



FIRES UPDATE

**Kangaroo Island, NSW South Coast,
Alpine Region
&
Victorian East Gippsland**



06 January 2020

Dear All,

Please find below the latest update on the bushfire crisis currently occurring in certain parts of Australia. Goway has been proactively contacting and have successfully relocated all clients whose travel plans will be impacted by these fires.

Kangaroo Island Fire

On the evening of Friday 3rd January, a fire situation escalated rapidly and without warning on **Kangaroo Island**, which has resulted in the loss of key tourism infrastructure on the western side of the Island, including Southern Ocean Lodge, and Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary & Cabins. The eastern side of the island has been unaffected by the fire.

Firefighters on the island have been battling fires since before Christmas, but extreme temperatures and wind caused the blaze to go dangerously out of control resulting in the destruction of much of the Flinders Chase National Park.

Goway is pleased to say that as of Friday evening, there were no Goway booked clients on the island.

Summary:

- **Sealink** have confirmed that **all day tours are cancelled for today 6th January and likely Tuesday 7th**. Further updates will be provided as to the status moving forward.
- We are proactively re-booking affected clients that are due to stay over the coming days and taking advise from our supplier partners.
- For clients with accommodation in the '**current**' **safe areas**, it may be ok to travel later in the week. These areas include, **Penneshaw, Kingscote, American River & Willoughby**. Please see the image below for the location of the properties that are presently unaffected.
- Vehicle access is possible as far as '**Vivonne Bay**'
- Goway is monitoring the situation closely and email agents directly regarding specific bookings. For specific questions relating to

existing bookings or cancellation fees, please contact us directly.

- For further information, please check CFS Website for most up to date info: <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

NSW & Victoria Fires

Saturday was 'crunch day' for the fires on the east coast, and following horrific fire conditions on Saturday with temperatures soaring over 40 degrees along the coast, Sunday brought with it some cooler temperatures and more favourable conditions for fighting fires.

Summary

- Easing conditions after horror weekend
- Cooler weather and rain is giving firefighters the chance to catch their breath and strengthen containment lines on the bushfires burning across NSW & Victoria.
- As of Sunday evening, no fires in Victoria and New South Wales were burning at an "emergency" level, but many remain at a 'watch and act' level.

Road Closures NSW & Victoria:

- The roads to **Huskisson** have again been opened and the Moss Vale Road from **Bomaderry to Fitzroy Falls via Kangaroo Valley** is open again. This means clients travelling from the coast can access the Hume Highway via Kangaroo Valley.

- The **Princes Highway** south from **Jervis Bay** is still closed as is the **Kings Road via Braidwood**
- **Alpine Way** remains closed as well as access to **Mt Kosciuszko NP and Alpine towns**
- Please note that the road to **Metung** and **Lakes Entrance** along the **Princes Highway** is open, but given the **Watch and Act** Status of the fire burning north of **Bairnsdale**, Clients should avoid this area presently.
- The road south of **Mallacoota** at the Victorian border through to near **Lakes Entrance** is closed.
- **Crews working to reopen roads:** The Princes Highway to Mallacoota and the Great Alpine Road north-west of Omeo are the first priorities for state government repair crews racing to re-open roads cut off in the bushfire crisis

NSW & VIC Rural Fire Service - Fire Maps

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

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

NSW & VIC Road Closures

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

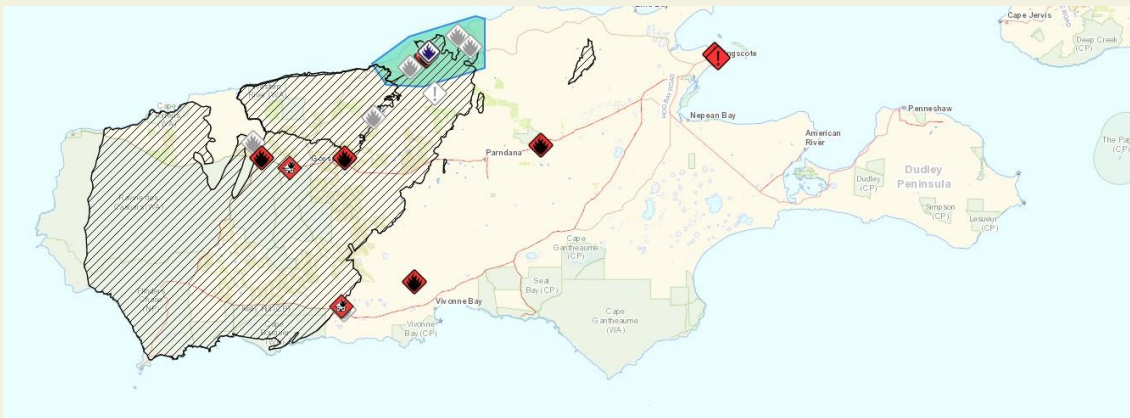
<https://www.livetraffic.com/desktop.html>

