Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

4 November 2026

National Preparedness Program

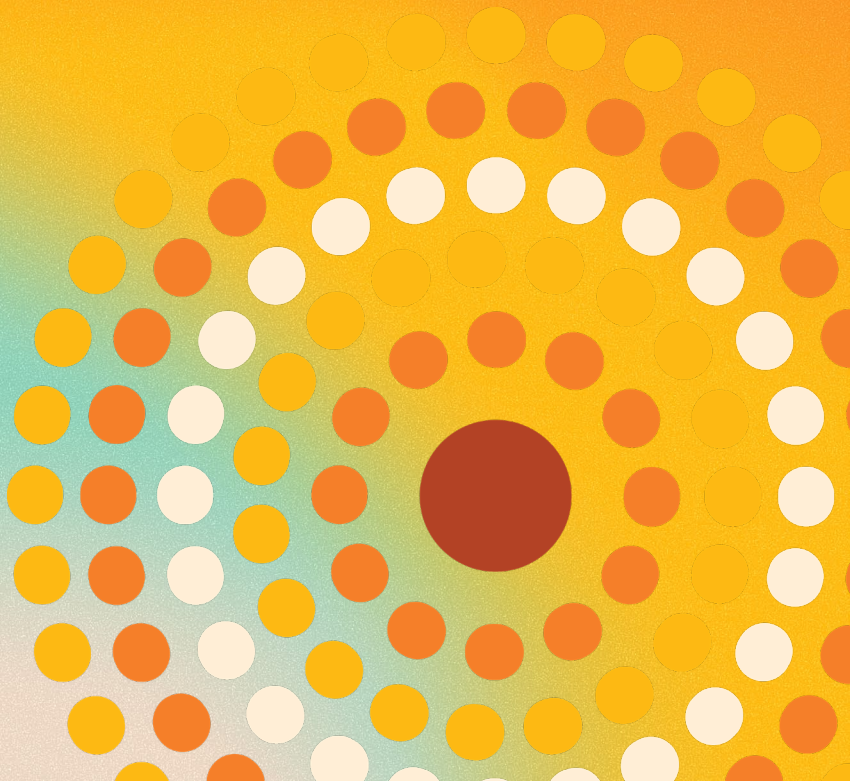
2026-27 Higher Risk Weather Season Briefing – Education Sector

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Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

National Preparedness Program

Australian Government Arrangements and Capabilities



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Who we are

The National Emergency Management Agency develops, leads and coordinates Australia's connected approach to emergency management.

