

2024-2025 Higher Risk Weather Season

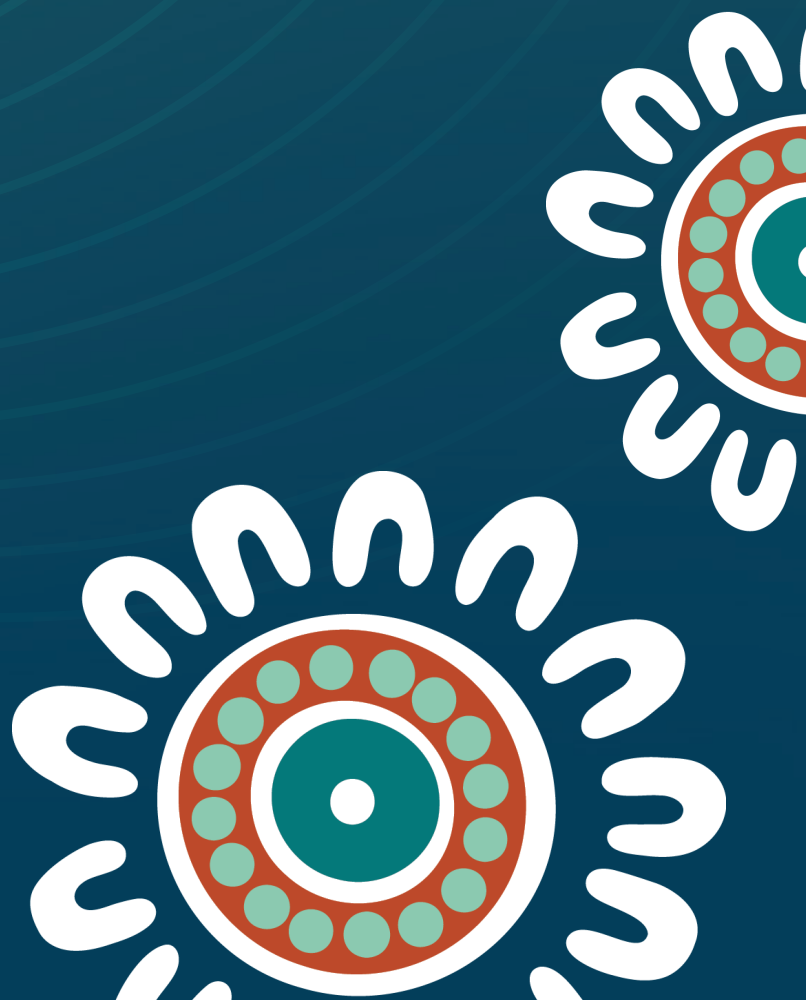
# National Preparedness Summit

Delegate Guide  
18-19 September 2024



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency









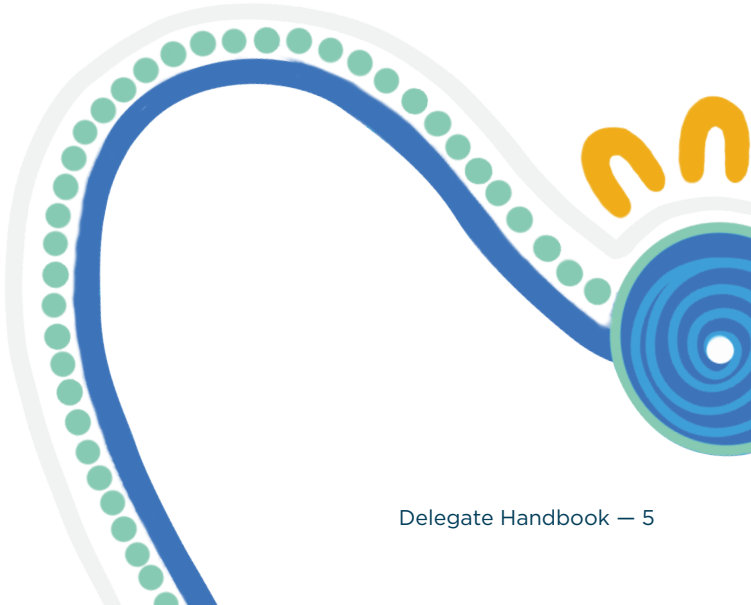


In the spirit of reconciliation NEMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and the community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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# Welcome from Coordinator General



**Brendan Moon AM**

Coordinator-General  
National Emergency Management Agency

This year marks 50 years since the Australian Government established a national emergency management organisation. Integrated within the Department of Defence in August 1974, the first Disaster Organisation led the national response to Cyclone Tracy, which struck Darwin in the small hours of Christmas Day 1974.

In the decades since, communities across Australia have lived through disasters of all scales and impacts including Ash Wednesday in Victoria and South Australia in 1983, the Newcastle Earthquake in 1989, the Thredbo Landslide in 1997, Cyclone Larry in Queensland in 2006, Queensland Floods in 2010-11, and Black Summer Bushfires in 2019-2020.

Australians, supported by a national emergency management organisation, have also made significant contributions to international crises during this time, including the Christchurch Earthquake and Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, the Türkiye earthquake and Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle (NZ) in 2023.

