



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

2024-2025 Higher Risk Weather Season

National Preparedness Summit

2024-2025 National Preparedness Summit Exercise





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2024-25 HRWS Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning

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Higher Risk Weather Season September 2024 – April 2025

AREA OF OPERATION: AUSTRALIA

AREA OF INTEREST: AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC REGION

AREA OF CONSEQUENCE: GLOBAL

The Bureau of Meteorology has released its seasonal outlook for the 2024-25 High Risk Weather Season. The outlook indicates that there will be a heightened risk of fire and extreme heat across northern regions of Australia as well as southeast regions. There is a projected increased risk of rainfall deficiencies across southeast South Australia and Victoria. Severe storms and East Coast Lows are projected to impact south Queensland and coastal northern New South Wales, with near average risk of riverine and flash flooding. The tropical cyclone outlook will be released in early October. The average is 11 cyclones developing in the region with 4 making landfall.

STRATEGIC INTENT

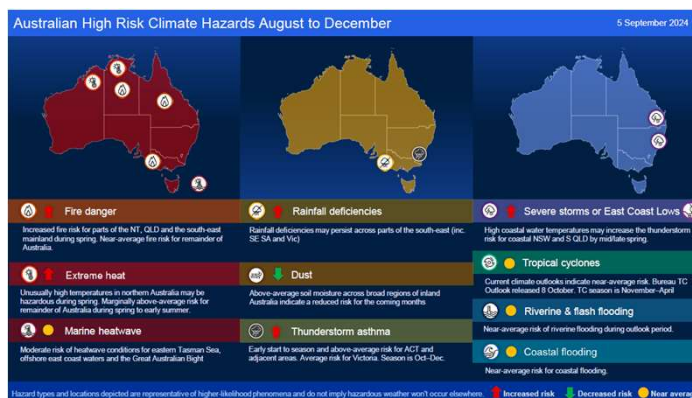
As the lead coordinating agency for natural hazards, as defined in the AGCMF, NEMA conducted strategic planning on behalf of the Australian Government to identify preparedness, response, relief and early recovery activities in anticipation of the current national seasonal outlook (September 2024 – April 2025), in order to protect human life, minimise impacts, avoid further harm and maintain community trust in Australia's national crisis management arrangements.

BIG QUESTIONS

- Are states and territories actively monitoring events happening in other jurisdictions in order to maintain national situational awareness and planning?
- How can emergency management sector fatigue be managed over a prolonged period/multiple events?
- Have lessons from the previous HRWS been identified and implemented?
- What is the nation's capacity to support resource sharing for response and recovery activities?
- What capability is available through industry and NFP partners that we may not be aware of?
- What is the tropical cyclone outlook for the HRWS?
- Will the Australian Government have requirement and capacity to receive and/or send international assistance?
- What additional capability is available to support long term temporary housing for displaced communities?
- What can be done now to better prepare?

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Upcoming elections, which may result in untested relationships and impact on decision making
- Scale and quantity of requests for non-financial Australian Government assistance expanding into relief and early recovery phases
- New AGCMF including Tiered response model
- Highly Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5 threat and preparedness
- Increase in cyber-related threats e.g. CrowdStrike
- Current geopolitical tensions including localised demonstration activity and potential for international repatriation activities
- Current cost of living, housing shortage and insurance affordability leading to potential increased requirement for temporary housing
- Increase of National Terrorism Threat level to PROBABLE
- Lessons observed from 2023-2024 HRWS including evacuations of remote Indigenous communities
- Increased rates of domestic and family violence during crisis and disasters.



PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- State and territory emergency management arrangements and plans are in place and effective
- Modelling and forecasting from BoM and local emergency services is available and accurate
- Australian Government agencies are aware of their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the updated AGCMF
- Response is within national capacity, with sharing of resources and Australian Government support
- Request ADF support will be available
- Interstate resource sharing arrangements are in place and effective
- NEMA will facilitate national coordination for natural hazards and all hazard Tier 4 responses, and NEMA has capacity and capability to do so through the NSR, activation of National Plans, the NCM, CASP and resourcing of CCT
- Australian Government capabilities and assets will be available and can be deployed/utilised
- Any natural disaster will generate media and political interest
- There will be financial and social support available for impacted communities and businesses (short, medium and long term)
- All levels of government, industry and NFP groups will continue to cooperate and resolves issues as they arise.



