



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
 ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
 ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
 ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ELECTORAL MATTERS

Reference: MC21-019461

Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP
 Member for Mayo
 PO Box 1601
 MT BARKER SA 5251

Dear Ms Sharkie

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2021 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding eligibility for the award of the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20)*. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf, as the Minister responsible for Australian honours policy in the Prime Minister's portfolio.

I acknowledge the significant and vital contribution of Defence, reservists and civilian personnel in responding to the fires in South Australia during January 2020. It is a fine example of the Australian ethos of pitching in and helping fellow Australians at times of national distress.

The National Emergency Medal, established in 2011, is an operational service medal in the Australian honours system awarded to first responders to emergencies that are deemed nationally significant. The National Emergency Medal recognises service in direct response to a nationally significant emergency, not during the recovery phase.

Eligibility criteria for the award of the National Emergency Medal is approved by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister with responsibility for Australian honours. When exercising this responsibility, in accordance with the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011*, I am advised by the National Emergency Medal Committee.

The National Emergency Medal Committee, chaired by Mr Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, provides advice on the eligibility criteria based on the circumstances of each emergency, including the scale and impact on communities and the nature of the response and types of deployments.

The Committee operates independently from the Government, supported by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, a branch of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Prior to the declaration of the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20)*, the Secretariat, on the Committee's behalf, undertook comprehensive consultation, conducted with a wide range of emergency services and government organisations, including Emergency Management Australia and the Department of Defence. Many organisations provided detailed submissions for the Committee's consideration.

For the Bushfires 2019-20 declaration, the Committee determined that service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).

Under this provision, Defence personnel who served with headquarters or operational functions in direct response to the declared emergency during the qualifying period, may be eligible for the award of the National Emergency Medal for sustained service, if they satisfy the duration of service criteria.

The Medal may also be awarded for significant service, recognising those that performed extraordinarily during the declared emergencies, and who do not satisfy the criteria for sustained service. It is a function of the Committee to consider nominations and decide whether an individual should be awarded the Medal for significant service.

Individuals can make nominations for significant service to the Committee. Nominees should provide a detailed account of their service and referee statements, particularly addressing how the service could be considered extraordinary. Under the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011*, the Committee will consider whether the nominee's contribution:

- was part of the response efforts to the nationally-significant emergency;
- assisted with the protection of lives and property;
- was extraordinary.

Further information, including application forms, is available at the Honours and Awards page on the Governor-General's website:

www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsnational-emergency-medal/nominate-someone-national-emergency-medal.

Your letter and this reply have been copied to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat for the attention of the National Emergency Medal Committee.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

BEN MORTON

26/2 / 2021

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C
Secretary
Ms Foster
Mr Rush
Mr Philp
Mr Martin

PMO
Dr Kunkel
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

AMO
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL – BUSHFIRES 2019-20 - DISCUSSION WITH MS REBEKHA SHARKIE MP

Purpose: To discuss medallic recognition for Mayo constituents who did not meet the eligibility criteria for the *National Emergency Medal Bushfires 2019-20 Declaration 2020*.

Timing and Venue: Tuesday 23 March 2021, Meeting Venue - TBA

Our Proposed Objectives:

(Talking points are at [Attachment A](#))

- To outline the consultation process undertaken to support the Committee in agreeing eligibility criteria for the Bushfires 2019-20 Declaration for the National Emergency Medal (NEM).
- To advise Ms Sharkie of other awards available to the constituents of Mayo who are not eligible for the award of the NEM for service rendered during the 2019-20 Bushfires.

Their Objectives:

(Biography is at [Attachment B](#))

- Amendments to the National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Declaration 2020 to include all Local Government Areas (LGA) in South Australia as areas of operations.
- To ensure her constituents, specifically South Australian-based Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, are eligible to receive the award of the NEM.

