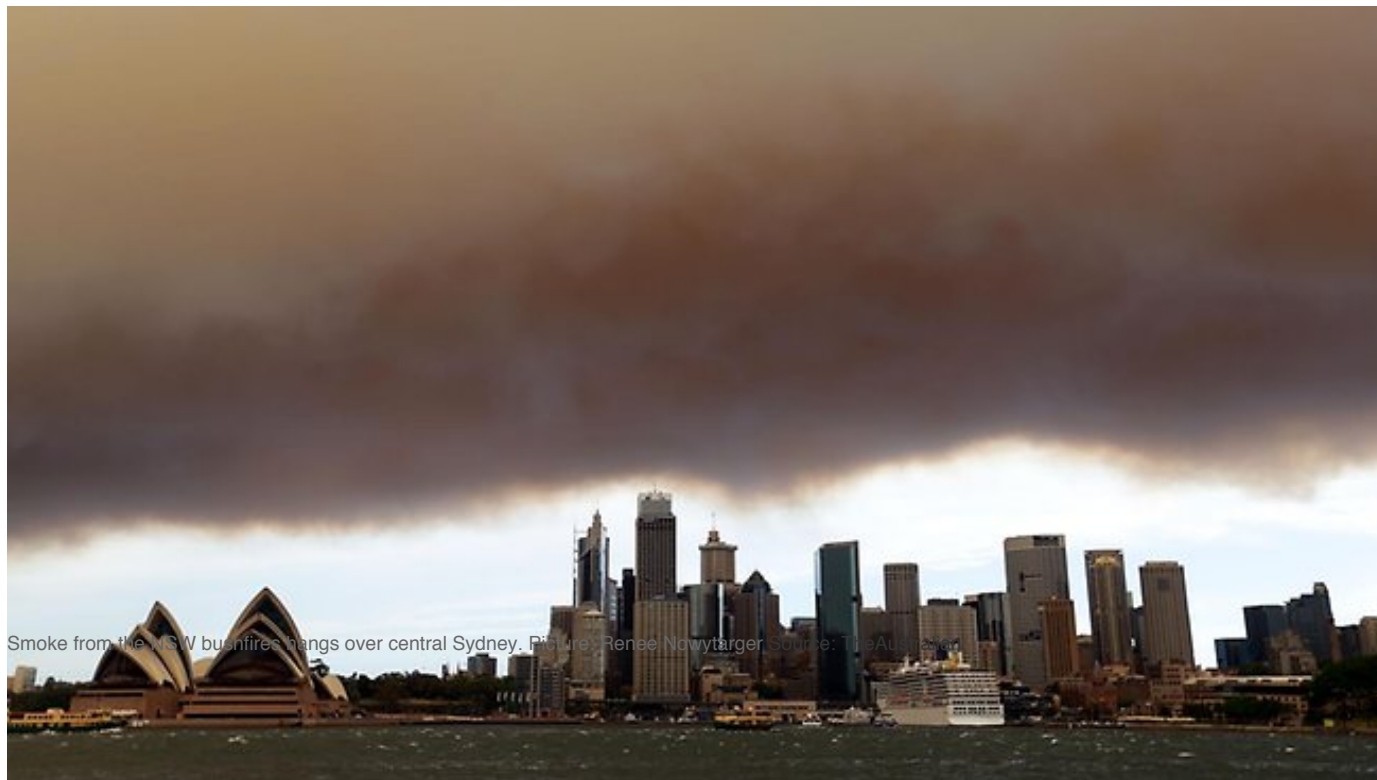


## 'Miracle' if lives not lost in NSW fires: premier

/



Smoke from the NSW bushfires hangs over central Sydney. Picture: Renee Nowyarger Source: The Australian

**IT will be miraculous if no lives are lost to bushfires on a difficult and dangerous night ahead in NSW, Premier Barry O'Farrell says.**

Hundreds of properties are feared destroyed in bushfires around the state, with up to 30 known to be lost at Springwood, in the Blue Mountains.

Mr O'Farrell said that despite a change cooling the weather where fires were burning, the danger was not over.

"It has been a difficult, damaging and dangerous day and these conditions are not going to be over quickly," he told reporters at Rural Fire Service headquarters in Sydney today.

"Weather conditions are changing, it will take some days until we see the end of these fires.

"And I suspect that if we get through that without the loss of life we should thank God for miracles."

More than 90 fires were burning across NSW at 6.30pm (AEDT), 36 of them uncontained.

There are also unconfirmed reports of properties being lost at North Doyalson, on the Central Coast; at Lithgow; at Yanderra and Balmoral, in the Southern Highlands; and in Port Stephens, where a fire is burning near Newcastle Airport which has been closed.



Dan Weatherhead posted this view of the Springwood fire looking toward Winmalee from Warrimoo Oval. Picture: Twitter Source: Twitter