As we gather in Canberra to support planning and preparedness for the upcoming Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS), we build on this legacy of national cooperation and coordination and continue to work towards new ways to understand, prepare for, and identify actions we can collectively take to manage the risks we expect to face.

This year's Summit brings us together to improve information sharing, enhance collaboration and build strong networks to ensure Australians are kept safe in the season that follows. The Summit is designed to deliver a shared understanding of how we can make our communities safer and build resilience to extreme weather events.

It takes collaboration through all levels of governments, industry and across communities to plan, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Our collective efforts are essential in building resilient communities and reducing the potential for harm.

Thank you for your attendance at our second Summit. I look forward to strengthening our collective partnerships over coming days to ensure Australia is prepared for the upcoming HRWS.

# Caring for Country

**LaToya Kennedy**

“My artwork represents the strong connections of community and the guidance of our ancestors who have walked this land before us, who have managed and maintained this land for thousands and thousands of years.

My artwork has been created with a vision of telling a story about National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the vital role they play in helping communities in times of emergency while preparing Australia for future disasters during the Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS).

My artwork depicts the strong connections and pathways that NEMA provides around the country and represents relationships, respect, trust and growth between NEMA, First Nations people and non-Indigenous Australians.

The large meeting place represents NEMA. The smaller meeting places linking to NEMA represent the work of States and Territories in providing support to impacted communities.

The wedgetail eagle represents the totem of the local Ngunnawal people. Totem animals hold immense significance in Aboriginal culture as they represent Aboriginal identity, spirituality, kinship, and connection to the land; they serve as guardians, protectors, and guides, offering wisdom, strength, and guidance throughout life.

Weather elements such as lightning, dark clouds, heavy rain, fire and bright rays from the sun have been used to depict the natural disasters that occur.

The waterway represents the rivers, lakes and seas throughout the country with fish as a source of food. The three meeting places around the waterway represent our Ngunnawal ancestors who used the Murrumbidgee pathway when travelling to the mountains and caves for initiation and bogong moth celebrations.

The handprint and animal tracks represent people, culture and country; and the footprints represent us on our journey - keeping song, dance, and culture alive with a spiritual connection to our ancestors and The Dreaming.

My artwork demonstrates connections and unique relationships that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the country and land, and respect for our traditions and culture.”

**[www.kalariart.com.au](http://www.kalariart.com.au)**







# 2024-2025 Higher Risk Weather Season Summit

This is the second National Preparedness Summit (the Summit). The Summit brings together critical stakeholders from all levels of Australian governments, industry and the not-for-profit sectors, to explore how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, to ensure Australia is prepared for the 2024-2025 HRWS.

The Summit also provides an opportunity to build connections, strengthen relationships between participants, and enhance national coordination before, during and after crisis events.

The Summit is a critical component of NEMA's National Preparedness Program. The Program seeks to improve Australia's preparedness for, response to, and recovery from catastrophic crisis events that require national-level coordination across jurisdictions and agencies during the HRWS.

The Summit follows the inaugural 2023 event which brought together over 290 delegates to be prepared for the HRWS.

A list of participating entities for the 2024-25 Summit is available at Page 31.



## Day 1 – Wednesday 18 September 2024

Day One of the Summit will focus on briefing participants on the national climate outlook and exploring current and emerging emergency management themes in the context of the upcoming HRWS.

The Bureau of Meteorology will provide an overview of the seasonal outlook and NEMA will facilitate an overview of Australian Government preparedness, response and recovery capability.

In the afternoon, the following breakout sessions will explore best practice and emerging themes for response and early recovery.

### **First Nations Communities – Best Practice in Evacuations**

*Bhiamie Williamson and Nell Reidy (National Indigenous Disaster Resilience)*

Location: High Courtyard South

Indigenous and remote communities were disproportionately impacted during the 2023-24 HRWS. For Indigenous people, the act of evacuating can be particularly distressing due to the intergenerational trauma of forced removal from family and Country. For some, this can be further amplified by the presence of security at evacuation centres. First Nations peoples are uniquely and closely tied to their Country. Communities may not wish to evacuate due to ongoing cultural and care for Country obligations. The session seeks to provide information to support culturally-aware best practice for engagement with Indigenous communities before, during and after crises.

### **Energy and Telecommunications**

*Bronwyn Cere (Telstra), Michael Gatt (Australian Energy Market Operator) and Christine Gillespie-Jones (Communications Alliance)*

Location: High Courtyard North

Energy and telecommunications provide a foundation for successful crisis response. However, energy and telecommunication networks are also vulnerable to threats, including extreme weather events and cyber events. This session with energy and telecommunication providers will provide information about the national resilience of energy and telecommunication networks, lessons identified to support greater resilience and opportunities for continuous improvement.



### **Warnings and Community Messaging**

*Jason Heffernan (Country Fire Authority) and Nina Bowbridge (Bureau of Meteorology)*

Location: National Ballroom 1

Following Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the South East Queensland Severe Storms in December 2023, there was significant public discussion about the efficacy of weather warnings. Effective communication of hazard information and warnings is critical for the protection of individual and their communities. We know that timely, targeted, and action-oriented messaging saves lives and reduces the potential impacts and consequences of hazards. This session will provide information about high-quality warnings and how to calibrate messaging to communities.

