



Australian Government



**Tasmanian
Government**

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Will Hodgman

Premier
Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Parks
Minister for Heritage
Minister for Trade
Liberal Member for Franklin

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 25 January 2019

BUSHFIRE ASSISTANCE FOR TASMANIA

Disaster assistance has been made available for Tasmania to support the considerable operational effort in combatting bushfires that have been burning since December.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Liberal Senator for Tasmania Richard Colbeck, representing Assistant Minister for Home Affairs Linda Reynolds who has responsibility for Commonwealth disaster assistance, said the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments were working together to support operational efforts as difficult conditions continue to fuel bushfires around the state.

“The fires in Tasmania have been burning for several weeks, threatening communities and scorching thousands of hectares of wilderness. Our thoughts today are with communities on the West Coast, in the Central Highlands and South of Huonville who are under threat,” Senator Colbeck said.

“National assistance, including firefighting personnel, appliances, aircraft and support staff, is being delivered to protect life and property in Tasmania because in tough times Australians pull together.”

Tasmanian Premier the Hon. Will Hodgman MP praised the work of firefighters and the community as fires burn across the state, with a majority burning in remote areas and hard-to-access terrain.

“Tasmania Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania have been joined by more than 100 interstate and New Zealand personnel to support firefighting operations across the state,” Premier Hodgman said.

“Our firefighters are facing extremely hot and difficult conditions to ensure Tasmanians are safe and to protect our property and natural heritage. We are extremely grateful for the incredible job they are doing.”

The funding available through the DRFA will help cover the cost of fighting the bushfires.



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Information on disaster assistance can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at www.disasterassist.gov.au and the Tasmanian Government's emergency management website at www.tasalert.com.

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