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Angie Bone Emergency Management forum seasonal update

[Introduction voice over]

[Dr Angie Bone.speaks]

My name is Dr. Angie Bone, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Environment.

2020 has already felt long and perilous to many of us, however we know that we need to re-group and focus, to ensure we are prepared for other challenges the coming warmer months may bring, and how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may mean we need to adapt our usual responses.

And if past summers are anything to go by, this season could again be a *hot* one*,* bringing with it the risk of heat-related illness and bushfires.

 No-one will forget the unprecedented fires of this summer just gone and the devastation they brought to many communities, alongside widespread smoke and its impacts on respiratory and cardiovascular health particularly.

Victoria is clearly experiencing the effects of climate change, and we must all work together to prepare for a hotter future alongside taking every opportunity to reduce our emissions.

Lastly, at the time of filming, the Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that likelihood of a La Nina forming in spring has increased to around 70%, that is three times greater than normal. This increases the chance of above average rainfall during spring bringing with it the risk of floods.

Floods bring with them a range of health impacts including threats to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and an increased risk of mosquito borne disease. Many of you will remember the Ross River virus outbreak of 2017 which led to over 1000 cases across Victoria, after spring flooding. This should underline the utmost importance of mosquito control and avoiding bites.

It’s a bit of a bleak outlook, but this just emphasises more the importance of our collective role in ensuring that Victorians are prepared, understanding what they need to do and where they can get help.

[End]

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