

Pages 4 to 12 and 14 to 17
have been removed from this
document as irrelevant to scope.

Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Emergency Management
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

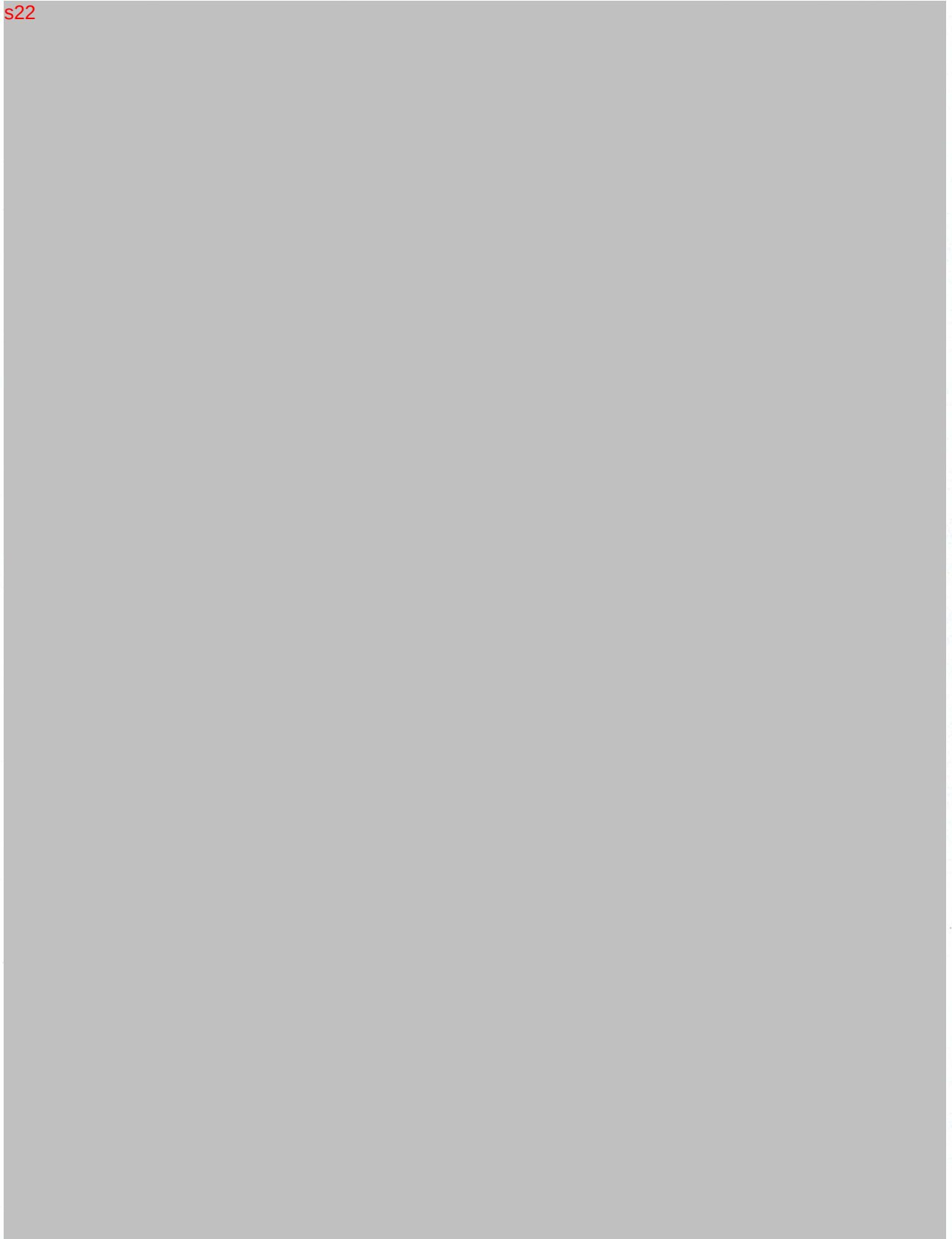
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AusAlert

Preparations for the AusAlert National Test on Monday, 27 July 2026 are progressing with all planning and operational activities now in their final stages. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been working to support test readiness, including coordinating stakeholders and responding to a high-volume of media enquiries ahead of the event.

