

# Implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

<b>Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule</b>	
<b>Parties</b>	<p>Commonwealth</p> <p>New South Wales</p> <p>Victoria</p> <p>Queensland</p> <p>Western Australia</p> <p>South Australia</p> <p>Tasmania</p> <p>Australian Capital Territory</p> <p>Northern Territory</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 December 2022, or upon full implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This Schedule will support the implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System will improve public safety and reduce the impacts of bushfires by improving decision making enabled by more accurate scientific information. Nationally consistent fire danger rating information will be available to the public, reducing confusion about how to react to a warning.</p> <p>The funding the states and territories receive through this agreement will assist in addressing recommendations 13.1 (Development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System), and 13.2 (Education on the Australian Fire Danger Rating system) of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.</p>

Estimated financial contributions

The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the states and territories of \$18.18m in respect of this Schedule.

**Table 1**

(\$ million)	2021-22	Total
<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>36.36</b>	<b>36.36</b>
<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	<i>18.18</i>	<i>18.18</i>
- NSW	5.285	5.285
- Queensland	1.610	1.610
- Victoria	5.39	5.39
- Western Australia	1.950	1.950
- South Australia	1.985	1.985
- Tasmania	1.395	1.395
- Australian Capital Territory	0.31	0.31
- Northern Territory	0.255	0.255
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	18.18	18.18

Additional terms

The states and territories will be responsible for providing a financial and/or in-kind contribution to support the implementation of this Schedule.

States and territories must ensure the AFDRS is implemented by 1 September 2022.

To assist with rapid implementation of AFDRS, a state/territory will be eligible to a payment of the amount specified for that state in Table 1 once the Commonwealth and the state have signed this schedule. It is a condition of funding that each state is required to deliver the outputs specified in their reporting table.

**Implementation Plan**

1. The AFDRS cutover date of 1 September 2022 was outlined in the project Implementation Plan submitted by the AFDRS Project Board and may only be adjusted by the AFDRS Project Board after the commencement of this Schedule.
2. States and territories must notify the Commonwealth as soon as practicable if the cutover date set by the AFDRS Project Board cannot be achieved.

**Table 2H: Northern Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Reporting requirements	Report due	Payment
Infrastructure (e.g. signs) are in place and operational ICT Changes are finalised and operational Community members are alerted to the new rating system and how it works through education activities.	Commonwealth acceptance of State’s report that evidences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signage and any other infrastructure replacement plan and implementation to date</li> <li>• all ICT changes co-funded by the Commonwealth have been/will be implemented for the cutover date of 1 September 2022 (or date agreed by the AFDRS Program Board)</li> <li>• development and delivery of a Community Education Program to raise awareness of the new system across the community, in place for the cutover date of 1 September 2022 (or date agreed by the AFDRS Program Board), and for ongoing education throughout the high risk weather season</li> </ul>	15/08/2022	N/A
Crossover date of 1 September 2022 (or date agreed by the AFDRS Board) has been met	Evidence the AFDRS is in place for the cutover date of 1 September 2022 (or date agreed by the AFDRS Program Board)	10/09/2022	N/A

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by

**Senator, the Honourable Bridget McKenzie**  
 Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience

[Day] [Month] [Year]

13/5/2022

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

**The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA**  
 Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

17 MAY 2022