The **bushfire threat** has escalated. So must **our response.**

Black Summer, the most destructive bushfires ever experienced, showed Australians that climate change has pushed us into a new bushfire era. Now, we need a fundamental rethink of how we prepare for and manage the bushfire threat.

The experts agree: We must tackle climate change and worsening extreme weather by urgently phasing out fossil fuels.

The Australian Bushfire and Climate Plan, developed with input from more than 150 experts and affected community members at the National Bushfire and Climate Summit 2020, will help keep Australians as safe as possible from worsening bushfires, and support communities to build resilience and lead recovery efforts, through:

RESPONSE

> Better resource fire and land management agencies to manage fuels, and rapidly detect and attack new outbreaks

> Add a self-sufficient Australian medium and large aerial firefighting capability to fire services

> Better utilise Australian Defence Force support capabilities in emergencies

READINESS

> Create an Indigenous-led National Cultural Fire Strategy to complement and inform fuel management by agencies

> Fund local community resilience hubs to enable community-led disaster prevention, preparation, response and recovery

> Update Australian building standards and increase affordable insurance coverage in disaster prone areas

RECOVERY

> Set up a national climate disaster fund to meet climate-fuelled disaster costs and build resilience—paid through a fossil fuel producer levy

> Better coordinate and resource wildlife recovery efforts

> Develop and implement a national climate change, health and well-being strategy

This plan is evidence-based, led by Emergency Leaders for Climate Action in partnership with other experts and affected communities. We hope these recommendations will be reflected in the final report of the Bushfire Royal Commission.

All 165 recommendations and signatories at: climc.nl/bushfire-climate-plan

Supported by:

ACTCOSS | Doctors for the Environment Australia | Australian National University | Climate Risk Engines | farmers for climate action | Public Health Association AUSTRALIA | Veterinarians for Climate Action | CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE | Jesuit Social Services Building a Just Society

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