### **Climate and Severe Weather**

*Alistair Dawson (Qld Inspector-General Emergency Management), Kevin Kehl (Victoria's independent Network Outage Review)*

Location: National Ballroom 2

Climate change is resulting in concurrent, consecutive and compounding events with higher frequency and intensity. These events are causing significant community impacts – as seen in the South East Queensland Severe Storms and Victoria during the 2023-24 HRWS. This session will provide information on recent jurisdictional reviews and advice on how emergency management planning and investments can be oriented to support communities before, during and after disasters.

### **National Coordination Mechanism and the Role of Private Sector in Crisis**

*Joe Buffone (NEMA), Hermione Parsons (Australian Logistics Council), and Doug Fryer (Linfox)*

Location: National Ballroom 3

Non-government stakeholders, including the private sector, play a critical role in emergency management response and early recovery. The private sector is pivotal in the provision of critical services like food and water, energy and telecommunications. Working with the private sector through mechanisms like the National Coordination Mechanism, improves shared situational awareness, rapid problem definition and ownership of solutions to drive the stabilisation of issues of concern. This session will provide information about recent collaboration between government and industry to support effective consequence management across the emergency management continuum.

### **Emergency Shelter**

*Bronwen Sparkes (NEMA), Bridget Tehan (Australian Red Cross), and Jesso Delahunty (Camplify)*

Location: Boardroom 3 and 4

As disasters in Australia become more frequent, intense, and devastating in their impacts, vulnerable communities are disproportionately in need of emergency shelter following disaster. Accommodation is also required immediately after a disaster for response and recovery personnel, critical trades and other workforces. This session will provide information about emergency shelter options and key considerations for the provision of shelter following a disaster.

### **Gendered Violence Post Disaster**

*Melesa Osborne and Mary Barry (Gender and Disaster Australia)*

Location: Boardroom 1

Research indicates that there is a correlation between disaster events and an increase in the intensity and volume of family violence and gendered violence. This session will provide best practice information on domestic violence prevention and response to support consideration across the emergency management continuum.

### **Collaboratively delivering integrated recovery outcomes for our communities**

*Andrew Minack (NEMA)*

Location: National Ballroom 4

Responding to natural disasters may put significant pressure on communities and major natural disasters require tailored and locally-led recovery support. There is opportunity to better integrate and align the work of government, industry and community stakeholder efforts during recovery to create more holistic, sustainable and longer-term approaches. This session will provide information on best practice approaches to recovery, including support to locally-led solutions.

Further information on panellists is available at Page 20.

## Day 2 – Thursday 19 September 2024

The National Preparedness exercise will be presented on day two for participants to consider the 2024-25 HRWS outlook and explore how they will prepare, respond and recover with the available national capabilities.

The National Preparedness Exercise is a discussion exercise and participants will be guided through the preparedness, response and recovery phases of the emergency management continuum. Participants will explore impacts of weather-based hazards. Throughout the exercise participants will also explore how themes of the National Preparedness Summit apply to their actions and considerations.

A scenario has been developed in collaboration with the Bureau of Meteorology and contains nationally-significant events that lead to complex, compounding and cascading crises, requiring collaborative decision-making.

The exercise scope will include:

- 2024-25 HRWS scenario,
- Impacts and consequences of weather based hazards – including second and third order consequences,
- Preparedness, response and recovery phases of the emergency management continuum,
- Actions, information requirements, pressure points, assistance required,
- National Preparedness Summit themes:
  - First Nations communities - best practice approaches to evacuations
  - Community messaging and warnings
  - Climate and severe weather
  - National Coordination Mechanism and supply chains
  - Energy
  - Emergency shelter
  - Risk reduction and/or resilience (including gendered violence)
  - Early recovery

- The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework and relevant national-level plans, including the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan 2020 (COMDISPLAN),
- Utilisation of the National Joint Common Operating Picture (NJCOP),
- State and territory emergency management legislation or powers that support response and recovery activities,
- State plans and emergency arrangements, and
- Local plans and emergency arrangements.

Out of scope for the exercise are:

- Protracted disasters, such as drought,
- Hazards which occur outside of Australia's borders (including the maritime border) and related plans,
- Offers of international assistance, and
- Legislation which is not concerned with emergency management for natural hazards, such as the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*.



# Summit Agenda

## Wednesday 18 September 2024

Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Registration Open
9:00 AM	Welcome to Country <i>Uncle Tyronne Bell</i>
9:25 AM	Introduction and NEMA Opening Remarks
10:10 AM	Morning Tea
10:30 AM	Presentations: Australian Government
11:45 AM	Day 1 Afternoon Overview
12:00 PM	Lunch and networking
1:00 PM	Breakout Session 1
2:00 PM	Breakout Session 2
3:00 PM	Afternoon tea
3:30 PM	Breakout Session: Report Back and Plenary Discussion
4:30 PM	Summary and Day One Wrap Up
5:00 PM - 7:00PM	Networking Event

# Summit Agenda (cont.)

## Thursday 19 September 2024

Time	Activity
From 8:00 AM	Coffee & tea
9:00 AM	Welcome and housekeeping
9:15 AM	Exercise context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning</li> <li>• Lessons from 2023-24 season</li> <li>• Scenario introduction</li> </ul>
10:00 AM	Exercise: Early HRWS: September – November 2024
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
11:30 AM	Exercise: Mid HRWS: December 2024
<b>12:45 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
1:45 PM	Exercise: Late HRWS: January – February 2025
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
3:30 PM	Review of preparedness
4:15 PM	Exercise report back
5:00 PM	Summit Close

# Essential Information

## Venue

The Summit will be held at **Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit**, Barton ACT 2600.



