



## National Emergency Medal

On 26 January 2020, the Honourable Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia announced that Australian Defence Force members may be eligible to receive the National Emergency Medal in recognition of their service and sacrifice during the 2019-20 bushfires.

The National Emergency Medal may be awarded to members of eligible organisations, or individuals, who have given sustained or significant service during declared national emergencies.

### Administration

The Department of Defence does not administer the National Emergency Medal.

The medal is administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House.

### Eligibility Criteria

Service during this nationally significant emergency will be recognised through the clasp, 'BUSHFIRES 19-20'. The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

- 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).
- The geographical area in Australia where the declared emergency happened, are the Local Government Areas (LGA) listed in the Bushfire 2019-20 Declaration. Individuals physically located outside a declared geographical area may still be eligible for the National Emergency Medal, provided the service rendered was in direct response to the emergency in a declared area.
- The qualifying period for each local government area is listed in Bushfire 2019-20 Declaration. Amendments extending the eligible emergency period for Kangaroo Island to 6 Feb 2020 and Adelaide Hills to 22 Jan 2020 have been approved.

The minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days (whether consecutive or not) each involving service in direct response to the declared emergency relating to a local government area in an eligible emergency period for the area. Up to two travel days may be counted towards the minimum duration of service; one on either side of the deployment. A 'day' for the purposes of the National Emergency Medal refers to a calendar day. A minimum of four hours of service per day is required. On occasion, there will be instances where not all Defence members meet the specified eligibility criteria.



## Applying for a NEM

Members should ensure that details in Operation Logs and Activity Logs within PMKeyS are accurate and Post Activity Reports detail the exact activities undertaken whilst contributing to the Bushfire emergency of 2019-20 on OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST.

ADF members that were **force assigned** are not required to nominate for the National Emergency Medal as a nominal roll report will be drawn from PMKeyS Operational Logs.

ADF members that were **not force assigned** are required to nominate for the National Emergency Medal, through the following points of contact:

Navy: [navy.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au](mailto:navy.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au)

Army: [army.ceremonial@defence.gov.au](mailto:army.ceremonial@defence.gov.au)

Air Force: [afhq.h&a@defence.gov.au](mailto:afhq.h&a@defence.gov.au)

Defence APS employees and Defence contractors are to contact [dha.nem@defence.gov.au](mailto:dha.nem@defence.gov.au) to discuss their nominations.

Defence Honours and Awards is working with the Services to produce consolidated lists of nominees (schedules). The NEM schedules are drawn from a combination of PMKeyS Operational/Activity Logs and additional information provided by units on duties performed in direct response to these emergencies. Once compiled, they will be submitted to the Secretariat at Government House for consideration. The Secretariat recommends, those who are deemed to have provided eligible service, to the Governor-General for approval.