

# 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

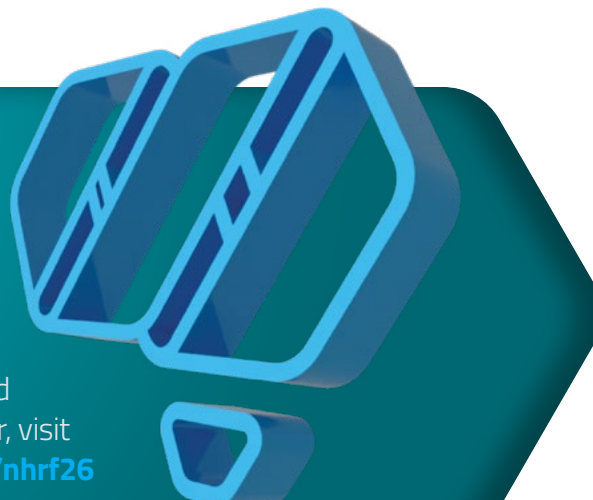
#NHRF26

Time	Hickinbotham Hall
1:00pm – 1:30pm	<b>Registration open – lunch provided</b>
1:30pm – 2:00pm	<b>Smoking Ceremony</b>
2:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Official opening and Welcome to Country: Natural Hazards Research Forum 2026</b> <b>FORUM OPENING</b> <b>(LIVE)</b> <b>The Hon Kristy McBain MP</b> , Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories <b>Moderator:</b> Iain MacKenzie, Board Chair (Natural Hazards Research Australia) <b>Natural Hazards Research Australia opening address:</b> Andrew Gissing, CEO (Natural Hazards Research Australia) <b>Annual State of the Nation Briefing:</b> Interim Coordinator-General Pat Hetherington (National Emergency Management Agency) <b>First Nations opening keynote:</b> A/Prof Veronica Matthews (Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney) <b>Q&amp;A Panel</b> This session will be live streamed.
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
4:00pm – 5:30pm	<b>Collaborative research impact showcase</b> <b>CENTRE SHOWCASE</b> <b>(LIVE)</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Rob Webb (AFAC) <b>Healing Country through Wiradjuri and Wolgalu-led land management:</b> A/Prof Lisa Slater (The University of Wollongong) <b>Bushfire risk at the rural-urban interface:</b> A/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 PMC) <b>Long-range flood outlook for seasonal preparedness:</b> Dr Christopher Pickett-Heaps (Bureau of Meteorology), Melanie Gill (VICSES) This session will be live streamed.
5:30pm – 6:00pm	<b>Natural Hazards Research Australia 2026 Awards</b> <b>AWARDS</b> Celebrating exceptional research and teamwork that enables research to be used to support better decision making to save lives and protect communities. Nominate for Research Team Award, Postgraduate Student Award, Leading to Impact Award.
6:00pm – 8:00pm	<b>Connecting our community: Welcome event – Exhibition Hall</b>

Program subject to change

Day 2 and 3 on the next page

For more information and details on how to register, visit [naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26](https://naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26)



## Day 2: Thursday 11 June 2026

Time	Hickinbotham Hall	Exhibition Hall	Gallery
9:00am – 10:30am <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>Enabling capable and resilient communities</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Andrew Coghlan (Australian Red Cross)</p> <p><b>Australian temporary and emergency accommodation: Learnings to inform future policy, strategy and recovery operations:</b> Nikhila Madabhushi (Monash University)</p> <p><b>Support integration of Recovery Capitals in service plans for communities with different levels of social disruption:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Heatwave impacts and resilience: Better understanding the impact of extreme heat and poor air quality on health service outcomes across Australia:</b> Dr Matthew Borg (Adelaide University)</p> <p><b>Operationalising Aboriginal land and sea management:</b> Kate Brown (DCCEEW NSW) - Video recording</p> <p><b>Understanding and Addressing Disaster Risk for Maternal Populations: Critical Findings from Queensland (PhD):</b> Elena Skoko (Queensland University of Technology)</p>	<p><b>Agency situational awareness</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> To be confirmed</p> <p><b>Flash flooding case studies and communicating uncertainty:</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>Enhancing and adapting community situational awareness</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Jeremy Smith (Tasmania Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Community perceptions, understanding and use of Nearby Safer Places (bushfire places of last resort) in Tasmania:</b> Anna Gjedrem (University of Tasmania)</p> <p><b>Communicating flood risk: Prof Amisha Mehta</b> (QUT)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard public information and warning platforms for the future: A/Prof Paula Dootson</b> (QUT)</p> <p><b>Heatwave impacts and resilience: Efficacy, reach and impact of the national heatwave service:</b> Dr Yohannes Damtew (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): Brigit Maguire</b> (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></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Brett O'Loughlin (South Australia Country Fire Service)</p> <p><b>Evaluation of emergency management:</b> TBC</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> Bhiamie Williamson (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>Resilient built environment</b></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> To be confirmed</p> <p><b>Strengthening energy networks to withstand severe storms:</b> A/Prof Matt 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></p> <p><b>MODERATOR:</b> Alen Slijepcevic (Country Fire Authority)</p> <p><b>Capturing uncertainty in bushfire spread prediction:</b> Dr Michael Storey (University of Wollongong)</p> <p><b>Multi-hazard evacuation modelling:</b> Dr Dharendra Singh (CSIRO)</p> <p><b>Identifying and defining landscape dryness thresholds for fires:</b> Jamie Burton (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>A novel satellite-based fire detection algorithm using data fusion (PhD):</b> Nur Fajar Trihantoro (RMIT)</p>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>		

