



Government  
of South Australia



RESCUE

# Emergency Management

March 2022

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

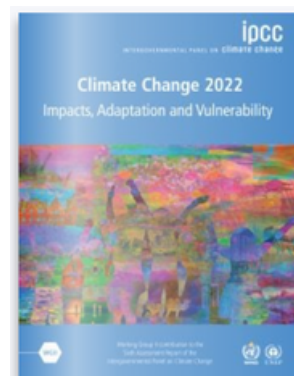
### IPCC REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for the assessment of scientific information in relation to climate change. The IPCC undertake regular assessment of the scientific basis of climate change; the culmination is published as a [full report](#), [summary for policymakers](#) and [technical summary](#). There is supporting documentation also published including [factsheets](#) that summarise key findings from the report.

There is high confidence in the data that projects an increase in climate risks across systems, sectors and communities that are already exacerbated by preexisting challenges including vulnerable and exposed systems.

Nine key risks for Australasia were identified, with high to very high confidence, from the data:

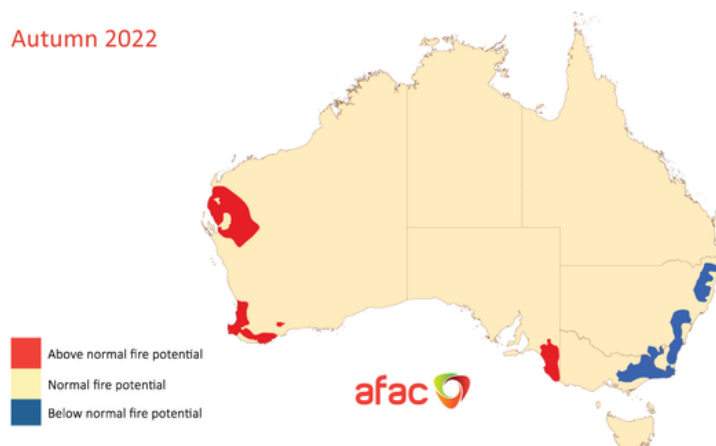
1. Loss and degradation of coral reefs and associated biodiversity and ecosystem service values in Australia due to ocean warming and marine heatwaves
2. Loss of alpine biodiversity in Australia due to less snow
3. Transitions or collapse of native forests in southern Australia due to hotter drier conditions with more fires
4. Loss of kelp forests in southern Australia and New Zealand due to ocean warming, marine heatwaves and overgrazing by climate-driven range extensions of herbivore fish and urchins
5. Loss of natural and human systems in low-lying coastal areas due to rising sea level
6. Disrupted and reduced agricultural production, and increased stress, in southwestern, southern and eastern mainland Australia due to hotter and drier conditions
7. Increased heat related mortality and morbidity for people and wildlife in Australia due to heatwaves
8. Cascading, compounding and aggregate impacts on cities, settlements, infrastructure, supply-chains and services due to wildfires, floods, droughts, heatwaves, storms and sea-level rise
9. Institutions and governance systems are unable to manage climate risk



[Image Source: IPCC Website](#)

### FIRE RISK REMAINS FOR SOUTH EAST

Autumn 2022



Recent rainfall has resulted in average to above average soil moisture and stream flows across large parts of eastern Australia. Influenced by the current La Niña event, the Outlook for autumn suggests above-average rainfall is likely over large parts of the country. Above normal bushfire potential is expected for lower southeast South Australia due to prolonged dry conditions and indications that above average temperatures are possible over the next three months. More information can be found at the [AFAC website](#).

[Image Source: AFAC Website](#)



Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters – or more resilient to them. Thus disaster risk reduction involves every part of society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector." United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - COASTAL AND ESTUARINE RISK MITIGATION PROGRAM

On March 8, 2022, the Federal Government invited applications from Emergency Management Departments in each State and Territory under a \$50 million Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation (CERM) Program.

The South Australian Government is inviting project proposals from across the state for inclusion in the statewide funding bid. The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is managing the overarching state application on behalf of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM).

