting improvements that have been made since 2002 that meet AS/NZS4824:2006 Protective clothing for firefighters, and increase the allocation of bush fire coats to two jackets per member</p> <p>b) NSW RFS issue two sets of personal protective clothing to operational members, and others as appropriate.</p>	<p>The NSW RFS and FRNSW will update personal protective clothing (PPC) allocation to facilitate two sets of PPC to be issued to firefighters.</p>	<p>NSW RFS FRNSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>FRNSW has secured a vendor and a size comparison has been conducted to place an initial sizing order of 90% of all jacket replacement requirements. The final 10% will be placed once initial issue has concluded to allow for deviations to be corrected. Initial delivery is expected to be July 2022, consisting of 50% of the total order</p> <p>NSW RFS PPC supplier has begun distribution of PPC and continues to ramp up stock holdings.</p> <p>Revised Service Standard 5.1.5 Protective Clothing and Accessories has been released which sets out requirements for Members to have two sets of PPC.</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>12 new compliant Light Tankers (Category 9) have been built and handed over to Rural Fire Brigades to replace existing non-compliant vehicles. It should be noted that the NSW RFS is not retrofitting light tankers but instead replacing them.</p> <p>Therefore, between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 71 new compliant Light Tankers (Category 9) have been built and handed over to Rural Fire Brigades. <p>Field consultation on the proposed cabin protection sprinklers for NPWS Category 9 vehicles has been completed. Implementation of the design is being considered by the NPWS executive.</p>
<p>b) ensure all medium/heavy tankers are fitted with radiant heat protection blankets, wheel and 'halo' sprays fitted as a minimum standard across all NSW fire authorities</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 40(a).</p>	<p>NSW RFS DPE</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>25 new compliant Medium Tankers (Category 7) and Heavy Tankers (Category 1) have been built and handed over to RFS brigades.</p> <p>12 in service Heavy Tankers (Category 1) were refurbished with appropriate crew protection safety systems and returned to service.</p> <p>Between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 128 new compliant Medium Tankers (Category 7) and Heavy Tankers (Category 1) have been built and handed over to RFS brigades. ▪ 51 existing Heavy Tankers (Category 1) have been refurbished with the appropriate crew protection systems and returned to RFS brigades.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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	Q2 2022	In Progress ■	NSW RFS has provided 5 years of accident data to the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) for trends analysis. In addition, MUARC has commenced an engineering review of appliance and designs, visiting a number of brigades.
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 ■	NSW RFS commitment to delivering on this recommendation is contingent on receiving the funding allocations as outlined in the recent Bushfire Inquiry NPP submission.
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.
R42 That, to ensure firefighters can access mental health support through GPs, Government work with the Commonwealth Government to: a) provide a free mental health screen to firefighters post-fire event and waive any gap payments if additional treatment is required b) create a new Medicare Benefits Scheme item number to enable Governments to track demand for mental health services from firefighters over time and ensure an appropriate level of support is available.	NSW will collaborate with the Department of Home Affairs on the National Mental Health Review and will pursue this recommendation through the Commonwealth Taskforce.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	In Progress ■	Resilience NSW is continuing to advocate for access to mental health screening through GPs, and for additional work to explore the creation of a dedicated Medicare Benefits Scheme number to be included as priority actions in the Commonwealth's National Action Plan, as issues of national importance. The National Action Plan remains in development by the Commonwealth Government.





