



National Bushfire Recovery Plan

The 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires brought destruction and loss like we have never seen before. The destruction also brought people together, to help affected regions, communities, and individuals to recover.

On 13 March 2020, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to develop a National Bushfire Recovery Plan (the National Plan), supported by local economic recovery plans for the communities most affected by the bushfires. The National Plan is being developed by the National Bushfire Recovery Agency in collaboration with state governments and a wide variety of stakeholders.

The National Plan will provide a framework for the recovery effort focused on the Black Summer bushfires, to help communities to rise to these challenges and capitalise on the cooperation and goodwill to ensure those directly affected have easy access to the services and programs they need.

What is in the Plan?

This will be an overarching and enabling recovery plan, and will be unique to the Black Summer bushfires scenario. Recovery plans are usually developed at state level and focused on a singular or limited number of events within a jurisdiction.

The National Plan will tell the story of the Black Summer - the conditions preceding it, a brief chronology of events and the immediate responses. It will be strategic and will articulate the framework for structured, collaborative approaches to delivering recovery efforts across all levels of government, in partnership with local communities, from the short to the medium-term, transitioning to longer-term recovery.

Consistent with the four-well established recovery domains identified in the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* and in each state and territory plan, the National Plan spans social (community), built (infrastructure), natural (environmental) and economic (business) recovery.

State Recovery Plans

State governments are developing their own recovery plans in line with the national disaster risk and resilience frameworks and these will feed into the National Plan. The state plans will be operationally focused, informed by community recovery plans.

The National Plan will provide certainty to the states regarding governance and support as well as supporting communities overall. It will not replace or duplicate state recovery plans.



Local Economic Recovery Plans

The impact of the bushfires has been severe for many regions, and exacerbated by their economic reliance on particular industry sectors disproportionately damaged by the fires – such as forestry, agriculture, horticulture and tourism – and also potentially impacted by drought and COVID-19.

Local recovery plans are already being led by affected communities under our existing recovery frameworks, to ensure tailored and targeted approaches to recovery, supported by governments, the private and non-profit sectors.

Charities and Civil Society

Charities are vital in the emergency response and relief for bushfire affected communities and ecosystems. As efforts transition to longer-term recovery and betterment, it is important to coordinate and channel the enormous goodwill and energy coming from Australian and global citizens, through charities, the private sector and others. Similarly, civil society has a range of knowledge, skills and expertise, which has been offered and provided by many people and organisations.

The important role of charities and civil society will also be reflected in the National Plan.

More Information

<https://www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au/>

<https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/>

<https://recovery.serviceconnect.gov.au>