The Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System has been developed based on community research and input from Australia's emergency services and hazard agencies.

As part of a major national research project, more than 14,000 people were surveyed or interviewed, to assess community perceptions of existing warning systems and improvements which could make warnings clearer and lead people to take action during hazard events.

The system builds on existing warning frameworks and would apply to bushfire, flood, severe storm, cyclone and extreme heat - but is designed to be adaptable and scalable to other hazards.

The role of warnings in a public information and warnings context

A warning provides point-in-time information about a hazard that is impacting or is expected to impact communities. It describes the impact and expected consequences for communities and includes advice on what people should do.

General preparedness and pre-season messaging

> Eg community engagement, campaigns

Information and advice about increasing hazard danger or impact

Eg short term forecasts, weather products, fire danger ratings

Information about incidents which are not posing a threat

Eg incidents or planned events displayed on websites or apps, general information Australian Warnings System

Reduced threat

Closure of incidents, or when an incident is no longer posing a threat to the community

Relief and Recovery information

Commencing during the incident, and providing information about recovery and relief

Ongoing information and messaging

Routine information about recovery or preparing for future events

A nested model: Three levels of warnings with action statements

Names of levels have been optimised through research, and it is proposed to combine these with a set of action statements, to give the community clearer advice about what to do

Warning Level

EMERGENCY WARNING

WATCH AND ACT

ADVICE

Hazard / Location

Bush fire Flood Cyclone

Action Statement

Leave now **Evacuate immediately** Seek shelter now Prepare to leave **Stay Informed Prepare Now** (examples only)

EMERGENCY WARNING - Browntown Bush Fire -Leave Now

ADVICE -Smithtown flooding - Stay Informed

A consistent set of hazard icons for each level

Adopting a consistent shape and colour scheme, with icons increasing in size as the warning level increases



















FLOOD

EXTREME HEAT

Using the outcomes of community research, a consistent set of hazard icons has been developed for the five hazards:

- Triangle shape with sharp corners
- Yellow, orange, red colour palette
- Icon size or type increasing as warning level increases
- Reduced Threat option to inform community that it is safe to resume normal activities

Supported by consistent hazard warning frameworks

Hazard frameworks will be developed to map hazard impacts to warning levels

BUSH FIRE

Existing framework in place. Update as part of Australian Fire Danger Rating System review.

FLOOD

Framework to be developed by BoM and hazard agencies to map existing warning products

CYCLONE

Requirement to map existing five categories or alert levels to new system

SEVERE WEATHER

Framework to be developed by hazard leads and BoM

EXTREME HEAT

Framework to be developed by hazard leads and BoM