

National Emergency Medal – Black Summer Bushfires 2019-20

Eligibility

The National Emergency Medal (NEM) was established in 2011 to provide recognition within the Australian Honours System, for the committed and courageous efforts of frontline responders, volunteers and community supporters during nationally-significant emergencies in Australia.

The most recent emergency – the Black Summer Bushfires 2019-20 was declared on 2 December 2020, and the Declaration (see below) includes information on geographical areas, dates and eligible service during the emergency.

What is eligible service?

To be considered for the award of a National Emergency Medal and/or Clasp, applicants must have rendered eligible service as outlined in Clause 9 of the Declaration.

Response - refers to action and intervention during a declared emergency. The focus is on saving lives and protecting community assets (properties and infrastructure).

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Dates of service
- Type of service
- Location of service
- Length of service

To assist the assessment process, applicants and nominators must include all relevant information, including the role/position and the description of service performed in direct response to the emergency.

What is not eligible service?

Service provided during the recovery phase is not considered as eligible.

Recovery - refers to the repair, reconstruction and rebuilding of communities following the impact of an emergency. The focus is on coordinating support for emergency-affected communities, in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration.

Persons who meet the minimum service requirements but were not engaged in duties that were in direct response to the nationally-significant emergency, e.g. being on standby and alert do not constitute service in direct response.



Bushfires 2019-20 Declaration

The [National Emergency Medal \(Bushfires 2019-20\) Declaration 2020](#) states:

Clause 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.

Clause 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 that area.

Clause 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).

How to apply

If you provided service with a group, agency or organisation during the nationally-significant emergency, please contact your primary service organisation to be considered for the award.

More information on how to apply is available at: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsnational-emergency-medal/apply-national-emergency-medal>

Contact us

Email: nem@gg.gov.au

Phone: 02 6283 3533

More information is available at: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/national-emergency-medal>



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