


NOTICE OF NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION

Notification Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Updated
Name of disaster event	Northern NSW Bushfires – 31 August 2019 onwards
Australian Government Registration Number (AGRN)	AGRN 871
Combat Agency event reference numbers	NSW Rural Fire Service Event References: S44-19/20005 S44-19/20006
Date event started	31 August 2019
Local Government Areas included (full list)	Armidale Regional Glen Innes Severn Shire Inverell Shire Tenterfield Shire Uralla Shire Walcha Clarence Valley
Date of Media Release for this event	7 September 2019
Media Release Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Additional Information	Nil.
Prepared by	Dhayani Yogesvaran, Senior Project Officer
Authorised by (signed and dated)	 Adam Tran Senior Policy Manager Office of Emergency Management 9 SEP 2019



THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, DROUGHT, RURAL FINANCE, NATURAL
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

THE HON DAVID ELLIOTT MP
NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 7 September 2019

BUSHFIRE ASSISTANCE FOR NORTHERN NSW COMMUNITIES

Disaster assistance is now available for communities in the Armidale, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas that have been affected by bushfires since 31 August 2019.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the Commonwealth and NSW governments were working together to provide support.

“These are severe fires. They’ve been fuelled by strong winds and have burnt through thousands of hectares of land threatening life and communities,” Minister Littleproud said.

“A range of support options are available to help people who have been affected by these fires along with funding for the ongoing response.

“The speed at which these fires moved shows the need for communities to stay vigilant and to have a plan, especially as we try to bring them under control.”

The New South Wales Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott MP said significant firefighting operations are continuing in response to the bushfires.

“Our fire fighters are doing a tremendous job keeping these communities safe. They acted swiftly and continue to update local residents about the ongoing emergency response,” Minister Elliott said.

“The NSW Rural Fire Service have battled blazes during incredibly challenging weather conditions, and deployed hundreds of firefighters, appliances and aircraft to combat the fires, and I know everyone is incredibly grateful for those efforts.

“Our thoughts too are with the families and businesses who’ve come under threat, some of whom have lost properties too. It’s a devastating experience, and our hope is that this assistance will ease some of the burden you’re now facing.”

Assistance measures available under the DRFA may include:

- Help for people whose homes or belongings have been damaged.
- Support for affected local councils to help clean up and reconstruction costs.
- Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations.
- Freight subsidies for primary producers.
- Financial grants to eligible non-profit organisations.

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. To apply for a concessional loan, grant or freight subsidy, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

Further information on disaster assistance is at disasterassist.gov.au and the NSW emergency information and response website at emergency.nsw.gov.au.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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