

# NATURAL HAZARDS RESEARCH FORUM

ADELAIDE, NATIONAL WINE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA, 10–12 JUNE 2026

Leading to impact for safer, more resilient and sustainable communities.  
Safe. Resilient. Sustainable.

Day 1: Wednesday 10 June 2026

#NHRF26

Time (ACST)	Hickinbotham Hall
1:00pm – 1:30pm	<b>Registration open – lunch provided</b>
1:30pm – 2:00pm	<b>Smoking Ceremony</b>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>Official opening and Welcome to Country</b>
<b>FORUM OPENING</b>	<b>MODERATOR: Adj Prof Tim Moltmann</b> (Director, Natural Hazards Research Australia Board)
<b>(LIVE)</b>	<b>Welcome to Country:</b> Cliffy Wilson (Kuma Kaaru)
This session will be live streamed.	<b>Ministerial opening address: The Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP</b> , Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, Government of South Australia
	<b>Natural Hazards Research Australia opening address and launch of five-year impact report:</b> Andrew Gissing (CEO, Natural Hazards Research Australia)
	<b>First Nations opening keynote:</b> A/Prof Veronica Matthews (Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney)
	<b>Annual State of the Nation Briefing:</b> Interim Coordinator-General Pat Hetherington (National Emergency Management Agency)
	<b>International keynote: IRDR's actions in support of the implementation of Sendai Framework</b> Prof Saini Yang, Executive Director, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, Beijing, China
3:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Collaborative research impact showcase</b>
<b>CENTRE SHOWCASE</b>	<b>MODERATOR: Rob Webb</b> (AFAC)
<b>(LIVE)</b>	<b>Healing Country through Wiradjuri and Wolgalu-led land management:</b> A/Prof Lisa Slater (The University of Wollongong), Megan Considine (Brungle–Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council and University of Wollongong), Bugang Bila Ranger Krista Bell (Brungle–Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council)
This session will be live streamed.	<b>Bushfire risk at the rural-urban interface:</b> Prof David Bowman (University of Tasmania), Peter Middleton (Tasmania Fire Service)
	<b>Why fly? How do we know that aerial firefighting operations are effective and efficient?:</b> Dr Matt Plucinski (CSIRO), Deb Sparkes (NAFC)
	<b>Best practice for tracking potentially traumatic event exposure:</b> Alexandra Howard (Phoenix Australia)
	<b>Emergency management volunteering – more than just words:</b> Celeste Young (Victoria University), Danielle Meggos (NSW Premier's Department)
	<b>Long-range flood outlook for seasonal preparedness:</b> Dr Christopher Pickett-Heaps (Bureau of Meteorology), Steve Forbes (ACT SES)
5:00pm – 5:30pm	<b>Ministerial address</b>
<b>AWARDS</b>	The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
<b>(LIVE)</b>	<b>Natural Hazards Research Australia 2026 Awards</b>
	Celebrating exceptional research and teamwork that enables research to be used to support better decision making to save lives and protect communities. Three award categories will be presented: Research Team Award, Postgraduate Student Award, Leading to Impact Award.
6:00pm – 8:00pm	<b>Connecting our community: Welcome event – Concourse</b>

Program subject to change. All session times are based on Australian Central Standard Time (ACST).

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## Day 2: Thursday 11 June 2026