Key Points:

Adjustment to eligibility requirements for Kangaroo Island, SA:

- The Bushfires 2019-20 was declared a nationally-significant emergency for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal on 2 December 2020 under the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Declaration 2020* ([Attachment D](#)).
 - : To be eligible service must be in the geographic area, within the qualifying period for a minimum duration and must be in the protection of lives and property or in the service of interests that are not their own in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- Following feedback from members of the public, the National Emergency Medal Committee considered advice from Emergency Management Australia and the Government of South Australia on the eligibility dates for the Local Government Area (LGA) of Kangaroo Island in South Australia to accurately reflect the complete period of time when fires impacted the Island.
- On the basis of this advice the Committee recommended the eligibility period for the LGA of Kangaroo Island be amended from 20 November 2019 - 6 January 2020, to 20 November 2019 – 6 February 2020.

- The Governor-General agreed to the amendment *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Amendment (Kangaroo Island) Declaration 2020* (Attachment E) on 18 December 2020 and it was gazetted on 13 January 2021.

Consultation for developing eligibility criteria

- The National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011 outline the process for making recommendations for a nationally significant event to be declared and the functions of the NEM Committee.
- A function of the Committee is to advise the Minister whether an emergency should be declared a nationally significant emergency and provide details including: the duration of the emergency; the type of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for the award; and the minimum duration of service that a person is required to complete.
- As part of its assessment process, the National Emergency Medal Committee considers the scale and community impact of the disaster, as well as the nature of the deployment and service response that was required during the emergency.
- A wide range of emergency services and government organisations are consulted and prepare detailed submissions for consideration.

Mandatory call out for ADF Reservists

- At the request of the Government, the Governor-General issued a call out order for Operation Bushfire Assist, with effect from 4 January 2020.
- Defence advises that the Bushfires 2019-20 emergency was a whole-of-government response, in part supported by Defence.
- In conjunction with regular ADF members, reservists formed part of a joint taskforce according to their skill set. As the ADF are not trained in firefighting, this did not include firefighter duties.
- As the State and Territory governments remained the primary responders for the emergency, the call out for reservists was to enhance the ADF capacity to respond to multiple or sequential large-scale requests for support.
- During the compulsory call out, there were reservists who undertook training but were not actively involved in the emergency on the fire ground.
- The compulsory call out was revoked on 7 February 2020.

Composition of the NEM Committee

- The NEM Committee comprises five members, including three community members appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister with responsibility for Australian honours, and two ex-officio members.
- The NEM Committee is chaired by Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM.
- Other members are:

- the two ex-officio members Mr Rob Cameron OAM (EMA) and Mr John Reid PSM (PM&C)
 - Ms Andrea Heath (Community Member) and one community position is vacant.
- The NEM Committee is scheduled to next meet in early June 2021.

Other medals that constituents of Mayo may be eligible for

- The Department of Defence has a suite of awards available for regular ADF members and reservists that may be awarded, including the Conspicuous Service awards. Through the Defence Commendation Scheme a member may be recognised for outstanding or exceptional achievement, or specific acts of bravery, by Defence personnel.
- Constituents of Mayo who served with other emergency service organisations, such as the Country Fire Service may be acknowledged with the *South Australian Emergency Services Medal*, which is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated distinguished or meritorious service in recognition of their contribution to the emergency services. The *Ministerial Commendation* recognises significant effort, bravery or service and is awarded for meritorious or courageous action.
- Additionally, Chief Officer's Commendation may be awarded by the Chief Officer to an individual, groups of individuals, brigade, group or section of the South Australian Country Fire Service or some other individual or body, for outstanding or exemplary service in operations or actions in operations.