DEW is being supported by a Working Group with representatives from SASES, Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee (MSCC), South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA) and Regional Climate Partnerships (RCP).



*Image Source: SASES Facebook*

Due to the tight timeframes and information requirements, please:

1. Read the [CERM Program Guidelines](#) and [Application Form](#).
2. Note the project proposal submission deadline of 9am on the April 27, 2022; and,
3. Seek advice from DEW as required.

## Funding Priorities:

The CERM Program gives effect to all four of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework's (NDRRF) national priorities by supporting and enabling locally-led and owned place-based disaster risk reduction efforts:

- NDRRF Priority 1 – improve public awareness and disclosure of coastal and estuarine hazard associated disaster risk.
- NDRRF Priority 2 – build the capability and capacity of decision makers to actively reduce coastal and estuarine hazard associated disaster risk in policy, program, planning and investment decisions.
- NDRRF Priority 3 – investing in priority national coastal and estuarine hazard risk mitigation and adaptation measures, including nature-based solutions.
- NDRRF Priority 4 – establishing governance pathways, such as by supporting the development of coastal management principles, to reduce coastal hazard associated disaster risk.

## How to Apply:

DEW invites applicants to prepare project proposals that align with the [CERM Program Guidelines](#) using the Federal Government's [Application Form](#). Submit project proposals to [DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au) by **9am April 27, 2022**.

For more information, contact **Dr Nicole Pelton, Senior Policy Officer**

Department for Environment and Water

Government of South Australia

E: [DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au) P: (08) 8124 4928

Or, Australian Government National Recovery & Resilience Agency:

[www.recovery.gov.au/coastal-and-estuarine-risk-mitigation-program-22-23](http://www.recovery.gov.au/coastal-and-estuarine-risk-mitigation-program-22-23)







# MAJOR EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS SOUTH AUSTRALIA FLOODS



[Images Source: SASES Facebook](#)

For the first time in the state's history, South Australia (SA) was under two different major emergency declarations after ex-tropical cyclone Tiffany produced extreme weather leading to floods from January 21. The declaration that commenced on January 28 in response to major flooding, disruptions to supply chains, and significant transport closures was rescinded on February 8.

Community impacts included:

- Over 66,000 people impacted across 45 councils, with 11 councils severely impacted
- Health impacts from mosquito borne diseases
- Disruption of other services delivered by road or rail network including food, diesel, pharmaceuticals, and postal deliveries

Infrastructure damage of national significance, state, local and residential included:

- Direct rail and road freight access from Adelaide to Darwin and Adelaide to Perth was damaged, with 18 separate washaways east of Tarcoola which required 100 Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) staff working around the clock to restore services. More than 50,000 tonnes of ballast and rock were used in repair activities
- Over 10,000's km of road network was damaged causing significant impacts on mining and access to communities. Still over 25% of the damaged road network is under water unable to be assessed
- Airports were impacted either due to the limited number of all-weather strips or the road access to airstrips was damaged

Other impacts included:

- Food resupply to isolated communities which was restored through 13 Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flights, as well as flights from SA Health and Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).
- Interstate supermarkets in Western Australia (WA) and Northern Territory (NT) introduced temporary buying limits due to supply chain impacts
- Fuel supply which occurs through rail/road network to isolated communities was impacted
- Water security was maintained despite challenges to delivery of components used for water filtrations due to damage to rail/road network

Coordination of response and recovery included the National Coordinating Mechanism, activation of the National Situation Room, Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee, National Resource Sharing Centre and activation of the [Australian Government Disaster Response Plan \(COMDISPLAN\)](#). At a state level, meeting of the Cabinet's Emergency Management Council, the State Emergency Centre and SA State Emergency Service (SASES) State Control Centre were stood up, along with Zone Emergency Management Support Teams and Regional Coordination Centres. Local Government Functional Support Group, Outback Community Authority, and local councils were active in the response and recovery phases.

Recovery from this event is still ongoing and funding negotiations through national [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements \(DRFA\)](#) are currently underway.







# SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE FLOOD EMERGENCY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales (NSW) was impacted by widespread intense rainfall from February 22 starting with extreme storms and heavy rainfall in the northern parts of NSW causing extensive flooding to communities in the Northern Rivers region. As a result, many communities across the NSW coastline experienced significant damage and the NSW State Emergency Service (NSWSES) responded to a total of more than 24,000 requests for assistance since the commencement of the event.

South Australian agencies have provided support to counterparts in NSW with a number of deployments of volunteers and staff. There were separate deployments of Swiftwater Technicians from SASES and SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS), with a total of 16 personnel staging out of various locations to provide in water rescue support, as well as the provision of emergency supplies to isolated communities.

Further to this, multiple deployments of incident management personnel and community liaison officers also deployed to support the NSWSES. In total, 82 emergency services members were deployed from South Australia to support operations across NSW providing 328 shifts at a total of 3936 working hours. This included 72 personnel from SA State Emergency Service, six officers from SA Country Fire Service, two officers from SA Metropolitan Fire Service and two officers from Department of Environment and Water.



[Images Source: SASES Facebook](#)

## FRUIT FLY OUTBREAKS UPDATE



[Image Source: PIRSA Facebook](#)

As of late December 2021, the fruit fly outbreaks affecting the Adelaide metropolitan, Port Augusta and parts of the Riverland were declared over, and the associated restrictions lifted.

There are two species of fruit fly endangering Australia's \$13 billion horticultural industry: Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*) and Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*). SA is the only mainland state or territory where the fruit fly has not been able to establish itself. As the Hazard Leader and Control Agency for Plant and Animal Disease the [Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia \(PIRSA\)](#) lead the efforts to prevent the establishment of fruit fly in SA and manage outbreaks when they occur.

To reduce the potential for outbreak of fruit fly in SA, restrictions exist that prevent some fruit, vegetables and nuts being brought into SA; and restrictions on moving some fruits and vegetables within the state. Recent outbreaks in Adelaide metropolitan, Port Augusta and some parts of the Riverland were considered managed as of December 2021 and the restrictions have been lifted. Some areas of the Riverland, namely Renmark West and Pike River, are still experiencing an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly and the restrictions remain current.

For current information regarding fruit fly outbreaks, restrictions and your responsibilities please refer to the [PIRSA fruit fly website](#).





## BNHCRC RESEARCH STRENGTHENS BUILDINGS AGAINST EARTHQUAKE

There has been research conducted by the University of Adelaide and Geoscience Australia for the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC's (BNHCRC) during their cost-effective mitigation strategy development for building related earthquake risk project. It has identified forms of Australian construction that are vulnerable to earthquakes and developed an evidence based risk and economic models to help justify strengthening of existing buildings.

This project has identified the two most seismically vulnerable forms of construction in Australia - unreinforced masonry buildings and low-ductility reinforced concrete buildings.

The evidence-based recommendations that this project developed for unreinforced masonry buildings were implemented by the York Shire Council in WA, to immense benefit of the town.

This project determined that seismic strengthening of the most vulnerable parts of unreinforced masonry buildings is justifiable from a cost-benefit perspective, which considers reduction of casualties, business interruption costs and loss of heritage value. The most vulnerable components of unreinforced masonry buildings are parapets, chimneys and upper-storey walls, which pose a significant public safety hazard in most urban areas because older unreinforced masonry buildings remain in common commercial use.

More information can be found at the [BNHCRC website](#).

