

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

Date	Location	Impact Summary
NEW SOUTH WALES		
December 1938 – January 1939	Dubbo, Lugarno, Snowy Mountains, Canberra	<b>Deaths:</b> 13 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 1,000 <b>Buildings:</b> many houses <sup>2</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 10,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 73,000 hectares <sup>3</sup>
November 1951 – January 1952	Wagga Wagga and district, Pilliga	<b>Deaths:</b> 11 <sup>4</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 4 million hectares <sup>5</sup>
December 1957 – 1958	Blue Mountains, Leura	<b>Deaths:</b> 4 <sup>6</sup> <b>Buildings:</b> 170 <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 2 million hectares <sup>7</sup>
September 1968 – January 1969	South Coast	<b>Deaths:</b> 14 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 600 <b>Buildings:</b> more than 200 <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 2 million hectares <sup>8</sup>
December 1974 – January 1975	Bourke to Balranald, Cobar Shire, Moolah–Corinya—most of the Western Division	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <sup>9</sup> <b>Buildings:</b> 50 <b>Livestock:</b> 50,000 <b>Fencing:</b> 10,170 kilometres <b>Area burnt:</b> 4.5 million hectares <sup>10</sup>
December 1979 – February 1980	Mudgee, Warrindah and Sutherland Shires, Goulburn, South Coast	<b>Deaths:</b> 5 <sup>11</sup> <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 50 <b>Buildings:</b> 14 <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 1 million hectares
1984 – 1985	Western Division	<b>Deaths:</b> 4 <sup>12</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 40,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 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	<b>Deaths:</b> 2 <sup>13</sup> <b>Buildings:</b> 86 houses <sup>14</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 3,400 <sup>15</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 1.464 million hectares <sup>16</sup>
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
1957 – January 1958	Mt Gambier	<b>Deaths:</b> 8 <b>Area burnt:</b> 1,370 hectares (pine plantation)
1974 – 1975	North-west of state	<b>Deaths:</b> Nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 16 million hectares <sup>17</sup>
February 1983 (including Ash Wednesday II)	Mt Osmond, Mt Gambier, South Barwon	<b>Deaths:</b> 28 <b>Buildings:</b> 333 <b>Livestock:</b> 250,000 <b>Fencing:</b> more than 10,000 kilometres <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 260,000 hectares
January 2005	Eyre Peninsula, Adelaide Hills	<b>Deaths:</b> 9 <b>Buildings:</b> 337 <sup>18</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 47,000 <b>Fencing:</b> 6,304 kilometres <sup>19</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 145,000 hectares
December 2007	Kangaroo Island	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Area burnt:</b> 95,000 hectares

Date	Location	Impact Summary
TASMANIA		
December 1966 – February 1967 (including Black Tuesday 7 February 1967)	South-east, Hobart	<b>Deaths:</b> 62 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 7,000 <b>Buildings:</b> approx. 4,000 <b>Livestock:</b> 60,000 sheep; 1,350 cattle; 600 pigs; 500 horses; 24,000 chickens <b>Fencing:</b> 5,400 kilometres <b>Area burnt:</b> 270,000 hectares <sup>20</sup>
February 1982	Launceston, Hobart, Broadmarsh	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Buildings:</b> 46 <b>Livestock:</b> 3,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 40,000 hectares <sup>21</sup>
November 2002 – March 2003	Including Flinders Island, northern fringe of Hobart	<b>Deaths:</b> Nil <b>Buildings:</b> 13 <b>Livestock:</b> several hundred <sup>22</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 52,000 hectares <sup>23</sup>
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
January 1961 – March 1961	Dwellingup and south-west of state	<b>Deaths:</b> Nil <b>Buildings:</b> 160 <b>Area burnt:</b> 1.8 million hectares
1 April 1978	South-west of state	<b>Deaths:</b> 2 <b>Buildings:</b> 6 <b>Livestock:</b> 2,500 <b>Area burnt:</b> 31,500 hectares
15 December 1997	Perth and south-west of state	<b>Deaths:</b> 2 <b>Buildings:</b> 15 <b>Livestock:</b> over 10,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 22,450 hectares
December 2007 – January 2008	Boorabbin National Park	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <b>Area burnt:</b> 29,000 hectares
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		
November 1938 – January 1939	Uriarra, Mt Franklin, Tidbinbilla, Cuppacumbalong, Booroomba, Lanyon	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Livestock:</b> 2,000 <b>Fencing:</b> 545 kilometres <sup>24</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 30% of territory
December 1951 – February 1952	Molongolo valley, Mt Stromlo, Red Hill, Woden Valley, Tuggeranong, Mugga Hill	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <b>Buildings:</b> 42 <sup>25</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 10,000 <b>Fencing:</b> several hundred kilometres <b>Area burnt:</b> 10,000 hectares <sup>26</sup>
March 1985	Mugga Lane, Red Hill, Mount Majura, Tharwa, Symonstown, Googong–Queanbeyan area	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Livestock:</b> 7,000 <sup>27</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 10,000 hectares <sup>28</sup>
January 2003	Namadgi National Park, Uriarra, Pierces Creek and Stromlo settlements, Cotter, Corin, Tidbinbilla, Mt Stromlo, Duffy, Holder, Chapman, Kambah, Curtin, Lyons, Murrumbidgee valley, Coppins Crossing	<b>Deaths:</b> 4 <b>Buildings:</b> 581 <b>Livestock:</b> 4,185 <b>Area burnt:</b> approx. 160,000 hectares

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- 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
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  - 4 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2336
  - 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 2340
  - 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
  - 21 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2340
  - 22 Exhibit 160 – A Nation Charred: Report on the Inquiry into Bushfires (EXH.160.0001) at 0365
  - 23 Exhibit 160 – A Nation Charred: Report on the Inquiry into Bushfires (EXH.160.0001) at 0365
  - 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