



Budget 2024-25 Factsheet

National Aerial Capability

Summary of Budget 2024-25

The safety of Australians before, during and after a disaster is paramount.

More than half of Australia's Local Government Areas have experienced a natural disaster since July 2022 – many, more than once.

The Australian Government has made significant improvements to the way the states and territories are supported in their primary responsibility of disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Much of this delivers on recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

For the third consecutive Budget the Australian Government has invested in measures that address the increase in severe and frequent natural hazards brought on by climate change.

This investment places a strong emphasis on disaster risk reduction and mitigation through the Disaster Ready Fund, already committing hundreds of millions of dollars in partnership with States and Territories on projects that manage the physical and social impacts of disasters and other natural hazards.

Through the National Emergency Management Agency, the Australian Government has stood with Australians whose lives have been turned upside down by floods, cyclones, storms and bushfires.

National Aerial Capability

National Aerial Capability The Australian Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), will deliver an enhanced national aerial emergency response capability through additional funding of \$35 million over the next two financial years from 2024-25.

This brings total Commonwealth funding for the national aerial capability to approximately \$48 million annually over the next two financial years.

Funding will be provided through a grant arrangement to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) to ensure continued support of the national aerial firefighting fleet (the Fleet), which is co-funded by the states and territories. This brings total Australian Government funding for the Fleet to approximately \$48 million annually over the next two financial years. The Australian Government will work with NAFC to shape the composition of the Fleet so it can be used for firefighting, emergency response, and evacuation, and other emergency assistance for Australians in all types of disasters. Funding will be provided through a grant arrangement to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) to ensure continued support of the national aerial firefighting fleet (the Fleet), which is co-funded by the states and territories. This brings total Australian Government funding for the Fleet to approximately \$51 million annually over the next two financial years. The Australian Government will work with NAFC to shape the composition of the Fleet so it can be used for firefighting, emergency response, and evacuation, and other emergency assistance for Australians in all types of disasters.

Funding will also support a comprehensive review of Australia's national aerial firefighting requirements, the current Fleet and funding model.



The Australian Government's support for the national aerial capability will improve states' and territories' ability to respond to disasters, as well as increase safety for all Australians.

Frequently asked questions

What will the funding be used for?

In addition to contributing to the leasing and standing costs of the Fleet, the additional funding will:

- provide protection to communities throughout the longer higher risk weather seasons that overlap with the northern hemisphere through the leasing of specialised aircraft;
- ensure the Fleet will include adequate aerial firefighting and multi-use capability aircraft; and
- ensure the Fleet can be used year-round and in support of international requests for assistance.

Funding will also support a comprehensive review of Australia's national aerial firefighting requirements, the current Fleet and funding model.

Will the Fleet perform additional functions?

The Australian Government, through NEMA, will work with NAFC to shape the composition of the Fleet so it can be used for firefighting, emergency rescue and evacuation, and other emergency assistance for Australians in all types of disasters.

Find out more about the National Aerial Capability on [NEMA's website](#).