Sensitivities:

- PM&C have been advised by the Department of Defence that approximately 3000 ADF members (including Reservists) will not qualify for the award of the NEM.
- There are approximately 300 members of the ADF who deployed to the Adelaide Hills LGA whose dates of service will not fall between 20 November 2020 and 6 January 2021 listed in the Declaration. Many of these members were based at Woodside Army Barracks, located in the electorate of Mayo.
- We have been advised by the Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House that the Country Fire Authority have consulted the NEM Secretariat and are seeking advice on the steps required to request the NEM Committee review the dates of eligibility for the Adelaide Hills LGA.
- We understand that the eligible dates for the Adelaide Hills LGA may be tabled for review at the next NEM Committee meeting.

Background:

(Further information is at Attachment C)

- The National Emergency Medal, established in 2011, is an operational service medal in the Australian honours system awarded to first responders to emergencies that are deemed nationally significant. The NEM recognises service in direct response to a nationally significant emergency, not the recovery phase.

- The Committee operates independently from the Government, supported by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, a branch of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Alex Philp
A/g Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Government
Branch
19 March 2021

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Consultation: Department of Defence,
OOSGG

NOTED:

Date:

ATTACHMENT A

TALKING POINTS

- Firstly I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution from our emergency services during the bushfire emergency last year. The service of volunteers and paid responders was extraordinary in their support for communities in bushfire affected areas across Australia.
- I understand that you are seeking a reassessment of the criteria for the [National Emergency Medal \(Bushfires 2019-20\) Declaration 2020](#) to consider extending the area of operations to all Local Government Areas in South Australia.
 - When the NEM Committee met to determine the eligibility criteria for the Bushfires Declaration, they reviewed a substantial amount of information in relation to each bushfire region, prepared after comprehensive consultation was undertaken with a wide range of emergency services and government organisations, and in close consultation with Emergency Management Australia (EMA).
 - The NEM Committee is chaired by Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, who has extensive operational experience in bushfire management, through his previous role as Commissioner for the Rural Fire Service in NSW.
- On the advice of the NEM Committee, I made a recommendation to the Governor-General to expand the dates between which eligible service may occur for the Local Government Area of Kangaroo Island.
 - Consequently an amendment to the Declaration was made changing the eligible date range for Kangaroo Island to 20 November 2019 – 6 February 2020.
- The NEM Committee provided this advice after consultation was undertaken with EMA and an independent review by the Government of South Australia.
- The National Emergency Medal recognises service in direct response to a nationally significant emergency, not during the recovery phase.
 - Eligible service must be in the protection of lives and property, or in the service of interests, that are not their own, in direct response to the emergency, including support that enabled or facilitated the emergency response.
 - Defence personnel who served in a Headquarters or operational function during the qualifying period will be eligible for the award. As enhanced technology enables support staff to assist the efforts of those on the front line remotely/from greater distances, it is important that we acknowledge these individuals and the role they played in support of operations on the fire ground.
- The NEM is a civilian honour in the Australian honours system. Individuals must satisfy all criteria to be eligible for the award, including being in the area of operation during the specified period for the specified number of days.
 - The Department of Defence are currently compiling a list of ADF members and reservists who satisfy the eligibility criteria as nominations require verification from their deploying organisation.

- Unfortunately not all ADF members will be eligible for the award of the NEM.
- ADF members may apply for the NEM for 'significant service'. A nomination under this criteria would require verification from the Department of Defence and an assessment would be made as to the significant nature of their contribution.
- Under provisions in the NEM Regulations, I am advised by the Committee on the proposed eligibility criteria for an event to be included in the Declaration.
- You are welcome to write to the NEM Committee with your recommendation and they will provide me appropriate advice on the matter.
- There are a number of mechanisms available for constituents of Mayo to recognise service during the bushfires. These include the Defence Commendation Scheme and the South Australia Government Emergency Services Medal and the internal Commendation program established by the SA Country Fire Service.

ATTACHMENT B**BIOGRAPHY**

Ms Sharkie is an independent member of the House of Representatives, representing the electorate of Mayo in South Australia.

The Electorate of Mayo encompasses the area south and east of Adelaide and also incorporates the areas of Adelaide Hills, Florieau Peninsular and Kangaroo Island.

