



AREA OF OPERATION: AUSTRALIA

AREA OF INTEREST: AUSTRALIA

AREA OF CONSEQUENCE: GLOBAL

SITUATION

Australian, state and territory government agencies are responding to concurrent events, including an ongoing H5 HPAI outbreak, responses to the severe weather events across Australia and national fuel supply disruption. Public messaging is emphasising factual updates on fuel availability, health guidance around HPAI, and heatwave safety, but the volume of crises is fuelling public anxiety.

H5 HPAI (Avian Influenza) response

- Active national response to outbreaks of H5 HPAI in past two months, resulting in a large number of dead shearwater birds and poultry across Tasmania and Victoria. Control areas have been declared, quarantine of affected properties and movement restrictions have been placed on poultry properties. Local communities have been advised to avoid areas frequented by wild birds and practice good biosecurity.
- Today (26 January), authorities confirmed H5 HPAI detections in shearwater birds in New South Wales.
- Trending social media posts about a detection of H5 HPAI in a farm worker from Victoria.

Severe weather events

- Communities across eastern NSW, QLD, NT and Christmas Island are in recovery from the impacts of severe storms (Nov 25) and a tropical cyclone (Dec 25).
- Northern Australia is in active monsoon; southern Australia is experiencing hot, dry conditions with ongoing bushfire activity (western Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia)
- On 25 January, a series of thunderstorms across southeast Western Australia brought down power lines and poles.
- Today, the Kimberley region and across the border into the Northern Territory are expecting heavy rainfall with a severe weather warning in place.
- Today, thunderstorms are forecast in southwest South Australia, damage to power lines and poles is anticipated. Fire danger ratings over the next few days is at HIGH with concerns in Western Australia of dry lightning igniting fires.
- Heatwave conditions extend across the south of the country with extreme conditions in parts of southern Western Australia and South Australia , resulting in high energy demands.

Fuel supply disruption

- A disruption to fuel supply 10 weeks ago (mid-Nov) reduced all crude and refined fuel imports to 75% of normal volumes. It is not expected that normal deliveries will resume for a minimum of eight weeks, but a more realistic estimate is 12-14 weeks.
- Today (26 January), imports are at 60% of normal volumes with deliveries delayed for a minimum of six weeks. This has caused a significant increase in retail petrol prices, bring the average price across the five largest cities to \$4.00/litre.

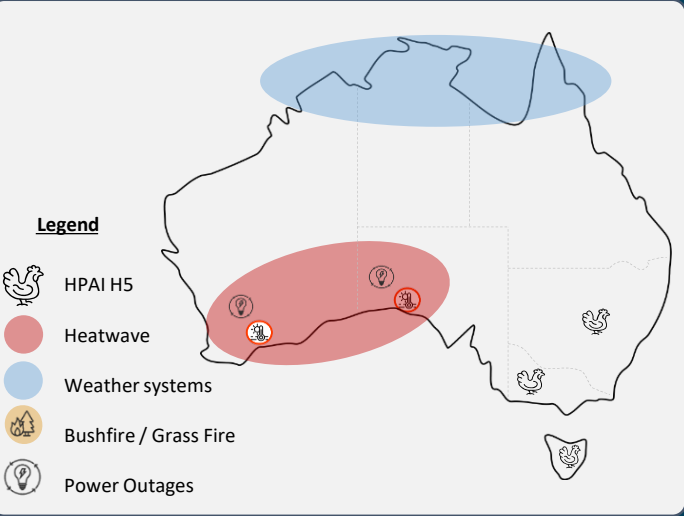


Fig. 1 Overview of National Situation



Fig. 2 Flooding in the Kimberley



AREA OF OPERATION: AUSTRALIA

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Governments can mitigate spread of H5 HPAI in agriculture, but not within wild bird population
- All Aus Gov and jurisdictional agencies are actively communicating and coordinating efforts
- NRSC and national RFAs will be utilised and prioritisation required
- Relevant national plans are/will be activated
- Jurisdictions will be responding to multiple hazards
- Ongoing and additional events will occur
- Further community impacts will occur
- Fuel restrictions remain in place
- Prolonged response and recovery activities will be required
- Responding agencies and personnel already fatigued
- International support available
- Collaboration between CCT, NCM and Recovery IDC

TRIGGER POINTS OF CONCERN

- Significant spread of H5 HPAI – geographical or scale across poultry industry
- Spread of H5 HPAI to other species or humans confirmed
- Shortage of fuel crisis, impacts emergency and domestic defence operations
- Heatwave causing significant impact to critical infrastructure, compounding fuel shortages impacting emergency services and health infrastructure (hospitals, aged cared, air-conditioned community facilities)
- Compounding, concurrent events across jurisdictions
- Further flooding in northern Australia resulting in supply chain disruptions and community isolations
- Prolonged fire conditions increasing severity and scale of fires across Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia
- National resources at capacity, already utilised or required for internal jurisdictional response

