

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

Statement on the 2019-20 Australian Bushfire Crisis

Over the past few months we have witnessed devastating bushfires affecting Australians across the country, including some of our own Australian Water Association staff and members. Our thoughts are with you all.

While recent cooler weather and light rain have offered some reprieve in some areas, there are still several fires blazing and the worst of the summer heat is not even past us.

It has been hard for us as an organisation to watch this crisis unfold on the news and across social media, but we want to acknowledge the huge efforts being put in by the firefighters, volunteers, and community members who are providing much-needed emergency and recovery support.

It is also very important for us to recognise the water industry professionals, operators, businesses and associates throughout the country who have worked tirelessly, and continue to do so, to maintain essential water and sewer services for affected communities during this difficult time.

There has been so much lost but so much saved because of the quiet efforts of so many and I am proud to know that this is who we are as an industry.

The Australian Water Association, its Board, Branch Presidents and staff will work collectively and collaboratively to support our colleagues, members and communities who have been affected by the bushfires and may be impacted in the future.

Now and over the coming months, we as an industry will have our work cut out for us as we attempt to manage the effects of the bushfires on catchments, drinking water quality, and water demand.

The fires, combined with the ongoing drought, are a challenge for all of us and never have we needed more collaboration across so many areas.

We welcome any feedback from our members about how we, as an industry representative body, can contribute to Australia's recovery efforts and provide assistance where required.

In the meantime, we urge everyone to lead and share the message of water conservation to help manage our precious water supplies during these challenging times.

Please look out for each other and stay safe.

Carmel Krogh OAM
President
Australian Water Association