ATTACHMENT C

BACKGROUND

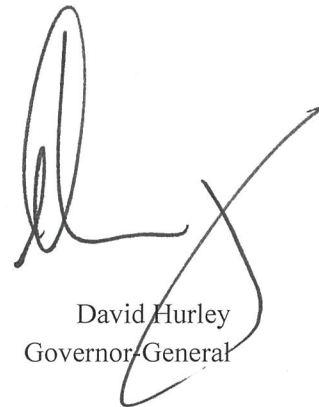
- The National Emergency Medal, established in 2011, is an operational service medal in the Australian honours system awarded to first responders to emergencies that are deemed nationally significant. The National Emergency Medal recognises service in direct response to a nationally significant emergency, not during the recovery phase.
- The Committee operates independently from the Government, supported by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, a branch of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.
- Eligibility criteria for the award of the National Emergency Medal is approved by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister with responsibility for Australian honours. When exercising this responsibility, in accordance with the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011*, the Minister is advised by the National Emergency Medal Committee.
- The Committee operates independently from the Government, supported by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, a branch of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.
- Awards may be made for ‘sustained’ or ‘significant’ service.
 - **Sustained service** is awarded to those who have rendered sustained service in the declared nationally-significant emergency for the purpose of the Medal. The criteria for sustained service stipulates what constitutes ‘sustained service’ for each emergency and is determined by the National Emergency Medal Committee, in considering advice from relevant organisations and jurisdictions. The minimum duration for sustained service is five days during the periods when the fires were at their most severe in the identified Local Government Areas.
 - **Significant service** is awarded to those who rendered significant service in the nationally-significant emergency. The significant service criteria stipulates that the service must be extraordinary. The Committee considers each nomination on a case-by-case basis before making a recommendation to the Governor-General. Applicants do not need to meet the sustained service criteria to be eligible to apply for significant service (e.g. minimum duration of service, eligible dates of service).



National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Declaration 2020

I, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting on the recommendation of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, make the following declaration.

Dated 2 December 2020



David Hurley
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command



Ben Morton
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

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Section 1

1 Name

This instrument is the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Declaration 2020*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	The day this instrument is made.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subregulation 3(2) of the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011* set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011 that instituted the National Emergency Medal.

4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the Regulations, including the following:

- (a) Medal for sustained service;
- (b) nationally-significant emergency;
- (c) service.

- (1) In this instrument:

declared emergency means the emergency declared in section 5.

eligible emergency period for a Schedule 1 local government area means a period:

- (a) beginning on the day mentioned in column 3 of the item of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1 describing the area or in a paragraph of column 3 of the item; and
- (b) ending at the end of the day mentioned in column 4 of the item or in the corresponding paragraph of column 4 of the item.

eligible service means service of a type mentioned in section 9.

Section 5

Regulations means the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011* set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011 that instituted the National Emergency Medal.

Schedule 1 local government area means a local government area described in columns 1 and 2 of an item of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1, as the area existed at 6 September 2019.

- (2) Unless the contrary intention appears, expressions used in this instrument have the same meaning as in the Regulations.

5 Declared emergency

For the purposes of subregulation 3(2) of the Regulations, bushfires that happened in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia or the Australian Capital Territory between September 2019 and February 2020 are declared to be a nationally-significant emergency.

6 Name of declared emergency

For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(a) of the Regulations, the name by which the declared emergency is to be known is “Bushfires 2019-20”.

7 Geographical area of declared emergency

For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(b) of the Regulations, the geographical area in Australia where the declared emergency happened is the area that consists of each Schedule 1 local government area.

8 Duration of declared emergency

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(c) of the Regulations, the declared emergency began in relation to a Schedule 1 local government area on the day mentioned in column 3 of the item of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1 describing the area or in a paragraph of column 3 of the item.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(d) of the Regulations, the duration of the declared emergency relating to a Schedule 1 local government area is the eligible emergency period (or each eligible emergency period) for the area.

