

# NATURAL HAZARDS RESEARCH FORUM

ADELAIDE, NATIONAL WINE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA, 18–20 JUNE 2025



## Transformation to Be Ahead of Ready – using research to act big and bold

Sessions include presentations, panel discussions and engagement opportunities

### Day 1: Wednesday 18 June 2025

Time	Hickinbotham Hall
12:00pm–1:00pm	Registration with lunch provided
1:00pm–3:00pm <b>FORUM OPENING</b> <b>(LIVE)</b>	<b>Forum opening and Briefing on critical issues and opportunities</b> <b>Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country:</b> Cliffy Wilson from Kuma Kaaru <b>MODERATOR:</b> Iain MacKenzie (Natural Hazards Research Australia) <b>Welcome and Natural Hazards Research Australia address:</b> Andrew Gissing (Natural Hazards Research Australia) <b>Annual state of the nation keynote briefing:</b> Brendan Moon AM (National Emergency Management Agency) <b>Informing through foresight:</b> Prof Ariella Helfgott (SA Futures Agency) <b>In-context–Thinking long futures:</b> Tiahni Adamson (2024 Young South Australian of the Year) <b>Q&amp;A Panel</b> This session will be live streamed.
3:00pm–3:30pm	Afternoon tea

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# PROGRAM

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Day 1: Wednesday 18 June 2025

Time	Hickinbotham Hall
3:30pm–5:00pm CENTRE SHOWCASE 	<p><b>Research impact</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Rob Webb (AFAC)</p> <p><b>ADRI 2 and the State of Disaster Resilience Report 2025:</b> A/Prof Melissa Parsons (University of New England) and Paul Gloyne (National Emergency Management Agency)</p> <p><b>Transformative Scenarios in a climate-challenged world, knowledge modules:</b> Liza Gelt (Collaborative Consulting Co.) and Katelyn Sampson (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience)</p> <p><b>Extreme Fire Behaviour Knowledge Modules:</b> Dr Mika Peace (Bureau of Meteorology) and David Field (NSW Rural Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Predictions in public:</b> Dr Chloe Begg (Country Fire Authority) and Peter Wall (Emergency Management Victoria)</p> <p><b>Human Factors:</b> Dr Greg Drummond (Fire and Rescue NSW) and Daniel Austin (NSW State Emergency Services)</p> <p><b>Principles and practices – Guidance for First Nations research:</b> Oliver Costello (Jagun Alliance and Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p><b>Student program outcomes:</b> Patrick Schell (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)</p> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>
5:00pm–5:30pm AWARDS 	<p><b>Natural Hazards Research Australia 2025 Awards</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Iain MacKenzie (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p><b>PRESENTER:</b> Andrew Gissing (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p>Our awards celebrate exceptional research and teamwork that has been used to improve decision making to save lives and protects communities. There are two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Natural Hazards Research Australia Research Team Award</li><li>→ Natural Hazards Research Australia Postgraduate Student Award</li></ul> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>
5:30pm–7:30pm	<b>Networking drinks and nibbles – Broughton and Ferguson Concourse</b>

Program current as of 12 June and subject to change

PRE-FORUM WORKSHOP 1	PRE-FORUM WORKSHOP 2
<p><b>Hickinbotham Hall (9:00am–12:00am)</b></p> <p><b>Support integration of Recovery Capitals in service plans for communities with different levels of social disruption</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Prof Lisa Gibbs (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>The Disaster Recovery Capitals resources are actively used by end-user agencies and academia. The current Integration stage focuses on developing indicators to assess community support needs at different disaster recovery levels and stages. Early progress will be shared to collect feedback and refine plans, ensuring the indicators effectively guide strategic decision-making for end-user partners.</p> <p>Morning tea will be provided.</p>	<p><b>Exhibition Hall (9:00am–12:00am)</b></p> <p><b>PhD Student Symposium</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Prof Cheryl Desha (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p>This workshop is for students who have received an NHRA student scholarship and those engaged in the NHRA's Associate Student Program.</p> <p>The workshop will feature presentations from NHRA Alumni and professional development activities including science communication and partnering for impact.</p> <p>Morning team will be provided.</p>

Notes

Participation at NHRF25:

Participate in person or online using Slido.  
Scan the QR code in this program to join. No app is required!