Future Travel to Australia

Please find below important maps about the areas affected, website links to stay up to date, as well as information that will ensure you are equipped to better inform your clients, should they be anxious about upcoming travel.

The vast majority of Australia is open to travel and is presently unaffected. Client safety is of paramount importance for Goway, but the best thing way that you can assist in supporting Australia at this time, is to still have clients travel and amend bookings as necessary.

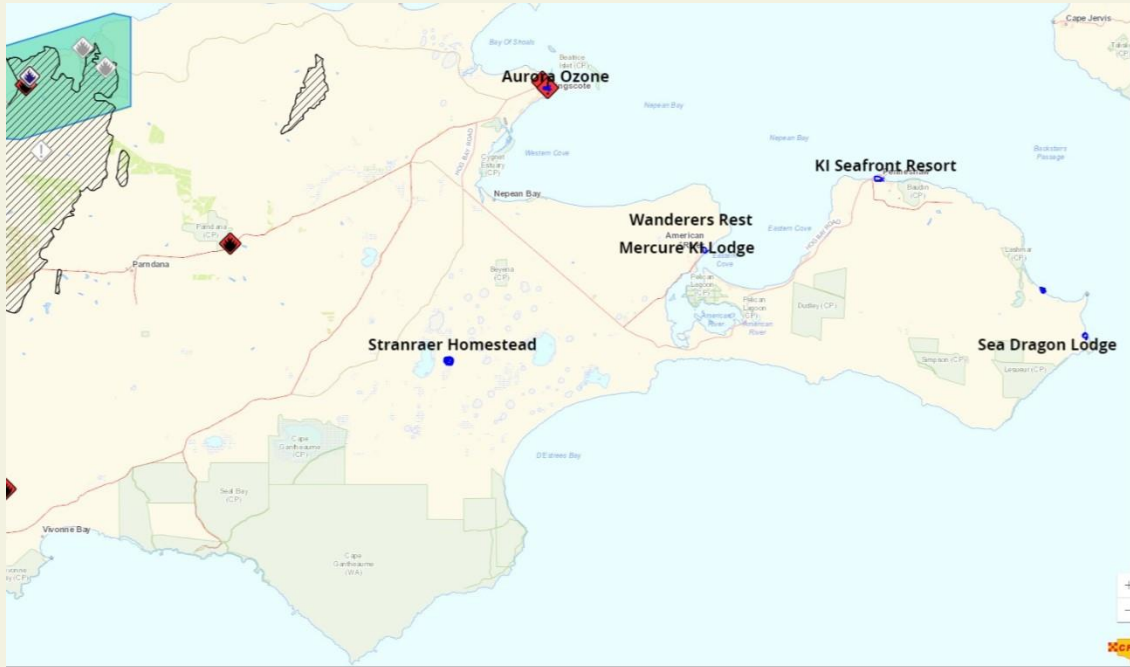
Please See the 'Australia Still Open for Business' info at the bottom of this communication for more info.