Image 1: Hotel Realm location

## Parking

Parking is available on site at Hotel Realm through Wilson’s parking at a rate of approximately \$22 per day.



Image 2: Hotel Realm parking options are pictured.



# Essential Information (cont.)

## Timing

### Wednesday 18 September 2024

Registration for the Summit will open at 8:00 AM for a 9:00 AM start.

The formal program will conclude at 5:00 PM, to be followed by a networking event from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

### Thursday 19 September 2024

Registration will open at 8:00 AM for a 9:00 AM start. The Summit will conclude at 5:00 PM.

## Meals

Arrival tea and coffee is served daily from 8:00 AM. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea are provided. Dietary requirements provided through the Summit registration process are catered for.

## Dress Code

Corporate dress. Delegates are welcome to wear their agency uniform.

## Security

Upon registration, delegates will receive an event pass which must be worn during the Summit.

## Health And Wellbeing

If you are feeling unwell we ask that you do not attend the Summit. If you are feeling unwell during the event please notify a NEMA team member for assistance.

## Luggage

It is recommended delegates arrange storage of their luggage with their respective hotels. Limited luggage storage will be available at Hotel Realm on Thursday 19 September 2024.

## Breakout Sessions

Delegates have selected preferred breakout sessions as part of the Summit registration process. These are marked on delegates event passes.

Breakout session rooms are located throughout Hotel Realm and will be clearly labelled. NEMA staff will be able to provide directions to the appropriate room.

## National Exercise Seating

On day two, seating will be assigned based on participant's organisation. Seating allocation is marked on delegate's event passes and will be available in the function room.

## Code Of Conduct

All delegates are expected to abide by the [APS Code of Conduct](#) during the Summit, in addition to any requirements set by your home agency.

## Wi-Fi Access

Wi-Fi is available for the duration of the Summit. You will be able to access this Wi-Fi connection when you arrive at the venue.

### Event Space

National Ballroom, North and South Courtyard

### Network

DomaConference

### Password

@DomaHotels

### Event Space

Boardrooms

### Boardrooms

@Realm Boardroom 1  
@Realm Boardroom 3  
@Realm Boardroom 4

### Password

@DomaHotels



## Must Bring

Please ensure you have access to a device that allows a QR code to be used to provide feedback.

## Feedback

Over the course of the Summit, NEMA will collect observations from delegates. A short survey will also be distributed to participants at the conclusion of the Summit. Your observations will help NEMA identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Observations collected will be analysed using the [OILL methodology](#) (observation, insight, lessons identified, lessons learned).



# Communication

## No Duff

All messages relating to authentic incidents will be prefixed by the words 'NO DUFF'. In the event of an incident, NEMA staff may pause or cancel the Summit with no notice.

## Emergencies

In the case of an emergency, the Summit Facilitators and NEMA staff will provide direction aligned with Hotel Realm emergency management plans.

## Photos, Images And Social Media

Photographs, images, video and audio may be captured throughout the Summit by NEMA staff, facilitators and delegates. All media (photos, images, film, audio) captured as part of this event will be managed and retained by NEMA as part of this event and may be used by NEMA for publication including on official social media platforms. The use of media captured during the Summit will be in line with approvals provided during the Summit registration process.

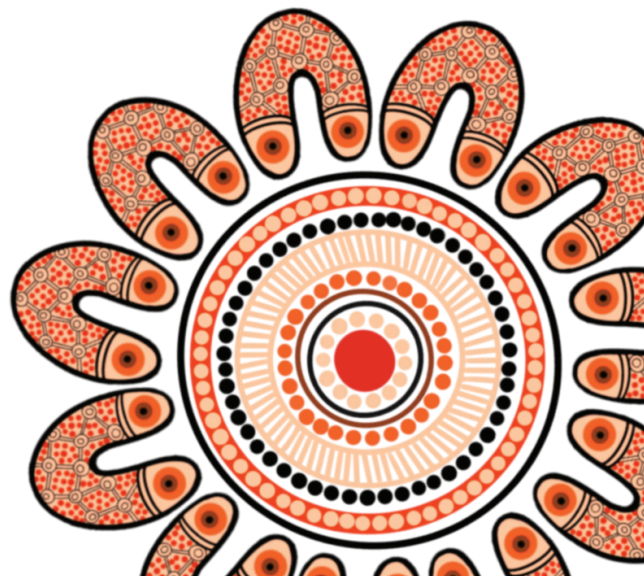
For security purposes, location should not be disclosed in any media posted during the event, including in image metadata. Delegates are reminded to comply with the requirements of their own agency's social media and privacy policies when publishing a statement, comment, photo, image, audio or video.

Please see **the NEMA Privacy Notice at Page 32** for further information.

# Support

Any questions regarding the Summit should be emailed to [HRWS@nema.gov.au](mailto:HRWS@nema.gov.au).

If you need assistance at the event please contact our NEMA team member on 0422 920 367.