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R43 That, in order to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality, the NSW RFS reviews food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety, as well as the viability of sourcing commercial contracts and providing 12-hour food packs to firefighters.	NSW RFS to review food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety. NSW RFS to provide meal packs to all appliances to provide initial sustenance to all firefighters.	NSW RFS	Q3 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Government allocated \$500,000 to NSW RFS to undertake a review of different food and ration pack options for volunteers. The review of food standards and procedures has been well progressed with a revised Catering Service Standard released to Districts for consultation.
R44 That, in order to ensure suitably skilled and experienced personnel operate as Divisional Commanders during major fire incidents, Bush Fire Management Committees identify appropriate personnel as part of their plan of operations.	The NSW RFS augment existing IMT personnel listing within the Operations Coordination Plan to include Divisional Commanders.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. A new S52 Operations Coordination Plan has been finalised which includes the pre-identification of Divisional Commanders.
R45 That, in order to prioritise early suppression and keep fires small:					
a) Government set a KPI for NPWS regarding the percentage of fires that start on-park and are contained within 10 hectares, and consider whether 70% is an appropriate KPI for the NSW RFS and NPWS	NSW RFS will update the state-wide target KPI of keeping fires within 10 hectares or less, to 80% of the time.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. NSW RFS has adopted this target and will report annually.
b) NSW fire authorities deploy remote area firefighting resources based on enhanced research and predictive modelling. In some circumstances, this may require prioritising the deployment of RART to enable rapid initial attack of new remote area ignitions over ongoing suppression operations, where supported by a relative risk assessment.	NSW RFS will develop a predictive model for prioritised deployment of Rapid Aerial Response Teams (RART) for rapid initial attack in remote areas.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	Completed 	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.
R46 That, in order to improve early fire suppression, the NSW RFS trial initial aerial dispatch in areas of high bush fire risk. The trial should identify the most appropriate and cost-effective mix of aircraft, and any associated infrastructure improvements that would be required.	NSW RFS will develop a trial for the 2020-21 fire season, to automatically dispatch Single Engine Air Tractor (SEAT) and reconnaissance Aircraft concurrently with land based firefighting resources.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. Pre-determined Dispatch Trial was conducted between December 2020 and February 2021 in Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Sydney.





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R47 That, in order to enhance firefighting strategies in severe conditions, the NSW RFS implements the following in respect to backburning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish protocols for each category (tactical and strategic) within their operational and training doctrine. These protocols should include lessons learnt from the 2019-20 season b) modify 'ICON' to implement the capability to record all backburns, including whether or not they break containment lines c) when fire conditions are approaching Severe or above, an independent review must be undertaken at State Operations Level before strategic backburns are implemented d) where there is significant concern within a community regarding a backburn, the NSW RFS should undertake a community engagement session with affected residents to discuss the backburn, including any investigation and relevant findings. 	<p>The NSW RFS will develop operational doctrine to ensure strategic back burns are independently reviewed and affected communities are advised of back burns, this will include defining what is strategic and what is tactical. In addition our operational system (ICON) will be upgraded to enable recording of back burns.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2020</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Operational Protocol Backburning 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>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>NSW RFS is working with the University of Wollongong to finalise a research report to identify potential risk factors and benefits of back burning during times of severe or higher fire danger ratings. This research is aimed to help inform future back burning protocols, data sources and training.</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 trainer 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	In Progress 	<p>Role descriptions have been finalised for all three positions. Heavy Plant Supervisor role advertised to market.</p> <p>329 suppliers are in the process of being on boarded. 3,784 total pieces of plant have been registered on the system. Ongoing review of available options GPS tracking. 110 heavy plant engagements through Arena HP to date.</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	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) has advised that the Department of Defence will make available previous research and trial outcomes.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will work with NAFC on the preparation of a strategic review of the provision of aerial firefighting capability across Australia.</p>	NSW RFS	Q4 2022	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2021. NAFC published the National Aerial Firefighting Strategy 2021-26 in July 2021.</p>





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>FRNSW to explore expansion of existing RPAS capability in accordance with the FRNSW Plus Plan.</p>	<p>FRNSW</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>FRNSW RPAS capability is a pivotal tool in protecting the community of NSW. Under our Plus Plan, this capability supports our operations in Fire, Urban Search and Rescue, Counter terrorism, Hazmat, Protection of the Environment, Natural Disaster and Humanitarian. It is used across the four sectors of emergency management - prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and is available for use by other agencies.</p> <p>RPAS project team is well established and making good progress in expanding FRNSW RPAS capability to better serve the people of NSW.</p> <p>Two fire stations (Wagga and Sawtell) commissioned and online with RPAS Tier 1 capability. Wagga has already responded and used this capability at a multi-agency incident which resulted in a missing person being located.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>The night time aerial firefighting trial was completed during the 2021/22 bush fire season culminating in a successful night time fire bombing mission being completed over Cataract NSW in March 2022. Integration of this capability is currently being finalised with the view to fully integrate for the 2022/23 season.</p>






Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R53 That Government develop and implement a policy on injured wildlife response, rescue and rehabilitation including:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a framework for the co-ordination and interaction with emergency management structures b) guidelines for Incident Management Plans to include wildlife rescue and rehabilitation as a consideration c) a requirement for all vets and wildlife rescue volunteers to obtain the Bush Fire Awareness accreditation 	<p>NPWS has commenced development of a framework for wildlife in emergencies under the AASFA supporting plan of the EMPLAN.</p> <p>NPWS is working with the RFS to develop guidelines and training for wildlife response teams. This will include bush fire awareness training for wildlife responders, as well as other relevant training.</p>	DPE NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>The Government has invested \$1 million over three years for development and implementation of an improved framework for injured wildlife response, commencing 2021-22. NPWS is working with DPI, NSW RFS, 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 Dec 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 (WERT) continue to be established in collaboration with the wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary, firefighting and emergency management sectors, with development on operating procedures, resource tools and trials.</p> <p>The Technical Advisor Wildlife (TAW) role is being 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> <p>Over 200 wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary professionals have received subsidised bush fire awareness training. 18 additional vets and / or vet nurses have received subsidised training in wildlife care by Taronga Conservation Society.</p>
d) guidance for firefighters on handling injured wildlife.	The NSW RFS will enhance its fire fighters pocket book (application) to incorporate a section related to this topic.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q4 2021.</p> <p>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.</p>




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 NSW Government 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 2021-22 FY
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.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 which is to report findings and recommendations for options for the most efficient and effective approach to PSMB implementation. The review's final 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. NSWTA is engaged with the Commonwealth's 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.
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	Q2 2022*	In Progress 	The Cross Border Mutual Aid Agreement template was finalised in Q1 2022. The new template will be implemented ahead of the 2022/23 bush fire season. Victoria is the only jurisdiction without an updated MoU with the NSW RFS, however this is expected to be finalised prior to the 2022/23 bush 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 	No additional Districts were on-boarded throughout Q1 2022, given the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period. From Q2 2022, the NSW RFS will be on-boarding an additional 16 Districts onto centralised dispatch, taking the total number of Districts to 42 by the end of 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 	NSW RFS has engaged Accenture as its partner to deliver an automated logistics solution. Work is underway with a staged implementation with deliverables scheduled prior to the 2022-23 bush fire season.

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. Projects are currently underway for Armidale and Mudgee FCCs.
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.	Resilience NSW NSW Police	Q2 2022	In Progress 	PIFAC has completed a training package. The intention is to convene training session with a nominated representative from each agency.



