

NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report

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

Reporting Period
January to March 2021



Resilience
NSW

KEY HIGHLIGHTS BY THEME

Protecting frontline firefighters



- A further 25,000 sets of PPC being made available to NSW RFS members.
- 6,000 sets of PPC rolled out to FRNSW personnel.
- \$36 million investment in mental health support for emergency services including rollout of the mental health webinar series delivered free for all personnel by NSW RFS Member Assistance Provider, Benestar to improve mental health education.
- 19 regional manufacturers have been contracted to deliver improvements including safety sprays, blankets and shields to the NSW RFS fire fighting fleet and other firefighting agencies, including FRNSW and NPWS.

Improving Operational Capability



- New aviation simulator installed and operational at the NSW RFS Training Academy in Dubbo.
- Three NSW RFS owned helicopters equipped with night-vision imaging systems to allow night-time fire-fighting operations.
- Memorandum of understanding between NSW RFS and Victoria's Country Fire Association extended ahead of the 2020-2021 season.
- OP1.2.20 Operation Protocol for Backburning was published in February 2021 to outline protocols for strategic and tactical backburning, and the recording of backburn results.

Strengthening Research, Technology, Governance & Accountability



- Rollout of the Australia Warning System begun, with new bush fire icons rolled out in NSW on 1 December 2020.
- Updates to the Fires Near Me App have introduced a 50 km buffer across interstate borders and new user-friendly functions such as text enlargement.
- New legislative function assigned to the SEMC to promote the continuous improvement to policy and practice in the NSW emergency management sector.

Hazard Reduction



- Stronger and clearer legislative powers for the NSW RFS Commissioner to direct hazard reduction activities, and audit and address bush fire risks.
- An additional 100 mitigation personnel employed by NSW RFS to support agencies undertaking hazard reduction works, including local councils. Over 2,000 km of fire breaks have been completed to date.
- 125 additional firefighters recruited by NPWS, including 20 positions for Indigenous firefighters, to support a 20% increase in capacity for hazard reduction.
- Amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* to remove exemptions for public lands and ensure public and private lands are treated equally.
- Rollout of the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is underway with works on the Princes Highway and Gwydir Highway complete.

Increasing Community Resilience



- The inaugural NSW Bush Fire Season Outlook covering the 2020-21 bush fire season was published 18 November 2020.
- The *Prepare for the Unexpected* Toolkit was rolled out to help small businesses build their resilience to unexpected disruptions and prepare for natural disasters.
- An additional 1100 training placements delivered for surge staff who can be called up to support evacuation centre management and disaster welfare.
- 55 Fire Access and Fire Trail plans submitted to the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee.

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	5
The 2019-20 bush fire season	5
The Independent Bushfire Inquiry	5
Reporting on Implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations	5
METHODOLOGY	6
Schema for Quarterly Reporting	6
STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	7
\$192 million funding package	7
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2021	8
ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS	56

BACKGROUND

The 2019-20 bush fire season

The 2019-20 bush fire season was without a doubt one of the most catastrophic on record. The bush fire season lasted 8 months, from 1 July 2019, with a total of 11,774 fire incidents throughout the season.

In NSW, 26 people lost their lives, including 7 firefighters – three RFS contracted air crew and four RFS volunteers. Each one of these deaths was a tragedy and greatly affected the community.

Thousands of NSW RFS volunteers, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and Forestry Corporation of NSW staff, and other support personnel were deployed to fight the fires across the state and completed more than 186,000 fire fighting shifts. They were supported by over 5,600 interstate and international personnel deployed to NSW throughout the season.

The Premier declared a statewide State of Emergency three times between November 2019 and January 2020.

Approximately 5.5 million hectares was burned across the state, creating an estimated 2.7 million cubic metres of waste.

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

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

The Independent Bushfire Inquiry

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

This commitment is now enshrined in legislation, with the NSW Parliament assenting to a Bill late last year, which amended the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, to require quarterly reporting to both houses of Parliament.

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

METHODOLOGY

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




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

- Step 1:** Recommendations/Sub-recommendations are referred by Resilience NSW to a nominated lead agency to prepare a Project Plan to implement an agreed action for the recommendation and submit this to Resilience NSW for review.
- Step 2:** The lead agency is responsible for working with nominated supporting agencies in implementing the agreed action. Resilience NSW then monitors progress of all accepted and allocated responses to track that the lead agency is meeting the agreed implementation timeframes.
- Step 3:** Once the lead agency has completed the required action it will submit to Resilience a claim for closure of the recommendation. This application indicates that the lead agency believes it has completed the required action. 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. Where target dates are not achieved, or are adjusted, this will be acknowledged in future reports.

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:

- 142 (96%) recommendations completed and in progress
- 6 (4%) recommendations being scoped

\$192 million funding package

In October 2020 the NSW Government announced the allocation of \$192 million over five years to address a number of recommendations of the Bushfire Inquiry. The package included:



- \$36 million for a new first responder mental health strategy for emergency services;
- \$23 million in additional personal protective clothing for frontline firefighters;
- \$17 million to retrofit NSW RFS and NPWS vehicles and replace FRNSW tankers;
- \$8.3 million extension of an integrated dispatch system for the NSW RFS;
- \$9.5 million for the delivery of a strategic fire trail network;
- \$5.4 million enhancements to the RFS aerial fleet and training facilities; and
- \$2.5 million improvements to NSW RFS's Fires Near Me app.

At the time, the Government noted that further measures to address recommendations from the Inquiry will be considered as part of future budget processes.


This funding built on the NSW Government's initial investment of \$67.9 million in June 2020 to support better bush fire preparedness: an additional \$45 million investment for NSW RFS to fast-track hazard reduction and fleet upgrades in 2019-2020, and \$22.9 million for NPWS to recruit an additional 125 firefighters.

NSW BUSHFIRE INQUIRY ACTION PLAN






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 	The NSW Government has assigned Resilience NSW to track the implementation of recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry across government, and develop a public reporting framework for the Inquiry and related reviews. Legislation was passed in November 2020 to establish an explicit statutory function for the SEMC to promote the continuous improvement to policy and practice in the NSW emergency management sector, including through consideration of reviews and inquiries and their recommendations.
R2 That at the start of each fire season, based on advice from the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC), Government provide a public statement with an evaluation of the likely fire season risk and the effectiveness of the planning and preparation for the upcoming season. This should be based on sophisticated monitoring of the key risk factors and signals for an extreme fire season. It should form the basis for clear public communication about these risks on a regional basis and the actions that Government proposes in preparation.	NSW RFS Commissioner (Chair of BFCC) will prepare a report outlining the State's preparedness for the upcoming season, which is endorsed by the BFCC and presented to the Minister.	NSW RFS	Annual 1 August	Completed 	The inaugural Fire Season Public Statement was tabled in Parliament on 17 November 2020. This will be completed annually on an ongoing basis as part of agency BAU.






Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R3 That the NSW Government, along with other Australian governments, ask AFAC to establish a national bush fire database. This database would enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ monitoring of trends in bush fire activity and impacts, including timing, cause, extent and intensity across all land tenures and vegetation types ▪ tracking trends and identifying patterns in associated weather and climate signals that contribute to severe bush fires ▪ evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of risk mitigation efforts, including hazard reduction, and fire suppression activities so we have a better understanding of what works. 	<p>NSW RFS will collaborate with AFAC and the Disaster Research Centre (announced by the Commonwealth Government 23 July) to ensure a national repository for bush fire history including those elements listed within the recommendation.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>NSW RFS have commenced consultation with AFAC for the development of a national bush fire database.</p> <p>The NSW RFS will continue to support ongoing national efforts and advocate for this significant new capability.</p>

