



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Emergency Management Australia

“Australia’s architecture for managing fire-related disasters and post-disaster recovery”

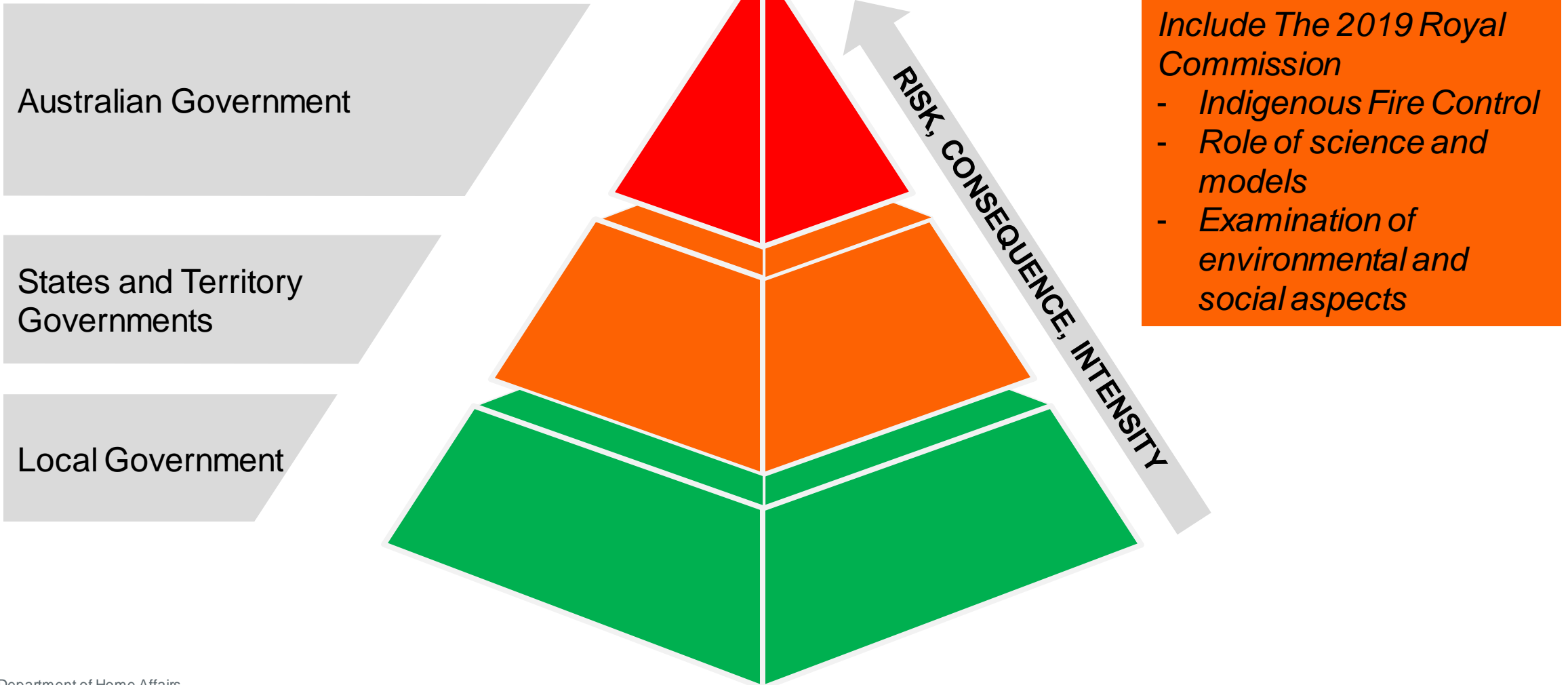
*Joe Buffone
Director-General*

Overview

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2. Australian Government Crisis Management Framework
3. National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum
4. Requests for Australian Government Assistance
5. Australian Warning System
6. Emergency Management Australia
7. National Situation Room
8. National Coordination Mechanism

