# APPENDIX B – FIRE IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA: A SUMMARY

This appendix summarises the major fire events in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory from December 1938 to December 2007.

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<td><strong>NEW SOUTH WALES</strong></td>
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| December 1938 – January 1939 | Dubbo, Lugarno, Snowy Mountains, Canberra | Deaths: 13  
People rendered homeless: 1,000  
Livestock: 10,000  
Area burnt: 73,000 hectares

| November 1951 – January 1952 | Wagga Wagga and district, Pilliga | Deaths: 11  
Area burnt: more than 4 million hectares

| December 1957 – 1958 | Blue Mountains, Leura | Deaths: 4  
Buildings: 170  
Area burnt: more than 2 million hectares

| September 1968 – January 1969 | South Coast | Deaths: 14  
People rendered homeless: 600  
Buildings: more than 250  
Area burnt: more than 2 million hectares

| December 1974 – January 1975 | Bourke to Balranald, Cobar Shire, Moolah–Corinya—most of the Western Division | Deaths: 3  
Buildings: 50  
Livestock: 50,000  
Fencing: 10,170 kilometres  
Area burnt: 4.5 million hectares

| December 1979 – February 1980 | Mudgee, Warringah and Sutherland Shires, Goulburn, South Coast | Deaths: 5  
People rendered homeless: 50  
Buildings: 14  
Area burnt: more than 1 million hectares

| 1984 – 1985 | Western Division | Deaths: 4  
Livestock: 40,000  
Area burnt: 3.5 million hectares

| July 2002 – February 2003 | 81 local government areas in Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North-west Slopes, North-west Plains, Central Tablelands, Southern Tablelands, Illawarra, South Coast | Deaths: 2  
Buildings: 86 houses  
Livestock: 3,400  
Area burnt: 1.464 million hectares

| **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1957 – January 1958 | Mt Gambier | Deaths: 8  
Area burnt: 1,370 hectares (pine plantation)

| 1974 – 1975 | North-west of state | Deaths: Nil  
Area burnt: 16 million hectares

| February 1983 (including Ash Wednesday II) | Mt Osmond, Mt Gambier, South Barwon | Deaths: 28  
Buildings: 333  
Livestock: 250,000  
Fencing: more than 10,000 kilometres  
Area burnt: more than 260,000 hectares

| January 2005 | Eyre Peninsula, Adelaide Hills | Deaths: 9  
Buildings: 337  
Livestock: 47,000  
Fencing: 6,304 kilometres  
Area burnt: more than 145,000 hectares

| December 2007 | Kangaroo Island | Deaths: 1  
Area burnt: 95,000 hectares |
### TASMANIA

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| December 1966 –       | South-east, Hobart              | **Deaths:** 62  
**People rendered homeless:** 7,000  
**Buildings:** approx. 4,000  
**Livestock:** 60,000 sheep; 1,350 cattle; 600 pigs; 500 horses; 24,000 chickens  
**Fencing:** 5,400 kilometres  
**Area burnt:** 270,000 hectares |
| February 1982         | Launceston, Hobart, Broadmarsh  | **Deaths:** 1  
**Buildings:** 46  
**Livestock:** 3,000  
**Area burnt:** more than 40,000 hectares |
| November 2002 –       | Including Flinders Island,      | **Deaths:** Nil  
**Buildings:** 13  
**Livestock:** several hundred  
**Area burnt:** 52,000 hectares |
| March 2003            | northern fringe of Hobart       |                                                                                                                                                |

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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| January 1961 –        | Dwellingup and south-west of    | **Deaths:** Nil  
**Buildings:** 160  
**Area burnt:** 1.8 million hectares |
| March 1961            | state                           |                                                                                                                                                |
| 1 April 1978          | South-west of state             | **Deaths:** 2  
**Buildings:** 6  
**Livestock:** 2,500  
**Area burnt:** 31,500 hectares |
| 15 December 1997      | Perth and south-west of state   | **Deaths:** 2  
**Buildings:** 15  
**Livestock:** over 10,000  
**Area burnt:** 22,450 hectares |
| December 2007 –       | Boorabbin National Park         | **Deaths:** 3  
**Area burnt:** 29,000 hectares |
| January 2008          |                                 |                                                                                                                                                |

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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| November 1938 –       | Uriarra, Mt Franklin,           | **Deaths:** 1  
**Livestock:** 2,000  
**Fencing:** 545 kilometres  
**Area burnt:** 30% of territory |
| January 1939          | Tidbinbilla, Cuppacumbalang,    |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Booroomba, Lanyon               |                                                                                                                                                |
| December 1951 –       | Molongolo valley, Mt Stromlo,   | **Deaths:** 3  
**Buildings:** 42  
**Livestock:** 10,000  
**Fencing:** several hundred kilometres  
**Area burnt:** 10,000 hectares |
| February 1952         | Red Hill, Woden Valley,         |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Tuggeranong, Mugga Hill         |                                                                                                                                                |
| March 1985            | Mugga Lane, Red Hill, Mount     | **Deaths:** 1  
**Livestock:** 7,000  
**Area burnt:** 10,000 hectares |
|                      | Majura, Tharwa, Symonstown,     |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Googong–Queanbeyan area         |                                                                                                                                                |
| January 2003          | Namadgi National Park, Uriarra, | **Deaths:** 4  
**Buildings:** 581  
**Livestock:** 4,185  
**Area burnt:** approx. 160,000 hectares |
|                      | Piersces Creek and Stromlo      |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | settlements, Cotter, Corin,     |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Tidbinbilla, Mt Stromlo, Duffy, |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Holder, Chapman, Kambah, Curtin,|                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Lyons, Murrumbidgee valley,     |                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | Coppins Crossing               |                                                                                                                                                |
1. Unless otherwise indicated all statistics in this appendix are drawn from Exhibit 726 – Emergency Management Australia Disasters Database. See all at RSCH.041.001.0001.

2. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

3. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

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5. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

6. The National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management recorded five deaths as a result of these fires: Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

7. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

8. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336.

9. The National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management recorded six deaths as a result of these fires: Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

10. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

11. The National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management recorded 13 deaths as a result of these fires: Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

12. The National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management recorded five deaths as a result of these fires: Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

13. The National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management recorded three deaths as a result of these fires: Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

14. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

15. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

16. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

17. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

18. Exhibit 726 – South Australian Country Fire Service – Bushfire History (RSCH.030.001.0388) at 0390.

19. Exhibit 726 – South Australian Country Fire Service – Bushfire History (RSCH.030.001.0388) at 0390.

20. Exhibit 726 – NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service – Bushfires – Briefing Paper No 5/02 (RSCH.016.001.1136) at 1145.


24. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

25. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

26. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2337.

27. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2338.

28. Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2338.