Net Zero Commission

Extreme heat is Australia's deadliest natural hazard

Extreme heat causes more deaths and hospitalisations than any other natural disaster in Australia

374 deaths vs. **173 deaths**

2009 heatwave deaths before the fires

2009 Victorian Black Summer bushfire deaths

78% extreme heat vs. **22% other natural disasters**

Bushfires
Floods and storms
Extreme cold

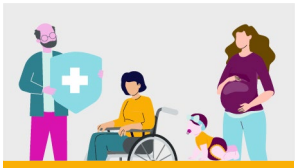
Extreme heat hospitalisations*

Other natural disasters hospitalisations*

*From July 2012 to June 2022.

Extreme heat impacts all our lives and makes us sick

Depending on your age, health and where you work and live your experience of extreme heat will be different.



Age and health

Environment

Work

Housing

With more people getting sick our health systems struggle and low productivity impacts the economy.

Health system pressure + **Economic pressure**

It's going to get hotter, with impacts getting worse unless we prepare now

Extreme heat events are going to intensify in different ways:

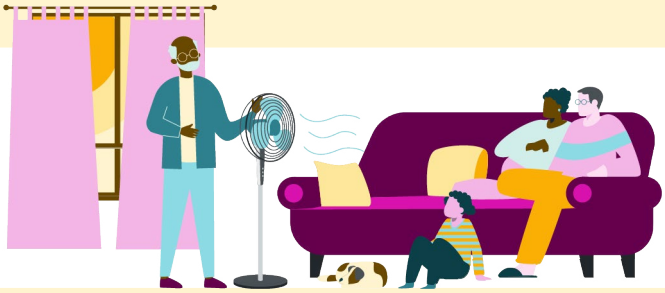
Happening more often + **Lasting longer** + **Reaching higher temperatures** + **Increasing humidity**

will make it harder to cool down.

What can we do about extreme heat in NSW?

Prepare better

Strengthen communities and health systems by planning ahead, with clear government actions before, during and after extreme heat.

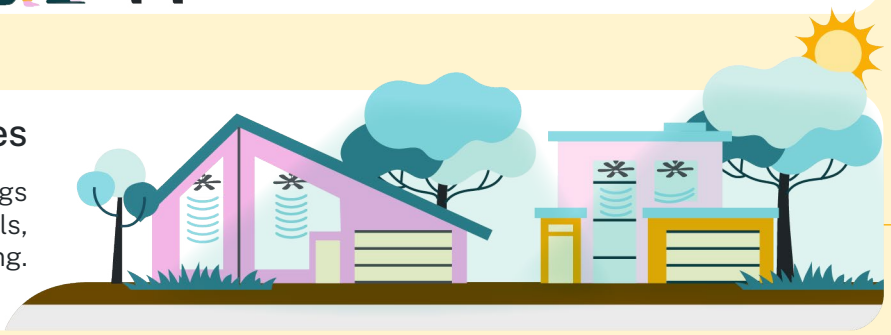


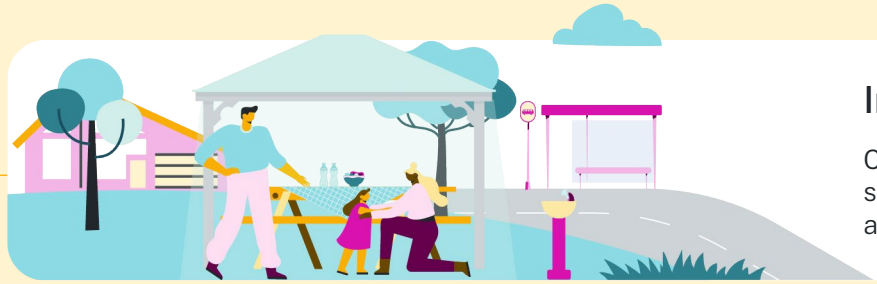
Respond better

Improve understanding of heat risks so people can protect themselves and help others stay safe.

Design better homes

Design homes and refurbished buildings to stay cooler and safer, including rentals, social and Aboriginal housing.



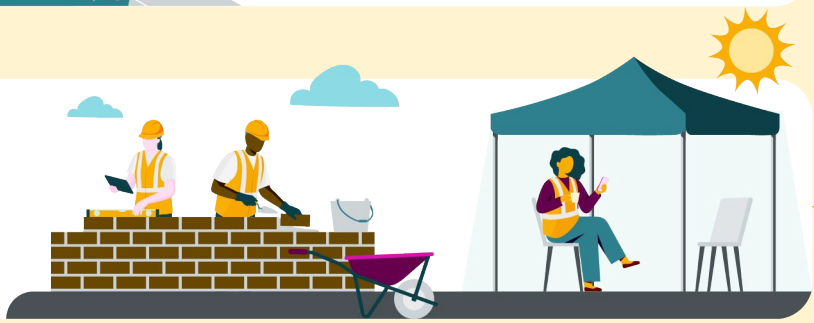


Improve communities

Create neighbourhoods with more shade, green spaces and cooler areas for when it gets hot.

Create safer workplaces

Provide shade, water, rest and cooler spaces to help keep workers healthy and productive.



Understand the risks

Collect better data on heat stress to target support where it's needed most.

Read the full Heat Stress Spotlight Report at www.netzerocommission.nsw.gov.au