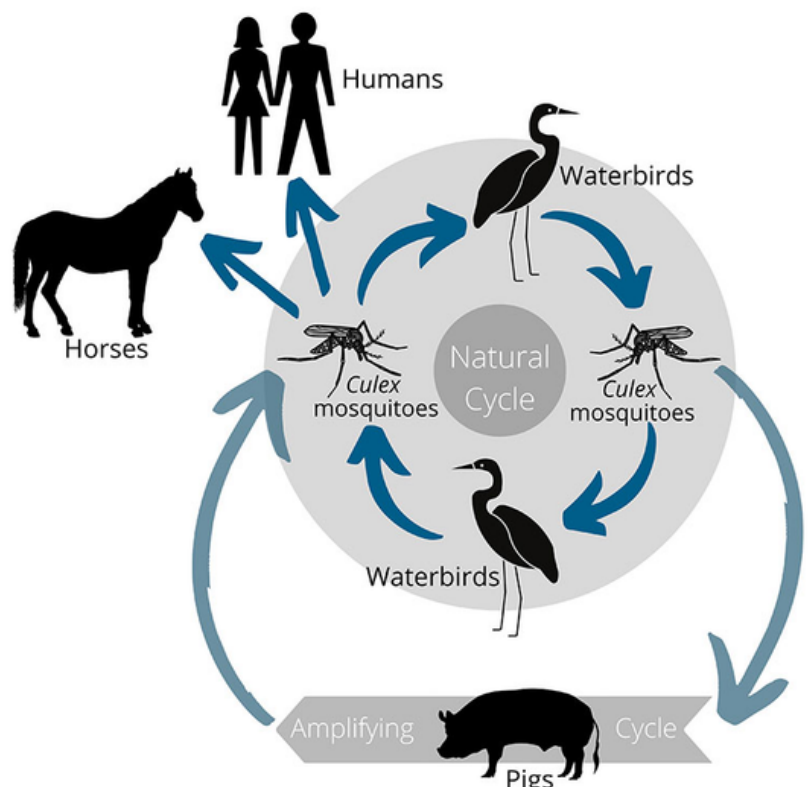
## JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS

In March of 2022 Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) was declared a [Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance](#) by Dr Sonya Bennet, Australia's Acting Chief Medical Officer.

The trigger for the declaration was based on Dr Bennets determination that enhanced arrangements are required to ensure nationally consistent policy, interventions and/or communications because: there is a need for consistent public messaging about the incident.

The declaration was made pursuant to [Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance](#) through consultation with the [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee](#).

There are significant implications for human health as well as the equine and porcine industries from JEV, and as such it is a [nationally notifiable disease](#). Humans can contract JEV if bitten by certain types of mosquitoes that have been infected with the virus, however in Australia this is a rare occurrence. It is not communicable from person to person and transmission by consuming meat from infected animals cannot occur.



**Japanese Encephalitis Virus disease spread pathway**

[Image Source: National Pest & Disease Outbreaks website](#)







## AFAC CONFERENCE 2022 IN ADELAIDE

Australasia's most comprehensive emergency management conference & exhibition will come to life on **Tuesday 23 - Thursday 25 August 2022** in Adelaide. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference features international keynote speakers and local emergency management leaders. There will be over 100 conference presenters - international and local thought leaders across the multi-streamed, AFAC Conference, featuring the Institution of Fire Engineers (Australia) National Conference (IFE) and the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC).

The AFAC Conference will explore how an inclusive approach across emergency management agencies is integral to reducing risk and fostering resilience now and into the future. Within the exhibition is a central hub/lounge area of research findings, including the popular poster displays and a chance to meet and mingle with other researchers and conference speakers. The exhibition will feature the industry's most impressive range of exhibitors covering all facets of emergency management equipment, technology, and services.

After the keynote sessions the conference splits into a multi-stream format which includes the ADRC and IFE conferences. Following on from the conferences, the Professional Development Program (PDP) will also take place on August 26.

Registrations of interest are now open through the [AFAC Conference website](#).

## LG PROFESSIONALS SA 2022 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

Registrations are now open for the 2022 Annual State Conference 'Leading the Future An Adaptable Sector.'

The 2022 Annual State Conference will be held on **Friday May 6** at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, after being postponed from the original March date. Safe, inclusive, responsive, innovative and resilient - all words used to describe the role of local government in building and protecting our communities. But what does the future of the South Australian local government sector look like? In a world of increasing speed and complexity, organisations are struggling to stay relevant. We need new ways to present local government.

