



FIRES UPDATE

**BUSHFIRE BOUNCEBACK |
RAIN & RECOVERY**



16 January 2020

Dear Valued Agents,

Following on from the comprehensive update from our GM last week, we wanted to provide you with the latest information and positive changes that have occurred during this time. It has been an extremely challenging time for so many communities during the bushfire crisis and we thank you very much for amazing support during these challenging weeks.

The last week has brought generally cooler conditions across much of the eastern coast of Australia and has afforded fire crews the opportunity to bring the major blazes under control. There have been **NO fires burning**

at an emergency level over the last week, and the focus has very much switched to one of **recovery with a focus to the future**. Whilst we can't predict the future, the weather changes certainly seem to indicate that the worst fire conditions look to have passed.

The below update provides a comprehensive overview of any road closures, current fire conditions, alternative route suggestions and also a link to an interactive [map](#) showing the regions that have been affected, as well as showing the vast majority of unaffected areas.

RAIN...GLORIOUS RAIN | NSW & VIC 'COPS A SOAKING'

Much of NSW and Victoria are currently receiving some much overdue rainfall, with some areas **expected to accumulate up to 100 mm of rain by the end of the week**. Rain is also expected over the fire-grounds in NSW with an average of 25-50 mm to fall in the south of the state.

After some poor air quality earlier in the week in Melbourne, the city received a drenching with a month's worth of rain falling overnight, that has settled much of this air and returned to moderate levels. In further positive news, **heavy falls are forecast for the east of the state from today until the weekend**. This will bring will some much needed relief to the East Gippsland region so affected by the recent fires.

FIRE AFFECTED AREA & ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE

NSW South Coast

We are now pleased to say that large sections of the South Coast are back to normal operation, especially the whole Jervis Bay region. Earlier this week, the Kings Road, that connects Batemans Bay through to Canberra also reopened after being closed for nearly a month.

Below is a summary of key routes and their current status:

- Sydney to Huskisson (Jervis Bay) – OK
- Sydney to Batemans Bay - OK
- Batemans Bay to Canberra via Kings Road - OK
- Huskisson to Merimbula (via Tilba Tilba) – OK
- Huskisson via Kangaroo Valley to Hume Hwy - OK
- Tilba Tilba/Narooma/Merimbula - Inland via Cooma - OK
- Eden towards Victoria border - NO
- Jindabyne to Khancoban (Kosciuszko NP) - NO
- The Snowy Mountains Highway between Tumut and Adaminaby - OK

Alpine Region - Mt Kosciuszko

- Visitors can now access Thredbo Village precinct via Alpine Way from Jindabyne. All visitors to Thredbo Village need to remain within the precinct boundaries.
- **The Alpine Way is now open between Jindabyne and Thredbo Village.**
- The Alpine way is closed between Thredbo Village and Khancoban.

- The Snowy Mountains Highway is now **open between Tumut and Adaminaby**.
- There is a road closure on Kosciuszko Road at Thredbo River picnic area (toward Perisher Valley).
- Visitors must remain within the road corridor of any open roads located within Kosciuszko National Park as there may be hazards like burnt trees and damaged buildings near roads.

Note: For practical driving purposes, given the current inability to travel south of Eden, most itineraries at this stage are still incorporating Jervis Bay, but then heading inland via Kangaroo Valley. For suggested inland routes, please see the section of this update on Alternate Routes from Sydney to Melbourne and reverse. It is **anticipated that Jindabyne properties will be open from Friday 17th**.



Map of NSW South Coast & Alpine Regions: Highlighted areas denote safe and open routes of travel. Currently travel further south of Merimbula on the South Coast is restricted. Efforts are being made to have this open as soon as possible.

Blue Mountains | Get your Hiking boots on!

Many Blue Mountains lookouts and reserves have reopened on Tuesday (14th January) now that conditions have improved and there is isolated and low fire activity in the area. All accommodation operators have remained open and look forward to welcome guests.

- All Blue Mountains fires are now contained. NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) report that the majority of bushfire operations are now focused on aerial patrol with some limited ground operations continuing until late this week.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have also **reopened key lookouts, picnic areas and walking tracks from Katoomba to Wentworth Falls**

Check the NPWS website alerts in regard to the status of any remaining closed areas within the Blue Mountains National Park at