9 Eligible service during declared emergency

For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(e) of the Regulations, the type of service in relation to the declared emergency that is required to qualify for the award of the Medal for sustained service is service by a person:

- (a) in the protection of lives and property; or
- (b) in the service of interests that are not their own;

in direct response to the declared emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).

Section 10**10 Minimum duration of eligible service during declared emergency**

For the purposes of paragraph 3(4)(e) of the Regulations, the minimum duration of eligible service required to qualify for the award of the Medal for sustained service is 5 days (whether consecutive or not) each involving service in direct response to the declared emergency relating to a Schedule 1 local government area in an eligible emergency period for the area.

Schedule 1 Local government areas and eligible emergency periods

Clause 1

Schedule 1—Local government areas and eligible emergency periods

Note: See the definitions of *eligible emergency period* and *Schedule 1 local government area* in subsection 4(1), and subsection 8(1).

1 Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods

The following table describes Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods.

Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods				
Item	Column 1 Local government area	Column 2 State or Territory in which area is located	Column 3 First day of eligible emergency period relating to area	Column 4 Last day of eligible emergency period relating to area
1	Armidale	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
2	Ballina	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
3	Bega Valley	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
4	Bellingen	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
5	Blue Mountains	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
6	Byron	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
7	Central Coast	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
8	Cessnock	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
9	Clarence Valley	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
10	Coffs Harbour	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
11	Cootamundra-Gundagai	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
12	Dungog	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
13	Eurobodalla	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
14	Glen Innes Severn	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
15	Goulburn Mulwaree	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
16	Greater Hume	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
17	Gwydir	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
18	Hawkesbury	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
19	Inverell	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
20	Kempsey	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
21	Ku-ring-gai	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
22	Kyogle	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
23	Lake Macquarie	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
24	Lismore	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
25	Lithgow	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
26	Mid-Coast	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020

Local government areas and eligible emergency periods **Schedule 1**

Clause 1

Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods				
Item	Column 1 Local government area	Column 2 State or Territory in which area is located	Column 3 First day of eligible emergency period relating to area	Column 4 Last day of eligible emergency period relating to area
27	Mid-Western	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
28	Muswellbrook	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
29	Nambucca Valley	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
30	Narrabri	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
31	Oberon	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
32	Penrith	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
33	Port Macquarie-Hastings	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
34	Queanbeyan-Palerang	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
35	Richmond Valley	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
36	Shoalhaven	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
37	Singleton	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
38	Snowy Monaro	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
39	Snowy Valleys	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
40	Sutherland	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
41	Tamworth	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
42	Tenterfield	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
43	Tweed	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
44	Upper Hunter	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
45	Upper Lachlan	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
46	Uralla	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
47	Wagga Wagga	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
48	Walcha	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
49	Wingecarribee	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
50	Wollondilly	New South Wales	6 September 2019	10 February 2020
51	Alpine	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
52	Ararat	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
53	Ballarat	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
54	Campaspe	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
55	East Gippsland	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
56	Falls Creek Alpine Resort	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
57	Glenelg	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
58	Golden Plains	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
59	Greater Bendigo	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
60	Indigo	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
61	Mansfield	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020

Schedule 1 Local government areas and eligible emergency periods

Clause 1

Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods				
Item	Column 1 Local government area	Column 2 State or Territory in which area is located	Column 3 First day of eligible emergency period relating to area	Column 4 Last day of eligible emergency period relating to area
62	Mount Buller Alpine Resort	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
63	Mount Hotham Alpine Resort	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
64	Mount Stirling Alpine Resort	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
65	Moyne	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
66	Northern Grampians	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
67	Pyrenees	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
68	Southern Grampians	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
69	Strathbogie	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
70	Towong	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
71	Wangaratta	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
72	Wellington	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
73	Wodonga	Victoria	21 November 2019	20 February 2020
74	Brisbane	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
75	Bundaberg	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
76	Cook	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
77	Fraser Coast	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
78	Gladstone	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
79	Gold Coast	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
80	Gympie	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
81	Ipswich	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
82	Livingstone	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
83	Lockyer Valley	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
84	Mareeba	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
85	Noosa	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019