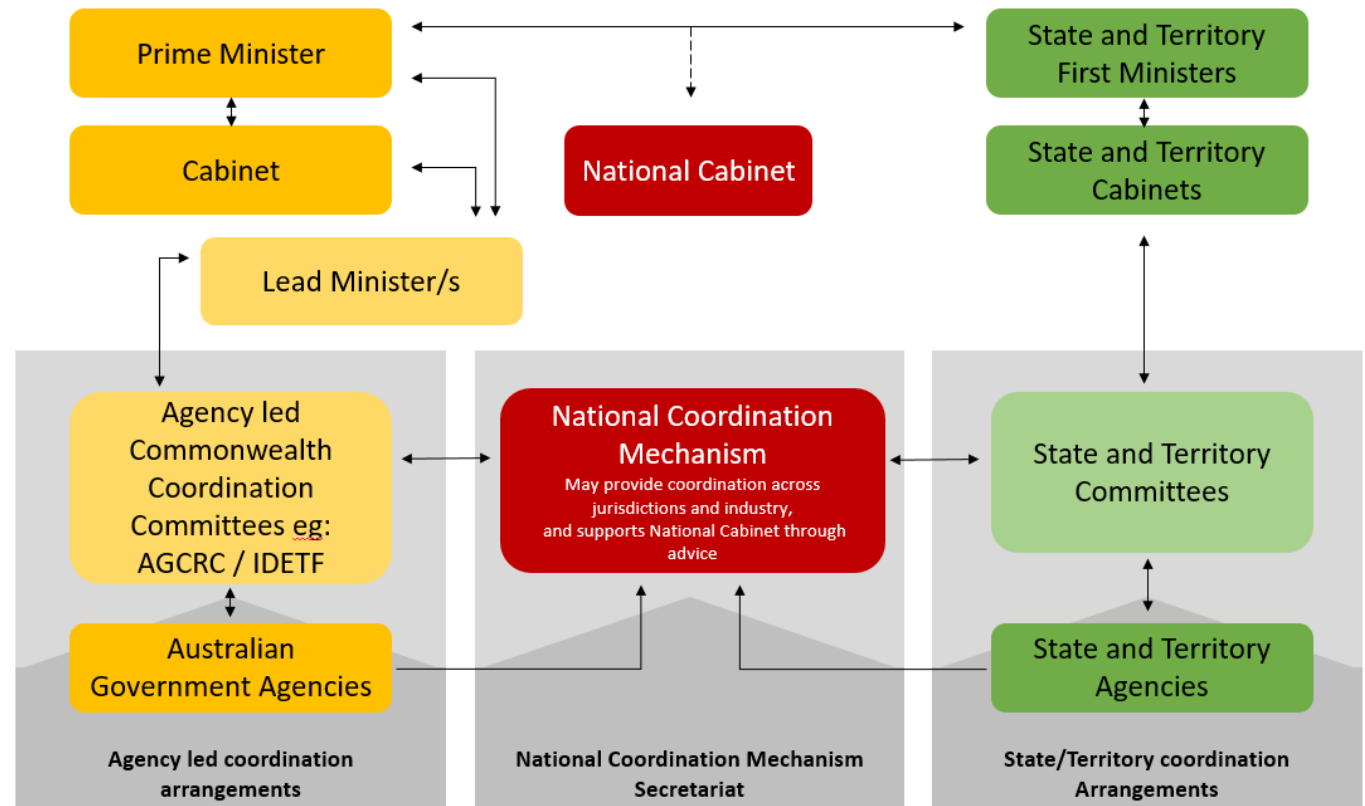


Emergency Management Context



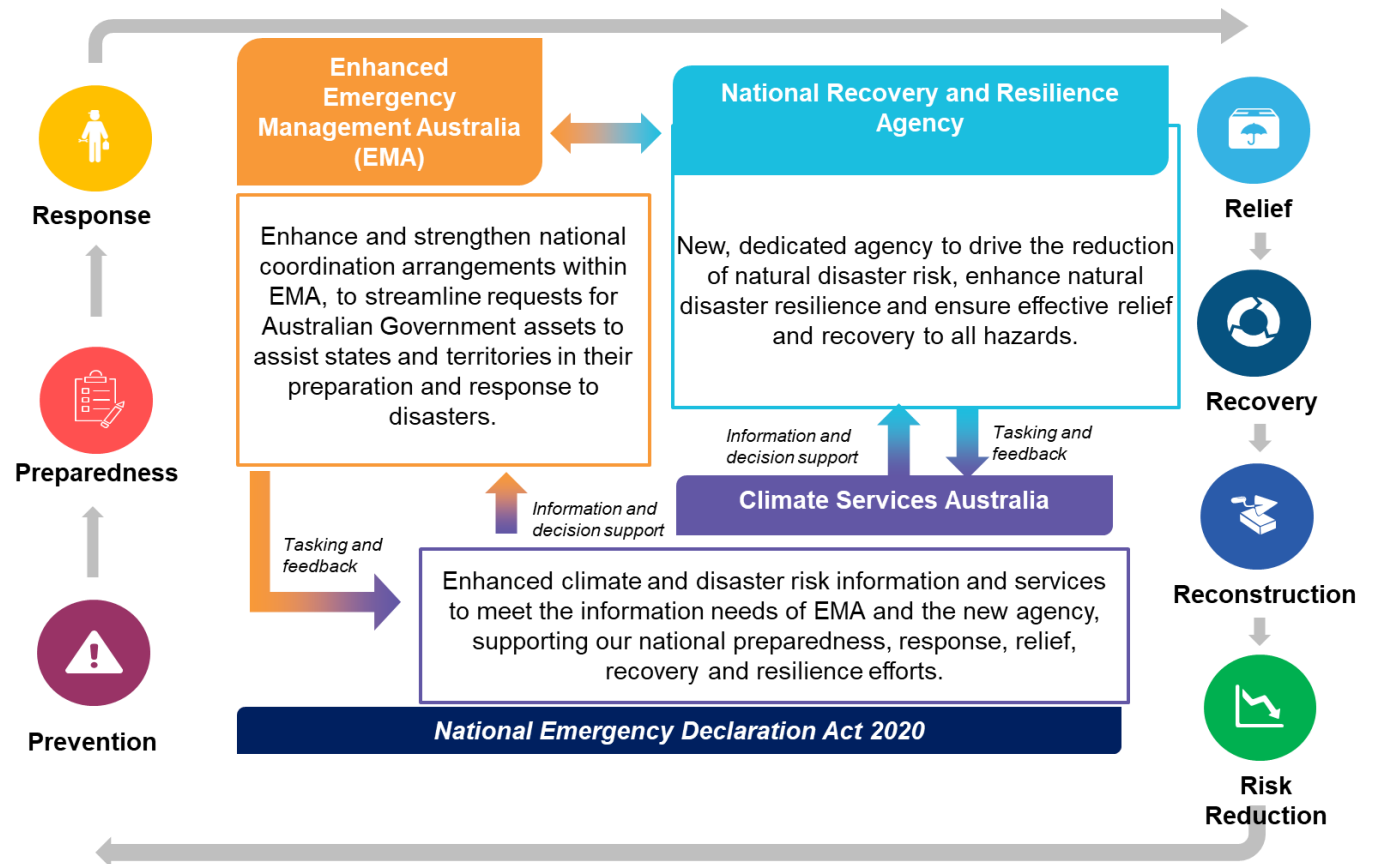
Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

- Spans all hazards
- Recognises the primacy of State & Territory response
- Defines the central principles and objectives of a national crisis response
 - coordination, continuity, sustainability, proportionality, accountability, integration
- Identifies lead Agencies and Ministers for events
 - Where no lead, defaults to Minister for Home Affairs
- Enables National coordination and delivery of Commonwealth capability