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Yours sincerely

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Pat Hetherington
Interim Coordinator-General
24 July 2026



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Emergency Management and Response Group				
AusAlert Project	McBain	National Test is scheduled for Monday 27 July 2026 at 2:00PM AEST.	Briefings with Minister for approval: - MS26-001936 – National Test Recommendation Post Community Based Trials Briefings to be provided to the Minister: - Nil. Follow up requested by Minister: - Nil.	Meghan Hibbert

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Go / No-Go decision record

Stage: Stage 4 – Test – 15 mins Monday 27 July 2026

Attendees:

Jurisdictional SPOCs all S+T + commonwealth SPOCs
Technical + operational teams, Mungara.

Notes:

NO pub safety, cyber, border issues raised
All carriers confirmed technically ready
Test message confirmed as critical, 2pm AEST for 15 mins.
operational readiness confirmed.

Recommended by: Meghan Hibbert (AusAlert Assistant Coordinator General)

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Reviewed by: Chris Field (FACG - NRCP) & Katarina Carroll (DCG-EMR)

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Endorsed by: Pat Hetherington (ICG-NEMA)

Minister for Emergency Management Decision:

☒ GO

☐ NO-GO

☐ GO with conditions (list):

Conditions/risk treatments required before send:

Decision authority signature/approval:

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Time: 1:50pm

27/7/26

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Australian Government

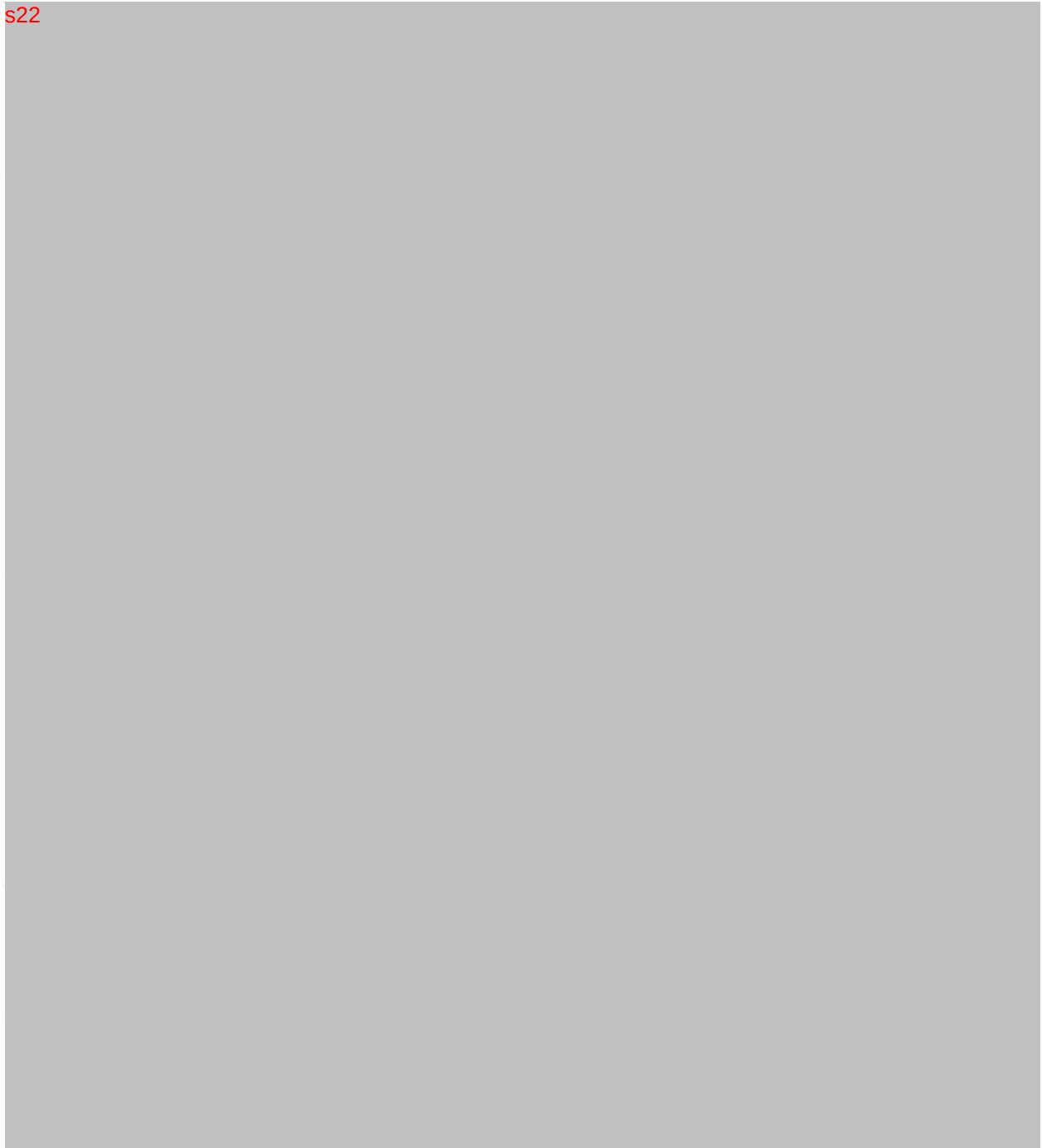
National Emergency
Management Agency

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Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Emergency Management
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

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**AusAlert**

At 2:00 pm AEST on Monday 27 July 2026, NEMA conducted a national test of AusAlert's Critical Alert capability. Initial results following the test indicated that the message was successfully broadcast from 94 per cent of targeted cells across the Optus, Telstra and TPG mobile networks. The three Mobile Network Operators, however, are undertaking further due diligence and will provide updated statistics shortly. Initial observations will be provided by 5 August 2026 and a formal report by 28 August 2026.

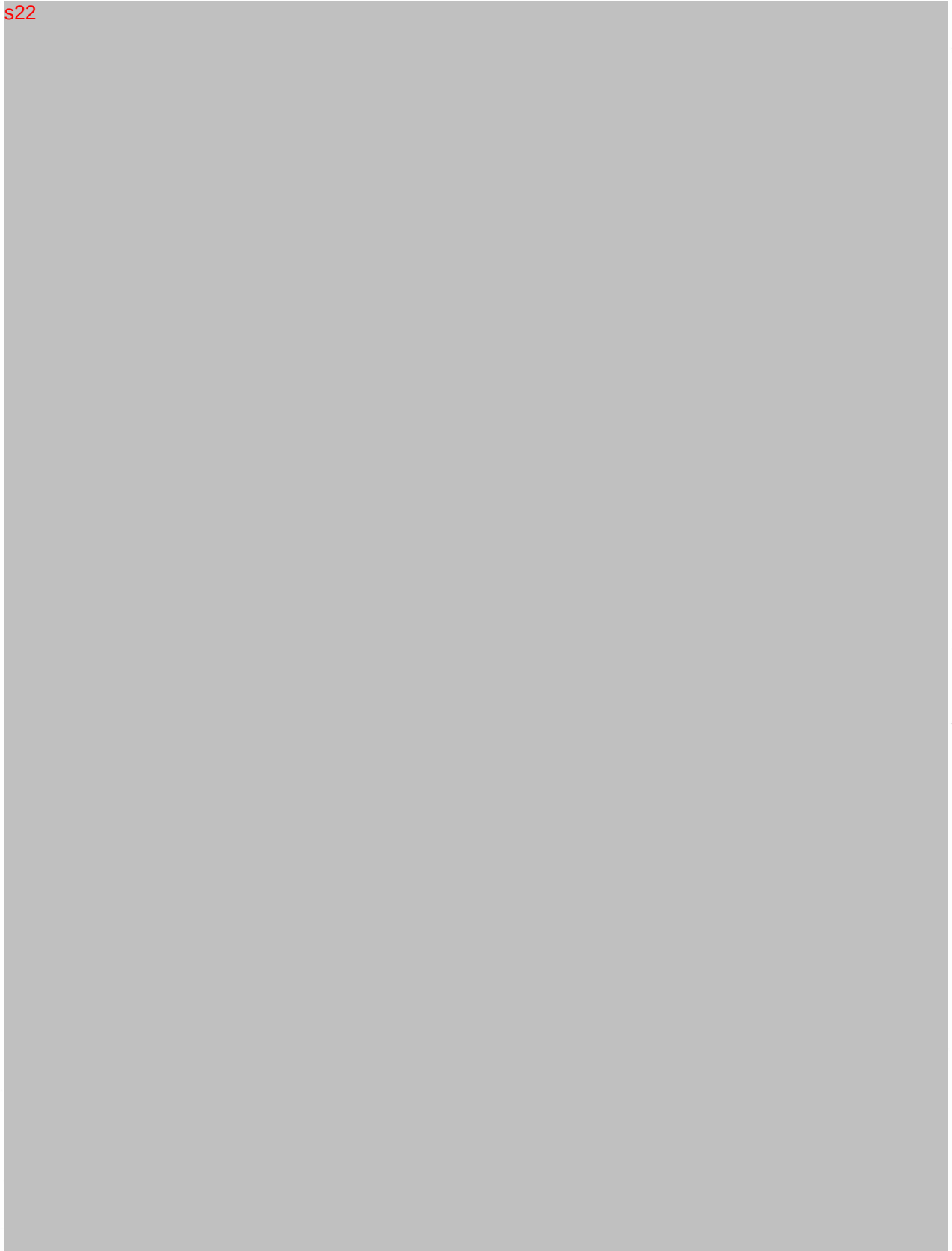
The AusAlert Taskforce is engaging with state and territory emergency service organisations, Mobile Network Operators, and other stakeholders about the National Test. Findings from this engagement will be included in the Final Report provided to your office.