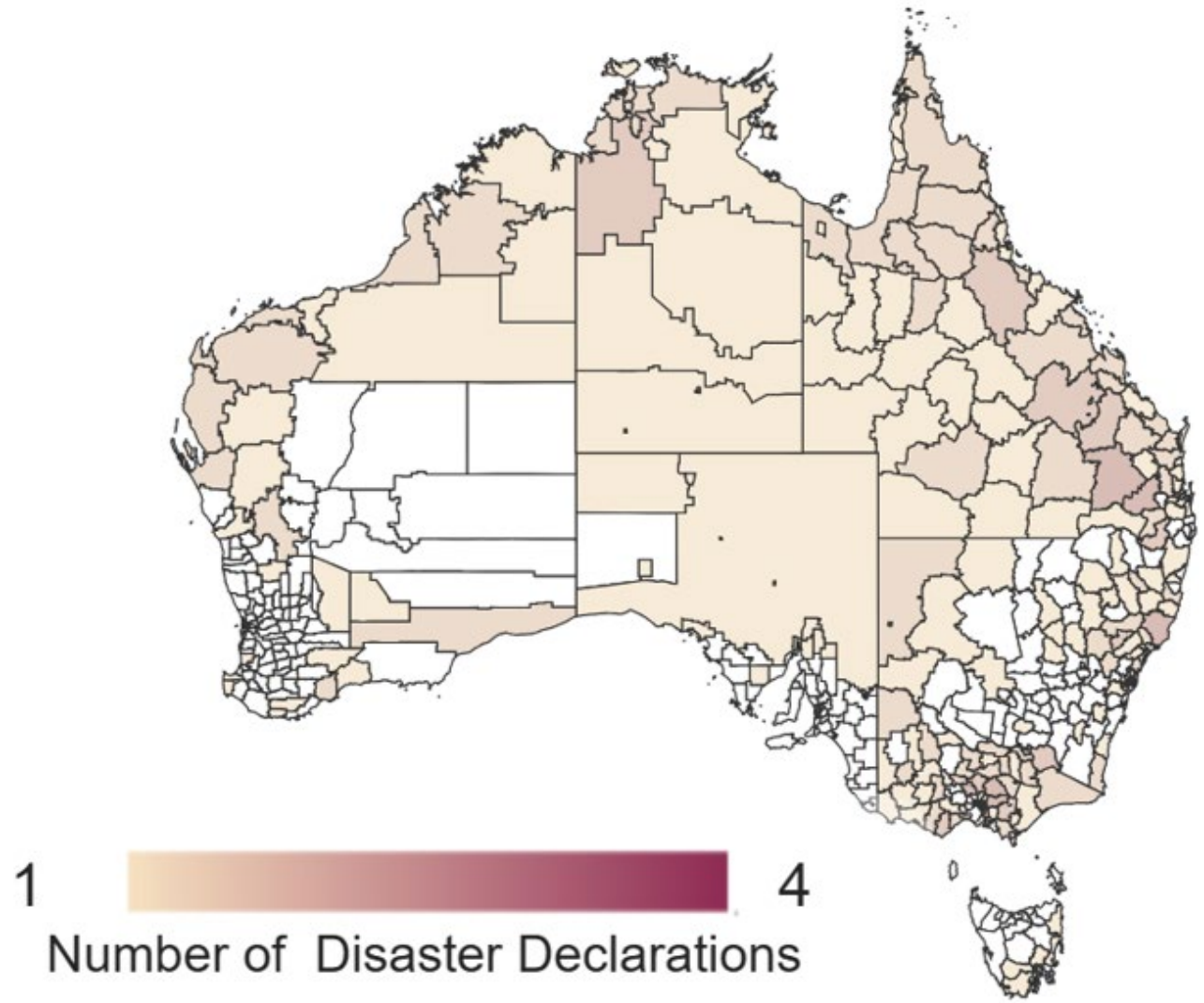
For all hazards that may reach national significance, we support across all elements of the emergency management continuum.



Our context

Activations by Local Government Area from 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

- 76 declared disaster events
- 226 local government areas impacted (+ 5 Unincorporated areas)
- $17.29 million in Australian government disaster payments made.
- $516.24 million allocated to extraordinary measures under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (Category C+D).