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 	TfNSW has engaged internal and external stakeholders, including from ABC Radio. TfNSW is currently defining the project scope for consultation; expected to be completed by Q2 2022. TfNSW will seek external stakeholder feedback with local and regional Emergency Management Committees with the aim to initiate the delivery of emergency broadcasting road signage during bushfire emergencies. TfNSW is also reviewing its holiday operational procedures to include emergency broadcast radio frequencies in VMS signage.
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	Q2 2022*	In Progress 	The NSW Emergency Services Board of Commissioners is overseeing the Door-knocking Data Collection Working Group. A standardised survey form was approved by the Board in December 2021 for use by all government agencies.
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
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	DCS	Ongoing	In Progress 	<p>The National Multi Hazards program has had a successful soft launch, with its first agency on the platform.</p> <p>Flood warning information from NSW SES will now be available on hazardwatch.gov.au.</p> <p>The program will continue working with other jurisdictions to onboard them to the platform.</p>
<p>R68 That the NSW RFS include the following priorities in the Fires Near Me improvements roadmap:</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text enlargement functionality 	<p>NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a clear statement about the app's limitations and the importance of heeding public warnings and relying on personal observations 	<p>NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.</p>	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q4 2021.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fire spread prediction maps on extreme/catastrophic days 	<p>NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q2 2021.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> update fire map information as technology improves. 	<p>NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	<p>Recommendation completed in Q1 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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. An additional 1,100 training placements for evacuation centre management surge staff was provided in 2020-21. 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.
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	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 69(a) and 69(b).	Resilience NSW	Q3 2021	Completed 	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.
d) develop an exercise for the management of multiple evacuation centres dealing with large numbers of people for a protracted period over a widespread area.	Resilience NSW will also develop evacuation exercises for catastrophic events for the local, regional and state context.	Resilience NSW	Q3 2021	Completed 	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.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R70 That, in order to ensure evacuation centres are fit-for-purpose, Resilience NSW work with Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) to:</p> <p>a) update the guidelines for LEMCs identifying evacuation centres to require a risk assessment of potential locations, which should include identifying alternate sources of power for use by evacuation centres and recording these appropriately</p> <p>b) review existing evacuation centre locations to assess compliance with updated LEMC guidelines and report to the State Emergency Management Committee on their suitability.</p>	<p>SEMC will review the Evacuation Management Guideline to incorporate recommendations from the Inquiry related to evacuation. The review will consider if a supplement to the Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q2 2022*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Feedback has been provided by several agencies, with an update provided to SEMC in March 2022. Further consideration of feedback will be completed, taking into consideration any key changes that may be required following recent significant flood operations.</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>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The Tell Your Story Once solution is being designed in partnership with Department of Customer Service. The project kicked off in November 2021, discovery efforts have been completed and the alpha phased has been completed. Key achievements are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross agencies stakeholder engagement • Detailed customer journey maps • A service blueprint • An initial solution prototype • Privacy Impact Assessment. <p>The next stage of the project is a detailed live prototype, which will be completed by the end of September in the Beta phase.</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	<p>Aboriginal Affairs NSW, in partnership with Resilience NSW, to support pilot program for enhanced emergency preparedness and capability of discrete Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>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.</p>	AANSW Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	Completed ■	<p>Recommendation completed in Q4 2021.</p> <p>As part of the pilot project working with four discrete Aboriginal communities, AANSW has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Community Protection Plans to reduce fire risk in collaboration with NSW RFS; ▪ Co-design of two emergency management plans with two communities; ▪ Delivery of 16 Emergency Management Planning and Stakeholder workshops; ▪ Cultural burns to reduce fire load, and tree removal and clearing around office and houses to protect houses and community members; ▪ Purchase of shipping containers to store new maintenance equipment to help maintain communities and fight fires; ▪ Purchase of masks, hand sanitiser and entry signage for communities to protect community from COVID-19; and ▪ Attendance at local BFMC and LEMC meetings to connect communities to local EM agencies. <p>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.</p>
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 ■	Work is underway within Resilience NSW to build the cultural capability of our staff who deliver evacuation centre services to the community.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R73 That, in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people during an evacuation, Resilience NSW:</p> <p>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</p> <p>b) develop/refresh evacuation centre protocols to specifically address the needs of vulnerable people.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q2 2022*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p></p>	<p>All aged care facilities are recorded on the Emergency Services Spatial Information Layer available via the SEOC operating system.</p> <p>Feedback has been provided by several agencies after the Evacuation Guidelines final draft was sent to SEMC members, with an update provided to SEMC in March 2022.</p> <p>Further consideration of feedback will be completed, taking into consideration any key changes that may be required following recent significant flood operations.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p></p>	<p>Recommendation completed in Q4 2021.</p> <p>The NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines were updated in 2021. These guidelines stipulate the eligibility criteria for support to evacuated individuals. This support does not exclude non NSW residents. Travelers or non-NSW residents are eligible for support in an evacuation centre and emergency accommodation if available. The updated guidelines have been distributed to other jurisdictions confirming the eligibility through the Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG).</p>

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> <p>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)</p> <p>b) work with LEMCs to identify overflow sites that can be used for evacuated animals when preferred sites are full</p> <p>c) further develop the domestic pets evacuation protocol.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q2 2022*</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Updated documents to support AASFA process were drafted to a high quality final copy in February 2022. Communication of updated procedures with AASFA LEMC and REMC representatives and REMC/LEMC will occur following the endorsement of the guidelines by the SEMC.</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>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Review of Functional Area Arrangements Report circulated to SEMC with covering Agenda Paper for endorsement for SEMC Meeting 124 scheduled for 3 March 2022. SEMC Meeting 124 was cancelled as a result of Flood and Storm Operations. Agenda Paper and Report will be resubmitted to upcoming SEMC Meeting 125 on 2 June 2022.</p>

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

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