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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## 2020 Bushfire Information for Murray Darling Basin communities

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The 2019–20 bushfire season has been unprecedented in intensity, duration and loss of life and property. The annual bushfire season usually runs from December to March, however the prolonged drought and record breaking temperatures has seen fires heavily impacting regions in NSW from as early as September 2019, and continuing across Basin states at catastrophic levels into the new year.

The Murray Darling Association, Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin, has launched a webpage to provide a selection of direct links to emergency information, warning and recovery resources for impacted states across the Murray-Darling Basin.

The website contains links to emergency financial assistance websites, as well as welfare information and information on how to support bushfire-impacted communities.

"Our hearts go out to those impacted by bushfires, including many of our MDA members and their communities. The bushfire season will continue, but there are a number of ways to get involved and help support the communities that have already been impacted," said MDA CEO Emma Bradbury.

"Donations of goods and services will be valuable in the months ahead when distribution networks have been established, but at the moment the MDA recommends donating money to a registered not-for-profit organisation, or contacting your local council for more information on how you can help.

We will continue to keep our members informed on issues of recovery, impacts on water allocations, and opportunities to support, unite and lead our Basin communities through and beyond this event."

The MDA encourages those impacted by the bushfires to stay informed via the emergency links and stay safe during the remainder of Australia's bushfire season.

### **Background:**

MDA 2020 Bushfire Information Website: <https://www.mda.asn.au/regions/2020-bushfire-information.aspx>

ENDS                      *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*