## Summit Pannellists



### Mary Barry

Mary has been an accredited trainer with GADAus since 2019. Prior to that she held CEO roles including at Our Watch, a national leader in the prevention of violence against women and their children (2016-2018) and the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) from 2006-2014.

Leveraging her experiences in emergency services and violence prevention, Mary passionately believes in the transformative potential of the GADAus Lessons in Disaster (LID) training on emergency service workers' understanding of gender dynamics during disasters. Delving deep into the profound effects of gendered expectations before, during and after disasters she ardently contends that undergoing the LID training, will increase participants' understanding of how gender expectations affect all aspects of disaster preparation, response, and recovery. This will equip them with the tools to better understand the effects of these challenges and navigate them effectively helping to create safer, resilient communities.

Prior to GADAus Mary also held CEO and senior executive roles in health, aged care, and local government further enriching her diverse skill set and understanding of complex organisational dynamics.

For further details and information:  
[www.linkedin.com/in/marybarry1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marybarry1)



### Nina Bowbridge

Nina Bowbridge is the Manager- National Hazard Preparedness and Response with the Bureau of Meteorology. She has a Masters in International and Community Development and leads a section of the Bureau's decision support branch comprised of operational support to NEMA NSR; EM sector engagement and public policy; and social science and service policy. She has worked across local, state, federal and international agencies with a focus on strengthening community resilience in variety of ways.





### Joe Buffone PSM

Joe is the Deputy Coordinator General of the Emergency Management and Response Group of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). He previously held the position of Director General of Emergency Management Australia (EMA). As Deputy Coordinator General, Joe is responsible for overseeing National crisis capabilities such as the Australian Government National Situation Room and National Coordination Mechanism.

Joe has more than 30 years' experience in security and disaster management and has held a number of key senior positions, including Chief Officer of the Victorian Country Fire Authority, Deputy Emergency Management Commissioner Victoria, Deputy Emergency Services Commissioner, Victoria.

Joe has had direct involvement in coordinating and responding to major emergencies in Australia and internationally, at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. Some examples are: Leading the 2022 Floods response, Victorian Aged Care Response Centre 2020, Black Summer 2019-20, Far North Queensland Floods 2018-19, Cyclone Debbie 2017, Tasmanian Bushfires 2016, Wye River Bushfires 2016, Nepal Earth Quake 2015, Somerton Building Waste Fire 2015, Hazelwood Mine Fire 2014, NSW Bushfires 2014, 2011 Victorian Floods and 2009 Black Saturday Fires in Victoria. He was deployed internationally to support an AUSMAT team deployment post the 2017 earthquake. Joe has also served in the Australian Defence Force.

Joe holds a Masters of Business, Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management, and a Diploma in Security Management.



### Bronwyn Clere

Bronwyn is currently the Operations & Asset Management Executive for the InfraCo business within Telstra. InfraCo is Telstra's market-facing asset-based business and in this role she oversees the national functions that design, construct, operate, maintain and service the substantial passive asset portfolio within Telstra along with providing a range of ancillary business services.

Bronwyn first joined Telstra in 2012 where she was responsible for the overall management of Telstra's extensive portfolio of capital expenditure investments and project delivery strategy. Following this, she was Executive Director for a significant Telstra change programme to transform the way central corporate services are managed and delivered and most recently was part of the Telstra Health business where she led the design and successful delivery of the technology supporting the government's National Cancer Screening Programmes for Cervical and Bowel Cancer as well as establishing the clinical and operational support services.

Prior to joining Telstra, Bronwyn worked predominantly in the Financial Services industry where she has held transformation, operations management, finance and change roles with organisations such as JP Morgan in Australia and New Zealand, AIA in Hong Kong and AXA in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Bronwyn is a graduate of the Australian Graduate School of Management and has a Master of Project Management awarded from the University of New South Wales.

## Summit Pannellists (cont.)



### Alistair Dawson

On 6 February 2020, Alistair was appointed Queensland's Inspector-General of Emergency Management.

He brings over 45 years' policing experience in London and Queensland to the role as Inspector-General. More than 38 years of Alistair's career in police and emergency management, is in Queensland.

Alistair commenced with the Queensland Police Service in 1982 holding senior positions including Chief Superintendent at the G20 Group, Police Commander for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and as a former Chair of the State Disaster Coordination Group, leading and coordinating the whole of government response to several complex disaster events across the State.

Appointed as Assistant Commissioner in 2013 he served in this capacity at Operations Support Command, Central Region and People Capability Command until being appointed the Inspector-General of Emergency Management in 2020.

Alistair holds an Executive Master's in Public Administration, a Master of Business Administration, and post graduate qualifications in Executive Leadership and Public Safety. Alistair is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a graduate of the Leadership in Counter Terrorism (LinCT) Program.

In 2010, he was awarded the Australian Police Medal for meritorious service. Alistair also has been awarded the National Emergency Medal and bar for Queensland 2010-2011 and TC Debbie 2017.

In 2021, Alistair was appointed as an Adjunct Professor within the Centre for Environment and Population Health, School of Medicine and Dentistry at Griffith University.

Alistair is a champion of research and inter-disciplinary collaboration in the field of disaster management.