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	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>The first NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation aircraft is now operational with the second NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation expected to be operational by the end of this financial year. A third contract aircraft is operational and undertaking in flight scanning trials and image production using the OverWatch scanning / sensing system.</p> <p>NSW RFS is reviewing their proposed trial of camera detection technology in consultation with FCNSW.</p> <p>The Australian Government in collaboration with the states and territories is developing a national disaster risk information platform over five years.</p> <p>As part of this national initiative the CSIRO and AFAC, the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (which includes NSW RFS, FRNSW, National Parks and State Forests) have signed an agreement to develop a nationally consistent bush fire modelling and prediction capability. The partnership involves the development of Spark Operational, a cutting-edge bush fire simulation tool based on CSIRO's 'Spark' fire prediction platform.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R5 That Government establish NSW as a major world centre of bush fire research, and technology development and commercialisation. This should include:</p> <p>a) establishing a Bush Fire Technology Fund, modelled on the Medical Devices Fund, to assist with the rapid development of technologies and services to sense, fight, mop up after and protect from bush fires</p> <p>b) commissioning further research into extreme fire behaviour and building up the research and research training capacity in this field. This will improve our ability to understand, model and predict the likelihood of extreme fire behaviour in the landscape and enable targeting of fire fighting resources to areas where fires are likely to become most damaging.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW in collaboration with relevant agencies will scope the potential establishment of a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research and Technology Acceleration Program. It is proposed to consider proposals to address this recommendation in detail in mid-2021.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW Government remains committed to an existing \$2 million annually through to June 2022 for the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Hub, a partnership between researchers at the University of Wollongong, Western Sydney University, the University of NSW, the University of Tasmania, and supported by DPIE and NSW RFS. Future options are being scoped for potential implementation following the expiration of the existing commitment.</p>
<p>R6 That Government support training initiatives to increase the capacity of fire authorities to fight the kind of megafires seen in the 2019-20 season. The training initiatives should include:</p>					
<p>a) targeted training in local weather effects for fire behaviour analysts who are embedded in Incident Management Teams</p>	<p>NSW RFS to enhance existing multiagency Fire Behaviour Analyst training programs, to improve knowledge of local weather effects.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The NSW Government has invested \$3.4 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) to expand Fire Behaviour Analysts and Analyst training. Two Fire Behaviour Analyst training packages are in development to enhance training about local weather effects on fire behaviour and a pilot course scheduled for May 2021. An additional Fire Behaviour Analyst position focused on training development and delivery is being recruited by the NSW RFS.</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	In Progress 	Fire Behaviour Analyst training courses are scheduled for April and September 2021. Recruitment for additional Predictive Services and Area Planning and Fire Behaviour Analyst positions is in progress.
c) training of more meteorologists in fire behaviour so there are more expert resources available to embed within the NSW RFS State Operations Centre	NSW RFS to develop a specific training package to enhance the knowledge of embedded BOM meteorologists within the NSW RFS State Operations Centre.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	The fortnightly rotation of meteorologists in NSW RFS State Operations for on the job training is in progress. Training package for meteorologists is in development.
d) dedicated training for firefighters in extreme fire behaviour	NSW RFS to develop an extreme fire behaviour training module and online training package, incorporated into existing foundational training frameworks.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	NSW RFS is updating current training packages to ensure compliance with national public safety units. As this occurs, all levels of training will include extreme fire behaviour.
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	Being scoped 	NSW RFS is working with the RFSA to develop options for new research and educational scholarship programs to address 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 	The NSW RFS and FRNSW Joint Operations Taskforce are developing a protocol in the event that simultaneous emergency events necessitate the re-allocation of resources.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R8 That, to strengthen cross-agency accountability and deliver improved bush fire risk management outcomes:					
a) Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) members from NSW government agencies are at the level of Coordinator General/Deputy Secretary/Agency Head/Deputy Commissioner (or equivalent)	NSW RFS will review BFCC membership and make appropriate recommendations for appointment by the Minister.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to update and expand BFCC membership. Member agencies are presently finalising their revised membership nominations.
b) the BFCC ensures all Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs), Operation Coordination Plans and Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans are compliant with the timeframes outlined in section 52 of the <i>Rural Fires Act</i> as soon as practicable	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	New Bush Fire Risk Management Plans have been created. All BFMCs have a valid BFRMP and Section 52 Operations Plan. All BFMCs have submitted drafted FAFT Plans for approval.
c) the BFCC develops a risk-based performance auditing cycle to ensure Bush Fire Risk Management Plans, Operation Coordination Plans and FAFT Plans are fit-for-purpose and any opportunities for improvement are identified and actioned	This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	This recommendation is addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 19.
d) the NSW RFS considers the best way of enhancing the transparency of BFCC decision-making, for example by publishing BFCC membership and minutes on its website	NSW RFS will enhance its website to provide BFCC content.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	NSW RFS are enhancing its website to have a dedicated BFCC section which will include minutes and membership.
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	Annual 1 August	Completed 	This recommendation is addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 2.
f) relevant agencies review Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) membership and confirm to the NSW RFS that members have sufficient discretion and authority to agree and implement risk mitigation activities at the local level	NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC to update BFMC Policy and Handbook, the BFCC secretariat to provide a report to Commissioner NSW RFS regarding agency endorsement of all BFMC members in alignment to this recommendation.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	BFCC Chair has requested all BFMCs confirm membership at appropriate level of seniority in accordance with this recommendation. The BFMC Policy and Handbook is being reviewed to address key reforms arising from this recommendation.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 2021	In Progress 	The BFMC Policy and Handbook is being reviewed to address key reforms arising from this recommendation. While the policy is under review, the Chair of the BFCC has written to all BFMCs to reinforce that unresolved matters must be escalated to the BFCC.
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 fire fighting personnel capacity.	NSW RFS to work with NRSC to update policies and plans, and to undertake annual resource analysis between jurisdictions.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	NSW RFS has assisted the NRSC to develop a national capability statement and a trial national resource availability report.
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	In Progress 	The NSW Government has invested \$5.4 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) for NSW RFS to enhance the aerial fleet and aviation training facilities. Aviation simulator formally commissioned at the NSW RFS Training Academy in Dubbo on 13 March 2021.
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	In Progress 	Content has been developed for key training packages. Resilience NSW has commenced procurement for placement in an e-learning environment.
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 	Regional Disaster Preparedness Program continues to operate in four regions, partnering with local councils and joint organisations to strengthen the capability of local government. Four forums have been held in this quarter as part of this program. The ongoing delivery of this Program is being built into the new regional functions of Resilience NSW.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R12 That Government work with other Australian governments to provide long-term funding certainty to AFAC, including the National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC) and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC).	This will be progressed by national forums to also address related recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	Completed ■	Long-term funding and resourcing for current AFAC functions is being considered at the national level through the National Emergency Management Minister's Meeting (NEMMM) and Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC). AFAC and NAFC are developing the National Aerial Firefighting strategy for consideration by NEMMM, with substantial assistance from the NSW RFS.
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 ■	All Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were reviewed ahead of the 2020-21 bush fire season and the Victorian CFA MoU was extended until the end of 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 ■	On 19 March 2021, ANZEMC endorsed the adoption of the Australian Warning System across multiple hazards. In advance of this, the nationally agreed bush fire warning icons were implemented and displayed on NSW RFS systems from December 2020. The SEMC Community Engagement Sub-committee is preparing an implementation plan for the Australian Warning System and data standards for other relevant hazards within NSW.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R15 That Government commit to:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will establish a comprehensive review of all preparedness programs, to identify and prioritise those programs that provide better outcomes for communities.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q1 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>NSW RFS has commenced the development of an evaluation framework for community engagement programs, expected to be complete Q4 2021.</p>
<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>December 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>On 9 December 2020 the NSW Government released <i>Prepare for the unexpected</i>, a new toolkit to help businesses be better equipped to deal with natural disasters and other disruptions.</p> <p>Additionally, Resilience NSW has commenced collaboration with the Victorian Government to explore existing tools, issues and networks specifically targeting tourism businesses.</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.</p> <p>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>■</p>	<p>An initial assessment has been undertaken of areas without a Neighbourhood Safer Place in proximity to RFS fire stations, which identified over 300 sites requiring further analysis.</p> <p>A pilot program to co-locate with NSW RFS stations in three regional areas is planned to commence in 2021-22.</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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise geolocation • description of asset including picture • value level • fire treatment on asset • Asset Protection Zone (APZ) details and how it is maintained • access details • what redundancy is available if relevant • any metadata requirements specific to the asset class • emergency contact and instructions on how to access where more information is held • any restrictions on data access and sharing. <p>The Digital Twin must also be able to incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ information about the hazard reduction results for road verges, fire trails, APZs and other defensible space ▪ local information supplied by organisations such as local NSW RFS brigades. 	<p>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 have established a multi-agency working group to identify minimum standards for LiDAR and imagery requirements to inform the development of a single whole-of-government procurement process.</p> <p>The NSW Spatial Digital Twin was launched in February 2020, to provide 3D and 4D digital spatial data and models of our built and natural environments.</p> <p>The NSW Government will consider an appropriate regulatory model to support data sharing, to support these platforms. Further engagement with local, state, federal government agencies as well as industry bodies will see further development and refinement of the platform.</p> <p>The NSW Government is engaging collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government on critical infrastructure reporting requirements.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government introduced the <i>Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020</i> in December 2020 which will expand identification of critical infrastructure assets across 11 industry sectors. The Bill is currently under review by the Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.</p> <p>Where action by the Commonwealth does not deliver required enhancements, NSW will examine available state-based legislative and regulatory options.</p> <p>Note that the response to recommendation 30 identifies further work underway with the Commonwealth Government and telecommunications industry for the sharing of critical infrastructure information.</p>


Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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:</p>					
<p>a) implementing the Inquiry's recommendation about performance auditing of Bush Fire Risk Management Plans</p>	<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	Ongoing	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 Bush Fire Risk Management Plans.</p> <p>The NSW Government has invested \$24.9 million over five years (commencing in 2020-21) to establish new, regionally based Community Safety Teams within NSW RFS responsible for auditing compliance with bush fire plans, and taking regulatory action to ensure land managers address bush fire hazards.</p> <p>The teams will also be responsible for the updating of risk plans, reviewing spatial mapping of assets, APZs and SFAZs and implementation of new risk plan modelling, which will quantify risk and residual risk to local communities.</p> <p>A further \$5.9 million, over five years, has been invested to enable the creation of a dedicated team within NPWS to work with the RFS to embed ecological risk in the new NSW bushfire management risk framework. The NPWS team has been established and is prioritising work based on the RFS led Bush Fire Risk Management Planning roll-out.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) prioritising implementation of revised processes for bush fire risk management planning that incorporate new modelling and methods for quantifying risk and the residual risk profile as a result of proposed hazard reduction works	A new Bush Fire Risk Management Planning process to be created which incorporates new modelling and methods of quantifying risk and the residual risk profile as a result of proposed hazard reduction works. Relevant policies to be updated to support new BFRMP and implementation plan for roll out created.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress ■	Methodology for new risk plan was finalised by the University of Melbourne in December 2020. NSW RFS have signed a Service Agreement with the University of Melbourne to deliver bush fire risk assessments for all BFMCs. NSW RFS has commenced drafting BFCC policy updates to support new approach to Bush Fire Risk Management Plans. NSW RFS has commenced workshops with first seven BFMCs to develop their new BFRMPs.
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 2021	In progress ■	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 19(a) and 19(b). Refer to updates on recommendation 8(g) regarding the review of the BFMC Handbook.
d) the methodology for assessing and planning for risk reduction becomes an ongoing area of research and the frameworks are formally reviewed every three years.	This recommendation will be addressed through recommendation R3 and R5(b).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress ■	As reported in the response to recommendation 5, the NSW Government remains committed to an existing \$2 million annually through to June 2022 for the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Hub. Future options are being scoped for potential implementation following the expiration of the existing commitment. Risk reduction remain a key priority area of current research efforts.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R20 That Government, noting that hazard reduction targeted in proximity to assets is on balance more likely to provide help than hinder, should:					
a) support local councils and partner agencies to implement more comprehensive hazard reduction at a local level around towns/cities, communities and local infrastructure assets, and provide incentives for communities to organise themselves to prioritise and implement local hazard reduction initiatives. This will involve a suite of hazard reduction techniques depending on the landscape including prescribed burning, clearing, mowing, and mechanical treatments, and easy disposal of green waste into processors turning it into bioenergy or biofuels	NSW RFS to increase access to mitigation resources to support local government and land managers with implementation of Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and Strategic Fire Advantage Zone (SFAZ) works.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government has invested an additional \$26.9 million to increase NSW RFS mitigation crews to date. This investment includes \$5.5 million to trial and procure two new mitigation vehicle designs, and 'posi-track' equipment with mulching attachments, enhancing capacity to undertake mitigation works.</p> <p>NSW RFS has employed an additional 100 mitigation crew to support agencies, including local councils, to increase the completion of APZ and SFAZ works. The crews have completed over 2,000 km of fire breaks to date.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW RFS continues to provide bush fire mitigation grants to Local Council and land management agencies to undertake critical APZ and SFAZ works.</p> <p>NSW RFS is exploring options to better support local government and land managers with implementation of APZ and SFAZ works, by increasing access to NSW RFS mitigation resources.</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.	DPIE NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed through recommendation 21(a) and the continuation of increased capabilities for mitigation and hazard reduction resources.</p> <p>To facilitate SFAZ in parts of the landscape where fires may escalate more quickly and intensely, the RFS is considering options to develop a new Ignition Management Zone (IMZ) in consultation with the BFCC and its partner agencies, as part of the new Bushfire Risk Management Planning process.</p>

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 wildfire response capacity.	NSW RFS DPIE	Ongoing	In Progress 	The NSW Government has invested an additional \$71.1 million to extend the mitigation crew programs of NSW RFS (\$26.9 million) and NPWS (\$44.2 million) through to June 2022 to date.
b) all fire authorities review prescribed burning techniques and their implementation, and commission further research into optimal prescribed burning regimes and techniques. This should include research to understand critical thresholds that, when breached, may render fuel treatment ineffective (i.e. fuel moisture thresholds), and the short, medium and long-term outcomes of hazard reduction burning regimes	All fire agencies to review and ensure that the prescribed burn plans clearly identify the outcome that the Hazard Reduction activity is to deliver, and that those undertaking Hazard Reduction activities are appropriately trained.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress 	An upgrade of prescribed burning training packages is in progress. The BFCC has endorsed new prescribed burn plan template. Plan Prescribed Burn training course completed November 2020.
c) Government commission research into a range of other hazard reduction techniques to understand better the cost versus benefit and effectiveness of different practices in various circumstances, including grazing.	The NSW RFS in collaboration with BFCC and universities to research initiatives for hazard reduction practices, techniques, and technologies.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government remains committed to an existing \$2 million annually through to June 2022 for the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Hub. Future options are being scoped for potential implementation following the expiration of the existing commitment. Hazard reduction effectiveness remains a priority area of current research effort.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R22 That, as part of the spatial technology acceleration program, Government support deployment of remote sensing and picture processing technologies to monitor and audit how well Asset Protection Zones and defensible space are being maintained, especially around towns.	The NSW RFS will develop project to trial use of its owned Cessna Citation jets fitted with remote sensing technology to monitor APZs. The NSW RFS will work with NSW Spatial Services to develop emerging technologies and methods for monitoring APZs.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The first NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation aircraft is now operational with the second NSW RFS owned Cessna Citation expected to be operational by the end of 2020-21. A third contract aircraft is operational and undertaking in flight scanning trials and image production using the OverWatch scanning/sensing system. NSW RFS is working with Spatial Services, and DPIE to utilise remote sensing including LiDAR to quantify fuel loads adjacent to assets and develop methodologies to assess the adequacy of these fuel reduced areas. NSW RFS is working with Mindereroo Foundation to identify capabilities relating to satellite monitoring and detection.
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 	The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to require public land managers to report complaints on bush fire hazards to the NSW RFS.
R24 That government agencies managing land (at all levels and through all agencies) be the best neighbours possible by considering their neighbours when undertaking activities related to bush fire preparation and having clear, two-way communication about these activities, with the aspiration that government landholders will be seen as highly desirable neighbours.	The Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to remove the capacity for certain land (including those managed by public authorities) to be exempted from the requirements for land managers to repair and replace any dividing fences damaged by bush fire.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	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.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R25 That Government adopt the principle that cultural burning is one component of a broader practice of traditional Aboriginal land management and is an important cultural practice, not simply another technique of hazard reduction burning.	DPIE and AANSW to develop a long term Cultural Fire Management Strategy working in partnership with Aboriginal communities.	DPIE AANSW	Q2 2022	In Progress 	NSW Government has committed an initial \$1.29 million over two years (commencing 2020-21) to enable the commencement of a community driven, co-design process, leading to the development of a long-term Cultural Fire Management Strategy and business model.
R26 That, in order to increase the respectful, collaborative and effective use of Aboriginal land management practices in planning and preparing for bush fire, Government commit to pursuing greater application of Aboriginal land management, including cultural burning, through a program to be coordinated by Aboriginal Affairs and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. This should be accompanied by a program of evaluation alongside the scaled-up application of these techniques.	DPIE will measure benefits of Aboriginal land management (cultural burning) to conservation, soil properties, and community wellbeing, and to work with Aboriginal communities to foster and deliver cultural burning.	DPIE AANSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation is being addressed in conjunction with Recommendation 25. Substantive planning and preparation underway, with implementation plans under development between delivery agencies.


