



Extreme heat and the University's operations

13 December 2023

Dear students,

With the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting temperatures of up to 38 degrees across Greater Sydney tomorrow, the University recommends staff and students work and study remotely where it is reasonably practicable, in line with the University's endorsed heat plan. You will be notified of any changes to classes or exams by your unit of study coordinator.

Ausgrid has advised us that following maintenance work, the network affected by today's power outage has been restored. However, higher heat periods can lead to vulnerabilities to our power networks, and a reduction in campus activity will lessen the load on our critical power infrastructure, reducing the potential for disruptions throughout the day.

In the event of further outages to University networks, the relevant building and area managers, Head of School and/or equivalent will be notified and communications will be distributed to the affected areas.

Staying safe in extreme heat

If you develop symptoms related to poor air quality or severe heat and are concerned about your health, please call the 24-hour HealthDirect helpline on 1800 022 222 or in an emergency call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.

You can [visit the NSW Health website to learn the signs of heat-related illness](#) and when you might need to seek medical help.

We've also shared tips to prepare for extreme weather during this summer's El Niño. [Read our tips and access resources to help you beat the heat and stay cool this summer.](#)

Wellbeing and support

If this situation has generated distress for you or you require additional assistance, please contact Student Wellbeing on +61 2 8627 8433. For after hours support please contact the after hours mental wellbeing support line. If you're in Australia, you can contact the support line by calling 1300 474 065 or by texting 0488 884 429 outside of office hours (5 pm to 9 am weekdays, 24/7 weekends and public holidays).

Student Wellbeing services will remain open tomorrow as normal.

Extreme fire danger rating for Greater Sydney

The Rural Fire Service has forecast an extreme fire danger rating for the Greater Sydney and Greater Hunter regions due to hot, dry and windy weather on Thursday 14 December. Total fire bans are in place for those regions.

Extreme fire danger ratings have also been forecast for Greater Sydney, Greater Hunter and North Western regions on Saturday 16 December.

You can check the fire danger rating for your area via the [NSW Rural Fire Service website](#).

[More information on the University's approach to extreme heat, bushfires and poor air quality](#) is available on the student website.

University Communications

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