Time (ACST)	Hickinbotham Hall	Exhibition Hall	Gallery
9:00am – 10:30am <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Enabling capable and resilient communities</b> <b>MODERATOR: Andrew Coghlan</b> (Australian Red Cross)</p> <p><b>Australian temporary and emergency accommodation: Learnings to inform future policy, strategy and recovery operations:</b> Athiqah Umami Salma (Monash University)</p> <p><b>Support integration of Recovery Capitals in service plans for communities with different levels of social disruption:</b> Alexandra Howard (Phoenix Australia)</p> <p><b>Operationalising Aboriginal land and sea management:</b> Kate Brown (DCCEEWSW) – Video recording</p> <p><b>Understanding and addressing disaster risk for maternal populations: critical findings from Queensland (PhD):</b> Elena Skoko (QUT)</p> <p><b>Advancing accessible emergency communication: Co-designing digital solutions for deaf and hard of hearing communities in Queensland (PhD):</b> Pallav Pant (Griffith University)</p>	<p><b>Agency situational awareness</b> <b>MODERATOR: Fiona Dunstan</b> (DEECA)</p> <p><b>Case studies of flash flooding using the value chain approach:</b> Dr Carla Mooney (Bureau of Meteorology)</p> <p><b>Developing an integrated predictive capability for extreme rainfall and inundation:</b> Dr Paul Fox-Hughes (Bureau of Meteorology)</p> <p><b>Managing earthquake risk: Unreinforced masonry building database:</b> Dr Hossein Derakhshan (Queensland University of Technology)</p> <p><b>Remote sensing of grass condition:</b> A/Prof Karin Reinke (RMIT)</p> <p><b>Physics-based modelling of field-scale junction fire (PhD):</b> Ahmed Hassan (Victoria University)</p>	<p><b>Enhancing and adapting community situational awareness</b> <b>MODERATOR: Jeremy Smith</b> (Tasmania Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Community perceptions, understanding and use of Nearby Safer Places (bushfire places of last resort) in Tasmania:</b> Dr Anna Gjedrem (University of Tasmania)</p> <p><b>Communicating flood risk:</b> Prof Amisha Mehta (QUT)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard public information and warning platforms for the future:</b> A/Prof Paula Dootson (QUT)</p> <p><b>Heatwave impacts and resilience: Efficacy, reach and impact of the national heatwave service:</b> Dr Yohannes Damtwew (Adelaide University)</p> <p><b>Strengthening the experiences of people who are deaf or hard of hearing during extreme weather events and other disasters (PhD):</b> Brigit Maguire (The University of Sydney)</p>
10:30am – 11:00am	<b>Morning tea</b>		
11:00am – 12:30pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Strategic governance and leadership</b> <b>MODERATOR: Sam Redlich</b> (IGEM Vic)</p> <p><b>Utilisation of transformative scenarios in a climate-challenged world:</b> Liza Gelt (Collaborative Consulting Co)</p> <p><b>Colonial load and cultural conflict: Understanding experiences of First Nations staff and volunteers within Australian emergency, land management and resilience sectors:</b> A/Prof Bhiemie Williamson (NIDR), Zoe Schultz (NIDR)</p> <p><b>Landholder legal responsibility for bushfire mitigation in Queensland:</b> Fia Hamid-Walker (University of Melbourne, Intern QFD), Anna Hurley (QFD)</p> <p><b>The role of disasters in reshaping communities and repairing human-natural world relationships (PhD):</b> Catherine Falco (The University of Sydney)</p>	<p><b>Resilient built environment</b> <b>MODERATOR: Dylan Faber</b> (SA MFS)</p> <p><b>Strengthening energy networks to withstand severe storms:</b> A/Prof Matthew Mason (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Heatwave resilience: To explore the full impacts and costs of extreme heat events:</b> Dr Michael Tong (Australian National University)</p> <p><b>Understanding the full cost and impact of floods:</b> A/Prof Tariq Maqsood (RMIT)</p> <p><b>Evaluating the Resilient Homes Program (NSW component):</b> Prof Paula Jarzabkowski (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Comparison of LA &amp; WA wildfire resilience, preparedness and response:</b> Anna Durkin (RMIT, Centre PhD scholarship and Intern WA DFES)</p>	<p><b>Agency situational awareness</b> <b>MODERATOR: Alen Slijepcevic</b> (Country Fire Authority)</p> <p><b>Capturing uncertainty in bushfire spread prediction:</b> Dr Michael Storey (University of Wollongong)</p> <p><b>Identifying and defining landscape dryness thresholds for fires:</b> Jamie Burton (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>Operational live fuel moisture intelligence for supporting bushfire management:</b> Laura Alonso Martínez (Australian National University)</p> <p><b>A novel satellite-based fire detection algorithm using data fusion (PhD):</b> Nur Fajar Trihantoro (RMIT)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard evacuation modelling:</b> Dr Dharendra Singh (CSIRO), Liza Gelt (Collaborative Consulting Co)</p>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>		