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 DPIE designing and establishing a new bush fire planning framework incorporating a new strategic planning approach and how that would fit into the existing Planning for Bush Fire Protection regulatory scheme. The SEMC will consider the development of a new NSW Bush Fire Planning Policy to support this new approach as part of the work program of its land use advisory group.</p>	<p>NSW RFS Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>NSW RFS are working with DPIE on identified Growth Areas and proposed developments designing, establishing and implementing new bush fire planning frameworks incorporating new strategic planning and assessment approaches. The current work fits into the existing Planning for Bush Fire Protection regulatory scheme and can be used as templates for future bush fire strategic planning as appropriate and agreed by DPIE. Work previously and currently underway to inform this process includes assessments of the Greater Macarthur Wilton, and Appin Growth Areas, Snowy Activation Precinct and proposed developments in the Ingleside area. Draft Land Use Planning Advisory Group Action Plan completed. A new NSW Bush Fire Planning Policy to support this new approach as part of the work program of its land use advisory group is planned to be considered by SEMC in December 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R28 That Government, acknowledging that a strategic approach to planning for bush fire will take time, and in order to protect, prepare and build resilience into existing communities better, should immediately:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare, in association with the insurance sector, a model framework and statutory basis for the establishment of an enforcement, compliance and education program which adopts a risk-based approach to routine inspection of local bush fire prone developments to ensure that every local development on bush fire prone land is prepared for future bush fire seasons in accordance with bush fire protection standards of the day, that account for worsening conditions 	The Government to introduce legislation to expand NSW RFS Commissioner's existing powers to audit the implementation of bush fire risk management plans, and resource a new implementation unit to undertake ongoing review of risk plans, including Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and Strategic Fire Advantage Zones (SFAZ).	NSW RFS	Q4 2024	Completed 	<p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>The teams will also be responsible for the updating of risk plans, reviewing spatial mapping of assets, APZs and SFAZs and implementation of new risk plan modelling, which will quantify risk and residual risk to local communities.</p> <p>Additionally, NSW RFS is realigning its Fire Wise community engagement program delivered by local brigades to be more targeted, on a risk based model, to individual properties. This program provides targeted advice for property owners on preparing their homes to protect from bush fire attack.</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 	Consider potential strategies to increase local government capability to undertake audit, enforcement and compliance activities in accordance with existing powers.	Resilience NSW	TBC	In Progress 	<p>The SEMC Capability Development Sub Committee have been tasked to scope and prepare a strategy to address this recommendation.</p> <p>A new NSW Bush Fire Planning Policy to support this new approach as part of the work program of its land use advisory group is planned to be considered by SEMC in December 2021.</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 ■	<p>As part of the Get Ready baseline risk and preparedness project, benchmarking research was conducted at a LGA level and has been completed.</p> <p>Multi-agency working group established with representatives from local government, state government, Insurance Council of Australia and Minderoo Foundation.</p> <p>Canberra Region Joint Organisation secured grant funding from DPIE and ICA to pilot housing resilience toolkit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review vegetation clearing policies to ensure that the processes are clear and easy to navigate for the community, and that they enable appropriate bush fire risk management by individual landowners without undue cost or complexity. 	The Government will implement legislation to empower rural landholders to clear their property boundaries in accordance with a code of practice but otherwise without further approval.	NSW RFS	Q4 2021	In Progress ■	<p>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.</p> <p>This vegetation clearing work may be carried out without the need for a licence, approval, consent or other authorisation under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> or any other Act or instrument, provided it is consistent with a Rural Boundary Clearing Code to be established under the Act.</p> <p>The Code is currently under development.</p>



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






Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that the telecommunication entities' and electricity network providers' Bush Fire Risk Management Plans are updated annually and reported on in the NSW RFS Commissioner's annual statement to Parliament on the upcoming bush fire season and include details of all actions taken to mitigate those risks including maintenance of APZs and access roads 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2. NSW Telco Authority will liaise with carriers.</p>	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>Engagement with commercial carriers on information required for monitoring of coverage, risk plans and auditing of such has commenced through multiple forums such as Digital Twin implementation via Spatial Services and EUSFAC. When this information is available it will be fed into Bush Fire Risk Management Plan and NSW RFS Commissioner's annual statement.</p> <p>Electricity network providers are included in Bush Fire Management Committees and electricity networks are part of the Bush Fire Risk Management Planning arrangements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure there is appropriate auditing of distributors' preparedness for risks arising from network assets being affected by bush fire, as well as the risk of networks initiating a bush fire 	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in conjunction with recommendation 2.</p>	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress 	<p>An upgraded '<i>PRACTICE NOTE - Telecommunication Towers in Bush Fire Prone Areas</i>' is being developed in consultation with the Telco providers and Commonwealth agency partners to provide improved guidance for protection measures for telecommunications facilities using performance based modelling.</p>



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 	<p>As the telecommunications sector is regulated by the Commonwealth, primarily operating under to the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i>, the implementation of this recommendation is reliant upon Commonwealth intent and action, promoted by the NSW Telco Authority.</p> <p>The recommendation was the subject of initial discussion at the Communications Sector Group (CSG) Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) meeting, hosted by the DITRDC in September 2020.</p> <p>NSW Telco Authority briefed DITRDC and the carriers on the recommendation, however some carriers considered there would be operational and technical difficulties in implementing emergency cross-carrier roaming. Further consultation will continue through the CSG TISN.</p>


Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable NSW RFS to require carriers to provide regular information on the status of outages and areas affected by fire. 	Implementation of this recommendation is affected by Commonwealth regulations.	NSW Telco Authority	Q2 2024	In Progress ■	<p>The implementation of recommendations affecting the telecommunications sector is reliant upon Commonwealth support.</p> <p>NSW Telco Authority and DCS Spatial Services have collectively requested specific data from carriers for the Digital Twin that would support emergency planning and response.</p> <p>The Communications Alliance has developed a draft Industry Guideline to carriers and carriage service providers (DR G665:2021 Telecommunications – Facilities Information Sharing). Compliance with guidelines is voluntary. The draft guideline includes a ‘Minimum Facility Information Set’ for sharing with government agencies, however most of this information set is already publicly available.</p> <p>Some of the key data critical sought by NSW for emergency management purposes is included in the draft guideline as ‘Optional Information’ (for sharing). Compliance with guidelines is voluntary.</p> <p>NSW has noted concerns that the draft Guideline may fall short of its potential as an emergency management supporting tool and will continue to work with the Commonwealth to achieve the intent of the recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry and the Royal Commission.</p>



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 fire fighting agencies have appropriate access and egress in a bush fire event, Government, working with local government as needed:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges, to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘high-risk’ communities where access and egress in the event of a fire will be affected, for example rural communities connected by a single road surrounded by bushland, and ensure community bush fire planning processes (i.e. Bush Fire Risk Management Plans (BFRMPs) or Community Protection Plans) include plans to ‘leave early’ or enforce mandatory evacuation orders • how waterways can be integrated better into the transport network as evacuation routes or places of shelter when road and rail transport is unavailable – waterways should be included in regional emergency management plans • route options for rapid identification of needed road closures in the event of fire • key sections of the State’s road network for future upgrade to ensure whole corridors are resilient to fire impacts, regardless of who manages the asset 	<p>TfNSW and NSW RFS will work with key partners to include critical transport networks in BFRMPs prepared by BFMCS and LEMCs across the State, and develop a formal bush fire risk assessment process for all State roads and bridges.</p> <p>TfNSW will roll out the Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program (see recommendation 32). The program comprises a prioritised program of works to identify and apply risk assessment processes for State roads and bridges.</p>	TfNSW NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	<p>As part of the new NSW RFS Bush Fire Risk Management Plan methodology (see recommendation 19(b)), high-risk communities with limited access routes/egress are identified, which will assist with bush fire and evacuation planning.</p> <p>TfNSW has initiated development of integrated corridor plans that describe to the community the plan for preparation, response and recovery to natural disaster events along key NSW road corridors.</p> <p>TfNSW’s multi-modal emergency management plans are being tested and reviewed regularly, including practical scenario testing and full-scale simulated emergency exercises.</p> <p>Incident Response plans to natural disasters (fires and floods) have been reviewed.</p> <p>The Bushfire Corridor Resilience Program is being progressively rolled out across eight key corridors, in line with recommendation 32.</p>