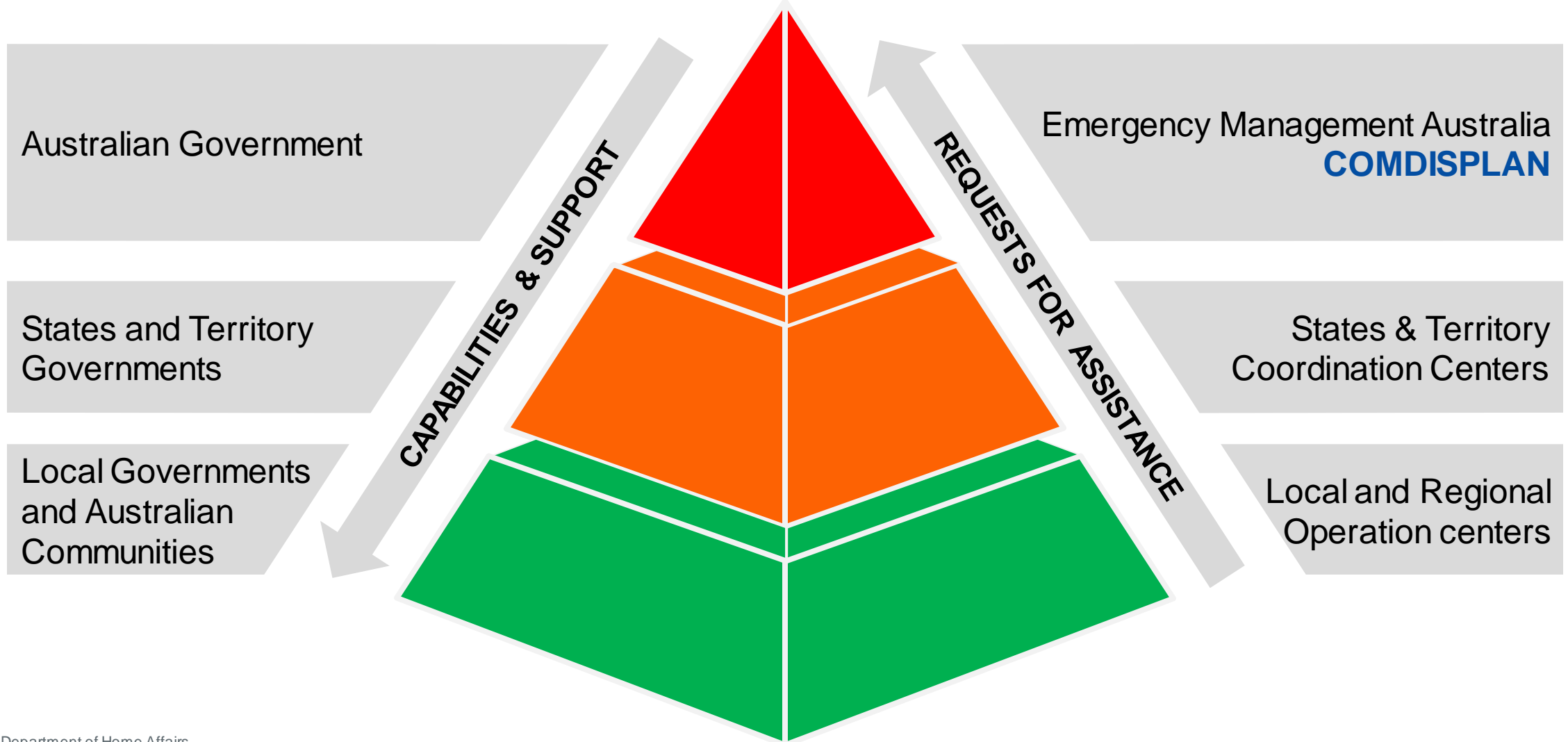


National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum

- 7 main stages
- Recognises three main “domains”
 - Governance and control
 - Response and coordination
 - Recovery and reconstructions