As of 29 July 2026, NEMA understands that:

- No public safety incidents were reported at or around the time of the test.
- The Triple Zero Custodian advised that there was no material increase in national Triple Zero call volumes between 2:00 pm and 2:30 pm on 27 July 2026, with 17 calls directly referencing AusAlert.
- Traffic volatility monitoring across 274 road segments during the National Test found no material change in driver behaviour.

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Yours sincerely

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Pat Hetherington
Interim Coordinator-General
31 July 2026

Emergency Management and Response Group				
AusAlert Project	McBain	- The National Test was conducted successfully on 27 July 2026 at 2:00PM AEST. - Initial observations will be provided by 5 August, with a more fulsome report to be provided by 28 August.	Briefings with Minister for approval: - MS26-001936 – National Test Recommendation Post Community Based Trials. Briefings to be provided to the Minister: - Nil. Follow up requested by Minister: - Nil.	Meghan Hibbert

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QB26-000034

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AUSALERT**HEADLINE**

- The Albanese Labor Government is committed to the delivery of a National Messaging System, which will be known as AusAlert – so no matter where you are you will receive emergency warnings.

KEY POINTS:AusAlert

- The safety of Australians before, during and after disasters is of the utmost importance to the Albanese Labor Government.
- On 26 February 2026, I announced that Australia's new National Messaging System would be publicly known as 'AusAlert' and that a National Test would occur on Monday, 27 July 2026.
- The Government is committed to having an operational national public warning capability ahead of the 2026-27 Higher Risk Weather Season.
- The National Test took place as scheduled. It followed successful performance at community-based trials conducted across nine locations around Australia between 10 and 21 June 2026.
- While detailed analysis continues, early results indicate that the National Test was highly successful:
 - o National awareness of AusAlert was supported by an extensive public information campaign. AusAlert-related social media content generated 3.8 million earned engagements, and achieved a national reach of more than 585 million during the campaign from 28 June to 28 July, inclusive.
 - o Initial reporting from mobile network operators indicates that 94 percent of carrier towers successfully transmitted the alert, and network operators reported that between 75 and 80 percent of Android and Apple devices were running AusAlert compatible software.
- Cell broadcast technology is already used in more than 35 countries around the world. International experience demonstrates that public reach and awareness will continue to increase as systems mature and mobile devices are regularly updated.

Contact Officer: Meghan Hibbert

Phone: s22

Responsible Division: NEMA - Emergency Management & Response (EMR)
QB26-000034

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Date updated:

3 Aug 2026

Date reviewed:

3 Aug 2026

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- Emergency management agencies will have the choice of using either Emergency Alert and/or AusAlert during the 2026-27 Higher Risk Weather Season, with AusAlert on track to be available for operational use from 1 October 2026.
- AusAlert will complement, not replace, other emergency warning channels. Australians should continue to rely on trusted sources of information, including state and territory warning applications, emergency service websites, social media, television and radio.
- Australians seeking more information about AusAlert can visit the AusAlert website. Information is available in up to 19 languages and includes tailored guidance for people with disability, older Australians, young people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, First Nations peoples, and people experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Australians who did not receive the National Test alert are encouraged to ensure their mobile device software is up to date and to check device compatibility information available on the AusAlert website.