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




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R33 That as a matter of urgency, in order to accelerate and finalise a State-wide strategic fire trail network, the NSW RFS Commissioner and Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC):	NSW RFS to lead acceleration of strategic fire trail network.	NSW RFS	Q2 2029	In Progress 	The NSW Government has initially allocated \$9.5 million in funding for the NSW RFS to enhance the delivery of a strategic fire trail network. 18 fire trails comprising 138.2km have been scoped and works commenced at a cost of \$7.7 million. An additional 12 trails of strategic importance have been identified with scoping work underway.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ set a deadline for Bush Fire Management Committees to complete all outstanding Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans for submission to BFCC for approval, and a related deadline for BFCC consideration of these 	NSW RFS to lead acceleration to complete FAFT plans. NPWS to support NSW RFS response through continuation and acceleration of the delivery of the NPWS fire road and trail upgrade project.	NSW RFS	Q4 2020	Completed 	All BFMCs have submitted draft FAFT plans for approval, with eleven approved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ assess the completed suite of FAFT Plans to identify high-priority trails of relative strategic importance across the State for urgent construction or upgrades with particular reference to the needs of upcoming fire seasons 	NSW RFS to review all draft FAFT plans for endorsement by BFCC including identification of priority strategic trails and develop a risk based construction and upgrade program.	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	The development of a methodology for a risk-based construction and upgrade program has commenced and transitioned to agency BAU. Recruitment of an area-based specialist is being finalised.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ enforce completion of annual fire trail condition assessment reporting by relevant landholders. Following this, the BFCC should, as part of its standard business, undertake an audit of all FAFT Plans and annual fire trail condition assessment reports 	NSW RFS to implement annual audit and reporting requirement to be overseen by audit unit established under recommendation 19(a).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	Recruitment of area-based specialist being finalised. Once staff are recruited, this recommendation can commence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop a single asset management system to capture the outcomes of annual fire trail condition assessment reporting on a tenure-blind basis to support BFCC strategic and budgetary prioritisation and inform funding allocation to agencies for capital works programs 	NSW RFS to upgrade the Guardian mitigation management system to include fire trail mapping and management including provision for the annual fire trail condition assessment reporting.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	NSW RFS is scoping the ability to upgrade the Guardian System, to provide a multi-agency facility for fire trails and bush fire risk planning and works.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<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 trial standards and BFCC policy to ensure fit for role.	NSW RFS	Q4 2022	In Progress 	The recommendation is being addressed through the current review of the BFCC policy.
<p>R34 That, in order to capture and understand the impacts of bush fire smoke better, Government invest in operational air quality forecasting and alert systems, and public health research and policy development. This would involve investment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a comprehensive system of forecasting and alerts for air quality incidents and all pollutants of concern, including but not limited to bush fire smoke, ozone and dust, and which is ideally nationally consistent investigate further the health impacts of bush fire smoke, based on improved data collection and including research on the long-term health impacts of poor air quality as a result of sustained exposure to severe bush fire smoke, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk segments of the community (children, elderly, firefighters, etc). 	<p>Enhancements to the NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework, to improve smoke emissions modelling and better forecast smoke impacts.</p> <p>DPIE to increase capacity for Emergency Air Quality Monitoring, to provide additional air quality monitoring pods and sensors to ensure sufficient air monitoring during emergencies.</p>	NSW RFS DPIE	Q4 2022	In Progress 	<p>The NSW Government has invested \$4.1 million over five years, (commencing 2020-21) and \$0.85 million ongoing for enhancements to the NSW Air Quality Forecasting Framework, further deployable air quality monitoring pods and other monitoring resources, and targeted information campaigns.</p> <p>DPIE has increased its capacity to deploy additional emergency monitoring pods during bush fire events, plus suites of low-cost sensors.</p> <p>Additionally, DPIE has made improvements to its air quality monitoring website to improve public understanding of conditions and reporting factors, and released an updated air quality monitoring plan, and progressed the upgrade work for the rural network, and is working to provide modelling output from our Air Quality Forecasting Framework through a new air quality website.</p> <p>DPIE also published an Air Quality Special Statement (Spring-Summer 2019-20), summarising extreme air pollution, smoke and dust in NSW bush fire season, and has undertaken internal trials, and preparation for extending air quality forecasting services to Sydney subregions.</p> <p>NSW RFS is leading the development of Bush Fire Smoke Impact assessment protocol via interagency Smoke Modelling and Risk Assessment Working Group. This group aims to submit draft protocol for Steering Committee endorsement May 2021.</p>





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R35 That, in order to improve the provision of evidence-based public health messaging about air quality during bush fire events, Government develop a public education campaign and supporting systems before the next bush fire season. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a public education campaign (like sun exposure), to help people make their own decisions about exposure to bush fire smoke tailored messaging to target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ smoke-vulnerable cohorts of the community ▪ general practitioners, particularly in rural and regional areas, so they can advise patients with relevant, susceptible comorbidities ▪ employers, to support development of appropriate workplace health and safety guidance for outdoor workers ▪ an improved air quality alert system such as an enhanced Air Rater app. 	<p>DPIE will work with NSW Health to develop key messaging which will align with the Clean Air Strategy, and a targeted information campaign.</p>	<p>DPIE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>This recommendation is being progressed in conjunction with recommendation 34. DPIE has made improvements to its air quality monitoring and reporting website, to assist public comprehension and understanding of air quality across the state, and ensured that air quality monitoring data is freely and openly available through a number of data services including: the DPIE website, SEED.nsw.gov.au, and APIs. DPIE has collaborated with NSW Health to develop targeted messaging to keep the community advised about steps they can take in response to bush fire smoke.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R36 That Government invest in long-term ecosystem and land management monitoring, modelling, forecasting, research and evaluation, and harness citizen science in this effort. This will include, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tracking and trying to forecast what is happening to ecosystems over decades under projected changes to climate extremes, including fire regime change ▪ better understanding interaction of fire with other disturbances, e.g. drought, hydrological changes in the landscape ▪ commissioning experiments and feasibility studies for ecosystem adaptation experiments – for example, facilitating shift of high conservation-value rainforest vegetation communities further south as climatic conditions change ▪ better understanding the influence of different land management practices on landscape flammability (in different landscapes) over the short, medium and long-term, and enabling an adaptive management approach. 	<p>DPIE to enhance capability to assess priority at-risk species and ecosystems and identify long term recovery actions.</p>	<p>DPIE</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The NSW Government has committed an \$2 million over three years to support DPIE projects to examine the effect bush fires have on NSW water quality objectives through an assessment of aquatic ecosystems, and assess and mitigate against the risk to soil health during hazard reduction activities.</p> <p>Further initiatives to address this recommendation are being scoped in conjunction with Recommendation 5, and the intent to establish NSW as a centre of excellence for bush fire and related research. The NSW Government remains committed to an existing \$2 million annually through to June 2022 for the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Hub.</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>Being scoped</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The NSW RFS is planning a number of enhancements to the Firefighter PocketBook App. These enhancements will include the addition of District information. Scoping to commence from Q3 2021.</p>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) accelerates the roll out of Mobile Data Terminals into all fire fighting vehicles to improve delivery of briefings and incident information/intelligence to field commanders.	NSW RFS to implement 'Mobile Data Terminal' technology and solutions across firefighting fleet.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The NSW RFS tender process is being finalised with vendor negotiations scheduled in April 2021. Further updates to be provided in the next quarterly report.
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 fire fighting as part of the RFS' 'Farm Fire Unit Integration' priority for 2020-21.	NSW RFS to finalise the Farm Fire Unit Initiative, and to facilitate safe and effective communication between local landholders and NSW RFS at fires, UHF radios will be installed in all relevant appliances.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	In September 2020, the NSW RFS released a Farm Fire Unit Engagement Plan, in partnership with NSW Farmers Association. The Engagement Plan assists with improving communications between farmers and firefighters on the fireground. The NSW Government has allocated \$1.5 million over four years (commenced 2020-21) for the installation of UHF radios in all relevant NSW RFS appliances. The NSW RFS continues to work with the NSW Farmers Association to develop guidelines for farm fire units and workshops were held in December 2020 and March 2021.
R39 That, in order to ensure frontline personnel have appropriate personal protective clothing during bush fires: 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 b) NSW RFS issue two sets of personal protective clothing to operational members, and others as appropriate.	The NSW RFS and FRNSW will update personal protective clothing (PPC) allocation to facilitate two sets of PPC to be issued to firefighters.	NSW RFS FRNSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	The NSW Government has made an additional \$23 million available over five years (commencing 2020-21) to deliver additional required personal protective clothing to NSW RFS and FRNSW members. A further 25,000 sets of PPC valued at \$8.2 million will be made available to replace current NSW RFS members' worn and damaged PPC, and will be issued to new members. NSW RFS continue to facilitate orders as they are requested by members.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R40 That, in order to improve firefighter safety, Government fire authorities:					
a) ensure all light tankers used as part of active frontline bush fire fighting 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 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	Multi-agency Fleet Retrofit and Tanker Replacement Program. Additional equipment to be fitted to light and medium / heavy tankers to enhance crew protection.	NSW RFS DPIE	Q2 2024	In Progress 	To date, the NSW Government has allocated \$17 million in 2020-21, to address fleet safety across the NSW RFS, FRNSW and NPWS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10.3 million has gone to NSW RFS to fit 103 further vehicles with safety sprays, blankets and shields. ▪ \$1 million for NPWS is seeing vehicles across its fleet fitted with single point spray systems and thermal radiant heat curtains. ▪ \$5.7 million for FRNSW is allowing for 10 of its bush fire fighting fleet of vehicles to be replaced. This investment represents a doubling of the budget for firefighting fleet, with works being delivered by 19 regional manufacturers.
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	Q1 2022	In Progress 	NSW RFS signed a Service Agreement with Monash University on 15 March 2021 for a completion of the works for research services by 31 December 2021.
d) provide ongoing investment for NSW RFS fleet upgrades.	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 40(a) and 40(b).	NSW RFS	Ongoing	In Progress 	This recommendation will be delivered in conjunction with recommendation 40(a) and 40(b).


Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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 	The NSW Government has allocated \$36 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) and \$7.65 million ongoing to support the implementation of a new mental health strategy for emergency services (including the NSW RFS, FRNSW, NSW SES and Resilience NSW). This investment is supporting a significant scaling of services for personnel, including up to 20 additional psychologists across the three fire and emergency services agencies to provide direct clinical care, 16 of which will provide direct support for NSW RFS members.
R42 That, to ensure firefighters can access mental health support through GPs, Government work with the Commonwealth Government to: a) provide a free mental health screen to firefighters post-fire event and waive any gap payments if additional treatment is required b) create a new Medicare Benefits Scheme item number to enable Governments to track demand for mental health services from firefighters over time and ensure an appropriate level of support is available.	NSW will collaborate with the Department of Home Affairs on the National Mental Health Review and will pursue this recommendation through the Commonwealth Taskforce.	Resilience NSW	Ongoing	In Progress 	Resilience NSW is liaising with the Commonwealth Taskforce to include mental health access through GPs for consideration as part of the National Action Plan currently under development including consideration by the National Senior Executive Reference Group.
R43 That, in order to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality, the NSW RFS reviews food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety, as well as the viability of sourcing commercial contracts and providing 12-hour food packs to firefighters.	NSW RFS to review food standards and procedures in consultation with volunteers to ensure firefighter sustenance is of sufficient volume and quality. The review should include catering service standards, including food safety. NSW RFS to provide meal packs to all appliances to provide initial sustenance to all firefighters.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	In Progress 	The NSW Government allocated \$500,000 to NSW RFS to undertake a review of different food and ration pack options for volunteers. NSW RFS has commenced a trial of meal packs on vehicles. NSW RFS has established a catering reference group to review catering systems and standards which has volunteer representation. This group has developed a Draft Policy and guide which is in the final approval stage. Final version of documents are expected to be released by the end of this financial year.




	Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R44	That, in order to ensure suitably skilled and experienced personnel operate as Divisional Commanders during major fire incidents, Bush Fire Management Committees identify appropriate personnel as part of their plan of operations.	The NSW RFS augment existing IMT personnel listing within the Operations Coordination Plan to include Divisional Commanders.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	A new S52 Operations Coordination Plan has been finalised which includes the pre-identification of Divisional Commanders.
R45	That, in order to prioritise early suppression and keep fires small:					
	a) Government set a KPI for NPWS regarding the percentage of fires that start on-park and are contained within 10 hectares, and consider whether 70% is an appropriate KPI for the NSW RFS and NPWS	NSW RFS will update the state-wide target KPI of keeping fires within 10 hectares or less, to 80% of the time.	NSW RFS	Dec 2020	Completed 	NSW RFS has adopted this target and will report annually.
	b) NSW fire authorities deploy remote area fire fighting 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	Being scoped 	The NSW RFS continues to stand up and deploy RART on days of heightened fire danger. Scoping has commenced to develop a predictive model that will assist with prioritising RART deployments for rapid initial attack in remote areas.
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	In Progress 	Pre-determined Dispatch Trial was conducted between December 2020 and February 2021 in Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Bankstown. Aircraft were stood up over 9 days resulting in 11 dispatches with an average response time of 20.14 minutes, delivering 34,800 litres over 12 drops. A formal evaluation report is being finalised to inform future operational arrangements.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R47 That, in order to enhance fire fighting 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>Operational Protocol Backburning released on 26 February 2021 to all fire authorities. Backburning can be recorded in ICON intel module.</p>
<p>R48 That Government commission further research on the potential risks and benefits of backburning during severe, extreme and catastrophic conditions and/or in particular terrain, and that the NSW RFS use this research to inform future backburning protocols and training.</p>	<p>NSW RFS and DPIE to continue support for the University of Wollongong's NSW Bush Fire Risk Management Research Hub and include back burning into the research program.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The University of Wollongong have been engaged to evaluate factors influencing the performance of back burning operations and provide input into a backburn checklist as part of the 2020-21 research collaboration agreement. Their final report is due November 2021.</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 fire fighting techniques, the NSW RFS expand and introduce the following in respect to heavy plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increase the number of trained Heavy Plant Supervisors and Managers to ensure an appropriate level of supervision in future significant fire seasons b) expand ARENA software to include the Heavy Plant Register, including the introduction of GPS tracking for all agency and contracted plant, to improve contractual compliance and to facilitate better the identification and tasking of appropriate localised heavy plant contractors; and review the feasibility of linkage to the SAP system for invoicing improvements. This should be introduced prior to the 2020-21 fire season. c) review the existing contractual process to ensure all heavy plant is categorized into types, size and functionality along with exploring potential for a standardised hourly rate for that category of equipment d) work with Soil Conservation Service to ensure appropriate standards for the engagement and management of heavy plant to deliver safe and effective heavy plant service, including the delivery of standards and auditing. 	<p>The NSW RFS to review existing training, streamline delivery and engage trainer to increase capacity and trial ARENA aviation system for HP Management and tracking.</p> <p>The NSW RFS in partnership with other agencies including SoilCon to review existing Heavy Plant engagement process.</p>	NSW RFS	Q1 2024	In Progress 	<p>ARENA has been implemented to track and manage Heavy Plant. Standards for heavy plant equipment have been developed and are implemented.</p> <p>A multi-agency review for Heavy Plant training has been programmed for late April 2021.</p> <p>The contractual arrangements for the engagement of Heavy Plan contractors are under review.</p>
<p>R50 That, in order to ensure Australia's fire fighting aerial capacity capitalises on existing assets and is made up of the right mix, Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request the Commonwealth to conduct a trial with NSW RFS on the feasibility of retrofitting RAAF C130 aircraft with modular airborne fire fighting systems to provide the Australian Defence Force with the capacity to augment aerial fire fighting during major disasters 	<p>NSW RFS will request NAFC to initiate a RAAF C-130 trial of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS).</p>	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	Completed 	<p>Emergency Management Australia (EMA) have advised that the Department of Defence is not willing nor in a position to conduct trial into the MAFFS system, but will make available previous research and trial outcomes.</p>





Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
b) work with states and territories through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre to review the current mix of aviation assets and determine whether it is fit-for-purpose, noting the current lack of mid-sized fire fighting aircraft.	NSW RFS will work with NAFC on the preparation of a strategic review of the provision of aerial fire fighting capability across Australia.	NSW RFS	Q4 2022	In Progress 	NSW RFS has provided comprehensive input into the NAFC National Aerial Firefighting Strategic Plan, which is being finalised. NSW RFS is also reviewing aircraft requirements as part of the 2021-22 contract fleet arrangements.
R51 That, in order to enhance NSW's ability to improve situational awareness, Government expand FRNSW's Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) capability (both capital assets and trained operators) to major regional centres and ensure the NSW RFS and other NSW government agencies can access this capability as required.	FRNSW to explore expansion of existing RPAS capability in accordance with the FRNSW Plus Plan.	FRNSW	Q2 2022	Being scoped 	FRNSW has invested in RPAS for emergency management support and has made this capability available for use by other agencies. FRNSW is developing options for the expansion of RPAS capability.
R52 That, in order to enhance NSW's fire fighting capacity, Government trial aerial fire fighting at night in the 2020-21 season with a view to full implementation if successful.	The NSW RFS will ensure that its aircraft (RFS Owned) are night firefighting capable (aerial attack, supervision, insertion and extraction, and ignition), and where appropriate suitable fixed wing contracted machines that deliver effective night firefighting capabilities (e.g. Large Air Tankers).	NSW RFS	Q4 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government has invested \$5.4 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) for NSW RFS to enhance the aerial fleet and aviation training facilities. Seven NSW RFS aircraft are configured to operate at night time for various taskings. Additional night operations equipment for pilot and crew members being finalised. Training and procedures in night time operations are being developed. Concept of Operations Plan developed, aircraft and organisational capability review completed. Implementation and Trial Plan in development for trial in Q4 2020-21. NSW has sought input from Victorian Fire Authorities and NAFC on trials undertaken in Victoria.

