

Regional Wildland Fire Networks: North America – South America – Mesoamerica / Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Sub-Sahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia - Eurasia



## Fire Management Networks in Australia and New Zealand

AFAC – the National Council for fire and emergency services in Australia and New Zealand

**AFAC is an independent, member-based organisation dedicated to achieving connected and capable emergency management in Australia and New Zealand.**

**The AFAC National Council comprises member organisations spanning fire, emergency service and land management organisations, who lead a paid and volunteer workforce of more than 288,000 people, supporting communities to be safer and more resilient.**

### AFAC National Resource Sharing Centre

AFAC NRSC Coordinates and facilitates international and interstate deployments through its established partnerships and national arrangements, authorised by the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC). AFAC NRSC supports CCOSC as an enabler of national capacity for fire and emergency services.

#### Interstate deployments

AFAC NRSC supports CCOSC by facilitating and coordinating interstate resource sharing across Australia and New Zealand. In response to significant events and resource requests, the AFAC NRSC provides deployment managers to act in a coordination role, maintain situational awareness, and assist jurisdictions with their resource requirements.

#### International deployments

AFAC NRSC is responsible for coordinating deployments of Australasian wildfire management resources to and from North America, and maintains our partnerships with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) and the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC) in the USA. AFAC NRSC provides critical roles including national liaisons, deployment management, field liaisons and duty officers to ensure the health and safety of teams deployed.



### Forest Fire Management Group study tour

The Forest Fire Management Group (FFMG) is a forum that facilitates the development of Australian and New Zealand collective expertise in forest fire management and control for its members. FFMG provides high level technical and policy advice on forest fire management and control matters through to the Australian/New Zealand Standing Council on Primary Industry.

FFMG and the North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group have had a close association for over 60 years, including fire management international deployments, exchanges and study tours. Through study tour exchanges between fire management specialists, a strong networking and system for cooperation has evolved between fire communities in Australasia (Australia and New Zealand) and North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States).

In 2020, the study tour transitioned to a virtual platform due to travel impacts attributed to the COVID pandemic. The virtual platform demonstrated the ability to engage participants in non-traditional methods and this type of experience should be considered for supplementing in-person study tours or used when in-person study tours cannot be accomplished.

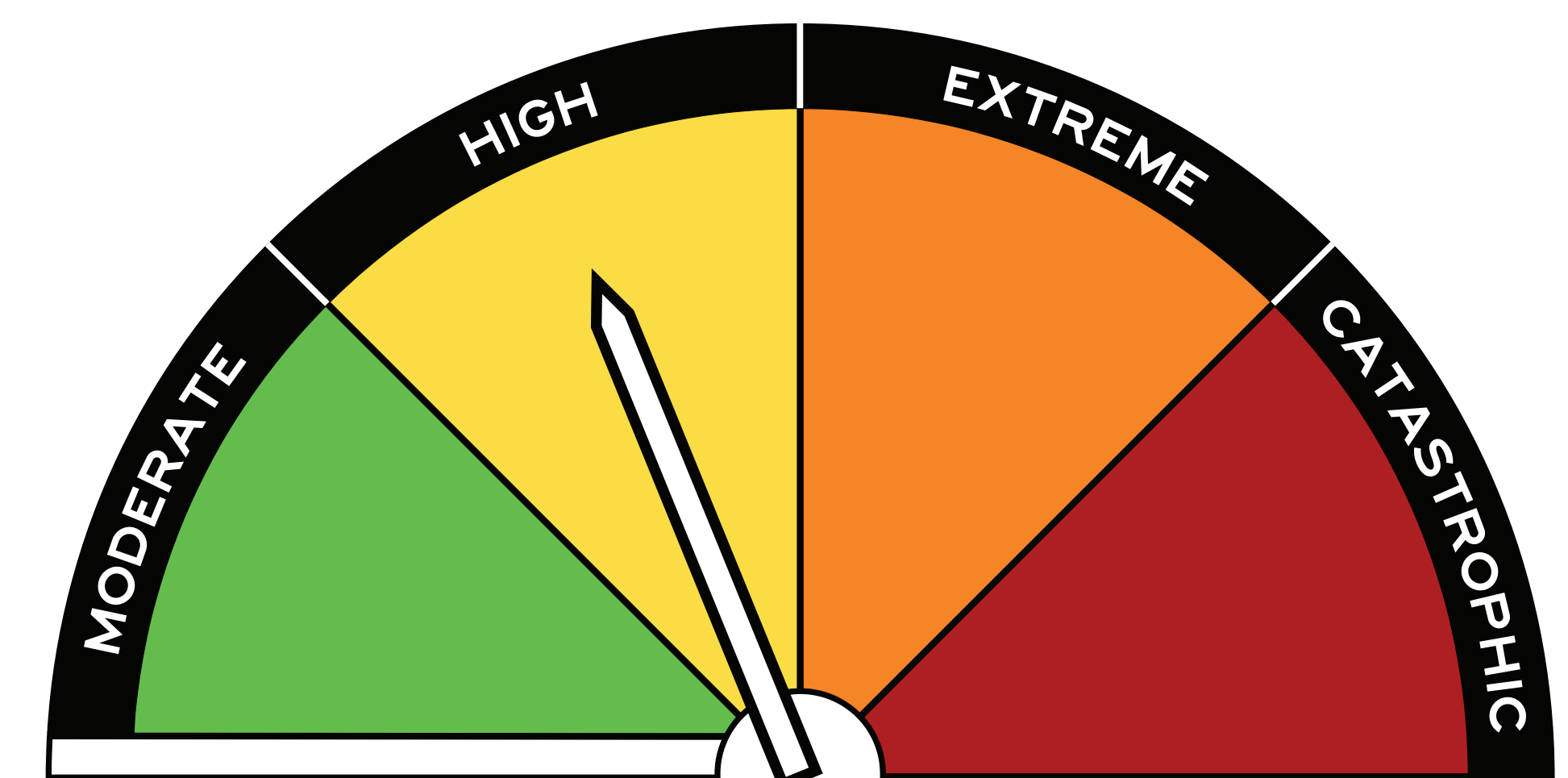
### Strategic Directions for fire and emergency services in Australia and New Zealand 2022-2026

