



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

MEDIA RELEASE

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**WITH WARMER MONTHS AHEAD IT IS TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT YOUR
WEATHER RISK**

The Australian Government is advising communities across the country to start preparing for the impacts of severe weather, with early modelling by the Bureau of Meteorology indicating the country could see an increased risk of flooding and tropical cyclones through the warmer months.

While the Bureau's official outlook for the severe weather season will be released in October, Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said now is the time to start thinking about preparations for the weather ahead.

"The warmer months mean there is potential for more weather events such as cyclones and bushfires, and no matter what the outlook, there will never be zero risk," Minister Ley said.

"That is why we all need to start thinking about the weather risks we may face and ensure that we are ready to act to keep our families and communities safe.

"Whether you are in an area with a risk of bushfire or risk of cyclone, preparation is the key to protecting our lives and livelihoods."

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised they are closely monitoring conditions in the Pacific Ocean, where there is an increased likelihood of a [La Niña](#) developing during spring.

If a La Niña was to develop, it would be a significant driver in Australia's weather patterns during spring and summer.

And while the impacts of past [La Niña](#) events have varied, they typically result in above average rainfall for most of Australia and more tropical cyclones.

"There is no doubt more rainfall will be welcome news for many areas, but it brings with it the risk of more widespread flooding," Minister Ley added.

"Communities, government agencies and industry in flood-prone areas need to start considering how they may be at risk, and what actions they will take now, so they're in the best position to respond to any impacts.

“And with early indications of more tropical cyclones this season, communities, councils and emergency services in northern Australia should start thinking about their emergency plans.”

The early outlook for bushfires and heatwaves is for an average spring and summer season, but this does not mean there will be fewer events than normal, and any period of hot, dry and windy weather can bring fires.

If the Bureau issues a weather or flood warning for your area in the coming months, it means it is time for you to take notice and be ready to act. Look out for warnings on the [Bureau’s website](#) and on the [BOM Weather app](#) and follow advice from emergency services on what to do before, during and after severe weather.

More information on weather risk and how communities can best prepare can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology’s [Know Your Weather. Know Your Risk.](#) pages.

To view the Bureau’s look ahead to the severe weather season video click here:

http://www.bom.gov.au/bomtransfer/misc/Look_head_to_the_severe_weather_season_2020-2021_final.mp4

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