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>	<p>DPIE NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The Government is investing \$1 million over 3 years for development and implementation of an improved framework for injured wildlife response, commencing 2021-22. The new framework will address sub-recommendations (a), (b), and (c).</p> <p>NPWS is working with Department of Primary Industry (DPI), the NSW RFS, and the wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary sectors to develop standard operating procedures and training for wildlife emergency response taskforces.</p> <p>Further, NPWS has commenced a trial of a Technical Advisor (wildlife) role in prescribed burns to elevate consideration of wildlife and other ecological values into operational decision-making, and to inform the future framework.</p> <p>The NSW government's \$1 million bushfire relief for wildlife rehabilitators program is supporting subsidised bushfire awareness training for wildlife rehabilitators, veterinary professionals and others who have expressed interest in participating in wildlife emergency response. Over 100 people have been trained to date with another 100 allocated to courses up to 30 June 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
d) guidance for firefighters on handling injured wildlife.	The NSW RFS will enhance its fire fighters pocket book (application) to incorporate a section related to this topic.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In progress 	NSW RFS continues to work with NPWS to develop guidance and basic training for firefighters relating to handling of injured wildlife. This will be completed by the end of this financial year. The NSW RFS is also planning a number of enhancements to the Firefighter Pocketbook App. Scoping to commence from Q3 2021. Taronga Conservation Society has been engaged to develop online wildlife first response training for firefighters to be available to all NSW firefighters by August 2021
R54 That, to ensure mobile generators are sourced and distributed on a priority basis during natural disasters, the EUSFAC work with the NSW Telco Authority, relevant NSW government agencies and commercial stakeholders to develop a mobile asset deployment strategy. The strategy should reduce duplication in purchasing, maintaining and housing mobile generators and improve agility in deployment.	EUSFAC to coordinate with relevant NSW government agencies and commercial stakeholders to support the development of a mobile power asset deployment strategy.	DPIE	Q4 2021	In progress 	DPIE has commenced development of a mobile assets strategy including engagement with key functional areas and establishment of an industry working group to address this recommendation.
R55 That, in order to improve fireground 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	In progress 	All fire agencies are now able to integrate with NSW RFS radio network. NSW RFS continues to work with Telco Authority on the ongoing rollout of the PSN.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW Telco will review jurisdictional interoperability and continue to deliver against the Operational Communications Strategy 2020.</p>	<p>NSW Telco Authority</p>	<p>Q2 2025</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>Cross-border communications and interoperability is a key tenet of the Operational Communications Strategy. NSW Telco Authority has commenced implementing solutions for the operational communications networks across the NSW-QLD border. Discussions with Victorian agencies have commenced and a tactical solution is being considered.</p> <p>Cross-border communications and interoperability are also key objectives of the National Framework to Improve Government Radiocommunications Interoperability. NSW Telco Authority will work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in review of its status, which relates to Royal Commission recommendation 6.3 'Interoperable communications for fire and emergency services across jurisdictions'.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW will work with NSW Telco to get PSN capability for SEOC.</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>PSN access and functionality for SEOC on track to be implemented by end June 2021.</p>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>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.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be progressed through engagement with the Commonwealth Government, particularly through the PSMB SOC and ministerial liaison.</p>	<p>NSW Telco</p>	<p>Q1 2023</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>The NSW Government is investing \$6.2million to continue supporting the PSMB program in 2021-20.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has offered 5 + 5 MHz of spectrum for PSMB at lower than market cost. This may be used as PSMB ‘anchor’ spectrum, however supplementary spectrum will also be required.</p> <p>NSW is leading the PSMB proof of concept (POC) trial on behalf of all states and territories. The States and Territories have requested that the reserved spectrum be retained while the POC informs the full spectrum requirements for a nationally interoperable PSMB capability.</p> <p>Regular spectrum workshops will be conducted with all jurisdictions during the POC, with the first one commencing in Q2 2021, towards determining the spectrum requirements and potential access options.</p> <p>The spectrum requirements for the POC have been met by the Commonwealth which is expected to issue a temporary scientific licence.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW RFS will upgrade border MoU's to include a communications protocol and include this information in Operational Coordination Plans.</p>	<p>NSW RFS</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress ■</p>	<p>All MoUs are currently being reviewed and will include cross-border communication arrangements.</p>



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R59 That, in order to improve response times to Triple Zero calls, the NSW RFS implements the integrated dispatch system before the 2020-21 fire season commences.	NSW RFS is implementing an integrated dispatch system. The system will be implemented during the 2020-21 fire season for 18 of 45 Districts. NSW RFS will accelerate transition of the remaining 27 Districts.	NSW RFS	Q2 2023	In Progress 	The NSW Government has allocated \$8.3 million over five years (commencing 2020-21) for extension of an integrated dispatch system for the NSW RFS. Integrated CAD system has been implemented. 18 of 45 Rural Fire Districts have been integrated into a centralised process, with another 8 Districts scheduled to be onboarded by August 2021. Remaining Districts are scheduled to be onboarded onto CAD by July 2023.
R60 That, in order to ensure timely payment and maintain positive ongoing supplier relationships during large-scale bush fires, the NSW RFS implements an automated logistics solution, informed by the outcomes of the Emergency Logistics Project.	NSW RFS to develop an automated emergency logistics and resource management solution.	NSW RFS	Q2 2022	Being scoped 	Payment process for emergency operations within the NSW RFS is predominantly a manual processes and paper flows, rather than automated workflow-based systems. The NSW RFS is scoping a system-based solution to integrate with the existing systems and future resource management solutions.
R61 That, in order to improve cross-agency communication and coordination during bush fires, the NSW RFS review Fire Control Centres (FCCs) in areas that were heavily affected by fire. The results should be combined with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Facilities Review to identify areas that would benefit from a purpose-built FCC, enabling co-location with the EOC.	The NSW RFS to review fire control centres in areas heavily affected by fire to identify priority areas where purpose built FCCs should will include support for an EOC. The review is to be undertaken in conjunction with the NSW Emergency Services Board of Commissioners EOC review.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	The NSW RFS has conducted a review of FCCs and identified 13 FCCs that would benefit from priority upgrades, which would include support for an EOC. NSW RFS is currently scoping requirements for upgrades across the 13 sites.
R62 That, in order to ensure State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) interoperability during all natural disasters, Resilience NSW review the current SEOC arrangements and location including responsibilities for ongoing resourcing and maintenance.	Resilience NSW will review the current SEOC arrangements and location including responsibilities for ongoing resourcing and maintenance.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Resilience NSW will provide a draft Terms of Reference to the SEMC for consideration in June 2021 for the review of SEOC location and arrangements including responsibilities for ongoing resourcing and maintenance.



Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	Completed ■	EMA completed an administrative change to COMDISPLAN, which outlines the guiding principles and approval processes for the request of Commonwealth assistance, to reflect recommendations from the Royal Commission in December 2020. The Commonwealth also updated the DACC policy and manual in August 2020.
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	Q2 2022	In Progress ■	AFAC are currently investigating a national training package for public information officers. Resilience NSW and NSW Police Force are engaged through a National Working Group.
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.	NSW RFS PIFAC	Q4 2021	Completed ■	NSW RFS has established a process for ABC to be based at NSW RFS headquarters on days of significant fire danger or activity. Other media outlets also have access to NSW RFS headquarters on days of significant fire danger or activity.




Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>b) strategically place roadside signage with local/regional ABC station frequency band throughout the State.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>TfNSW</p>	<p>Q4 2022</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>TfNSW supports communication of early warning advice of bush fire events as issued by the Rural Fire Service on the Live Traffic website and mobile application, TfNSW social media, portable and permanent electronic messaging signs around the state.</p> <p>In September 2020, TfNSW rolled out interstate road data on Live Traffic NSW. This helps drivers avoid congestion by showing the impact of fire, flood, snow, roadworks, crashes and other disruptions on roads across five jurisdictions.</p> <p>TfNSW is also progressively integrating available Local Council road network information onto the Live Traffic platform where Councils have the technological capability to provide the data.</p>
<p>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.</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>In Progress</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The SEMC initiated a strategic review of the State's evacuation management guidelines and associated practice on 10 September 2020. The review Terms of Reference require consideration of all evacuation related recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry and the national Royal Commission.</p> <p>The review is led by Resilience NSW and adopts an 'all-agency, all-hazards' approach. The review has endorsed the concept of shared common mapping and analytics platforms to support evacuation door-knocking. This project has now been referred to the Emergency Services Board of Commissioners for further scoping and implementation. Endorsement of project plan is expected in May 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R67 That, in order to ensure people can access clear information on cross-border fires, the NSW RFS:					
a) incorporate information on fires in neighboring states and territories into Fires Near Me NSW	The NSW RFS will work with interstate jurisdictions on data sharing to establish a 50km buffer areas across interstate boundaries within the Fires Near Me app.	NSW RFS	Q1 2021	Completed 	Incidents within 50km of the NSW border has been incorporated into NSW RFS systems and released in March 2021.
b) collaborate with other states and territories to develop a national app as part of the Australian Warning System being developed through the AFAC Warnings Group.	COAG requested the Australian Data and Digital Council to improve national natural hazard data and intelligence to enable the development of new information products such as a national fire map in 13 March 2020. NSW will continue to participate in national forums to progress integration and tactical sharing of hazard information across all hazards and implementation of this recommendation and Royal Commission recommendations 13.5 and 13.6.	DCS	Ongoing	In Progress 	A program of work to consider a national all hazards app is being overseen by the Data and Digital Minister's Meeting. NSW is leading two streams of work, including working with Queensland and the Commonwealth to develop a national storms, cyclones and floods service, and a national fires service. DCS Digital.NSW is developing prototypes for the Floods & Storms service and Fires service.
R68 That the NSW RFS include the following priorities in the Fires Near Me improvements roadmap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ text enlargement functionality ▪ a clear statement about the app's limitations and the importance of heeding public warnings and relying on personal observations ▪ fire spread prediction maps on extreme/catastrophic days ▪ update fire map information as technology improves. 	NSW RFS will upgrade the Fires Near Me app to incorporate the functionality recommended.	NSW RFS	Q2 2021	In Progress 	The NSW Government allocated \$2.5 million in 2020-21 for improvements to the NSW RFS Fires Near Me app. NSW RFS have implemented the specifics of this recommendation as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implemented b) To be implemented in release 2021 c) To be implemented in release 2021 d) Implemented. Further improvements to continue to be implemented as technology such as Overwatch are implemented.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>R69 That, in order to ensure evacuation arrangements can be scaled up when needed, Resilience NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure staff who are willing to be deployed to evacuation centres are trained as soon as possible to bolster evacuation centre staff surge capacity b) train council and NSW government regional staff in evacuation centre establishment and management, supported by a one-page 'start up sheet' for opening an evacuation centre c) enable interested community members to be trained to assist in evacuation centre establishment and management and provide an avenue for skilled volunteers to register their interest d) develop an exercise for the management of multiple evacuation centres dealing with large numbers of people for a protracted period over a widespread area. 	<p>Resilience NSW to deliver an enhanced training strategy for evacuation management and consider if development of a supplement to Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.</p> <p>Resilience NSW will also develop evacuation exercises for catastrophic events for the local, regional and state context.</p>	Resilience NSW	Q3 2021	In Progress 	Resilience NSW has developed a virtual training environment to enable greater access to remote and regional staff, delivering an additional 1,100 training placements for evacuation centre management surge staff and disaster welfare support up to Q1 2021. Further enhancements to evacuation centre management training and exercises will be considered by the Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group by Q3 2021.
<p>R70 That, in order to ensure evacuation centres are fit-for-purpose, Resilience NSW work with Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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>SEMC will review the Evacuation Management Guideline to incorporate recommendations from the Inquiry related to evacuation.</p> <p>The review will consider if a supplement to the Evacuation Management Guidelines is required.</p>	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	This recommendation is being considered by the SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group. An audit of evacuation centres was undertaken in December 2020, which is informing the further work program of the review. Updated risk assessment requirements are in development and due to be considered by the SEMC in September 2021.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
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.	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.	Resilience NSW DCS	Q2 2022	Being Scoped 	Resilience NSW is working with Service NSW to develop a detailed work program for the development of a new "Tell Your Story Once" CRM. Digital registration in evacuation and recovery centres has been enabled and was trialed in the 2021 state-wide March flooding event.
R72 That, in order to ensure Aboriginal people can access appropriate support during evacuation, Resilience NSW work with Local Emergency Management Committees and Aboriginal Affairs to ensure:					
a) local Aboriginal communities are included in emergency planning and preparation	Aboriginal Affairs NSW, in partnership with Resilience NSW, to support pilot program for enhanced emergency preparedness and capability of discrete Aboriginal communities. The NSW Government will amend the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to allow the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to appoint a member representing NSW Aboriginal Land Councils to the BFCC.	AANSW Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Aboriginal Affairs NSW, supported by Resilience NSW has commenced a pilot project to work with four discrete Aboriginal communities to understand how they prepare, respond and recover when faced with emergencies and disasters. The project has employed a part-time community project officer who works directly with AANSW and the community and facilitated 9 face to face workshops to develop the community emergency management plan and progress the actions from the plan. The <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> was amended in November 2020 to expand BFCC membership to include a representative from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, a representative to promote the integrity of cultural burning and a representative from NTSCORP Ltd.

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
<p>b) all staff involved in evacuation centres and support services are culturally competent.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).</p>	<p>Resilience NSW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>In collaboration with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), a state-wide recruitment campaign has been conducted to increase representation in evacuation centre management by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>To increase representation, specific training has been rolled out by Resilience NSW targeting NSW Government employees identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.</p> <p>Further initiatives and enhancements to training on cultural competency will be considered by the Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group and State Welfare Services Committee (which has representation from NGO partners).</p>
<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>Q4 2021</p>	<p>In Progress</p> 	<p>All aged care facilities are recorded on the Emergency Services Spatial Information Layer available via the SEOC operating system.</p> <p>This recommendation is being considered by the SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group.</p> <p>Following consultation with the NDIS and research bodies, the Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group is due to consider specific recommendations concerning persons with a disability in Q2 2021.</p>

Recommendation	Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Status	Progress to Date
R74 That, in order to ensure equitable access to evacuation centres and associated support services for people in border communities, Resilience NSW ensure cross-border access arrangements are reflected in evacuation centre management guidelines.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	This recommendation is being considered by the SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Working Group. Revised Evacuation Management Guidelines will include updated operational doctrine that makes it explicit that no matter where people are from, they will have access to NSW centres and immediate assistance. This is due to be considered by SEMC in September 2021.
R75 That, in order to improve support for people evacuating with animals, the Department of Primary Industries: a) work with Resilience NSW to develop evacuation protocols and procedures to ensure appropriate supports are provided for both people and animals (informed by the findings from Project Ohana), including a process for animal registration at evacuation centres and mutually agreed naming conventions, and provide this information to Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) b) work with LEMCs to identify overflow sites that can be used for evacuated animals when preferred sites are full c) further develop the domestic pets evacuation protocol.	This recommendation will be addressed in the Review of Evacuation Management Guidelines (noted in recommendation 70).	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	This recommendation is being considered by the SEMC Evacuation Management Guideline Review Working Group. Lessons learned from the 2019-20 Bushfires were adopted during the recent March 2021 state-wide flooding event in standing up specific animal-friendly and animal-specific evacuation centres.
R76 That Resilience NSW review existing functional area arrangements to ensure they are closely aligned to agencies responsible for direct service delivery.	The SEMC will conduct a review of functional area arrangements.	Resilience NSW	Q4 2021	In Progress 	Draft Terms of Reference and administrative arrangements to support the proposed review are scheduled to be considered by the SEMC in June 2021, and the review scheduled to be finalised by Q4 2021.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

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

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