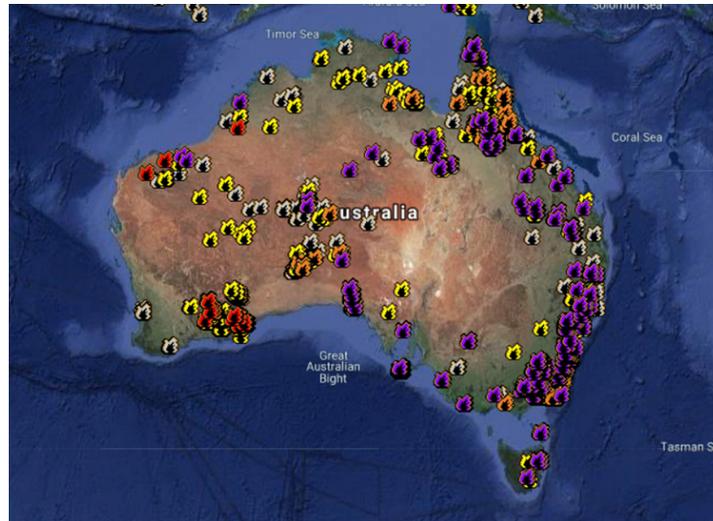


Australia Bushfires

How Can You Help?



As many of you have seen on the news, the fires continue to rage in Australia. Entire towns have been engulfed in flames, and residents across several states have lost their homes. The heaviest structural damage occurred in NSW, the country's most populated state, where 1,588 homes have been destroyed and over 650 damaged. In total, more than 17.9 million acres have been burned across Australia's six states. A total of 27 people across Australia have died this fire season, including several volunteer firefighters. About half a billion animals have been affected by the fires across NSW, with millions likely dead -- and that's a conservative estimate. That number of total animals affected could be as high as one billion nationwide. Almost a third of koalas in NSW may have been killed in the fires, and a third of their habitat has been destroyed.



How can you help?

I have researched multiple ways to give to the relief efforts in Australia. These organizations can accept donations on-line and all have been approved by The Good Cause Co. of Australia, who evaluates different charities and whether or not the money you give will go toward helping those intended.

(1) Australia Red Cross - redcross.org.au

Already, the Australia Red Cross has been able to send 1285 trained staff and volunteers into affected areas, set up 69 evacuation and recovery centers, run a reunite service for those who have lost touch with loved ones, provide emergency accommodation, Emergency grants, and one-on-one support to those affected by the bushfires.

(2) Australian Wildlife Conservancy - australianwildlife.org

Works with various organizations to help save threatened wildlife affected by the bushfires.

More than 800,000 people cut back on eating animal products for at least a month last year, contributing to a steep fall in sales of red meat, research shows. Those moving towards a vegan diet for the first time consumed 1.6 million fewer animals in the first six months of consultancy Kantar.

Sales of red meat fell more by value than any other category in supermarkets last year, down by 1185 million, according to separate research by Nielsen. Beef sales declined by 4 per cent and pork by 6.4 per cent. By contrast,

Some consumers switched to eating more poultry and fish, which are often perceived to be healthier, with sales up 1.4 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively. The number of vegans in Britain more than doubled to 600,000 between 2016 and last year, according

plant products imitating meat, such as vegan sausage rolls and burgers that "bleed" with beetroot juice. Mike Watkins, head of retailer and business insight at Nielsen, told *The Grocer*: "2019 has seen a rise in meat-free and free-from categories as con-



Walls of flame Residents and animals fled as Australian towns including Lake Conjola were engulfed by bushfires that have killed at least 17. Homes destroyed, page 27

A third organization that I trust and know from personal experience (*my son, Nathaniel, studied at Hillsong Church for a year and I was able to attend their Leadership Conference*) is Hillsong Church.

(3) Hillsong Church - hillsong.com

In response to the ongoing devastation caused by the Australian Bushfires over the last several months Hillsong Church has organized a Global Bushfire Appeal. 100% of giving will go towards assisting volunteer firefighters across the country and supporting families directly affected by the fires.

Please feel comfortable giving to any of the above charities on-line in order to help the people, animals, and areas affected by the bushfires in Australia.

Australia Bushfires Seen From Space



**On Sunday, January 19th,
at North East United Methodist Church
an offering will be taken at both the 8:30 & 10:30 AM services
For the relief efforts in Australia.**

***We will split this offering between
the three charities listed above.***

Please continue to pray for Australia.