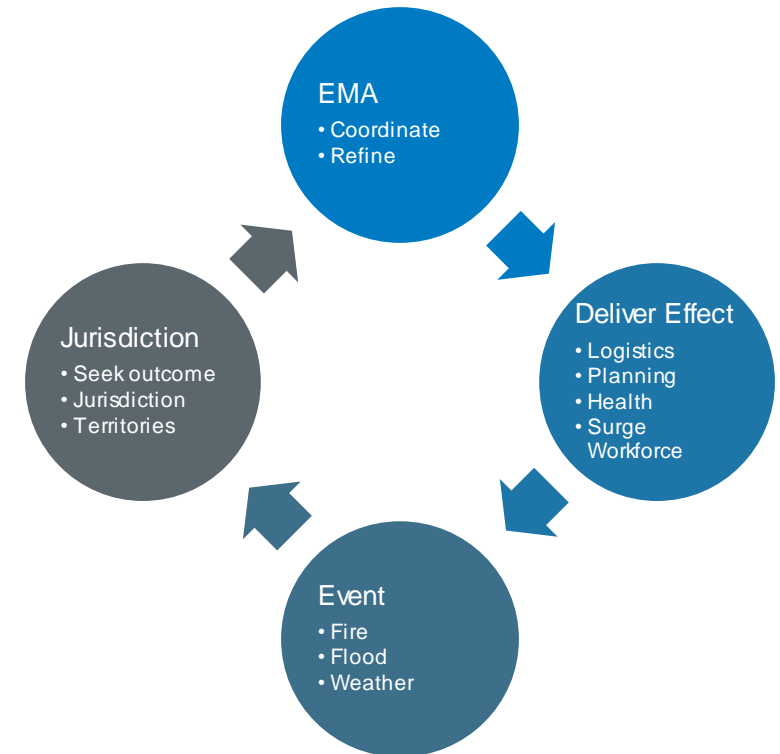
Australian Government Non-Financial Assistance



COMDISPLAN

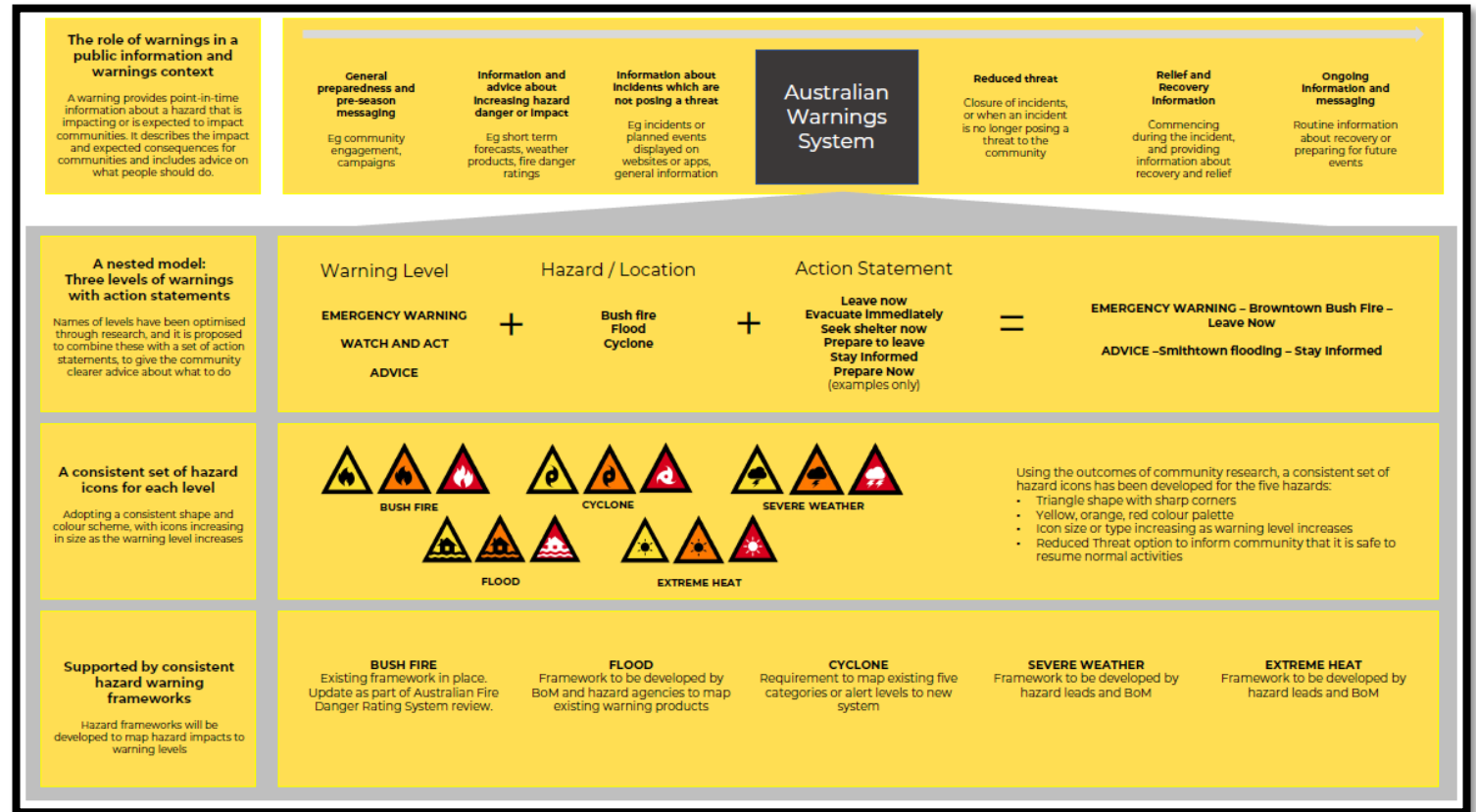
Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)