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

## Day 2 (continued): Thursday 11 June 2026

Time (ACST)	Hickinbotham Hall	Exhibition Hall	Gallery
1:30pm – 3:30pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Sustainable (social equity, environment, sustainability and sustainability of systems)</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Dr Adam Leavesley (ACT Parks)</p> <p><b>Reconnecting floodplains:</b> A/Prof Roslyn Prinsley (ANU)</p> <p><b>Foundations in Indigenous Disaster Resilience:</b> A/Prof Bhiamie Williamson (NIDR), Blythe McLennan (AIDR)</p> <p><b>Multicultural inclusion:</b> Eliza Crosbie (The University of Melbourne), Bridget Tehan (Australian Red Cross)</p> <p><b>First Nations women, cultural fire knowledge, wellbeing and memory:</b> Zoe Schultz (NIDR), Ranger Alex Lacey (QPWS)</p> <p><b>Fire mosaics:</b> A/Prof Luke Kelly (The University of Melbourne)</p>	<p><b>More resilient (systemic resilience, preparation and recovery)</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Chris Beattie (SA State Emergency Services)</p> <p><b>Evaluating the Resilient Homes Fund:</b> Prof Paula Jarzabkowski (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Heatwave resilience and impacts:</b> Prof Peng Bi (University of Adelaide)</p> <p><b>Flood research program: Effectiveness of land use planning controls:</b> Sam Evans (Meridan Urban)</p> <p><b>Integrated solutions for bushfire-adaptive homes:</b> Dr Raphaelae Bianchi (CSIRO)</p>	<p><b>Safer (response and operational situational awareness, in event communications, infrastructure)</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Brett Loughlin (South Australia Country Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard resilient buildings:</b> Dr David Henderson (Cyclone Testing Station, JCU)</p> <p><b>Modelling impacts of natural hazards on interconnected infrastructure networks:</b> A/Prof Matthew Mason (The University of Queensland)</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 Victoria)</p> <p><b>Safety of alternative and renewable energy technologies (SARET):</b> Dr Hons Wyn, Milad Fakourdabbaghi (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Unlocking risk: Enhancing hazard risk assessment through historical archival reanalysis:</b> Dr Kathryn Allen (University of Tasmania), Johanna Garnett (SAFECOM)</p>
<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>PANEL:</b> Bridget Tehan (Australian Red Cross), Kylee Clubb (RFS Qld), Alex Lacey (QPWS), A/Prof Bhiamie Williamson (NIDR), Blythe McLennan (AIDR), A/Prof Roslyn Prinsley (ANU)</p>	<p><b>PANEL:</b> Melissa O'Halloran (NSW RFS), Dr Margaret Moreton (GADAus), Dr Raphaelae Bianchi (CSIRO), Nichola Krey (Australian Red Cross)</p>	<p><b>PANEL:</b> Johanna Garnett, (SAFECOM), Dr Chloe Begg (CFA), Dr David Henderson (Cyclone Testing Station, JCU), Daniel Austin (NSW SES)</p>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		
4:00pm – 5:30pm <b>KEYNOTES AND PANEL</b>	<p><b>Envisioning the future, informed by the past: Research that has stood the test of time</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Hannah Wandel OAM (Chief Executive, SAFECOM)</p> <p>Featuring some of Australia's foundational voices in natural hazards research, this panel offers a rare opportunity to learn from those who helped shape the field. Drawing on decades of experience, panellists will reflect on the insights, breakthroughs, and policy applications that have endured. This forward-looking conversation will explore how the field has evolved, what we can carry forward with confidence, and how natural hazards research and practice must continue to adapt to help keep communities safer, more prepared and sustainable against an uncertain future.</p> <p><b>PANEL:</b></p> <p><b>Dr Greg Ayers</b>, former Director and CEO of the Bureau of Meteorology</p> <p><b>Emeritus Prof Russell Blong</b>, Founder Natural Hazards Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><b>Naomi Brown</b>, Former CEO, AFAC</p> <p><b>Emeritus Prof John Handmer</b>, Emeritus Professor, RMIT and Fellow, Australian Social Science Academy</p> <p><b>Dr Debra Parkinson</b>, Honorary Fellow, Monash University, Adjunct Research Fellow, Monash University Accident Research Centre</p> <p><b>David Windsor</b>, Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator, Bushfire Centre of Excellence, DFES WA</p>		
5:30pm – 8:00pm	<b>Forum networking function – Exhibition Hall</b>		

