



The mental health impact of Australia's bushfire crisis

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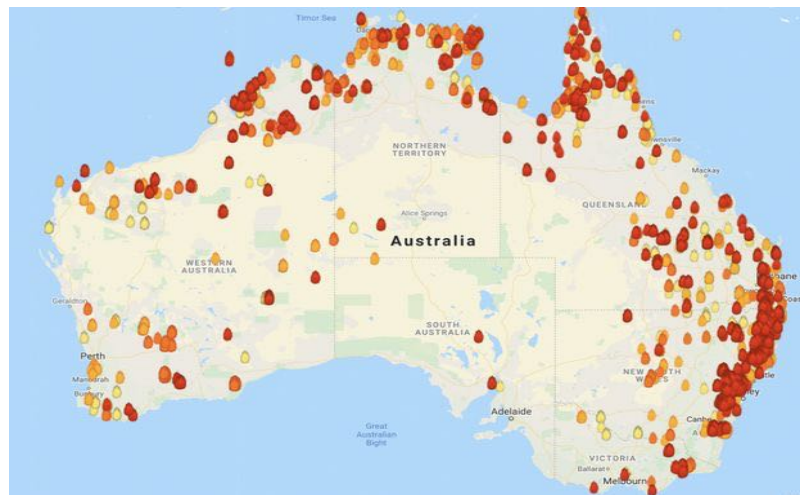
Photograph by Jacob Carracher

- What you need to know about the 2019/2020 Australian bushfires
- The timing and intensity of the fires were unprecedented



Photo by SAEED KHAN/AFP
via Getty Images

- What has happened so far?
- Dozens of fires erupted in New South Wales, Australia, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in November 2019.
- Fires rapidly spread across all states to become some of the most devastating on record.



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- And now?
- The fires in New South Wales, the state most affected, were finally declared “contained” on February 13th. *“After what’s been a truly devastating fire season for both firefighters and residents who’ve suffered through so much this season ... We can really focus on helping people rebuild,”* - New South Wales Rural Fire Service deputy commissioner Rob Rogers



NSW RFS 
@NSWRFS



In what has been a very traumatic, exhausting and anxious bush fire season so far, for the first time this season all bush and grass fires in NSW are now contained.
It has taken a lot of work by firefighters, emergency services and communities to get to this point. [#nswrfs](#)

Twitter

- And then...



- The smoke!

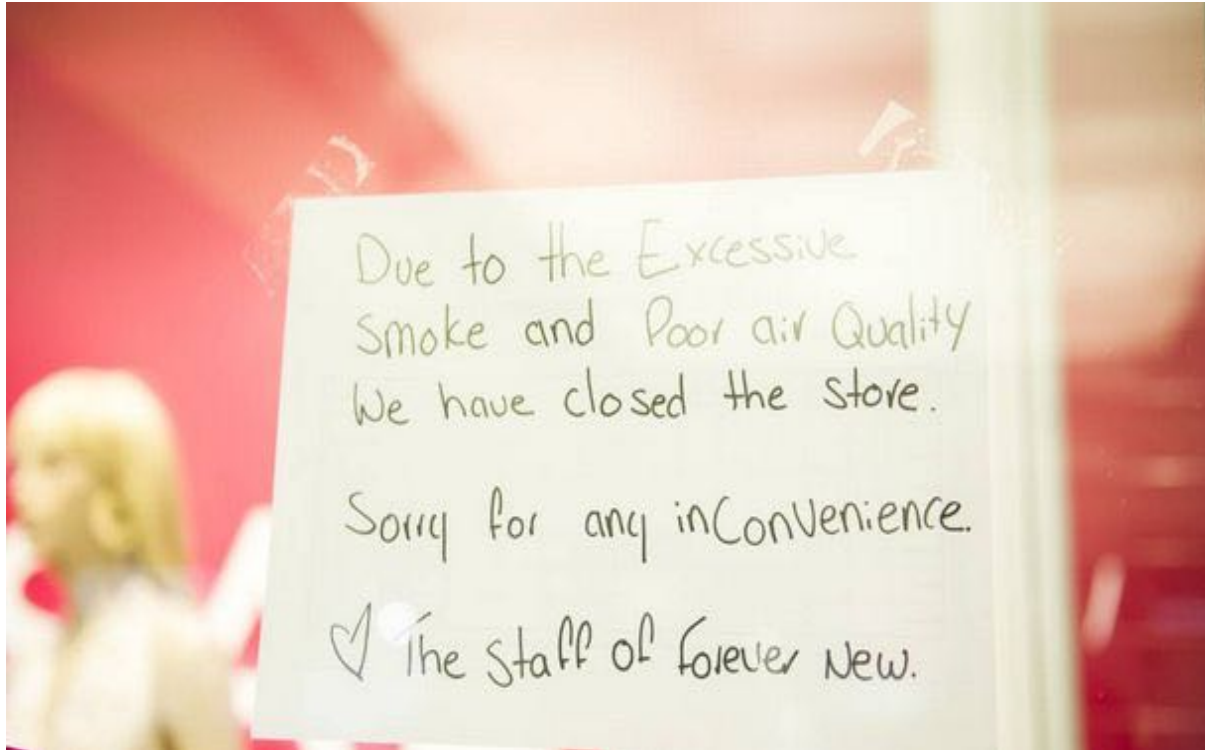


- The smoke!



Picture: Dion Georgopoulos

- The smoke!





Collective trauma is real, and could hamper Australian communities' bushfire recovery

February 14, 2020 6.10am AEDT

- The impact on volunteers

Supporting the well-being of volunteers on the bushfire frontlines

Editor: [Marie McInerney](#) Author: [Erin Smith](#) on: February 11, 2020

In: 2019-20 climate bushfire emergency, disasters, extreme weather events, Global health and climate change, mental health, rural and remote health, trauma





To improve firefighters' mental health, we can't wait for them to reach out – we need to 'reach in'

January 17, 2020 6.03am AEDT

- But wait...here comes the pandemic!



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Take the panic out of pandemic



- It's all about perspective!