If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact Vaia Smirneos:  
0413 419 428, vaia.smirneos@naturalhazards.com.au

## Day 2: Thursday 19 June 2025

Time	Stream 1 – Hickinbotham Hall	Stream 2 – Exhibition Hall	Stream 3 – Gallery
7:30am–8:45am <b>WORKSHOP</b>		<b>Bushfire information database – scoping study</b> <b>CHAIR: A/Prof Nader Naderpajouh</b> (University of Sydney) This workshop will explore the challenges associated with procuring and using data across the emergency sector: If the key characteristics of a future Australian bushfire data plan are to be envisioned collectively and beyond the organisational boundaries, what data should be included; how should they be catalogued; and how do we enable integrated access, including databases operating and managed independently within the national context?	<b>Storing and sharing qualitative data</b> <b>CHAIR: Lyndsey Wright</b> (Altometer) This workshop will provide a timely update on expectations, opportunities and benefits regarding storing and sharing data including tips and resources to support managing sensitive data. Attendees will work through some hypothetical scenarios to help inform actions the Centre can take to support qualitative social researchers to store, share and access data.
9:00am–10:30am <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Enhancing and adapting situational awareness</b> <b>CHAIR: Sarah Harris</b> (Country Fire Authority) <b>Fire case studies:</b> Dr Mika Peace (Bureau of Meteorology) <b>Capturing uncertainty in bushfire spread prediction:</b> Dr Michael Storey (University of Wollongong) <b>Identifying and defining landscape dryness thresholds for fires:</b> Dr Jane Cawson (University of Melbourne) <b>Reviews and Inquiries Database:</b> Stephen Dredge (Meridian Urban)	<b>Guiding future governance, strategy and leadership</b> <b>CHAIR: Matt Watson</b> (WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services) <b>Foundations in Indigenous Disaster Resilience:</b> Dr Bhiemie Williamson (Monash University) and Lucy Connole (Monash University) <b>Evaluating the Resilient Homes Fund (Qld) / Evaluating the Resilient Homes Program (NSW):</b> Dr Katie Meissner (University of Queensland) <b>Why fly? How do we know that aerial firefighting operations are effective and efficient?:</b> Dr Matt Plucinski (CSIRO) and A/Prof Owen Price (University of Wollongong) <b>Operationalising Aboriginal land and sea management:</b> Kate Brown (NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) – video recording	<b>Planning for a resilient built environment</b> <b>CHAIR: Amanda Leck</b> (NSW Reconstruction Authority) <b>Effectiveness of land-use planning flood controls on buildings:</b> Stephen Dredge (Meridian Urban) <b>Insights into temporary and emergency accommodation:</b> Nikhila Madabhushi (Monash University) <b>Strengthening energy networks to withstand severe wind and storms:</b> A/Prof Matthew Mason (University of Queensland) <b>Safety of alternative and renewable energy technologies:</b> A/Prof David Lange (University of Queensland)
10:30am–11:00am	<b>Morning tea</b>		
11:00am–12:00pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Enhancing and adapting situational awareness</b> <b>CHAIR: Steve Muncaster</b> (Victoria State Emergency Service) <b>Flash flooding case studies to improve predictions and the communication of uncertainty:</b> Dr Carla Mooney (Bureau of Meteorology) <b>Long-range flood outlook for strategic preparedness:</b> Dr Christopher Pickett-Heaps (Bureau of Meteorology) <b>Developing an integrated predictive capability for extreme rainfall and inundation:</b> Dr Carlos Velasco-Forero (Bureau of Meteorology)	<b>Applying data science, technology and management</b> <b>CHAIR: Dr Jane Sexton</b> (Queensland Fire Department) <b>Managing earthquake risk: unreinforced masonry building database:</b> Dr Hossein Derakhshan (Queensland University of Technology) <b>Modelling impacts of natural hazards on interconnected infrastructure networks:</b> A/Prof Matt Mason (University of Queensland) <b>Creating resilient and sustainable critical infrastructure using evidence informed policy:</b> Cameron Atkinson (University of Tasmania)	<b>Supporting safe capable and thriving workforces</b> <b>CHAIR: Jeremy Smith</b> (Tasmania Fire Service) <b>Best practice for tracking and responding to potentially traumatic event exposure:</b> Alexandra Howard (Phoenix Australia) <b>Firefighter health hazards: key insights and future directions:</b> Dr Kiam Padamsey (Edith Cowan University) <b>Disasters, decisions and emotional intelligence:</b> Syed 'Adeel' Akhtar (University of Tasmania) and David Lewis (Fire and Rescue New South Wales)
12:00pm–1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>		

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## Day 2: Thursday 19 June 2025