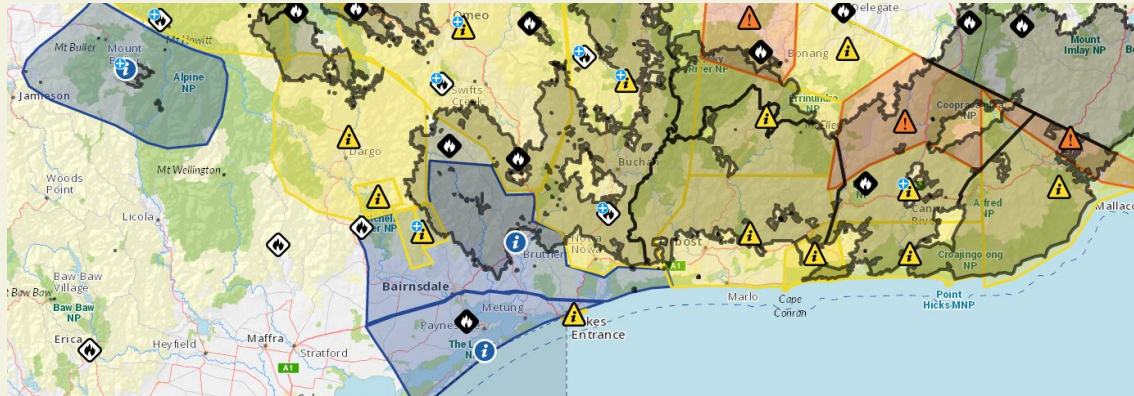
<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/blue-mountains-national-park/local-alerts>

East Gippsland – Victoria

From the Victoria Border to Lakes Entrance is still closed in many locations. This restricts those travelling south from NSW or for practical purposes, those looking to drive to Lakes Entrance from Melbourne, as they cannot currently travel further.

- Metung, Lakes Entrance and Bairnesdale are currently in the blue zone, which is not an imminent threat and presently safe for visitors.

Goway is monitoring the region for any changes.



Source: Vic Emergency - Map Showing key tourism areas of Metung & Lakes Entrance outside warning areas. Road from VIC border on coast and alpine regions anticipated to still be closed still for several weeks.

Kangaroo Island - Western side.

Tourism is the most important industry on Kangaroo Island and is vital to its recovery. To help rebuild, you can play a vital part in this by planning a trip to KI for your clients.

As we know, the western end of the island has been largely impacted with several accommodation and infrastructure assets lost. However, Kangaroo Island is a large island, so large in fact that it's six times the size of Singapore with 4,405 square Km of land. Much of the island is open, accessible as road closures ease over the coming days, Kangaroo Island

will continue to be a great draw-card for international guests.

The South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) has advised that milder weather on Kangaroo Island over the next couple days is giving them confidence they will be able to secure the perimeter of the fire during this time. There are currently no restrictions regarding travel to and from Kangaroo Island, according to CFS advice.

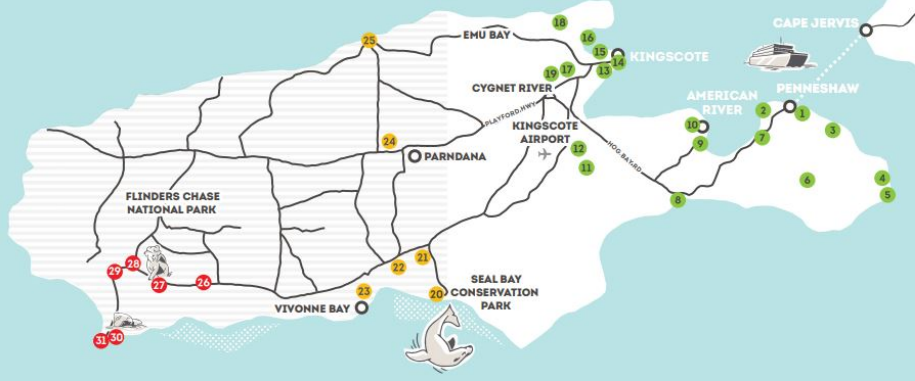
Regarding all other tourism regions of South Australia. There are currently no fires or warnings of note and they are actively welcoming visitors during the peak summer period. This includes the reopening of the Eyre Highway on the South Australia and Western Australia border.

- Key towns of **Kingscote, Cygnet River, American River and Penneshaw, remain unaffected.**
- **Sealink** ferries have operated throughout the fire crisis and have **commenced running selected day tours from today** (16 January). Please contact Goway for more information.
- There are still considerable road closures in place from the mid-section of the island, but we are following information closely and anticipate these closures to be lifted, once debris and hazards have been cleared from the road.

