



# **National Operational Bushfire Boundaries**

#### **Metadata Statement**

This metadata statement relates only to the National Operational Bushfire Boundary files created between 8 January 2020 and 4 May 2020.

#### **Use Constraint:**



This material is released under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.

#### **Keywords:**

Bushfire, boundary, boundaries, wildfire, scars, black summer, Australia

## Abstract:

This spatial product was built in direct response to the public's, industry's and governments demand/requirement for a National Bushfire Boundary layer during and after the 2020 Black Summer Bushfires.

### **Example Map:**



Extracted image from the National database showing the NSW and Vic border regions

#### **Lineage Statement:**

EMSINA members (National and the Developers) begun developing this consolidated National Bushfire Boundary Webservice on December 30, 2019. With the technical assistance of Esri

Australia the first public facing product (v1) became available on January 8, 2020. Geoscience Australia staff were involved in the development and maintenance of the FME scripts.

Version 2 of the product was released in February as EMSINA and Geoscience Australia began automating the product. This release exhibited a reformatted attributed table to accommodate the new automation scripts; unfortunately this release resulted in having to release the data with new access end points.

The product was continuously developed until early May 2020. On May 4, 2020 the EMSINA Committee made the decision to stop running the script i.e. 1 month after the official end of the bushfire season.

The product and the scripting were subsequently archived on both EMSINA and GA infrastructure. The National Bushfire Recovery Agency was provided a copy of the automation scripts on May 7, 2020 and then on June 26, 2020 a complete copy of the data from January 8, 2020 to May 4, 2020 in a geodatabase format.

The EMSINA Group formally ended their technical involvement with this project on June 30, 2020.

#### **Reference System:**

GDA94

#### Source Information:

The Emergency Management LINK (EM-LINK\*) catalogue was the source for identifying the majority of the required data. The consolidated National Bushfire Boundary Webservice contains data from:

- Australian Capital Territory <u>Emergency Service Agency</u> (ESA)
- New South Wales <u>Rural Fire Service</u> (RFS)
- Queensland Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES)
- Queensland <u>Queensland Department of Environment and Science</u> (DES)
- South Australia <u>Country Fire Service</u> (CFS)
- Tasmania Tasmania Fire Service (TFS)
- Victoria <u>Emergency Management Victoria</u> (EMV)

Where EMSINA and/or Geoscience Australia had difficulty in accessing the required spatial data and/or attributes assistance was provided be the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and Emergency Management Australia.

#### **Attribute Accuracy:**

The accuracy of the attribute information is reliant upon the source data.

#### **Completeness:**

The operational bushfire database contains all 'known' jurisdictional data apart from the agency(s) data representing the state of Western Australia.

## **Data Dictionary:**

The following data dictionary table covers all the core data fields i.e. not the automatically added Esri attributes:

Attribute Name	Description
State	The state or territory each polygon is derived from
Title	This is the 'name' of the burnt area/boundary/event. Due to each state recording the burnt area name differently a single field from each state's feed has been selected/nominated in order to populate this information, with no changes made to the content retrieved directly from the feeds. As such the values in this attribute change considerable from state to state. Below are the fields/attributes from each state used to populate the 'Title' field:
	ACT – Title
	NSW – Title

	Qld FES - Filename	
	Qld E&S - HPQ - Task_Descri	
	Qld E&S - Flame History - Label	
	SA- incidentname	
	TAS – Name	
	VIC - INCIDENT_NAME	
PublishedDate	The time the boundary was recorded/published on the agency feed, according to the time field in the feed.	
Agency	Name of the responsible agency of the feed	
Date_Retrieved	This is the date and time, recorded in AEST, that GA retrieved the boundary from the source feed	
Hectares	Size of the polygon feature in Hectares (calculated in script)	
Square_Metres	Size of the polygon feature in Square Metres (calculated in script)	

#### **Data Maintenance:**

Throughout the period January to May 2020 EMSINA and Geoscience Australia maintained this product at regular intervals or as the need arose.

On June 30, 2020 the EMSINA Group transferred the ownership (custodianship) of this database across to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency. All updates to this database past this data will occur at their discretion.

### **Known Limitations of the Data:**

This database does not contain information from Western Australia. EMSINA nor the Australian Government were able to negotiate appropriate access to the State's operational boundary data.

EMSINA is aware of duplicate data (features) contained within this database. This duplicate data is commonly represented in the regions around state lines where it became operationally necessary to understand cross border situations. Care must be taken when summing the values to obtain a total area burnt.

EMSINA and Geoscience Australia became aware of the following error in the database in April 2020:

- Upon receipt of the Queensland data it was mistakenly assessed as Operational Boundaries and not as Historic FY Boundaries. This data was included into the database until the mistake was discovered in early April.

The data within this aggregated National product is a representation of the input data received from the custodian agencies. Therefore, to assess the quality or find out more information about an individual feature or features it is recommend that you contact the appropriate custodian.

#### Terms of Use:

CC-BY 4.0

# **Crediting your use:**

If you utilise this data you must credit "The EMSINA Group and Geoscience Australia" in your output products.

## **Important Dates and Descriptions:**

Late December, 2019	Requirements for a National Bushfire Boundary product (cross border
	product) were gaining momentum from within Government, business and the public.
8 January 2020	Version 1: first database was developed and released with available data
February 2020	Version 2: second database was redesign to accommodate FME automation and released

4 May 2020	The Operational Bushfire Boundary script was stopped for the 2019/20 season – 1 month after the official season end.
7 May 2020	The automation scripts that bring together this data were handed over to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency
26 June 2020	The custodianship of this database and all content within was formally handed over to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency.
30 June 2020	EMSINA ended its technical involvement in this project.

#### **Database Contact:**

Please address your correspondence to:

- National Bushfire Recovery Agency - website

#### **Related Documents:**

- EMSINA 'Black Summer' Storymap June 9, 2020:
  - An <u>Esri Storymap</u> produced be the EMSINA Group highlighting the Group's involvement including: what data was produced, how it was used, and how to develop this product into the future.
- National Bushfire Boundary Gap Analysis:
  - The EMSINA Group compiled, published and supplied the Australian Government with a document outlining all the capability gaps required to continue on this work.
  - o Please contact National Bushfire Recovery Agency if you require access to this document.