

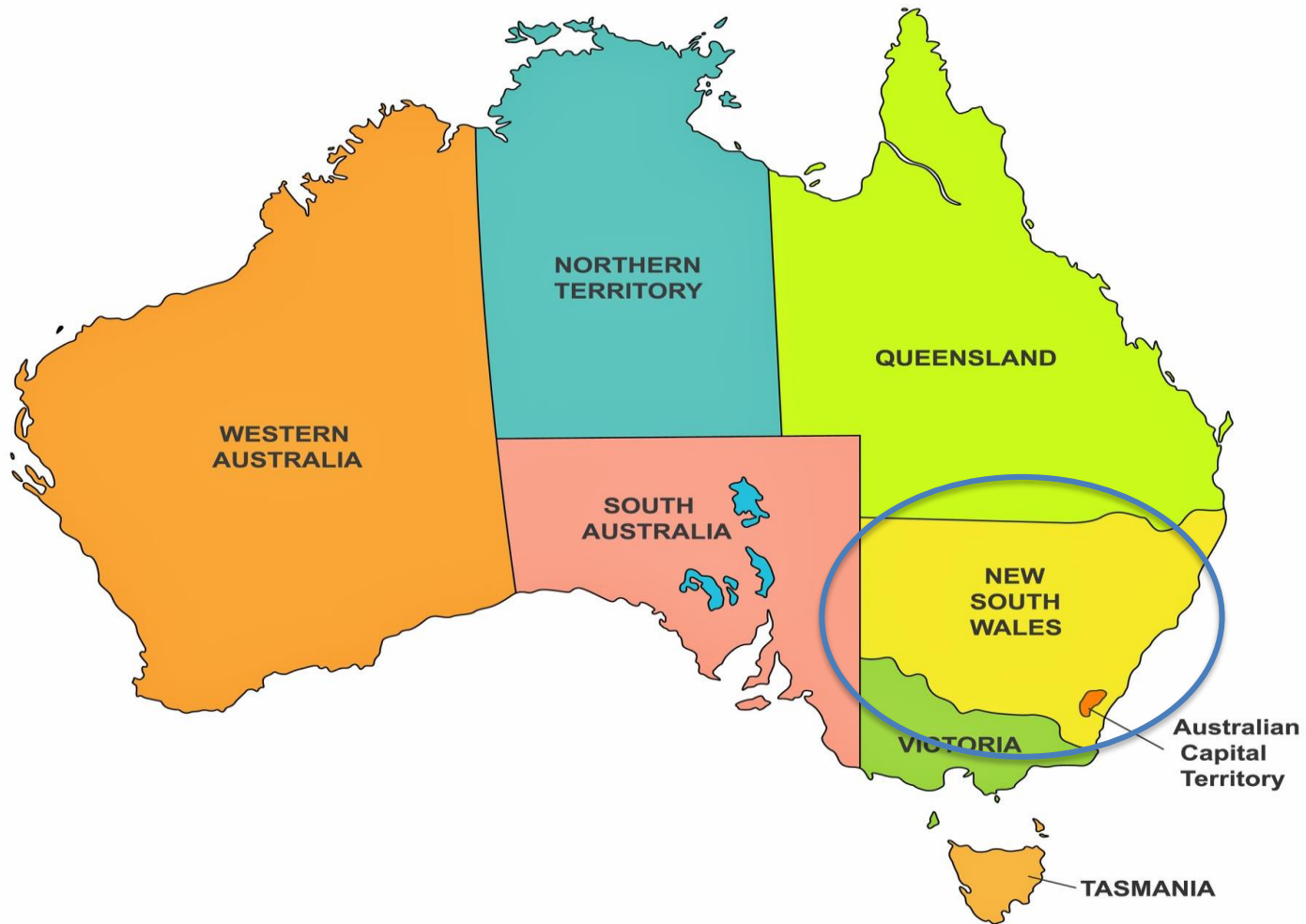


NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



**FOREST FIRE WEBINAR –
LATIN AMERICA
OCTOBER 2021**

Commonwealth of Australia



NSW RFS - who we are

- › The world's largest volunteer fire service
- › More than **74,000** members across **2,100** brigades
- › Providing fire and emergency services to approximately **95%** of the geography of the State
- › Also assist with other functions such as road crash rescue and storm/flooding emergencies
- › Our vision and mission:
 - › *To provide a world standard of excellence in the provision of a community-based fire and emergency service*
 - › *To protect the community and our environment we will minimise the impact of fire and other emergencies by providing the highest standards of training, community education, prevention and operational capability*

2019/20 Season at a Glance



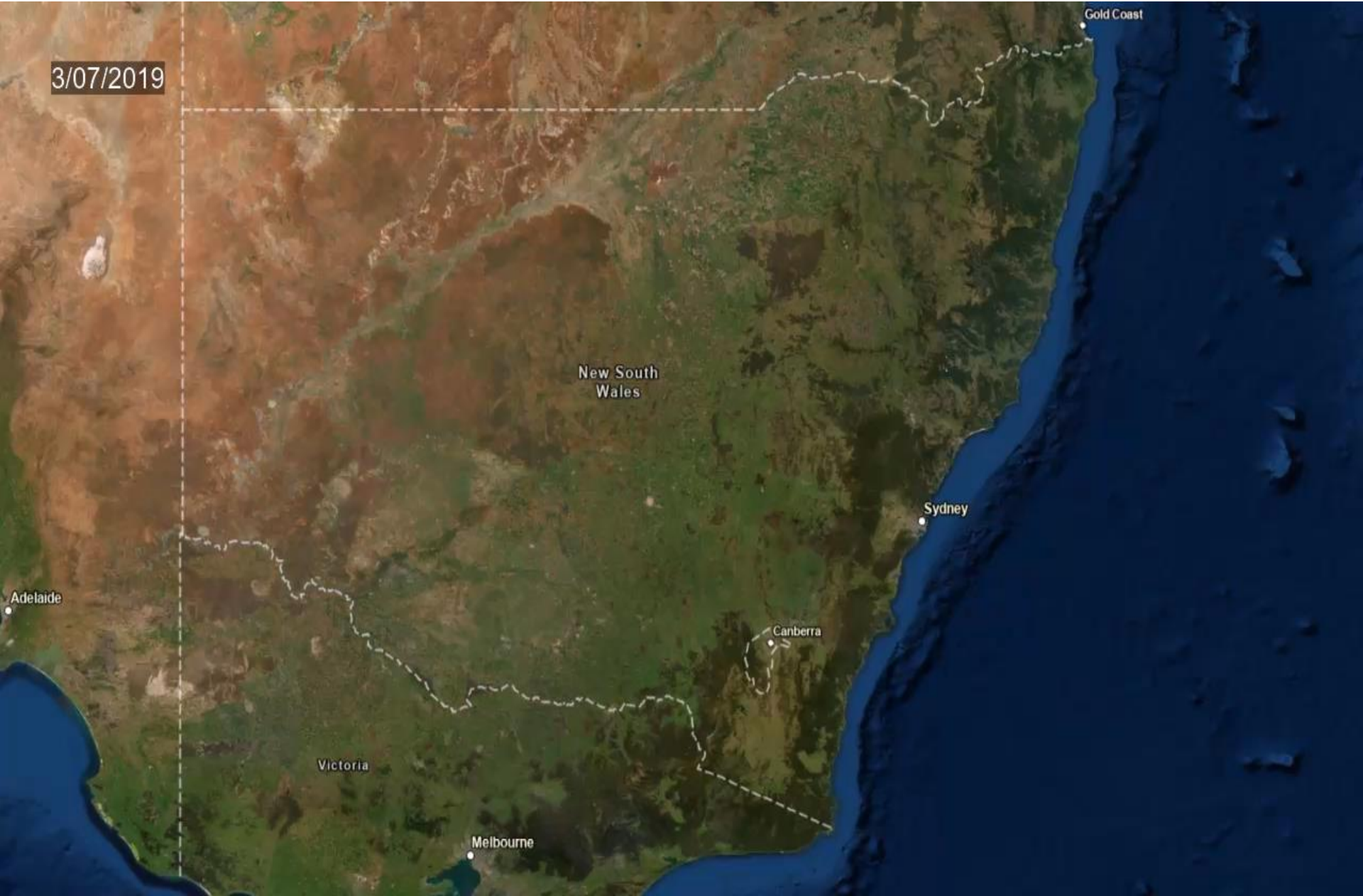
- Over **200** consecutive days of bush fire emergency
- **160** days of continuous major operations in State Operations Centre
- Over **11,300** bush and grass fires
- **5.5** million hectares burnt – approximately 7% of the State
- **3** State of Emergency declarations made by the Premier
- **59** days of Total Fire Ban including **11** days of state wide bans
- Some **7,000** interstate and international personnel deployed to assist NSW fire fighters
- Sadly **26** fatalities were recorded
- More than **2,400** homes destroyed
- Nearly **15,000** homes saved in the direct area of fire impact

Seasonal Comparison



Year	Hectares Burnt	Homes Destroyed	Fatalities
1993/94	800,000	225	4
2002/03	1.5 million	112	0
2012/13	1.4 million	62	0
2013/14	574,000	227	2
2019/20	5.5 million	2,400	26

Total Area Burnt



Why was this season different?

- Higher than average temperatures were experienced in the lead up to the season: the 2018-19 summer was exceptionally warm and the months from January to July 2019 were much warmer than average.
- Australia had also experienced consecutive above average temperature months going back as far as November 2016.
- As well as being the hottest year on record, 2019 was also the driest year on record for Australia.
- Prior to the start of the season, approximately 98% of NSW was affected by drought – 100% of NSW was drought affected by January 2020.
- These extreme environmental conditions led to extreme and unpredictable fire behaviour.
- The size, scale and concurrency of the fires, together with the amount and distance of spotting, was unprecedented.

Interagency Effort



Interagency Effort



Fire fighting in NSW

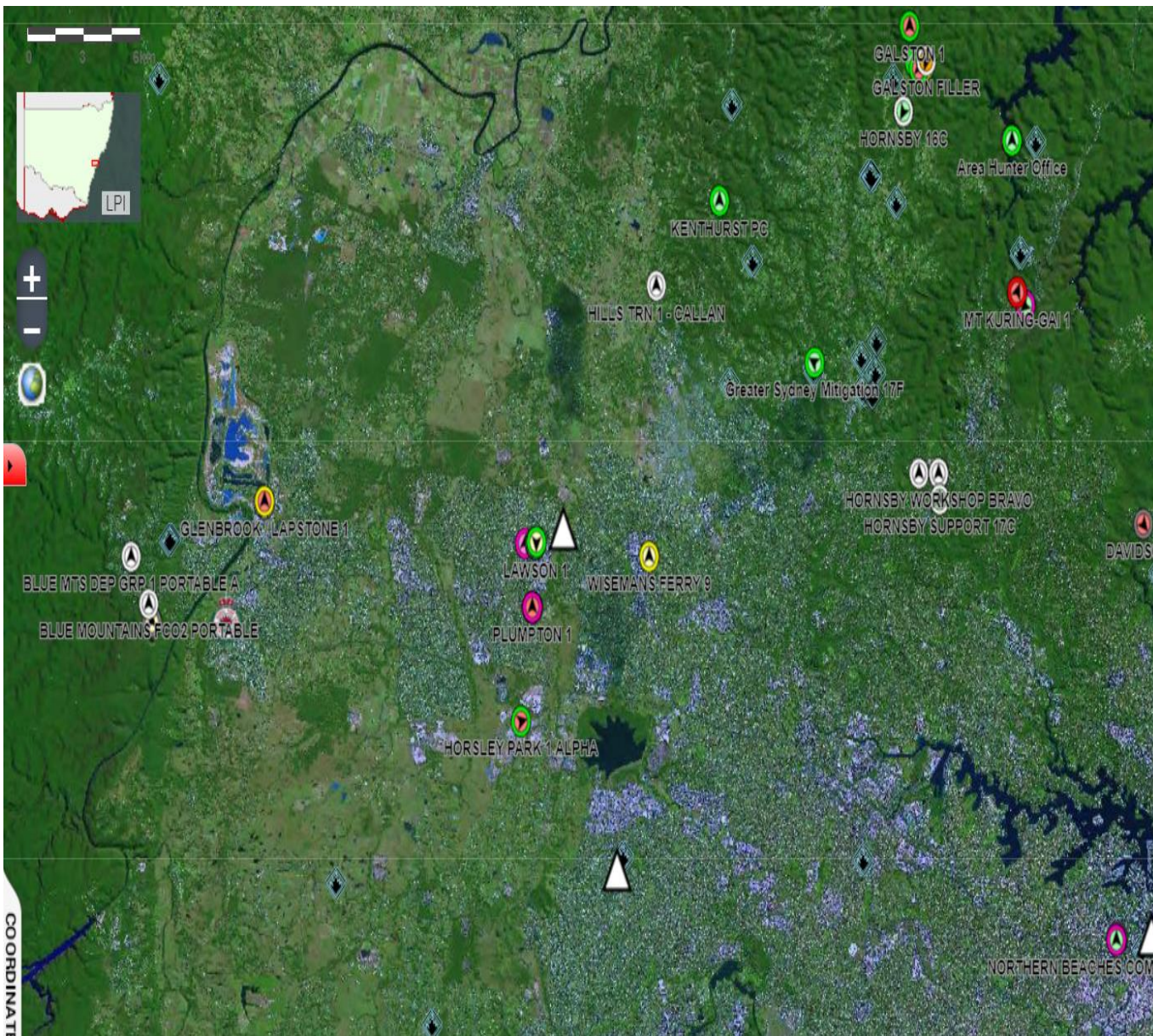
Co-ordinated Fire Fighting arrangements

- One Incident Management Team per incident.
- One Incident Controller.
- NSW RFS is the combat agency for major bush fires.
- Regardless of public or private land.
- Other agencies perform roles within IMT.
- Agencies use the one operational management system (ICON).
- NSW RFS website the 'single source' of online information on bush fires.



Deployment of Resources

- Strategic assessments were conducted to determine fire risk, potential impacts/consequences and resourcing requirements based on containment strategies.
- NSW RFS uses several means to dispatch fire crews to incidents across the State including (but not limited to)
 - Computer Aided Dispatch
 - RFSActive (Member Availability app)
 - Incident Control Online
 - Common Operating Picture
- These systems are used by fires agencies to ensure interoperability during heightened fire activity.



MAP LAYERS

RFS Vector RFS Topo RFS Imagery

Trac Plus Appliances

State Forest Plantations

ESA ACT Incidents

RTA Incidents

Weather Wind (Observation)

Weather Rain (Radar)

DEA Hotspots

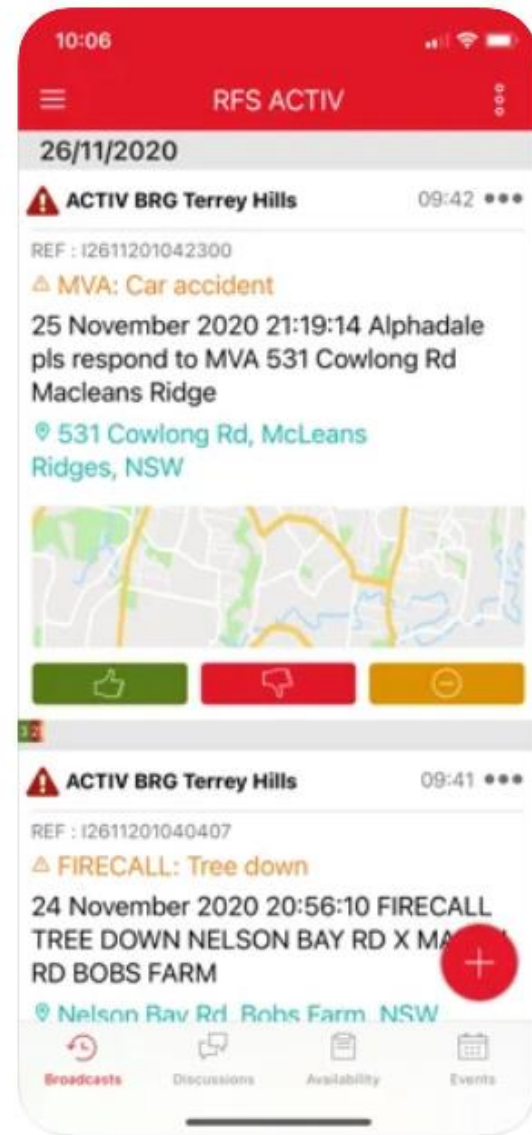
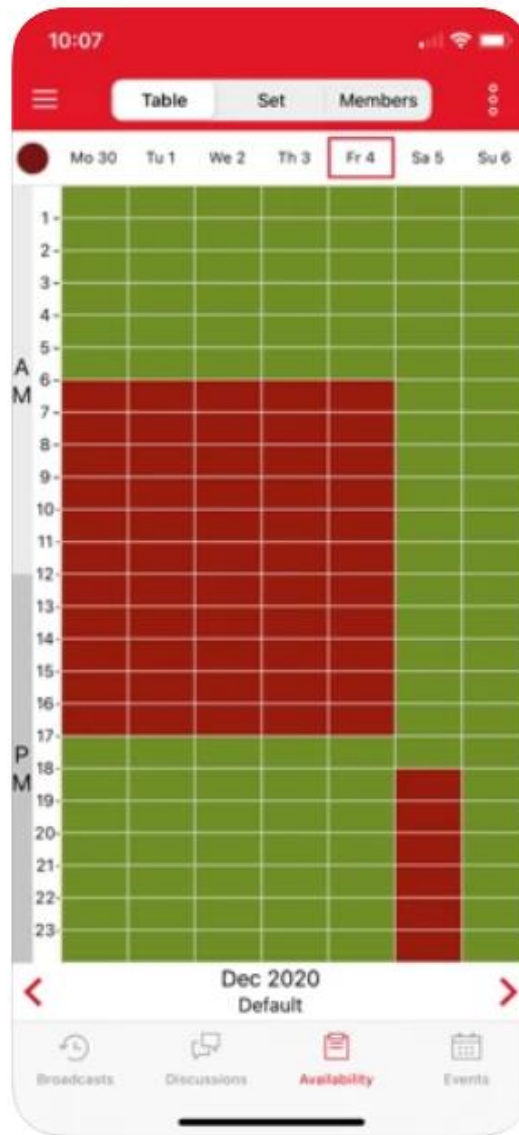
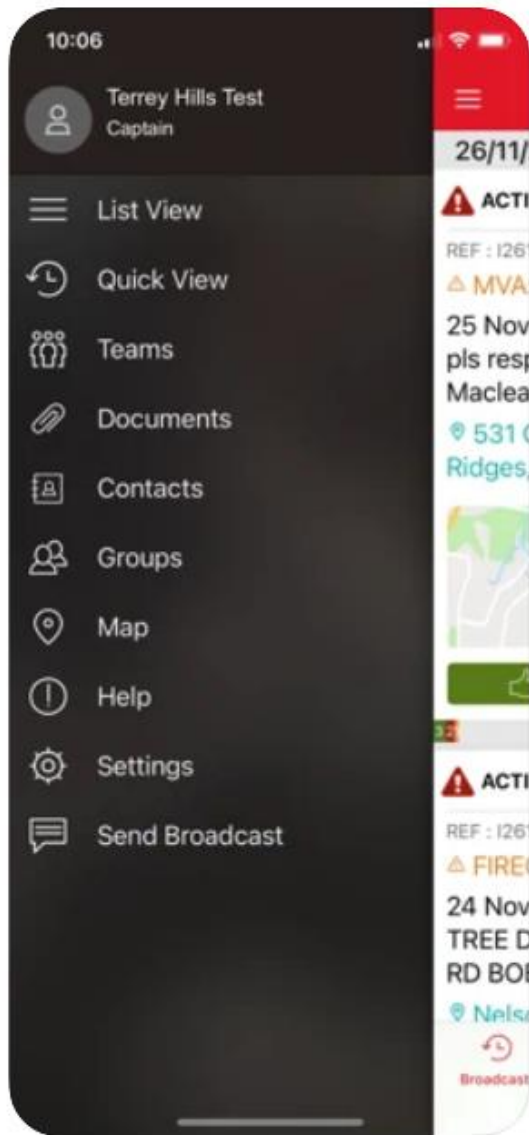
Emergency Alert

AVL 1Hour

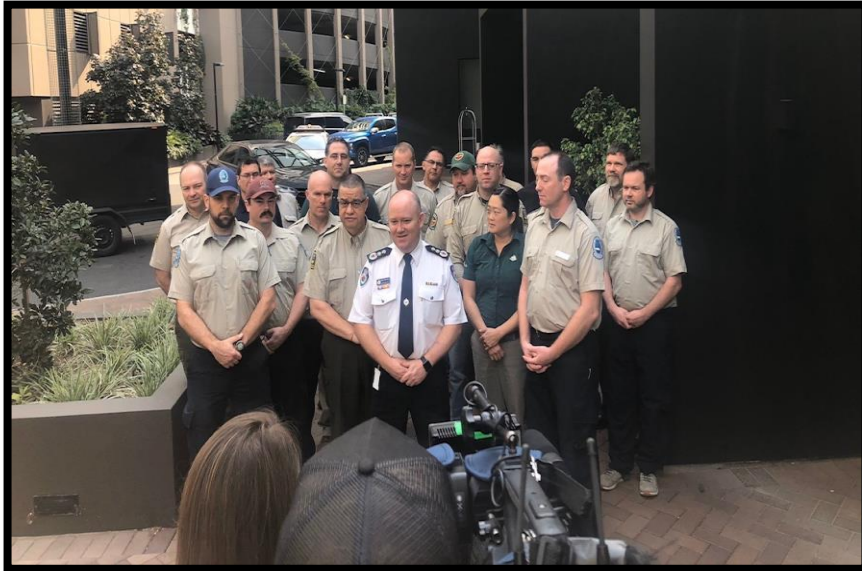
AVL Emergency

ACT Vehicles

Covid-19 Heat Map



Interstate & International Assistance



International & Interstate Assistance



- More than **7,000** personnel from every Australian jurisdiction were deployed to assist NSW.
- International assistance was also provided from New Zealand (**224**), Canada (**84**) and the United States of America (**82**).
- The NSW RFS Interstate/International Liaison Unit worked with the National Resource Sharing Centre between August 2019 and March 2020 to action **664** interstate requests for assistance and **18** international requests for assistance.

Interstate & International Liaison Unit

- An International and Interstate Liaison Unit (IILU) was established and operated throughout the season.
- The IILU is responsible for (but not limited to):
 - working with the Operations and Planning sections to determine resourcing requirements
 - preparing letters of request and working with the National Resource Sharing Centre to action/progress
 - facilitating logistical arrangements including transportation, accommodation and equipment requirements
 - providing briefings for incoming personnel
 - liaising with Jurisdictional Liaison Officers on arrival and throughout the deployment

Observations

- The National Resource Sharing Centre arrangements ensure a co-ordinated approach and clear understanding of what resources are available to assist nationally.
- Continual assessment of fire activity and forecast weather needs to be undertaken to allow engagement to occur in a timely manner.
- This assessment should occur in tandem with strategic resourcing planning.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to support any deployment – don't underestimate logistical requirements.

THANK YOU
FIRIE'S