Program subject to change

## Pre-Forum workshops: 9 and 10 June 2026

The Centre is hosting nine workshops before the Forum officially kicks off, covering a diverse range of natural hazards research. To find out more and register, visit [naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26](https://naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26)

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

Time	Hickinbotham Hall	Exhibition Hall	Gallery
1:30pm – 3:30pm <b>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS &amp; PANEL</b>	<p><b>Sustainable (social equity, environment, sustainability and sustainability of systems)</b></p> <p><b>Reconnecting floodplains:</b> A/Prof Roslyn Prinsley (ANU)</p> <p><b>Foundations in Indigenous Disaster Resilience:</b> Bhiemie Williamson (NIDR)</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> Nell Reidy (NIDR), Zoe Schultz (NIDR)</p> <p><b>Fire mosaics:</b> A/Prof Luke Kelly (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p><b>PANEL</b></p>	<p><b>More resilient (systemic resilience, preparation and recovery)</b></p> <p><b>Evaluating the Resilient Homes Fund:</b> Prof Paula Jarzabkowski (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Heatwave resilience:</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>Natural hazards and resilience in complex urban systems:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Integrated solutions for bushfire-adaptive homes:</b> Dr Raphaele Bianchi (CSIRO)</p> <p><b>PANEL</b></p>	<p><b>Safer (response and operational situational awareness, in event communications, infrastructure)</b></p> <p><b>Multi-hazard resilient buildings:</b> Dr David Henderson (James Cook University)</p> <p><b>Modelling impacts of natural hazards on interconnected infrastructure networks:</b> A/Prof Matt Mason (The University of Queensland)</p> <p><b>Predictions in Public – Understanding the design, communication and dissemination of predictive maps to the public:</b> Chloe Begg (Country Fire Authority Victoria)</p> <p><b>Safety of alternative and renewable energy technologies (SARET):</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Unlocking risk: Enhancing hazard risk assessment through historical archival reanalysis:</b> Dr Kathryn Allen (University of Tasmania)</p> <p><b>PANEL</b></p>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		
4:00pm – 5:30pm <b>KEYNOTES AND PANEL</b> <b>LIVE</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.</p> <p>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 Ayres</b> <b>Naomi Brown</b> <b>Emeritus Prof Russell Blong</b> <b>Emeritus Prof John Handmer</b> <b>Dr David Windsor</b></p> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>		
5:30pm – 8:00pm	<b>Forum networking function – Exhibition Hall</b>		

Program subject to change

Register for the Forum at  
[naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26](https://naturalhazards.com.au/nhrf26)

## Day 3: Friday 12 June 2026

Time	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 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)</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 (Queensland University of Technology and Bushfires NT)</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 project showcase</b> <b>MODERATOR:</b> Margaret Moreton (GADAus)</p> <p><b>Community messaging – Timing and frequency:</b> Dr Kirra Waine (NSW SES)</p> <p><b>Improving the accuracy of the fire behaviour metric 'fireline intensity' for Australian fuels:</b> Meaghan Jenkins (NSW RFS)</p> <p><b>Conflagration fires:</b> Tony O'Day AFISM (Fire Rescue Victoria)</p>
10:30am – 11:00am	<b>Morning tea</b>		
11:00am – 12:30pm <b>KEYNOTES AND PANEL</b> <b>LIVE</b>	<p><b>LA Fires retrospective through a research lens</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Dominique Hogan-Doran SC (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> Dr Faraz Hedayati (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, North Carolina)</p> <p><b>PANEL</b></p> <p>Dr Faraz Hedayati (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, North Carolina) Brett Loughlin (South Australia Country Fire Service) Kylie Macfarlane (Insurance Council of Australia) Melissa Pexton (Western Australian Fire and Emergency Services)</p> <p>This session will be live streamed.</p>		
12:30pm – 1:30pm	<b>Forum farewells and close. Thank you for your contributions.</b>		

Program updated 5 May 2026.

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.

# Join the conversation #NHRF26