Time	Stream 1 – Hickinbotham Hall	Stream 2 – Exhibition Hall	Stream 3 – Gallery
1:00pm–3:00pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Workforce – leadership connections</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Jamie Hansen (Fire Rescue Victoria) <b>The human capacity demands of an emergency manager in Australia:</b> Dr Russell Dippy (Charles Sturt University) <b>Emergency management volunteering – more than just words:</b> Prof Roger Jones (Victoria University) <b>Healing country through Wolgalu/Wiradjuri-led land management:</b> A/Prof Lisa Slater (University of Wollongong) <b>Colonial load and cultural conflict:</b> Dr Bhiamie Williamson (Monash University) and Zoe Schultz (Monash University) <b>Cultural land management research and governance in south-east Australia:</b> A/Prof Timothy Neale (Deakin University) <b>PANEL:</b> Sonia St Alban (SA Country Fire Service Volunteers Association), Stephanie Andrade (AFAC), David Windsor (WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services)	<b>Infrastructure – society connections</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Andrew Coghlan (Australian Red Cross) <b>Support integration of Recovery Capitals in service plans for communities with different levels of social disruption:</b> Prof Lisa Gibbs (University of Melbourne) <b>Natural hazards and resilience in complex urban systems:</b> Dr Annette Kroen (RMIT University) <b>Flood Research Program – Understanding intangible flood costs and impacts:</b> A/Prof Tariq Maqsood (RMIT University) <b>Community risk assessment project:</b> A/Prof Nader Naderpajouh (University of Sydney) <b>Heatwave resilience and impacts:</b> Dr Sue Heatley and Dr Olga Anikeeva (University of Adelaide) <b>PANEL:</b> Bridget Tehan (Australian Red Cross), John Richardson (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience), Sarah Tasic (NSW Reconstruction Authority)	<b>Mitigation – adaptation connections</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Daniel Willetts (SAFECOM) <b>Integrated solutions for bushfire-adaptive homes:</b> Dr Mittul Vahanvati (RMIT University) <b>Conserving and reconnecting floodplains to mitigate flood risk:</b> Dr Jason Alexandra (Australian National University) <b>Bushfire risk at the rural–urban interface – Bushfire behaviour:</b> Dr Anna Gjedrem (University of Tasmania) <b>Bushfire risk at the rural–urban interface – Mitigation strategies:</b> Dr Grant Williamson (University of Tasmania) <b>Nature positive disaster risk reduction:</b> Jongsok Oh (Suncorp) <b>PANEL:</b> Melissa O'Halloran (NSW Rural Fire Service), Dr Grace Muriuki (Queensland Healthy Land and Water), Peter Middleton (Tasmania Fire Service)
3:00pm–3:30pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		
3:30pm–5:00pm <b>KEYNOTES AND PANEL</b> <b>(LIVE)</b>	<b>Addressing infrastructure and society – learning local and global</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Andrew Gissing (Natural Hazards Research Australia) <b>Exploring ADRI-2 and the State of Disaster Resilience Report 2025:</b> A/Prof Melissa Parsons (University of New England) <b>Tools for stronger public policy – the opportunity presented by ADRI-2:</b> Dr Jill Charker (National Emergency Management Agency) <b>PANEL</b> <b>International perspectives on priorities for informing community resilience:</b> Dr Richard Smith (Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform, New Zealand), Prof Christine Kenney (NZ Massey University), A/Prof Susanna Jenkins (Nanyang Technological University Singapore) <b>Q&amp;A (Slido)</b> This session will be live streamed.		
5:00pm–7:30pm	<b>Networking function in the Exhibition Hall</b>		

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## Day 3: Friday 20 June 2025