Higher Risk Weather Season September 2024 – April 2025

THREAT EFFECTS

MOST LIKELY

- The BoM outlook is accurate
- Concurrent and consecutive events, including bushfire, extreme heat and severe storms
- Communities, businesses and industry sectors will be impacted at varying levels
- There will be displaced/isolated communities requiring support, including resupply
- Previously affected communities will experience similar events, placing additional pressure on jurisdictions
- Jurisdictions will have adequate capability and capacity to respond and will share resources to meet national response priorities
- Requests for Australian Government assistance will be received and actioned
- Australian Government capabilities are available to support requests for assistance
- Critical infrastructure, particularly transport and energy, will be affected following natural disasters
- Short-term supply chain disruption and localised social/economic impacts will occur, but will be resolved within a short time period
- The Australian Community expects continuity of government services
- Unlikely to require international assistance

MOST DANGEROUS

- Multiple consecutive and concurrent events result in higher than anticipated impacts
- Disproportional impacts across the country
- Major HPAI and/or agricultural or biosecurity outbreak occurs
- Severe impacts to tourism and global trade
- Australians require time-critical repatriation from another country
- Cyber incident that disables response and recovery agency communication
- Jurisdictional resources are overwhelmed quickly and they are unable to share resources nationally
- Communities currently in medium to long term recovery impacted again
- Australian Government capacity to support, including ADF assistance, is severely diminished
- Mass displacement and/or long term isolation of people and/or communities
- Increased crime and social unrest
- Widespread critical infrastructure disruption or sustained impacts
- Mass casualties, injuries or incidents that overwhelms health system
- Major ongoing supply chain disruptions with national impacts
- Warning and message systems impacted or not effective, resulting in increased risks to communities
- International assistance required



NATIONAL KEY FREIGHT ROUTES

HRWS PRIORITIES

1. Protect human life and livelihoods
2. Prevent further harm and suffering, with particular consideration for people disproportionately at risk
3. Provide essential humanitarian needs to protect individuals dignity and keep them safe
4. Support the protection and restoration of critical infrastructure to limit consequences on community, jurisdictions and the nation
5. Protection of cultural values and the environment
6. Maintain situational awareness and public trust in governments

TRIGGER POINTS OF CONCERN

- Large scale fires, flooding, storm damage and cyclone occur concurrently
- Increased health impacts due to heatwave conditions
- A concurrent event requiring coordination in support of another crisis placing strain on resources (Avian Influenza, international crisis)
- A major domestic security incident or novel event occurs
- Regional geopolitical tensions increase
- National capacity is overwhelmed or inadequate and international assistance is required.

LINES OF EFFORT

1. Undertake preparedness activities, in partnership with Australian Government, jurisdictions, industry partners, and non-government organisations for the upcoming Higher Risk Weather Season
2. Provide effective national coordination to support jurisdictions and communities before, during and after crisis
3. Provide timely facilitation of non-financial and financial assistance upon request
4. Support the protection and restoration of essential services, supply chains and the economy
5. Ensure whole of government messaging is timely and synchronised with jurisdiction counterparts
6. Facilitate timely Australian Government actions to support of impacted communities
7. Optimise private sector, NGO's and community capacity
8. Manage fatigue across the system

END STATE

The Australian Government conducted preparedness activities in partnership with jurisdictions, industry partners and not-for-profit organisations, to ensure communities were informed and prepared for a range of hazards. The Australian Government provided effective situational awareness and national coordination to support jurisdictions in response, relief and early recovery efforts. This contributed to minimising loss of life and reduced further harm and impacts to livelihoods. Communities were supported through times of disaster and maintained their trust in Australia's crisis management systems.