- The Government's role during disasters and emergencies is governed by a number of plans and frameworks; principally the AGCMF, and the COMDISPLAN, neither of which have a legislative basis.
- The COMDISPLAN is the plan for the provision of Australian Government 'non-financial assistance' to Australian states and territories in an emergency or disaster. The Minister responsible for Emergency Management must authorise approval for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance.
- The term 'non-financial assistance' refers, but is not limited to: planning expertise, provision of mapping services, counselling, advice, management of external resources and physical assistance.
- Under COMDISPLAN an affected jurisdiction encompasses mainland Australian states and territories and the offshore territories of: Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard and McDonald Islands and Norfolk Island.
- Australian state and territory governments have responsibility for coordinating and planning for the response to and recovery from a disaster within their borders. When the total resources (government, community and commercial) of an affected jurisdiction cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation, the nominated official can seek non-financial assistance from the Australian Government under COMDISPLAN.



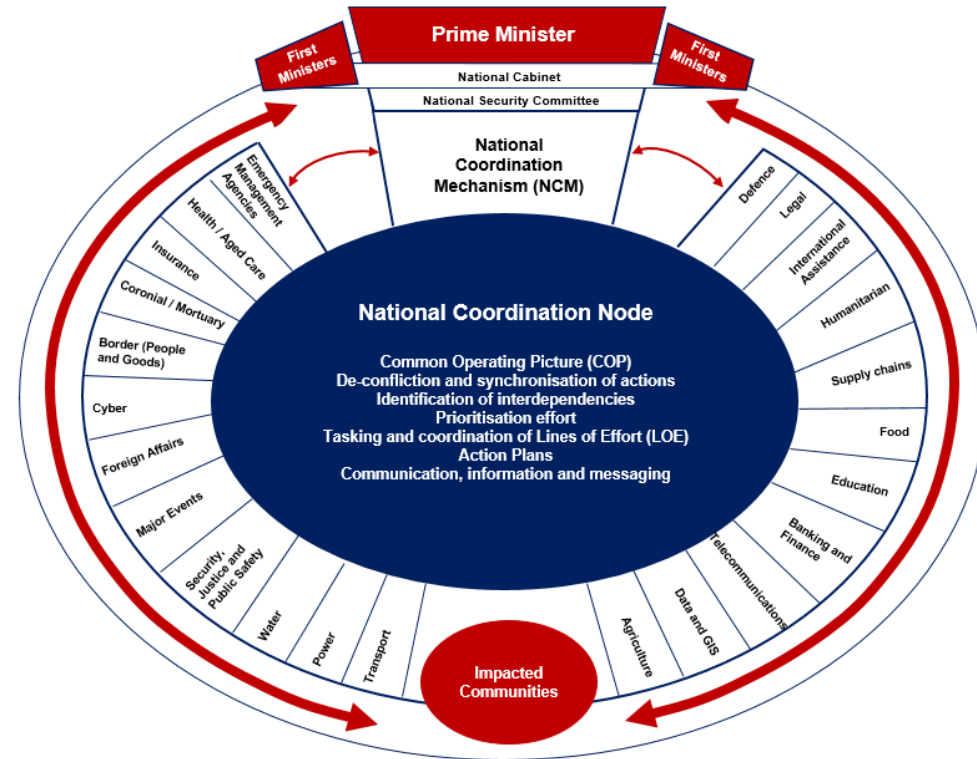
Australian Warning System

- Nationally consistent warning system
 - Sequence
 - Symbols
 - Actions
- Common Events
 - bushfire, flood, cyclone, heatwave and extreme weather (storm)
 - Can be used for other events