KANGAROO ISLAND

Bushfire Information Map for Travel Trade Partners

- KEY**
- Open
 - Closed
 - Limited access
 - Do not travel unless necessary



- 1 Kangaroo Island Seafront
- 2 Kangaroo Island Ocean Safaris
- 3 Dudley Wines
- 4 Sea Dragon Lodge & Villas
- 5 Cape Willoughby
- 6 False Cape Wines
- 7 Sunset Food & Wine
- 8 Pennington Bay / Prospect Hill
- 9 The Oyster Farm Shop
- 10 Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge
- 11 Clifford's Honey Farm
- 12 Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Oil Distillery
- 13 Kangaroo Island Brewery
- 14 Kangaroo Island Marine Adventures
- 15 Aurora Ozone Hotel
- 16 Bay of Shoals
- 17 Kangaroo Island Spirits
- 18 Emu Bay Lavender Farm
- 19 The Islander Estate
- 20 Seal Bay Conservation Park
- 21 Raptor Domain
- 22 Little Sahara
- 23 Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action
- 24 Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park
- 25 Stokes Bay
- 26 Kelly Hill Caves
- 27 Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- 28 Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail
- 29 Flinders Chase Visitor Centre
- 30 Remarkable Rocks
- 31 Admirals Arch

LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION

Road Closures: <https://traffic.sa.gov.au/>
 CFS Updates: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/warnings_and_incidents/current_cfs_warnings.jsp
 Weather Updates: <http://www.bom.gov.au/so/forecasts/kangaroo-island.shtml>



TRADE.SOUTH AUSTRALIA.COM | INFORMATION CORRECT AS AT 3:00PM ACDT 15/01/2020

Source: SATC - For a comprehensive overview of businesses still operating including accommodation, please check [this link](#).



Australia | Open For Business

With many of you attending consumer shows this month, Goway are your 'eyes and ears' on the ground and an extension of your office. We want to assist you in arming you with the information you need to convince clients to both book new arrangements and not cancel existing bookings. Our multilingual staff look forward to work closely with your consultants to ensure that our mutual clients have a truly memorable experience and a 'trip of a lifetime'.

The below [map](#) is an excellent interactive resource that has been compiled by Tourism Australia and is an accurate reflection of areas affected, and the vast majority of areas that have remained unaffected. This visual tool will be valuable when speaking to clients about their Australia trip.

It is very much our hope that these clients will very much act as travel ambassadors to Australia and communicate the message to all their

friends that Australia is very much OPEN FOR BUSINESS. We would encourage you to have clients travelling to Australia soon, especially in those recently affected regions, to send photos of them enjoying their holiday that you can then utilise positively in your own social media.

Thanks for your continued support!

FUTURE BOOKINGS

Our advice to your consultants for concerned passengers with future bookings is as follows:

1. If they are not travelling until later, eg February, March, **wait** a week or two and make a decision closer to the time. Please note full cancellation terms apply to any cancellations for properties that are still operating and not affected by road closures.
2. Talk to us. Send us an email outlining their concerns if you're not confident enough to answer their questions and give reassurance.
3. Amend their itinerary to other states or areas if they don't want to go where fires have ravaged the landscape. Jervis Bay is still spectacular for example, but they would expect to drive past burned out forests on the way there.

4. If they really don't want to go to Australia at all, consider New Zealand for all or part of their trip (eg Queensland + NZ instead of NSW).
5. Change their dates to a later month eg May when the bushfire season has passed



A fantastic interactive map compiled by Tourism Australia that very clearly shows the areas of Australia that have been impacted in orange and red colour. The green

demonstrates the vast majority of the country is 'fire free' and wants your business.

Source : Tourism Australia



ALTERNATE ROUTES | MELBOURNE <> SYDNEY

Given the aforementioned road closures still in place, it is important to provide practical recommendations for clients who will be travelling in the immediate future, or possibly those who do not wish to see evidence of the fires on the landscape

We would suggest the following inland itineraries for clients travelling between Melbourne and Sydney. These are just suggests and can be extended, but offers another corner of this beautiful country to explore, which allows clients to continue with their Australia plans with their original itinerary mostly unimpacted.

5 Day Sydney to Melbourne:

Albury Wodonga

Quest Wodonga / Best Western Hovell Tree /
Mantra Albury

Canberra

Rydges Capital Hill / QT Canberra / Crowne Plaza



Reading Fire Maps

Bear in mind that blackened areas on these maps show burnt areas within an active or formerly active fire, but don't indicate that the entire black area is alight.

To stay up to date with the most current information, please refer to these links:

NSW, VIC & South Australia Rural Fire Service - Fire Maps

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

NSW, VIC & WA Road Closures

<http://alerts.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.livetraffic.com/desktop.html>

<https://mrw-aue-tvimp-appsrv-prd.azurewebsites.net/Home/Map>



MAKING A DONATION

If you or your clients want to donate money to help, you'll find a list of some of Goway's recommended options on our Head Office agent site:

<http://blog.goway.com/gowayagent/australian-bush-fires-donations-for-people-and-wildlife/>

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For Urgent Matters Outside of Business Hours
Contact our Emergency Assist Line

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