

Australia fires: The viral false claim of 200 arsonists starting bushfires, explained | Vox

By Umair Irfan

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A false claim that a big wave of arson is driving [Australia's raging bushfires](#) has gone viral this week on social media, particularly among climate skeptics grasping for a counter-narrative about the wildfire disaster.

[Donald Trump Jr.](#) and Sean Hannity were among the most prominent tweeters this week of the allegation that close to 200 people in Australia have been charged with arson for deliberately lighting brushfires. Other people on the right, as well as bots trying to amplify climate skepticism, jumped on board with the hashtag #ArsonEmergency.

In many instances, the people promoting the arson narrative are doing so to refute [climate change](#) as a driver of the fires, with some conspiracy theorists going as far as to [blame environmentalists](#) for deliberately starting fires.

[...]

Source: [Australia fires: The viral false claim of 200 arsonists starting bushfires, explained - Vox](#)