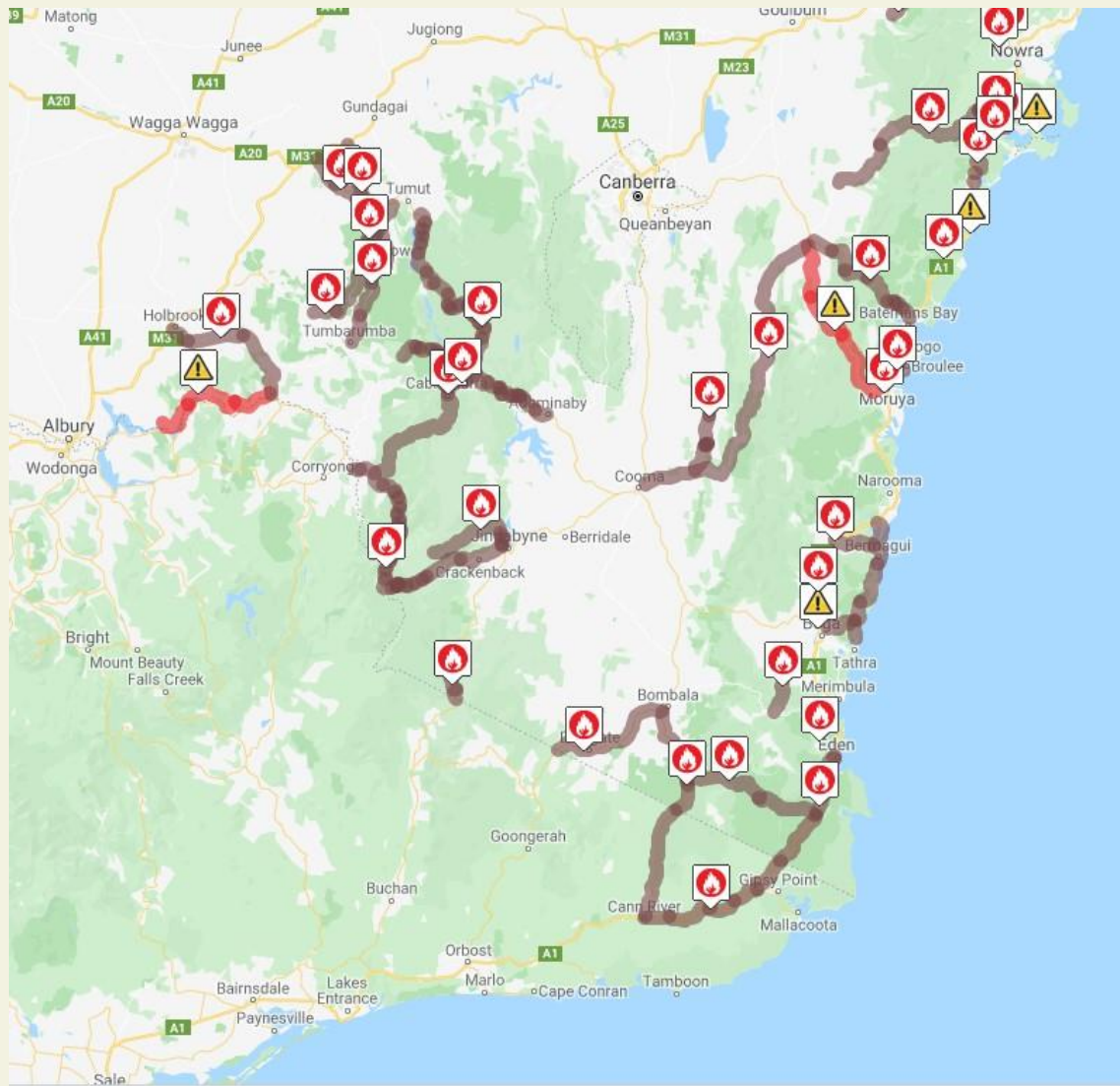


Above: Kangaroo Island Fire Map

Below: Kangaroo Island eastern property locations that are currently unaffected

Information valid as at 1600hrs | 06 Jan

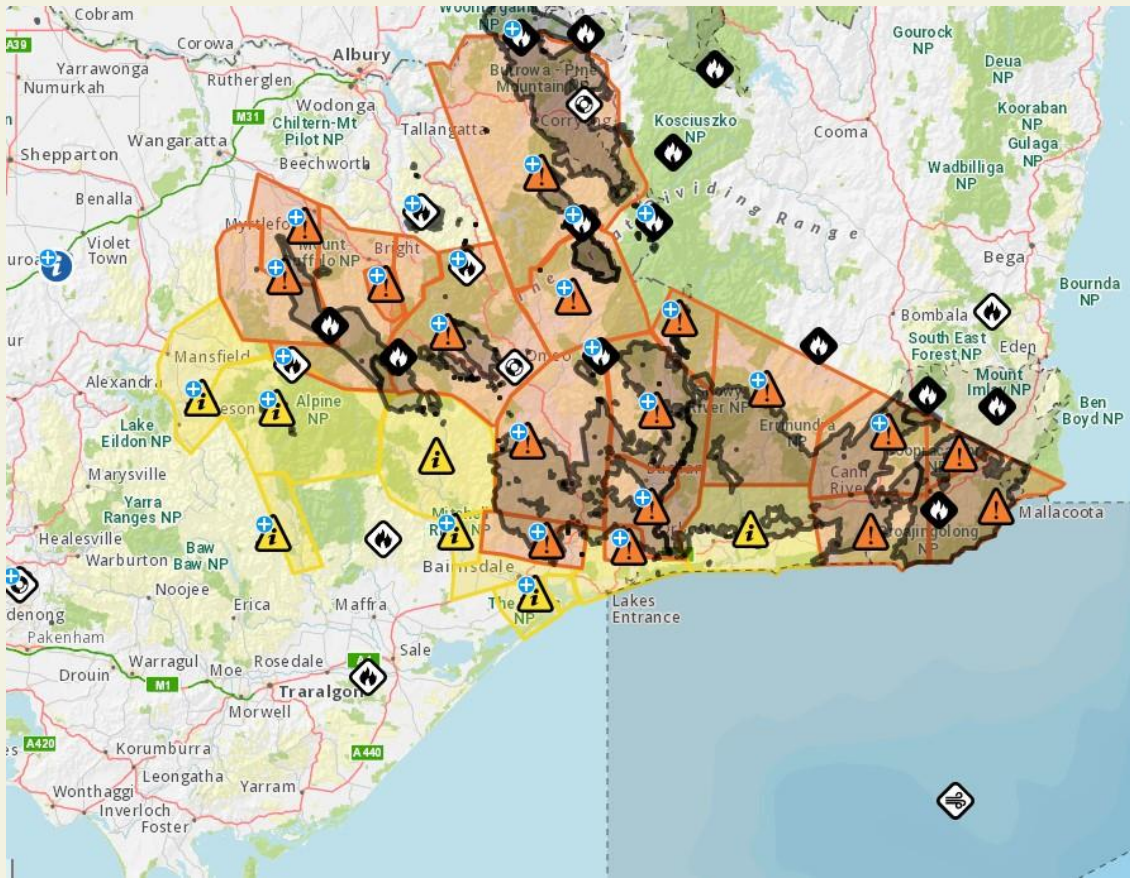




Above: NSW Fire Map

Below: Victoria East Gippsland Fire Map

Information valid as at 1600hrs | 06 Jan



WHAT GOWAY ARE DOING

- Goway has run reports of all clients in area and rebooked all clients that would have been affected by evacuations and fires.

- We are monitoring the situation very closely and our consultants will contact agents on an individual basis where clients are directly impacted, and make all necessary arrangements to assist them with safety being a priority.



The nature of the fire situation means that conditions change quickly. To stay up to date with the most current information, please see the below sources:

News Websites

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-fires-live-updates-southern-highlands-hit-as-rfs-warns-of-property-loss-and-damage-to-south-coast-20200105-p53ovx.html>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-06/nsw-victoria-communities-hope-for-bushfire-relieve-live-blog/11842558>

NSW & VIC Rural Fire Service - Fire Maps

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

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

NSW & VIC Road Closures

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

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



Australia | Still Open For Business

It is important to remember that this fire 'emergency', whilst serious, is affecting these specific parts of NSW and Victoria only; the rest of Australia is

open for travel.

Sydney remains completely unaffected and air quality has largely returned to normal. Day tour operators are travelling to Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley are operating as normal and normal cancellation terms will be enforced if clients choose not to travel.

In Victoria, all areas along The Great Ocean Road, Wilsons Promontory, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula, Phillip Island and The Grampians remain unaffected and totally safe to travel to. Travel from Sydney along the East Coast all the way to Cairns also remains unaffected.

There is no need to cancel any future travel arrangements to Australia, but should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our experienced team who will personally go over client arrangements to provide reassurance and the latest information pertinent to their booking.



1800 227 268 (toll free from Australia)
0800 170 032 (toll free from New Zealand)
customersupport@gowayinbound.travel

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

0411 781 144 (within Australia)

+61 411 781 144 (within New Zealand)