### Jesso Delahunty

As Camplify's Operational Coordinator for the At Home Caravan Program, Jesso was responsible for overseeing the strategic development and implementation of the program in collaboration with NSW Reconstruction Authority. The At Home Caravan Program enabled flood impacted residents in Northern NSW to leave evacuation centres and villages by returning home to their property and community as quickly as possible.

Leveraging extensive industry and product knowledge Camplify has innovated the concept of repurposing caravans for mobile, safe shelter and transitional accommodation in emergency response and recovery. Jesso played a key role in the program's expansion across eleven Local Government Areas in Northern NSW, Central West NSW and South Coast NSW.

In her current role as Business Development Manager with Camplify Commercial Jesso runs a specialised operations division dedicated to providing resources and emergency accommodation solutions for both the insurance and government sectors. Camplify Commercial aims to ensure that both inventory and expertise is readily available to support disaster recovery efforts with a continued commitment to making a positive impact to communities in times of crisis.



### **Doug Fryer**

Doug spent 33 years in Victoria Police attaining the rank of Assistant Commissioner. In his more senior roles he led Organized Crime, Intelligence, Counter Terrorism and Road Policing Responses for Victoria.

In 2018 he joined Linfox as the President of Government Defence. He currently holds the role of President Corporate Services, leading the Linfox ANZ response to Safety, Wellbeing, Risk, Compliance, Telematics, Communications and Engagement. He is also the Linfox lead as Incident Controller for any major critical incident



### **Michael Gatt**

Michael Gatt commenced as Chief Operations Officer at the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in August 2020. He oversees the Operation of Australia's National Electricity Market, AEMO's gas functions and energy networks. Michael has detailed experience in the Australia's energy sector, with executive leadership in multiple disciplines. He has led the delivery of extensive capital programs, connecting new generators, building transmission lines and maintaining a broad range of assets.

With a background in both infrastructure and policy, and a passion for practical applications, he brings assets to life in the operation of complex grids and markets. He has led AEMO's response through countless Operational issues including the Market Suspension and a number of significant power and gas system events. Michael holds qualifications in both Electrical Engineering and Commerce and really enjoys discovering how things work and innovative ways to solve the energy transition. AEMO is a member-based, not-for-profit organization that oversees the wholesale gas and electricity systems, as well as managing the bidding and settlements for wholesale and retail energy markets in Australia



## Summit Pannellists (cont.)



### Christiane Gillespie-Jones

Christiane Gillespie-Jones is the Director Program Management at Communications Alliance, Australia's primary industry association for the communication sector. In her work, Christiane leverages her deep expertise in many areas of the communications industry to effectively advocate, thereby giving the sector a voice in the development of government policy and regulation. She also heads the organisation's development of industry codes and standards which define the way in which the sector operates.

Christiane's prior roles include being the Executive Director of Communications Compliance. Before relocating to Australia, she managed interconnection and regulation issues at mobile and fixed-line operators in Germany and the UK.



### Jason Heffernan

Jason Heffernan serves as the Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority (CFA), a prominent and trusted community centred emergency service organisation in Victoria.

Possessing extensive experience and expertise in emergency management and emergency response, is a graduate of the AFAC Strategic Command Program, NSW Incident Controller Major Incident (ICMI) graduate, and one of a few nationally certified EMPS Strategic Commanders. Chief Officer Heffernan's career is marked by significant leadership roles and contributions across both New South Wales and Victoria.

AFAC Council sponsor for the Public Information and Warnings Group, he has a passion for ensuring timely and effective community warning during times of emergencies.

A Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Chief Officer Heffernan has Tertiary qualifications in Emergency Management, Social Sciences, Business and Policing, having served in both Police and Fire Services.

As Chief Officer for the CFA he has led and guided the implementation and operationalisation of the Victorian Government Fire Services Reform, whilst tackling head on cultural and behavioural challenges in a male dominated industry. A strong advocate for diversity and striving to ensure that fire services are reflective of the communities we seek to service and protect, to ensure ongoing viability of CFA.

Loving husband to Melissa, dad to Cooper and Poppy, he has dedicated a life and career to community and emergency services.



### **Kevin Kehl**

Kevin is a Non-Executive Director of TasNetworks, Marinus Link Pty Ltd, and Energy Queensland. Kevin was previously an executive leader at Powerlink Queensland and Energex and has more than 40 years' experience in the energy industry across the distribution and transmission networks sector.



### **Andrew Minack**

Andrew Minack has had an extensive public sector career working at an executive level in a number of state and local government agencies. Most recently he was responsible for leading the establishment and operation of the Corporate Division for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. Prior to this role he worked on the operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was Deputy Secretary at Emergency Management Victoria during the 2019/2020 bushfires. He has worked on several highly complex reform projects in the public sector including major reforms to the Victorian Government's fire services agencies. He has also held executive roles in Victoria Police where he was responsible for corporate strategy, stakeholder engagement and performance improvement. He enjoys surfing, walking in the Scottish Highlands and is a tragic supporter of the Richmond Football Club.

## Summit Pannellists (cont.)



### Melesa Osborne

Melesa Osborne is the Partnerships Manager at Gender and Disaster Australia (GADAus). Bringing a sharp business acumen, leadership skills and a psychology background, Melesa brings exceptional strategic and stakeholder management skills to further our work addressing the harmful impacts of gendered expectations in disaster.