1. Supporting resilience communities through risk reduction
2. Providing a trusted response
3. Using credible and timely information and data
4. Safe, capable and diverse workforce
5. Informed by knowledge, innovation and research
6. Effective and transparent governance

### Diversity and inclusion

AFAC and its members acknowledge and support the importance of all dimensions of diversity and inclusion.

Improving gender diversity is often a key step in enhancing broader diversity and inclusiveness in the workplace. Understanding that strong leadership and commitment to change is required, the AFAC National Council are members of the Champions of Change Coalition – Fire and Emergency Group. A particular priority for the group is building the representation of women in frontline service delivery positions which can serve as a critical pathway to leadership positions in the sector.



### Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

On 1 September 2022, the AFDRS replaced the McArthur system for formal fire danger ratings, improving and simplifying the system to make it easier for communities to make decisions to stay safe on days of fire danger risk.

The AFDRS calculates, forecasts and reports fire danger using up-to-date fuel state data, spatial and satellite data, weather data, science and technology. It incorporates a wider range of behaviour models to better represent the variety of Australian vegetation and fuel types.

The AFDRS is a nationally consistent system that uses four easy to recognise rating levels, each with a message to encourage action in the face of bushfire risk.

The fire danger rating levels are:

<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>EXTREME</b>	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b>
Plan and prepare	Be ready to act	Take action now to protect life and property	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

The white bar under Moderate indicates 'No Rating' for days where no proactive action is required by a community. This does not mean fire cannot happen, but that any fires that start are not likely to move or act in a way that threatens the safety of the community.

### Forestry Australia and FFMG key performance indicators

#### Turning the goals of the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement into objectives and key performance indicators

In 2014, the *National Bushfire Management Policy Statement for Forests and Rangelands* was signed off by all Australian jurisdictions. The policy statement sets a nationally agreed vision, set of principles and national goals for bushfire management in Australia. For these goals to be achieved, a set of specific objectives need to be formulated and agreed to. The measurable outcomes of these objectives need to be specified as KPIs so that progress can be assessed, reviewed and reported on.

Together with the Forest Fire Management Committee of Forestry Australia, FFMG published a 'first cut' at specific objectives and KPIs that will move towards achieving the goals of the policy statement. The objectives and their associated KPIs are based on the best available knowledge of fire and its role in the landscape. Overtime, they will likely be refined as more becomes known.