NSW was the hardest hit by the bushfires in Australia and this impacted travel to NSW in January and February 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic and the enforcement of travel ban and border closures from late March 2020 has had a severe effect on travel. As restrictions eased, NSW saw an increase in domestic overnight visitors up to July 2020, before a slight softening in August with the re-imposition of border closures. The NSW-Victoria border closed from July and the NSW-Queensland border was closed again from August.

NSW received 15.0 million domestic overnight visitors in the January to August 2020 period who stayed 52.4 million nights and spent $8.3 billion. This was a decline of 10.9 million domestic overnight visitors (or 42 per cent) and $7.3 billion in expenditure (or 47 per cent) compared to the same period in 2019.