### Dr Hermione Parsons

Dr Hermione Parsons is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Australian Logistics Council. A supply chain career spanning three decades, Hermione is a supply chain and freight logistics specialist with executive management experience in public and private sector organisations.

Hermione's career has focussed on end-to-end supply chain strategy, complexity, planning multimodal infrastructure and problem-solving freight logistics in metropolitan, regional and international markets. She has extensive executive management experience in port landside logistics, multimodal freight infrastructure, competition and regulation analysis, and supply chain reengineering in the food industry.

Dr Parsons founded and led an acclaimed university research and development Centre across two universities working to solve the systemic and emerging challenges facing industry. During this time, she led many ASEAN and APEC programs focusing on end-to-end supply chain issues. She is also the co-founder of the industry funded Wayfinder: Supply Chain Careers for Women initiative.

Dr Parsons is a member of the NSW Freight Reform Panel and the NSW, Qld, NT Ministerial Freight Councils and advises governments on policy and strategy. Hermione has been a Non-Executive Director of the Melbourne Market Authority and Food Innovation Australia Ltd and a member of Austrade's Export Freight Advisory Board, the National Agricultural Labour Advisory Committee, and Australia's Food Traceability Program.





### Nell Reidy

Nell is a settler-descended researcher with a focus on trauma-informed and healing-centred engagement. She is an experienced facilitator who has engaged in collaborative research with Indigenous communities across Australia for more than seven years. Nell prioritises trusting and respectful relationships to develop research priorities and positive outcomes for communities.



### Bronwen Sparkes

Bronwen Sparkes is the Director of the National Emergency Management Stockpile at the National Emergency Management Agency, where she leads a team dedicated to establishing an Australian Government-owned stockpile of critical goods to support communities impacted by disasters. She has also spearheaded the development of a standing offer panel that will serve as a national 'virtual marketplace', enabling local, state, territory, and Australian government agencies to efficiently purchase disaster response and relief goods and services.

With over 23 years in the Australian Public Service, Bronwen has a wealth of experience in strategic and operational risk management. In previous roles, Bronwen has convened national project teams to develop national disaster recovery frameworks and practice guides, and has led international teams for the World Customs Organisation, building risk management capability in Customs administrations around the world.

Bronwen brings a unique perspective to disaster management, informed by her personal experience of surviving, rebuilding, and recovering from the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria. Her lived experience deeply influences her contributions to policy design and her advocacy for community resilience and leaving no-one behind.

She holds a Master's degree in Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development and serves as a non-executive Board Director for the Emergency Media and Public Affairs (EMPA) organisation. Additionally, Bronwen is a child and parent advisor for Emerging Minds, where she lends her lived experience to support better mental health and wellbeing outcomes for children, parents, and families before, during, and after disasters.

## Summit Pannellists (cont.)



### Bridget Tehan

Bridget is Emergency Services Convenor at Australian Red Cross, where she works to support collaboration across the emergency management sector. This includes building shared ways of working and developing environments of mutual trust with a range of sectors, organisations and people to achieve collective outcomes that better support communities before, during and after disasters.

Bridget has more than 15 years' experience in emergency management and disaster resilience. She has significant expertise in community resilience, including in strengths, needs and priorities of people who may be vulnerable or disadvantaged before, during and after emergencies as well as their needs in the mitigation, transition and adaptation to climate change. Bridget also has expertise in the role of community, social service and not for profit organisations in emergency management and disaster resilience at local, grass roots and strategic levels.

Bridget has experience in cross-sector collaboration and cooperation and has led a range of award-winning programs and projects.

Bridget is also co-founder and President of the Australasian Women in Emergencies Network which works to promote, support and recognise the contributions of women to emergencies and disaster resilience.



### Bhiamie Williamson

Bhiamie Williamson is a Euahlayi man from north-west New South Wales. He is a graduate from the Australian National University, the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, the University of Arizona, and the University of Wollongong. Bhiamie is a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University where he leads the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience program.







# Additional Resources

## National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering

On 24-26 September, the **National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering** is being held in Lismore. It will bring together representatives from disaster resilience and emergency management sectors, government, researchers, non-government organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Indigenous ranger groups, Native Title groups, and other land and water management organisations to build awareness, share knowledge, connect, and support an Indigenous-led conversation on disaster resilience.

More information on the gathering and registration details are available at: <https://www.monash.edu/firetoflourish/news-and-events/events/2024/nidr-gathering>.