The conference program will touch on how with increasing pressure and community expectations we can create, lead and manage teams in highly adverse and uncertain environments, future proofing our workforce to remain nimble, responsive and in touch, as we have demonstrated in the last 18 months. All local government professionals are encouraged to attend.

Find out more at the [LG Professionals SA](#) website.

## 2022 RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Submissions for the 2022 Resilient Australia National Awards are now open. The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors. Entries in the 2022 awards program must relate to projects or initiatives that commenced after January 1, 2020, or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since January 1, 2020.

Submissions close **Monday June 6**. More information can be found at the [AIDR website](#).





# ZONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF UPDATE

The Emergency Management and Hazard Planning Team has undergone significant growth in the last 12 months. Liz Connell, previous Manager of the Community Resilience Team (now known as Emergency Management and Hazard Planning (EM&HP) Team) won the position of Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) of the SASES. DCO Connell led the initial development and ongoing work for the Zone Emergency Risk Management System Project for the last decade and was instrumental in building the Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC) networks.

Priti Meda, who was previously a Zone Emergency Management Program Officer (ZEMPO), won the position of Manager of the EM&HP Team. Ms Meda has played a significant part in ensuring success of the Zone Emergency Risk Management System Project and now manages the program in its current format.

Beth Reid has returned to work having been on maternity leave for 12 months. Mrs Reid has worked in the EH&HP Team for several years and has contributed to the evolution Zone Emergency Risk Management System Project; she went on maternity leave as a ZEMPO and returned an Emergency Management Planning Officer (EMPO), a slight renaming of the title. Mrs Reid is excited to be back working with the new team and supporting the Barossa, Yorke and Mid North, and Far North Zone ZEMCs. Beth is based at Clare in the Natural Resource Centre three days a week and asks that if you're ever in the area to feel free to come and see her.

Dave O'Shannessy has been a fixture of the SASES in a volunteer and staff capacity for the better part of twenty years. Mr O'Shannessy brings a host of experience with him as well as fresh eyes to his new role as an EMPO. Mr O'Shannessy supports Eastern Adelaide, Western Adelaide, Adelaide Hills Fluerieu and Kangaroo Island, as well as Eyre and Western ZEMCs. Mr O'Shannessy is based in Keswick at the Emergency Services Headquarters.

Kate Grimwood is new to the SASES, but not to the SES ethos having volunteered at her local NSWSES unit for approximately five years. Dr Grimwood has a mix of strategic and operational experience that she brings with her to her new role as EMPO, in support of the Northern Adelaide, Southern Adelaide, Murray and Mallee and the Limestone Coast ZEMCs. Dr Grimwood is based in Keswick at the Emergency Services Headquarters.

The EM&HP Team would like to acknowledge the outgoing members of the team for their significant contribution while at SASES. Ms Pippa Pech, Ms Kate Savage, Ms Felicity Dutton and Ms Kelly Hansberry made a huge impact during their time at the organisation and we wish them all the best for their next endeavours and new adventures.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONAL SUPPORT GROUP REVIEW

The Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG) is undertaking a review of the LGFSG Plan which is required under the [State Emergency Management Plan \(SEMP\)](#). The current LGFSG Plan was developed in 2018 following an engagement process with key stakeholders and is due for review.

Since the initial LGFSG Plan development, there have been significant events with many lessons identified and a maturing of emergency management in the local government sector including the work of the Council Ready Program.

LGFSG are therefore considering key learnings to strengthen processes and enhance strategic alignment with the sector. LGFSG value everyone's input into this review and want to work with you to identify what's working well and work on solutions to any challenges. This is a great opportunity for collaboration to achieve better outcomes for all stakeholders.

The review will include a range of inclusive feedback processes to involve and collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure the content for the new LGFSG Plan is contemporary practice and strongly aligned with the needs and expectations of the sector and stakeholders.

Further details will be provided in the coming months. Alternatively, if you wish to provide early comments, please [complete this form](#).