Triggers for Australian Government involvement



A request from a state or territory for Australian Government assistance



The scale of the crisis and its potential impact



An incident across multiple jurisdictions or industry sectors



Multiple simultaneous crises



A crisis with both domestic and international components

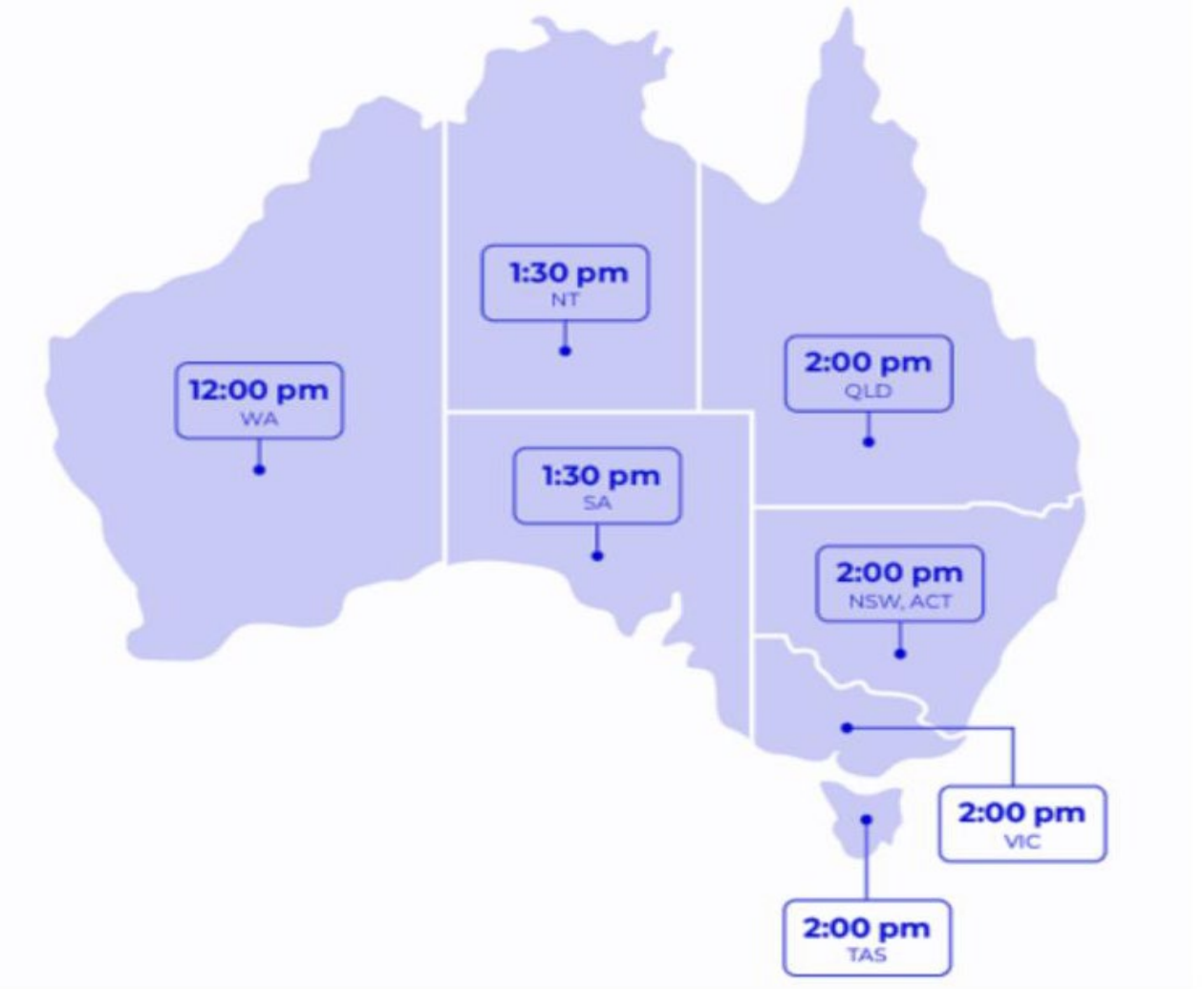


Community expectation of national leadership

Capabilities – AusAlert

The National Test occurred on 27 July 2026:

- 15-minute campaign duration
- Critical Alert
- Administered by the National Situation Room
- 4-week national public awareness campaign across radio, television, print media, social media, road signage, and a dedicated national website
- Extensive stakeholder engagement



Capabilities

- National Situation Room
  - National Joint Common Operating Picture
  - Crisis Coordination Teams
  - Crisis Intelligence
  - National Security Hotline
- National Coordination Mechanism
- National Plans

- National Emergency Management Stockpile
  - Off-grid semi-rigid emergency shelter camps
  - Emergency power generators and fuel tanks – diesel
  - Flood mitigation systems
  - Water purification systems and storage
  - Non-medical biohazard kits

- National aerial firefighting fleet
  - annually contracts approximately 160 aircraft
  - multi-use aircraft to respond to other disasters in addition to bushfire

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Heatwave



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Heatwave preparedness

Heatwaves can be dangerous, posing health risks to the most vulnerable. While older people and young children are often the most vulnerable to heat, extreme heatwaves can affect anyone's health. Schools with young students, or students with other vulnerabilities should ensure they are aware of any heatwave plans in place for your jurisdiction.

Considerations

- burns from hot surfaces
- sunburn and dehydration
- activity levels
- know the symptoms of heat-related illness e.g. fast or weak pulse, dizziness, faintness, nausea, confusion, seizures etc

Stay Safe

- drink water regularly
- keep levels of activity low if possible
- use cooling devices where possible
- watch for symptoms

Stay informed

There are several useful websites to help track and prepare for heatwaves, including:

www.swelteringcities.org/heatwave-information

www.redcross.org.au/extremeheat

www.heatwatch.sydney.edu.au

www.bom.gov.au/weather-and-climate/specialised-forecasts-and-observations/heatwave

Coping with heatwaves | Australian Centre for Disease Control

Questions

