

Media release: 29 June 2017

Collaboration the key to improving emergency response

Australasia's emergency management leaders to discuss sectors need for interoperability and emerging trends at conference

Australasia's emergency management sector will convene to discuss the need for interagency collaboration to improve the performance in emergency management, at AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ, returning to Sydney for the first time in six years at the International Convention Centre this September.

The strength of Australasia's emergency management sector is essential to the safety and security of all citizens across the country, with recent events across the globe highlighting the need for emergency agencies to collaborate and effectively deliver a robust response in diverse situations.

Co-produced by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC) and Deutsche Messe – the conference is focused on Collaborating for Success – Improving performance in emergency management.

Stuart Ellis, CEO, AFAC commented on the importance of emergency management leaders joining to discuss the future of our national emergency response agenda.

“AFAC17 provides a unique opportunity for the sector to come together to learn best practice and trends, and discover the latest in research and technology. By bringing together the best minds in the country, and from around the world to collaborate and share insights, we are committed to strengthening the future of emergency management in Australia.

“It has been six years since the conference was held in Sydney giving those previously unable to attend a great opportunity to collaborate. This year we have ten Professional Development programs giving industry professionals the opportunity to get hands-on experiences, interactions with technology, real life simulations and the chance to communicate with their peers,” said Mr Ellis.

Across four action-packed days, the conference will showcase the latest from national and international experts, innovative technology and equipment from over 150 exhibitors, with key conference themes including, urban operations and built environment, disaster resilience and lessons learned across the sector.

Local and international keynote speakers at AFAC17 include:

- **Bart van Leeuwen**, Big Data Expert, Owner of netage.nl, Senior Firefighter, Netherlands
Using data to drive performance
- **Graeme Head**, NSW Public Service Commissioner
Collaborating for success
- **Kristen Hilton**, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner
Strengthening Organisations
- **Steve Vamos**, Non-executive Director Telstra, former CEO Microsoft Australia and New Zealand, and ninemsn
Collaborating for success and how to drive creativity and innovation in a world of disruption

Dr Richard Thornton, CEO, Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC commented on the diversity to be on show during AFAC17.

“The conference is a platform for a combination of research and operations to merge – this year is no different. Research is vital to the emergency services and land management sectors; it is the prediction, evidence and solution that arms the industry with its best defence. It is how we can keep moving forward,” said Dr Thornton.

AFAC17 powered by INTERSHUTZ, 4 – 7 September 2017, will take place at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

-ends-

Notes to Editors:

- Keynote speakers are available for interviews via the media contacts listed below
- Available for interview on request via media contacts below:
 - Stuart Ellis, CEO, Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC)
 - Dr Richard Thornton, CEO, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC)
 - Harvey Stockbridge, Managing Director, Deutsche Messe
- Complimentary media passes are available, apply by sending name, position and publication title to jessica@zadroagency.com.au



Media contacts:

Zadro

Jessica McLean, Senior Account Coordinator

+61 2 9212 7867 | +61 400 433 182 | jessica@zadroagency.com.au

Sammy Dalglish, Group Account Director

+61 2 9212 7867 | +61 430 343 621 | sammy@zadroagency.com.au

About AFAC17:

4 - 7 September | International Convention Centre Sydney

Collaborating for Success – Improving performance in emergency management

Collaborating and improving performance is essential for success in emergency management. Innovating in the face of disruptions and developing our people to successfully manage organisations of the future is a key challenge. Understanding what our people need to deliver and what communities expect is no simple task. Working together is how we will deliver the best results. AFAC17 will focus on how we can work together to improve our performance, what leading the way looks like and who will benefit from our collective effort.

Held over four action-packed days AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ will attract delegates and visitors from emergency and security services agencies, all levels of government, non-government organisations, research and education institutions from Australia and world-wide.

The conference will feature three learning zones, the expo stage where live demonstrations are run by exhibitors to give attendees a real take-away knowledge of how emergency management provide solutions safely. For the 8th year the Knowledge Lounge gives delegates an opportunity to meet with speakers and experts in the sector to further discuss trends and research during the conference.

AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is a joint venture between the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and Deutsche Messe, trading in Australia as Hannover Fairs Pty Ltd.

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)

Website: <http://www.afaconference.com.au/>

Facebook: [/AFACnews](https://www.facebook.com/AFACnews)



Twitter: [/afacnews](https://twitter.com/afacnews)

LinkedIn: [/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council)

Hashtag: #AFAC17

Images: (High resolution images are available on request)

1. AFAC16 powered by INTERSCHUTZ showfloor