Time	Stream 1 – Hickinbotham Hall	Stream 2 – Exhibition Hall	Stream 3 – Gallery
7:30am–8:45am <b>WORKSHOPS</b>	<p><b>New research projects showcase</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Mel Mills</b> (Emergency Management Victoria)</p> <p>This session will showcase newly approved NHRA projects. Topics range from managing smoke impacts on fire fighter eye health, managing the risk of heat stress for first responders to social media in community experiences of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.</p> <p><b>Managing smoke impacts on firefighter eye health:</b> Dr Sukanya Jaiswal (UNSW Sydney)</p> <p><b>Managing the risk of heat stress for first responders: understanding the role of diverse heat sources and environment:</b> Mike Carroll (Queensland Fire Department)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard resilient buildings:</b> Liza Miller (NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure)</p> <p><b>Fire mosaics in landscape fire planning:</b> Dr Brendon McAtee (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p><b>Social media in community experiences of Tropical Cyclone Alfred:</b> Dr Julian Marx (University of Melbourne)</p>		<p><b>Assisted Relocations Community of Practice Workshop</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Andrew Gissing</b> (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p>This workshop is an opportunity for participants to exchange learnings regarding assisted relocation programs nationally and internationally.</p> <p><b>Evaluating the Resilient Homes Fund:</b> Dr Katie Meissner (University of Queensland)</p>
9:00am–9:45am <b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>LIVE</b>	<p><b>Do governments trust communities?</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Kate Vinot</b> (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mark Duckworth</b> (Deakin University)</p> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>		
9:50am–10:30am <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Community engagement relating to floods – Part 1, research overview</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Oshanna Alexander</b> (SA State Emergency Service)</p> <p><b>PRESENTER: Dr Erica Kuligowski</b> (RMIT University)</p> <p>This two-part session examines lessons from the 2022 Australian floods in South Australia, Victoria, and south-western New South Wales, focusing on community engagement before a flood event.</p> <p>Part 1 introduces the project, key findings, and case studies from Victoria and South Australia, followed by a Q&amp;A. Attendees can ask questions, reflect on insights, and contribute via Slido. Part 2 continues after morning tea.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing and adapting situational awareness</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Jeff Swann</b> (South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Communicating flood risk:</b> A/Prof Jen Seevinck (Queensland University of Technology)</p> <p><b>What makes a good fire simulator?:</b> Caitlin Symon (University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>Bushfire risk at the rural–urban interface – Community centred/led risk reduction:</b> Dr Sharon Campbell (University of Tasmania)</p>	<p><b>Enabling equitable community resilience</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR: Leigh Holford</b> (Green Cross Australia)</p> <p><b>Reimagining Disaster Resilience Education in Schools: a critical analysis of what can be transformative:</b> Belinda Davis (Monash University)</p> <p><b>First Nations women, cultural fire knowledge, wellbeing and memory:</b> Nell Reidy (Monash University) and Zoe Schultz (Monash University)</p> <p><b>Evaluation and monitoring for impact: developing a framework for risk prevention programs:</b> Celeste Young (Victoria University)</p>
10:30am–11:00am	<b>Morning tea</b>		

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## Day 3: Friday 20 June 2025

Time	Stream 1 – Hickinbotham Hall	Stream 2 – Exhibition Hall	Stream 3 – Gallery
11:00am–12:00pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Community engagement relating to floods – Part 2, panel discussion</b></p> <p><b>PANEL:</b> Oshanna Alexander (SA State Emergency Service), <b>Dr Erica Kulgowski</b> (RMIT University), <b>A/Prof Fiona Miller</b>, (Macquarie University), <b>Nell Reidy</b> (Monash University)</p> <p>Part 2 of this session consists of a panel discussion to explore strategies for engaging diverse communities, including those affected by slow and fast-onset flooding, Indigenous communities, and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.</p> <p>Participants can ask questions of the panel, reflect on insights, and contribute via Slido.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing and adapting situational awareness</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Mal Cronstedt (Natural Hazards Research Australia Research and Implementation Committee member)</p> <p><b>Predictions in public: Understanding the design, communication and dissemination of predictive maps to the public:</b> Dr Chloe Begg (Country Fire Authority)</p> <p><b>Awareness, education and communication for compound natural hazards:</b> Dr Erin Hawley (Deakin University)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard public information and warning platforms for the future:</b> A/Prof Paula Dootson (Queensland University of Technology)</p>	<p><b>Enabling equitable community resilience</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Craig Savage (Energy Networks Australia)</p> <p><b>Exploring settler perspectives and engagements with cultural land management initiatives and its implications for working together on bushfire management:</b> Gabrielle Miller (University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>An online cognitive-behavioural intervention for treatment of insomnia and nightmares in bushfire survivors:</b> Dr Fadia Isaac (Federation University)</p> <p><b>PhD: Multi-agency collaboration in disaster recovery after bushfire:</b> Louise Mitchell (University of Sydney)</p>
12:00pm–1:00pm <b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	<p><b>Tropical Cyclone Alfred – Lessons for Australia</b></p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Prof Cheryl Desha (Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p><b>PANEL:</b> Dr David Henderson (James Cook University), Jai O'Toole (Australian Red Cross), Liz Drumm (Local Government Association of Queensland), Glen Dolan (energex, part of the Energy Queensland Group)</p> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>		
1:00pm	<p><b>Forum concludes – Boxed lunch provided</b></p>		

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## Notes

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Natural Hazards Research Forum is being held, the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the Kaurna peoples' continued contribution to the life and culture of the Adelaide Plains region, and recognise that these lands and waters have always been places of teaching, research and learning. In the spirit of reconciliation, we extend this acknowledgment and respect to all First Nations peoples, including any First Nations delegates.

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