National Coordination Mechanism

- Open expertise based collaboration to resolve service continuity challenges
 - Food supply and supermarkets
 - Interstate freight
 - Farm-based work
 - Education sector



Additional Resources

- Australian Government Crisis Management Framework
- AIDR Manuals
- 2019 Bushfire Royal Commission
- National Disaster planning framework
- NRRRA (www.recovery.gov.au)



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Questions ?

THE WIDESPREAD IMPACT

was unprecedented



More than **33.8 million Hectares** BURNT

LIVES LOST

Tragically, 34 people lost their lives

10 Firefighters

24 Community members

LAND USE WITHIN THE FIRE AREA

4,544 ha
34% of agricultural land

2,044 ha
15% of forestry land

6,458 ha
49% of nature conservation and managed resource land

12 ha
of rural residential and farm infrastructure land

51 ha
of urban intensive use land

and... **183** ha of other land types

ADF

4,844 km roads cleared

240 km firebreak cleared

1,287 km of fencing

3.9 M litres water purified at Kangaroo Island

6.1 M litres Water purified at Bega

77,260 MEALS
Served on Defence bases to emergency services personnel and evacuees

5.4 M litres of water

73.3 K litres of fuel

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT



Six of Australia's 19 World Heritage properties, including approximately 82% of the Greater Blue Mountains Area (New South Wales) burnt.

709 PLANTS identified as being at high risk, with 471 plant species identified as the highest priorities for urgent management intervention.

1/3 of Adelaide Hills entire region's vineyards was lost - approximately 1,000 hectares - in one night.

\$72 M damage has been caused to three main apple growing regions.

129,000 hectares of commercial plantations were impacted in the fires. This included 24% of all plantations in New South Wales, 2.4% in Victoria and 95% on Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

WILDLIFE



750 ANIMAL SPECIES identified as in need urgent attention, with 10% of the known habitat for 330 species affected and the entire geographic range of some species burnt.



9,800 BEEHIVES LOST
This raises a significant risk of sustained reduction of honey production.

HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS (excluding Western Australia and the Northern Territory)

HOUSES DESTROYED
More than 3,000

HOUSES DAMAGED
1,080

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES DESTROYED
5,941

BUILDING AND FACILITIES DAMAGED
2,738




2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires Recovery

The Australian Government has made **\$2.8 billion** available for recovery so far, and **85 per cent** has been delivered (that's \$2.4 billion, including \$1.7 billion from the National Bushfire Recovery Fund).




Impact of the bushfires

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 33.8 million+ hectares burnt | 33 lives lost | 4,000+ homes destroyed or damaged | 100,000+ livestock perished | 110 Local Government Areas activated for assistance |
|--|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|

\$2.4 billion in assistance has supported recovery across impacted communities...

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 4,900+ properties cleared*  | 200,000+ recovery payments/allowances to individuals  | 88,000+ payments to assist back-to-school costs |
| 27,000+ grants and loans to small businesses & primary producers* | 82 charities funded for emergency relief and financial counselling |  |
| 3,200+ payments to volunteer fire-fighters*  | 9,000+ animals rescued | |

...and further support continues to flow for re-building and longer-term recovery

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants | Local Economic Recovery | |
| <p>\$280 million program</p> <p> Open now. Online support available, applications close 2 September 2021.</p> | <p>\$304 million already announced 399 projects funded</p> <p>\$46 million more to come Funds matched by the states</p> | |
| Strengthening telecommunications | Native wildlife and habitat recovery | Counselling, support & advice |
| <p>\$27.1 million</p> <p>to improve communications networks for communities in an emergency.</p> | <p>\$150 million</p> <p>to support the recovery of impacted natural environments. </p> | <p>Counselling, trauma care and other support continues locally and online. </p> |

*Programs are jointly funded / delivered with state and territory governments.