# Participating Entities

ACT Emergency Services Agency	Department of Premier and Cabinet (QLD)	NSW Rural Fire Service
ACT Fire & Rescue	Department of Premier And Cabinet (SA)	NSW State Emergency Service
ACT Government	Department of Premier and Cabinet (TAS)	OneFortyone
ACT Health Directorate	Department of Premier And Cabinet (WA)	Optus
ACT Rural Fire Service	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW)	Origin Energy
AFAC	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	OSCR
Ambulance Victoria	Disaster Relief Australia	People with Disability Australia
Ausgrid	Emergency Management Victoria	Queensland Ambulance Service
Australasian Railway Association	Emergency Recovery Victoria	Queensland Fire Department
Australian Banking Association	Evoenergy	Queensland Health
Australian Beverages Council Ltd	Fire and Rescue NSW	Queensland Police Service
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Fire and Rescue Service (NT)	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Australian Business Volunteers	Fire Rescue Victoria	Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater)
Australian Civil Military Centre	Foodbank Australia	Rural Aid
Australian Climate Service	Forestry Australia	Rural Fire Service Queensland
Australian Energy Market Operator	Gender And Disaster Australia	SA State Emergency Service
Australian Food and Grocery Council	Geoscience Australia	Safecom
Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience	GIVIT	South Australia Police
Australian Local Government Association	IAG	Services Australia
Australian Logistics Council	Icon Water	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Inspector-General for Emergency Management (VIC)	St John Ambulance Australia (NSW)
Australian Private Hospital Association	Inspector-General of Emergency Management (QLD)	St John Ambulance South Australia
Australian Red Cross	Insurance Council Of Australia	St Vincent De Paul Society
Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation	Lifeline Australia	Suncorp
Australian Taxation Office	Linfox Australia And New Zealand	Sydney Water
Bureau of Meteorology	Local Government NSW	Tasmania Fire Service
Bush Heritage Australia	Luscombe Solutions Australia	Tasmania State Emergency Service
Campify Commercial	Medicines Australia	Team Global Express
Coles Group	Municipal Association Of Victoria	Telstra
Commonwealth Bank Of Australia	NAB	Telstra InfraCo
Communications Alliance	National Broadband Network (nbn)	The Salvation Army
Country Fire Authority	National Disability Insurance Agency	Toll Aviation
CSIRO	National Emergency Management Agency	Toll Remote Logistics
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	National Indigenous Australians Agency	TPG Telecom
Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment And Water	National Indigenous Disaster Resilience	Treasury
Department of Defence	National Office Of Cyber Security	Unitingcare Australia
Department of Education	Natural Hazards Research Australia	Unsw Canberra Space
Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (VIC)	NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission	Urban Utilities
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (VIC)	NEMA New Zealand	Victorian Department Of Health
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA)	Network Outage Review	Volunteering Australia
Department of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Norfolk Island Regional Council	WA Police
Department of Health and Aged Care	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services	WA Water Corporation
Department of Home Affairs	Northern Territory Government	WaterNSW
Department of Industry, Science And Resources	NSW Ambulance	Waveconn And Csg
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts	NSW Ministry Of Health	Western Australian Local Government Association
Department of Justice and Community Safety (VIC)	NSW Premier's Department	Westpac
	NSW Reconstruction Authority	Woolworths Group
		YWCA Canberra

# NEMA Privacy Notice

## NEMA Privacy Notice

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) in Schedule 1 to the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (Privacy Act). The APPs regulate how we collect, use, store and disclose personal information, and how you may seek access to, or correction of, the personal information that we hold about you.

This form explains why we are collecting your personal information and how we will manage it. This form also seeks your consent to the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information. Further information about our personal information handling practices is available from NEMA's privacy policy, which you can access here: <https://www.nema.gov.au/about-us/privacy-disclosures>

### Why we are collecting your personal information

We are collecting your personal information for the purposes of registering your attendance at the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season National Preparedness Summit (Summit). If your personal information is not collected, we will not be able to successfully register your attendance. We are also collecting your personal information via a photograph, video or audio for the purposes of enabling NEMA to share your story with the Australian public via our website, social media channels, other internet sites, and government publications, documents and reports to bring awareness of:

- your lived experience;
- your communities lived experience with disasters
- your subject matter expertise relevant to the functions of the NEMA;
- your project funding outcomes; or
- your experience in engaging with the NEMA.

### Consequences for not collecting your personal information

If your personal information is not collected, this will limit NEMA's ability to:

- drive awareness and engagement with the Australian public about the impacts of disasters;
- aid in helping communities be better prepared for future disasters; and
- record and draw insights from your lived experiences, or your communities lived experience, that shape the strategic objectives of NEMA.

### How we collect your personal information

NEMA will collect your personal information directly from you at registration. During the Summit, we may also collect your personal information via photograph, video or audio.

### Who we disclose your personal information to

We may disclose personal information (photograph, video or audio) that we collect about you to the public via our website, social media channels, other internet sites, and government publications, documents and reports.

We will not disclose personal information about you unless it is permitted by law, such as the Privacy Act.

### Disclosure of personal information to overseas recipients

As a result of NEMA disclosing photographs, video or audio of you to the public via our website, social media channels, other internet sites, and government publications, documents and reports, it is likely this information will be disclosed to overseas recipients. By consenting to disclosure of your personal information, NEMA will not be responsible or accountable for the manner in which overseas recipients handle the personal information in breach of the APPs and subclause 8.1 will not apply to the disclosure.

### How you can access or correct your personal



## **information**

You can make a request for access and correction of your personal information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) and the Privacy Act. Our Privacy Policy explains how you can seek access to the personal information that we hold about you, or how can you seek to have this information corrected.

## **Concerns and complaints**

NEMA is committed to protecting the personal information with which it is entrusted in accordance with the Privacy Act. If you believe that NEMA has handled your personal information in a way that breaches our obligations in the APPs, our Privacy Policy explains how you can make a complaint and how we will deal with your complaint.

## **How you can contact us**

Full contact details can be found on NEMA's website: [nema.gov.au](https://nema.gov.au).









Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency