

Media release: 14 August 2019

Riding the waves: Extreme weather, climate change and disaster resilience at AFAC19

Climate change and weather experts to join the speaker line up for the region's largest gathering of emergency management professionals

Leading Australian and international emergency management professionals from climate, weather and natural hazards sectors will gather in Melbourne in August, as AFAC19 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is held alongside the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference.

This year's AFAC19 Conference will explore the impact of nature, climate and the environment on disaster prevention, early warning and response processes, as well as the long-term implications on community and environmental recovery.

More than 120 speakers in six immersive streams will delve deep into the changing landscape of fire safety, emergency management and research across the wider AFAC19 program and share with attendees how to prepare for the future, based on lessons learned from the past.

Stuart Ellis, CEO, AFAC commented on how emergency services are adapting to prepare for and address the challenges that come with more frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters, and how this is shaping the national emergency response sector.

"This year we're looking at some big issues affecting the wider community including population growth, climate change and, extreme weather and how we can adapt, prepare for and better manage these events."

"AFAC19 is a vital opportunity to bring together leaders from across a variety of disciplines that make up the evolving fire and emergency service sector, to discuss issues that are becoming the new normal in emergency management," said Mr Ellis.

To cover the big issue and topics, AFAC19 will bring leading international and national keynote speakers to the conference, including

- **Dr David Jones**, *Manager of Climate Services, Bureau of Meteorology*
State of the Climate 2018: Climate change and it's impact on emergency management
- **John Nairn**, *State Manager of South Australia, Bureau of Meteorology*
South Australian heatwave forecasts and warnings: performance and some impacts during January 2019, Australia's hottest month on record
- **Prof. Lesley Hughes and Greg Mullins**, *The Climate Council*
Coping with the 'new normal' in changing climate

This year's AFAC19 conference theme *A shift to the new norm: riding the wave of change*, embraces the evolution, diversity and inclusion of all industries working together to form a robust emergency management sector, and the communities it represents.

AFAC19 powered by INTERSHUTZ is co-produced by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), Deutsche Messe and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) from 27-30 August 2019. The Institution of Fire Engineers Australia National Conference and the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference will be held alongside AFAC19.

Further information is available at www.afaconference.com.au

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Notes to Editors:

- All keynote speakers are **available for interview** on request via media contacts 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)
- Accredited media are **invited to attend** AFAC19 and will be hosted in the media room. Additional support for live-cross, broadcast and interviews with stakeholders can be arranged. Limited broadcast vans can be accommodated onsite. Please register for your media pass by sending your name, position and publication title to elizabeth@zadroagency.com.au

Media contacts:

Zadro

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Images: All images of AFAC from past years can be found on the [AFAC Flickr page](#) and can be used royalty free.

Hi-res images of speakers available on request.



Dr David Jones



John Nairn



Prof. Lesley Hughes



Greg Mullins

About AFAC19

27-30 August | Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

A shift to the new norm: riding the wave of change

Returning to Melbourne for four action-packed days, AFAC19 powered by INTERSCHUTZ will attract delegates and visitors from emergency and security services agencies, all levels of government, non-government organisations, the private sector, research and education institutions and community groups from Australia and worldwide.

The AFAC19 program will incorporate the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC Research Forum, the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference and The Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) National Conference.

Themed “*A shift to the new norm: riding the wave of change*” AFAC19 explores how the sector is transitioning to a new normal in a rapidly changing world.

AFAC19 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is a joint venture between Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and Deutsche Messe, trading in Australia as Hannover Fairs Pty Ltd.

Institution of Fire Engineers

Website: <https://www.afaconference.com.au/ife/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InstitutionOfFireEngineersAustraliaBranch/>

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/institution-of-fire-engineers/>

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)

Website: www.afaconference.com.au/

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

Twitter: [@AFACnews](https://twitter.com/AFACnews)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu18YmKgFcL27XBKFI7Klw>

Hashtag: #AFAC19

Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC

Facebook: [@bnhcrc](#)

Twitter: [@bnhcrc](#)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bushfire-and-natural-hazards-crc-a0919043/>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/bnhcrc

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

Website: www.aidr.org.au/adrc

Facebook: [@AIDRnews](#)

Twitter: [@AIDR_news](#)

LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/company/aidr>

Hashtag: #ADRC2019