



# Heatwave warnings

Heatwaves are Australia's most dangerous natural hazard. They result in more deaths than bushfires, floods and severe storms combined. As our climate changes, heatwaves will become more frequent, hotter and longer.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues heatwave warnings when a heat hazard is forecast in the coming 4 days. Warnings are issued and displayed on the Bureau website and the BOM Weather app. This helps Australians to prepare for and lessen the impacts of heatwave events.

## What are heatwaves?

A heatwave is when the maximum and minimum temperatures in an area are unusually hot over a 3-day period. This means the weather is hotter than usual for that area and time of year.

Heatwaves are classified into 3 types based on intensity:

- **Low-intensity heatwaves** are the most common.
- **Severe heatwaves** are less common. They can be more challenging for vulnerable people such as the elderly or those with medical conditions.
- **Extreme heatwaves** are rare. They are a problem for people who don't take precautions to keep cool - even for people who are healthy. People who work or exercise outdoors are also at greater risk of being affected. Extreme heatwaves also affect the reliability of infrastructure, such as power and transport.



Robertson Park, Watson's Bay, New South Wales.

## How are heatwave warnings issued?

The Bureau issues heatwave warnings for an area if a severe or extreme heatwave is expected.

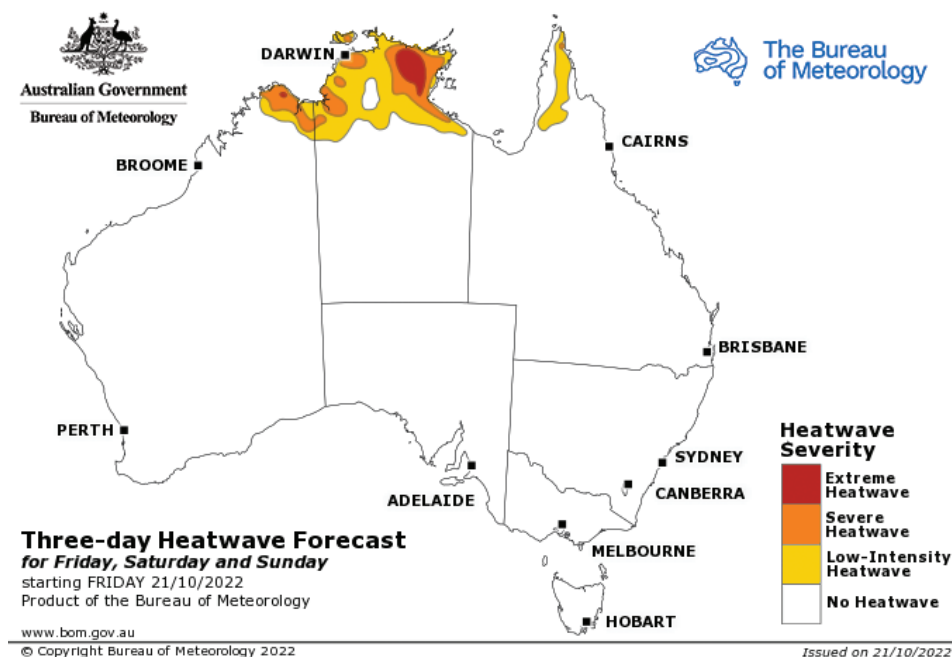
Heatwave warnings are issued through the Bureau website, BOM Weather app and telephone weather services. Warnings are also sent to Health and Emergency Management agencies.

Heatwave warnings contain 4 maps covering 4 3-day periods, extending out to 3 days in the future.

The warning includes:

- a description of the expected minimum and maximum temperature
- the timing of when the heatwave will peak and/or ease
- affected towns and communities in the warning area.

If a heatwave is forecast for your area, pay attention to the level of severity. Listen to messages and advice from your local emergency services and health authorities.



## More information

### Heatwave knowledge centre



For more information on heatwaves visit the Bureau's heatwave knowledge centre at <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/knowledge-centre> or by scanning the above QR code.

### BOM Weather app



Stay up to date with the latest forecasts and warnings through the Bureau website at <http://www.bom.gov.au> or the BOM Weather app via the above QR code. Enable notifications to ensure you're receiving the latest warnings for your location.