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## Day 3: Friday 12 June 2026

Time (ACST)	Hickinbotham Hall	Exhibition Hall	Gallery
9:00am – 10:30am <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Supporting safe, capable and thriving workforces</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Daniel Austin (NSW SES)</p> <p><b>Managing first responders' heat stress risk:</b> Prof Julien Périard (University of Canberra)</p> <p><b>Managing smoke impacts on firefighter eye surface health:</b> Dr Suki Jaiswal (University of New South Wales)</p> <p><b>Enhancing decision-making in emergency management:</b> Dr Peter Hayes (CQU Appleton Institute)</p> <p><b>Evaluating and monitoring for impact: developing a framework for risk reduction programs:</b> Celeste Young (Victoria University), Prof Roger Jones (Victoria University)</p> <p><b>Measuring and Improving Individual Preparedness in response to flood and bushfire emergencies (PhD):</b> Sara Fazeli (University of New South Wales)</p>	<p><b>Applying data science, technology and management</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Simon Heemstra (NSW RFS)</p> <p><b>Fire case studies:</b> Dr Mika Peace (Bureau of Meteorology)</p> <p><b>Heatwave impacts and resilience: Determining real-time mortality from extreme heat:</b> Dr Matthew Borg (Adelaide University)</p> <p><b>Bushfire information database:</b> A/Prof Nader Naderpajouh (University of Sydney)</p> <p><b>NT practices in bushfire control internship:</b> Inosha Jayakodige (QUT and Bushfires NT), Adrian McKenzie (Bushfires NT) recording</p> <p><b>Response, resilience and recovery of Tasmania's endangered Pencil Pine using a multi-archive palaeoenvironment record:</b> Sarah Cooley (The University of Melbourne)</p>	<p><b>New and emerging research showcase</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Dr Margaret Moreton (Gender and Disaster Australia)</p> <p><b>Assisted relocation after flood:</b> A/Prof Paula Jarzabkowski (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Community experiences of floodplain management in the context of post-disaster reconstruction in regional Australia (PhD):</b> Natale Froia (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>Australian Fire Danger Rating System: End user perspective:</b> Meaghan Jenkins (NSW RFS)</p> <p><b>Conflagration fires:</b> Tony O'Day AFSM (Fire Rescue Victoria)</p> <p><b>Behaviour of mortar-free interlocking concrete block walls under vertical and shear forces (PhD):</b> Sathurshan Mathavanayakam (QUT)</p> <p><b>Tropical Cyclone Narelle: Insights on Resilience:</b> Dr David Henderson (Cyclone Testing Station, JCU)</p>
10:30am – 11:00am	<b>Morning tea</b>		
11:00am – 12:30pm <b>KEYNOTE AND PANEL</b> <b>(LIVE)</b>	<p><b>LA Fires retrospective through a research lens</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Dominique Hogan-Doran SC (Board Chair, Natural Hazards Research Australia)</p> <p>The final keynote presentation and panel session of NHRF26 will examine the research lessons of the 2025 Californian fires and their implications for Australia. Dr Faraz Hedayati (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, North Carolina) will share insights from the fireground, as well as key findings from research that has taken place since January 2025.</p> <p><b>Keynote presentation</b> <b>Dr Faraz Hedayati</b> (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, North Carolina)</p> <p><b>PANEL:</b> <b>Dr Faraz Hedayati</b> (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, North Carolina), <b>Brett Loughlin</b> (South Australia Country Fire Service), <b>Kylie Macfarlane</b> (Insurance Council of Australia), <b>Melissa Pexton</b> (Western Australian Fire and Emergency Services)</p>		
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<b>Forum farewells and close. Thank you for your contributions.</b>		

A photographer will be present throughout the Forum. If you do not wish to have your image captured or shared, please notify the registration desk.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Natural Hazards Research Forum is being held, the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the Kurna 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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