

《应对火灾危机不利 澳总理致歉》

澳大利亚总理莫里森近日在接受澳大利亚广播公司采访时，为处理森林大火危机不力致歉。莫里森政府被指责在应对气候变化方面做得不够。目前已有28人在火灾中丧生，还有多种动物甚至面临灭绝风险。



The sails of the Opera House are lit with images to show support for those affected by the bushfires and to express the gratitude to the emergency services and volunteers in Sydney on Saturday. [SAEED KHAN/AFP]Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison has expressed regret over his handling of the bushfire crisis ravaging the country.

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The PM has faced mounting criticism over his government's response to the bushfires and its climate policy.

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Since September, bushfires have killed at least 28 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

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On Sunday, Mr Morrison conceded there were "things I could have handled on the ground much better".

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In recent weeks, Mr Morrison has been heckled by locals when visiting fire-hit communities in the states of New South Wales and Victoria, where the worst blazes are concentrated.

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An image obtained on January 3, 2020 shows evacuees being transported by landing craft to MV Sycamore at Mallacoota, Australia. [Photo/Agencies] In the town of Cobargo in New South Wales, one woman demanded more resources for the fire service, while others called Mr Morrison an "idiot" and said "you won't be getting any votes down here".

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Australian firefighters work to protect a property in Kulnura, New South Wales, early last month.
[Photo/Agencies]??????????????

Mr Morrison's government has been accused of not doing enough to address climate change, which experts say could increase the intensity, frequency and scale of bushfires.

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But in the interview, the PM defended his government's approach, which he said took into account the effect of climate change on the bushfires.

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"We're living in longer, hotter, drier summers," the PM said. "This is obviously affected by the broader changes in climate."

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Pressed on his plan to reduce carbon emissions, Mr Morrison insisted his government was on track to "meet and beat" its targets.

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Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers and NSW Fire and Rescue officers fight a bushfire encroaching on properties near Termeil, Australia, on Dec, 3, 2019. [Photo/Agencies]????????

Bushfire conditions eased on Saturday, giving firefighters temporary respite in areas where blazes are still raging.

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But with more hot weather expected next week, the risk was far from over, authorities warned.

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Authorities have warned that the huge fires, spurred by high temperatures, wind and a three-year-drought, will persist until there is substantial rainfall.

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More than 123 fires are still burning across New South Wales, with 50 said to be uncontained.

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According to NSW Rural Fire Service, more than 2,000 homes have been destroyed so far during this fire season.

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In Victoria, there were 32 bushfire warnings in place as of Saturday. A firefighter died while tackling a blaze in the state on Saturday, bringing the death toll from this season's bushfires to 28.

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A koala drinks water offered from a bottle by a firefighter during bushfires in Cudlee Creek, south Australia. [Photo/REUTERS]????????????

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, according to ecologists from the University of Sydney.

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The figures for NSW include birds, reptiles, and mammals, except bats. It also excludes insects and frogs, so the real sum is almost certain to be higher, the ecologists said.

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Vets and volunteers treat koalas at Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park on Kangaroo Island, southwest of Adelaide, Australia, January 10, 2020. [Photo/Agencies] Almost a third of koalas in NSW may have been killed in the fires, and a third of their habitat has been destroyed, said Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley.

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Some species, like koalas, aren't in any immediate danger of extinction because they are spread out across the country, said the university ecologists. But others that live in more niche environments with lower populations, including certain types of frogs and birds, could be wiped out entirely if their habitats are hit by the fires.

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