AREA OF INTEREST: AUSTRALIA

KNOWN

- Public messaging is not enough to combat the mis/disinformation around H5 HPAI and other crises
- H5 HPAI active response since late November impacting wild birds and poultry in NSW, VIC, & TAS
- Fuel supply limited
- Fuel prices increase significantly
- Nationwide emergency services are responding to multiple threats
- Multiple infrastructure systems stressed from heat in WA and SA
- Catastrophic bushfire warning for VIC with a state-wide bushfire ban
- Rolling Power Outages
- Multiple jurisdictions in active recovery
- Forecast for worsening conditions

UNKNOWN

- Community sentiment and impact on trust of all levels of government
- Potential spread of HPAI H5 due to bird migration
- Current onshore fuel capacity, impacts and resupply requirements
- Impacts of forecast conditions
- Extent of impact to life and subsequent effects to other jurisdictions due to heatwaves

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All relevant Australian Government agencies review relevant preparedness and response activities
- Preposition national assets and resources
- Develop national crisis communication strategy
- Brief relevant ministers on situation

AREA OF CONSEQUENCE: GLOBAL

MOST LIKELY

- Active response plans/arrangements across multiple sectors (biosecurity, natural hazard, energy supply)
- Relevant jurisdictional plans will be activated
- COMDISPLAN activated in anticipation of RFAs and a CCT stood up
- H5 HPAI will spread through Australia via wild bird movement and require continued response activities
- H5 HPAI impacts to supply chains and food supply
- Mis/disinformation resulting in breakdown in social cohesion over a long period
- Fuel supply will continue to be impacted
- Fuel prices continue to increase significantly, especially if rationing is increased
- Catastrophic fire danger results in stretching of state response capabilities
- Panic buying by communities
- Businesses lose income (e.g. agriculture, transport and tourism operators)
- Increased mortality rates due to heatwave
- Delays in freight

MOST DANGEROUS

- Jurisdictional response is overwhelmed resulting in multiple RFAs and use of NRSC
- H5 HPAI spreads to humans and other species, overwhelming key industries, requiring national response for agriculture and protection of native species
- H5 HPAI spreads with significant impacts to food supply chains and birds
- Widespread, prolonged power outages, overwhelm critical infrastructure causing significant impacts to communities and industries
- Widespread community isolations caused by compounding natural hazards and critical infrastructure disruptions
- Widespread civil unrest – Australia Day demonstrations, community concern for novel events, mis/disinformation, looting of fuel, etc.
- Any new fires unable to be contained and spreads
- Significant impacts to aviation and maritime due to the inability to access fuel
- Panic buying for essential resources, i.e. food and fuel
- Significant fatalities across hazard events, mortuary capacity is reached
- Continued significant loss of fuel, further impacting oil supplies
- Ongoing power supply issues, water supply and telecommunications impact emergency services capacity.



STRATEGIC INTENT

The Australian Government, working in partnership with Australian states and territories, will respond to the severe weather events across Australia, the ongoing H5 HPAI spread and the fuel shortage crisis to mitigate the compounding impacts and consequences to the community, including those in recovery from previous events, over the next 7 days out to 2 February 2026.

INCIDENT PRIORITIES

1. Preservation of human life
2. Provision of Australian Government support for humanitarian assistance
3. Protecting or re-establish supply chains and critical infrastructure
4. Maintain and protect communications and public trust
5. Maintaining Law and Order
6. Conservation and protection of the environment
7. Protection of culturally significant sites, areas and objects

END STATE

The Australian Government, in partnership with states and territories, has supported response and recovery activities. Provided consistent communication supporting jurisdictional response to compounding hazards to ensure the preservation of human life, provide humanitarian assistance, maintain critical infrastructure and support public messaging and law and order. Protection of the environment and culturally significant sites was provided where possible

	LINES OF EFFORT	SUCCESS CONDITIONS	COURSES OF ACTION
1	Coordinate Australian Government response and recovery activities	Australian Government supported jurisdictional response through timely and effective application of response and recovery activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continuation of CCT activations2. Deploy CPO/LOs into Jurisdictions3. Respond to RFAs4. Prepare activations or continue activations of Australian Government Recovery Support Payments in case of requests5. Activate Crisis Comms Cell6. Activate Recovery IDC7. Conduct NCMs (NCM-AUSGOV and NCMs with states/territories and key stakeholders)
2	Undertake preparedness activities	Preparedness activities were undertaken, where appropriate and possible	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determining prepositioning relevant NEMS capabilities2. Convening CCOSC and engaging with jurisdictions to understand requirements3. Hold NCMs to determine the requirements of jurisdictions, Aus Gov and industries in response and recovery4. Complete a CASP
3	Provision of essential humanitarian assistance	Humanitarian assistance was provided to ensure the minimisation of further harm to affected communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify potential NEMS capabilities and providers2. NCM specifically for humanitarian assistance requirements
4	Provide near-real time situation awareness and briefing products to relevant stakeholders	Ongoing situational awareness was provided in a timely and accurate manner to all relevant stakeholders ensure a single source of information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Disseminate event notifications, event dashboards and relevant situational products2. Hold NCMs to provide situational awareness to all stakeholders
5	Crisis communication and public messaging enacted	Crisis communication was coordinated across relevant stakeholders to ensure consistent public messaging	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Crisis Communication Cell established2. Crisis Communication Strategy established3. Whole of Australian Government Talking Points established4. Hold NCMs to coordinate crisis communications