Local government areas and eligible emergency periods **Schedule 1**

Clause 1

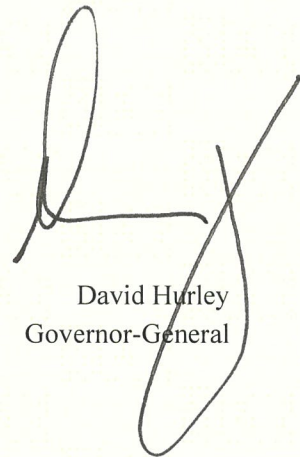
Schedule 1 local government areas and eligible emergency periods				
Item	Column 1 Local government area	Column 2 State or Territory in which area is located	Column 3 First day of eligible emergency period relating to area	Column 4 Last day of eligible emergency period relating to area
86	North Burnett	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
87	Redland	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
88	Rockhampton	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
89	Scenic Rim	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
90	Somerset	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
91	South Burnett	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
92	Southern Downs	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
93	Sunshine Coast	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
94	Toowoomba	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
95	Townsville	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
96	Whitsunday	Queensland	(a) 6 September 2019 (b) 9 November 2019	(a) 17 September 2019 (b) 23 November 2019
97	Adelaide Hills	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
98	Coorong	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
99	Kangaroo Island	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
100	Kingston	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
101	Lower Eyre Peninsula	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
102	Mid Murray	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
103	Mount Barker	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
104	Murray Bridge	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
105	Playford	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
106	Southern Mallee	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
107	Yorke Peninsula	South Australia	20 November 2019	6 January 2020
108	Australian Capital Territory	Australian Capital Territory	6 January 2020	5 February 2020



National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Amendment (Kangaroo Island) Declaration 2020

I, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting on the recommendation of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, make the following declaration.

Dated *18 December* 2020



David Hurley
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command



Ben Morton
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

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1 Name

This instrument is the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Amendment (Kangaroo Island) Declaration 2020*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	The day this instrument is made.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subregulation 3(2) of the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011* set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011 that instituted the National Emergency Medal.

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1 Amendments

Schedule 1—Amendments

National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20) Declaration 2020

1 Clause 1 of Schedule 1 (table item 99, column 4)

Omit “January”, substitute “February”.



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
 ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
 ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
 ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ELECTORAL MATTERS

Reference: MB21-000050

Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP
 Member for Mayo
 PO Box 1601
 MT BARKER SA 5251

Dear Ms Sharkie

Further to my letter of 26 February 2021 and our subsequent meeting regarding the award of the *National Emergency Medal (Bushfires 2019-20)*, specifically relating to those who responded to the Adelaide Hills bushfires, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update.

As you are aware the National Emergency Medal Committee provides advice on the eligibility criteria for the NEM based on the circumstances of each emergency, including the scale and impact on communities and the nature of the response and types of deployments.

As I indicated in our meeting I have subsequently reached out the Chair of the NEM Committee, Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, reiterating the representations you have made on behalf of your constituents, those Defence, reservists and civilian personnel who responded to the 2019-20 bushfires in Adelaide Hills seeking to amend the eligibility criteria.

I understand the Country Fire Authority have also consulted the NEM Secretariat requesting the NEM Committee review the dates of eligibility for the Adelaide Hills LGA.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons has agreed to consider this matter including eligible dates for the Adelaide Hills LGA at the committees next meeting scheduled for early June 2021.

I trust this information is of assistance and I will be in touch again with any further updates.

Yours sincerely

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

BEN MORTON

25/5 / 2021

Thanks for your very strong
 advocacy on this issue. Ben