

Introducing AusAlert™

Testing in
Geelong (Belmont & Highton), Victoria
2:00 pm Thursday 18 June 2026

In October 2026, the Australian Government is launching AusAlert – a new national warning system that uses the latest technology to send emergency messages to compatible mobile devices.



What is AusAlert?

AusAlert is a fast and reliable way to help communities be informed and better prepared during local and national emergencies.

What is AusAlert for?

AusAlert gives the Australian Government and state and territory emergency services organisations the ability to send national or local alerts about disasters. These could be natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, cyclones and tsunamis, or events like public health emergencies, security threats or biosecurity incidents. It's just one of the many ways we're helping to keep Australians safer in times of disaster.

When will AusAlert be live?

AusAlert will be ready to use on 1 October 2026, but before it launches, the system needs to be tested in selected communities across Australia.

What's involved in AusAlert community testing?

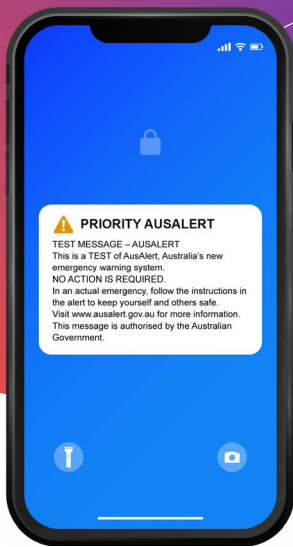
Geelong, Victoria has been chosen as a community testing location. Around **2:00 pm** on **Thursday 18 June 2026**, you may receive a test alert to your mobile phone, tablet or smart watch.

What does the AusAlert test sound like?

The AusAlert test message will cause your mobile device to vibrate and make a loud siren-like warning sound that lasts about 10 seconds.

What will the AusAlert test look like?

Depending on your device type and operating system, an AusAlert test message will look something like this:



Is an AusAlert a text message?

No, an AusAlert isn't an SMS or text message – it's an 'alert'. It will appear as a notification on your mobile device's screen and will show up during phone calls and app use, and on your lock screens. You'll need to close the notification to show you've seen the message, otherwise it will remain on your screen.

Will my mobile be able to receive the AusAlert test?

Mobile devices such as compatible mobile phones and some tablets and smart watches will receive an AusAlert test. AusAlerts are expected to work on iPhones 11 and up running iOS 26.4 or later and Android phones and tablets running Android 12 or later. Always install the latest software updates on your device when asked so you're ready to receive AusAlerts.

What do I do if I receive the AusAlert test?

As this is just a test, **you don't need to do anything**. But in an actual disaster, an AusAlert will let you know the type of emergency, where it's located, how serious it is and how to respond. It will also tell you the name of the emergency organisation that has sent the AusAlert and where to find more information about the emergency. You should always read and understand the AusAlert and follow the instructions to keep yourself and others safe.

What if I don't receive the AusAlert test?

This is fine – **you don't need to do anything**. Your device might not be compatible, maybe it wasn't connected to a mobile tower at the time of the test, or you may have been out of the alert area. If you have information you'd like to pass to the AusAlert team, you can fill in the 'I didn't receive a test alert' form on the AusAlert website at ausalert.gov.au/feedback

What if I don't want to receive the AusAlert test?

AusAlerts contain important information and should be turned on to help keep you safe. The AusAlert test in your area is a Priority Alert. If receiving it could disrupt you or cause you or someone you know to feel unsafe, visit the AusAlert website at ausalert.gov.au to find out how to turn a Priority Alert off on your device.

What if I receive the AusAlert test while driving?

If you receive the AusAlert test while driving or riding, stay calm and don't touch your phone. Mobile phone laws remain active – don't read or respond to the alert while moving. The test will make a siren-like sound for about 10 seconds. Only check the message when it is safe and legal to do so.