



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade

Dominic Perrottet

Treasurer

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 18 January 2020

NSW GOVERNMENT COORDINATES BUSH FIRE CLEAN-UP

The NSW Government will coordinate the clean-up of residential and commercial properties destroyed by bush fires this season, at no cost to residents, so they can start rebuilding and communities can begin healing.

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro said work is already underway to clear insured and uninsured properties.

“The threat of bush fire is far from over this summer, but we need to help people across the State to rebuild and recover as quickly as possible,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The NSW Government will shortly appoint major contractors to do the clean-up, who will be encouraged to engage local contractors wherever possible.

“This work will include containment and removal of asbestos contaminated bush fire impacted materials, removal of all dangerous debris, including destroyed materials and hazardous trees and removal of concrete slab foundations.

“Cleaning up eligible destroyed properties will ensure that these costs are not deducted from funds available under residents’ insurance policies for rebuilding. For the uninsured, it’s one less thing to worry about.”

Clean-up arrangements coordinated by the NSW Government will include:

- The appointment of contractors in the South and the North to clean-up bush fire impacted properties.
- Costs for clean-up will be covered by the NSW Government in partnership with the Federal Government.
- Where insurance companies have commenced clean-up works for safety reasons these will continue.

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the NSW Government will work with insurance companies to ensure that any policy holders who have already had clean-up work completed will be at no disadvantage.

“I know people are anxious to have their properties cleared as soon as possible and with more than 2,200 homes destroyed it is a mammoth task, which is why the NSW Government has hit the ground running with the clean-up effort,” Mr Perrottet said.

"Impacted owners wanting their property cleared through this program need to call Service NSW on 13 77 88 to register their details and provide consent for access to their land."

Details regarding the appointed contractors and clearing of commercial properties will be announced shortly.

Further information is available at: www.service.nsw.gov.au

**MEDIA: Georgina Kentwell | Deputy Premier | 0427 206 308
Ian Paterson | Treasurer | 0438 748 501**