About the AusAlert capability

- AusAlert will enable emergency service organisations and Commonwealth agencies to quickly deliver geotargeted alerts and warnings to every compatible mobile phone and other SIM-enabled devices in Australia using technology that is international best practice.
- The Albanese Labor Government will deliver this first-of-type capability to send messages across the nation to help keep Australians safe. This responds to the need identified during the COVID-19 pandemic for a national public safety alert system.
- Most importantly, AusAlert will ensure Australia has the best practice telephony-based warning system in place to distribute critical information during local and national emergencies and natural disasters, in line with more than 30 countries.

- Countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Israel, South Korea, New Zealand and in European Union are using cell broadcast systems for national security, health, public safety and emergency alerts.
- AusAlerts are not impacted by and do not contribute to network congestion. Notifications can be issued as a 'priority' or 'critical' alert. Critical alerts will bypass do not disturb and silent settings and issue a two-tone sound.
- AusAlert adds to the range of existing channels and tools currently used by communities to receive public safety information, including state-based emergency applications, social media, radio, television and local channels.

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Domestic and Family Violence Implications

- The Government recognises that some victim-survivors of domestic and family violence rely on concealed or secondary mobile devices as part of their safety planning.
- NEMA undertook extensive engagement with WENET, Australia's national peak body for specialist women's domestic and family violence services. Engagement also occurred with the National Alliance of Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services to seek expert advice and develop appropriate communications and safety resources ahead of the National Test.

- A suite of resources is now available on the AusAlert website about how to stay safe during the National Test, and when AusAlert is live. These resources were also distributed directly by specialist services ahead of the National Test.
- There have been no reports of adverse events related to the National Test, earlier community-based trials, or generally linked to the use of AusAlert.

Deaf and hearing-impaired communities

- As part of preparations to ensure AusAlert is accessible to all Australians, the National Emergency Management Agency tested several pieces of equipment and software used by people that are vision or hearing impaired.
- The results of this testing are mixed as the behaviour of assistive technology is highly dependent on the user's personal settings on the mobile device they are paired with.
- For this reason, we cannot give specific advice to the deaf and hearing-impaired community about how specific accessibility devices will interact with AusAlert.
- Importantly, AusAlert messages will wake your screen, vibrate and display text information about the emergency or public safety incident to alert you on your compatible mobile device.

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BACKGROUND and SENSITIVITIES:News coverage

- Extensive news coverage occurred in the lead-up to and immediately following the National Test of AusAlert. The coverage highlights mixed public feedback, with some technical gaps, and safety concerns as summarised below. Importantly, there have been no adverse outcomes or events linked to the National Test and reported in the media.

Pre-test

- o **The National Test** – extensive reporting occurred across multiple media outlets advising that on Monday, 27 July 2026, a 10-second siren and notification would be sent to compatible mobile devices across Australia at 14:00 (AEST), 13:30 (ACST), 12:00 (AWST) and 11:00 (CXI).
- o **Concealed devices** – several groups shared safety concerns that a Critical Alert test would override individual mobile device settings, like do-not-disturb. These articles typically also shared official safety instructions advising vulnerable individuals to turn off their devices, or place them in aeroplane mode for 1 hour before and 24 hours after the National Test.
- o **Jurisdictional adoption** – outlets reported that operational adoption of AusAlert was at the discretion of states and territories. Some agencies including Queensland Fire and NSW Rural Fire Service reported they would not adopt AusAlert as cell broadcast was not yet comparable to existing localised systems in terms of capability.

Post-test

- o **Official Government response** – the Emergency Management Minister's report that NEMA deemed the test a success, noting the initial result of 94 percent of targeted cells successfully broadcast the AusAlert was broadly shared by news outlets.
- o **Coverage and capability gaps** – Extensive reporting occurred highlighting cases of people not receiving the AusAlert National Test. Coverage highlighted this was a particular issue for people in regional and remote areas, and where there is poor mobile reception. This reporting typically reiterated official NEMA advice about what to do if you did not receive an alert and identified that mobile device owners should keep their software up-to-date and check the AusAlert website for information about compatible devices.

- o **Design flaws** – Some media outlets reported that National Test recipients and some experts are critical of the way that an AusAlert message disappears from the screen of a device, making it hard to review details.
- o **Jurisdictional adoption** – Following the test, the Queensland Fire and Disaster Recovery Minister, Ann Leahy, announced the state would not sign onto use AusAlert for the upcoming bushfire season. Some associated media coverage (e.g., 7NEWS QLD) noted frustration from local residents and 2022 flood victims who publicly criticised the state's choice to opt out after existing SMS-based systems had not been effective.

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