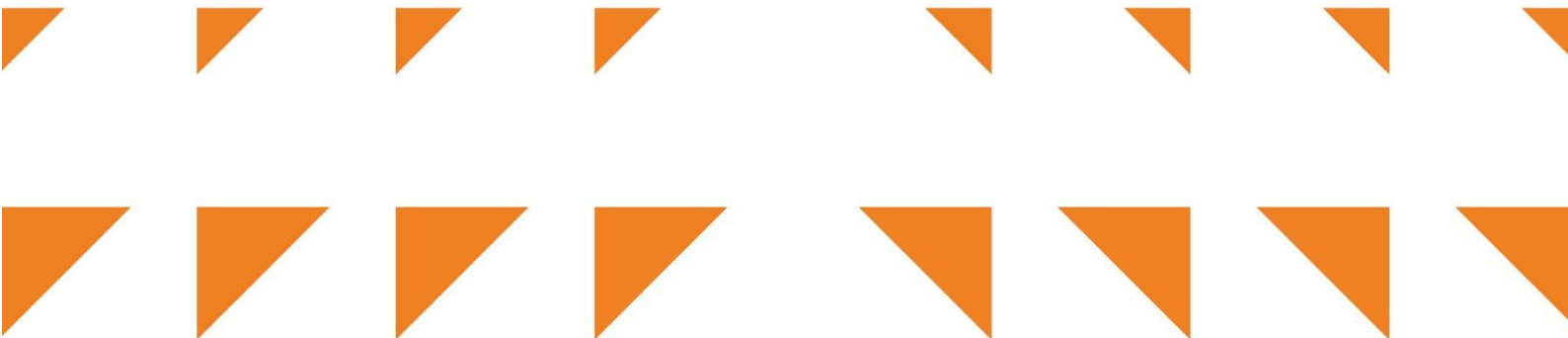




Numbulwar Local Emergency Plan



Contents

1. Document control	4
1.1. Governance.....	4
1.2. Version history.....	4
2. Acknowledgement of Country	5
3. Introduction	5
3.1. Purpose.....	5
3.2. Application.....	5
3.3. Key considerations.....	5
4. Locality context	6
4.1. Climate and weather	7
4.2. Geography.....	7
4.3. Sacred sites	8
4.4. Sites of conservation	8
4.5. NT and local government.....	8
4.6. Building codes	8
4.7. Land use	8
4.8. Homelands.....	9
4.9. Power generation and distribution	9
4.10. Water services	9
4.11. Health infrastructure	9
4.12. Medically vulnerable clients	9
4.13. Emergency service infrastructure	10
4.14. Roads.....	10
4.15. Airports.....	10
4.16. Ports (barge landings)	10
4.17. Telecommunication.....	10
4.18. Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters.....	10
4.19. Local radio stations	11
5. Prevention	11
5.1. Emergency risk assessments.....	11
5.2. Disaster hazard analysis and risk register	11
5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies.....	12
6. Preparedness	13
6.1. Planning.....	13
6.2. Emergency resources and contacts	13
6.3. Training and education.....	13
6.4. Community education and awareness	13
6.5. Exercises.....	14
7. Response	14
7.1. Control and coordination.....	14
7.2. Local Emergency Controller	14

7.3.	Local Emergency Committee	14
7.4.	Emergency Operations Centre/Local Coordination Centre	15
7.5.	WebEOC	15
7.6.	Situation reports	15
7.7.	Activation of the Plan	16
7.8.	Stakeholder notifications	16
7.9.	Official warnings and general public information	16
7.10.	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System	17
7.11.	Closure of schools	17
7.12.	Closure of government offices	18
7.13.	Emergency shelters or strong buildings	18
7.14.	Evacuation.....	18
7.15.	Identified evacuation centres.....	19
7.16.	Register.Find.Reunite registration and inquiry system	20
7.17.	Impact assessment	20
8.	Recovery.....	21
8.1.	Local Recovery Coordinator and Coordination Committee.....	21
8.2.	Transitional arrangements	21
9.	Debrief	22
10.	Related references	22
11.	Annexures	22
11.1.	Annex A: Functional groups - roles and responsibilities.....	23
11.2.	Annex B: Functions table	24
11.3.	Annex C: Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards	26
11.3.1.	Cyclone	26
11.3.2.	Road crash	33
11.3.3.	Storm surge	34
11.4.	Annex D: Evacuation guideline.....	35
11.5.	Annex E: Summary of response and recovery activities	43
12.	Acronyms.....	47

1. Document control

1.1. Governance

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1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
16/11/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
27/10/2015	2	Reece Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
16/03/2018	4	Grant Nicholls	Reviewed and updated
28/11/2018	5	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
20/01/2020	6	Michael Hebb	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
17/11/2020	7	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
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20/06/2023	9	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/06/2024	10	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	11	Peter Malley	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this Plan is accurate and where possible reflects current best practice. However, the NT Emergency Service does not give any warranty or accept any liability in relation to the content of material contained in the document.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES) and the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) acknowledges the First Nations people throughout the Northern Territory (NT), from the red sands of Central Australia to the coastal people in the Top End.

We recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters and culture. We also pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with whom we work and who we serve and protect.

We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to their leaders past, present and emerging.

3. Introduction

3.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to describe the emergency management arrangements for the Numbulwar Locality (the Locality).

3.2. Application

This Plan applies to the Locality.

3.3. Key considerations

The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) is the legislative basis for emergency management across the NT. The Act reflects an all hazards approach to emergency and disaster events, natural or otherwise. It provides for the adoption of measures necessary for the protection of life and property from the effects of such events.

The Act defines the emergency management structures, roles and responsibilities for the NT and, in conjunction with the Territory and regional emergency plan(s), form the basis for this Plan.

This Plan:

- confirms appointment of a Local Emergency Controller
- confirms establishment of the Local Emergency Committee (LEC)
- confirms appointment of a Local Recovery Coordinator
- confirms establishment of a Local Recovery Coordination Committee
- assesses hazards most likely to affect the community
- specifies control and coordination arrangements for mobilisation of local and, if necessary, regional, resources
- identifies roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders
- details specific emergency response procedures for the higher risk situations

4. Locality context

This Plan complements the Northern Regional Emergency Plan¹ as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan². The Locality covers approximately 45,000 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 500 km south-east of Katherine and forms part of the Northern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

The population of the Locality can extend to approximately 1,000 with the main population centre of Numbulwar.

The Numbulwar township is located at the mouth of the Rose River on the western coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria and adjacent to the south-west coast of Groote Eylandt.

The Locality has a number of surrounding homelands/outstations and population numbers for these homelands can vary widely during the course of the year:

- Alharrgan 6
- Andanangki 10
- Marrkalawa 10
- Waldnarr 10
- Wumajbarr 8
- Wuyagiba 20
- Yilila 7
- Yimidarra 15

To obtain more information about this Locality, BushTel³ is the central point for information about the remote communities of the NT, their people and cultural and historical influences.

¹ More information can be found at: <https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

² More information can be found at: <https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/emergency-management>

³ More information can be found at: [BushTel - Remote Communities of the NT](#)



4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality is situated in the Big Rivers and experiences weather conditions typical to those of the region. There is a distinct Wet Season (October to April) and Dry Season (May to September).

4.2. Geography

The Locality ranges from relatively flat black soils to hilly outcrops which rise to 190 metres (m) and lead into the Arnhem Land escarpment.

The Locality is drained by a number of rivers and creeks. Those of note are:

- Phelp River
- Rose River
- Walker River

The Locality's main river is the Rose River, with the community of Numbulwar located at the mouth of this river, which drains into the Gulf of Carpentaria.

4.3. Sacred sites

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) is a statutory body established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and is responsible for overseeing the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites on land and sea across the NT.

A sacred site is defined by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) as being 'a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition'. Sacred sites are typically landscape features or water places that are enlivened by the traditional narratives of Aboriginal people.

AAPA requests notification of any action that may have affected a sacred site. For more information on sacred sites relevant to this Locality, or to report an action that may have affected a sacred site, contact AAPA on (08) 8999 4365 or via email at enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au.

4.4. Sites of conservation

Blue Mud Bay and associated coastal floodplains are a site of conservation significance in the north of the Locality, for further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE).

4.5. NT and local government

This Locality sits within the Big Rivers Region, with the following NT Government (NTG) agencies that have a presence in the Locality:

- NTPF
- NT Emergency Service (NTES)
 - Numbulwar Volunteer Unit (non-operational)
- Department of Health (DOH)
 - Numbulwar Primary Health Centre
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
 - Numbulwar School

Local government is provided by the Roper Gulf Regional Council (RGRC). While council headquarters is located in Katherine, there is a Service Delivery Centre in the Locality.

4.6. Building codes

Buildings and construction in the Locality are subject to the *Building Act 1993* and the *Building Regulations 1993*.

4.7. Land use

Land use in the Locality is primarily determined in consultation with the Northern Land Council as the representative for Traditional Owner's, and includes but not limited to:

- air strip

- barge landing
- cemetery
- Indigenous Protected Areas
- residential
- sewage ponds
- waste disposal

4.8. Homelands

Homelands (outstations) are typically located on Aboriginal land, which is held by the Aboriginal Land Trusts established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth). There are also some homelands that are located on Community Living Areas or parcels of land within national parks. Assets on homelands are owned by the underlying leaseholder, which for the majority of homelands is the relevant Aboriginal Land Trust. Generally, homelands are not subject to the NTG leasing or part of the NT's remote public housing system.

The homeland service provider for this Locality is the Numbulwar Homelands Council Association Inc. Homeland service providers contribute to the delivery of housing, municipal and essential services, including fire breaks, where funding allows. Homeland service providers do not deliver emergency services. Land councils and local ranger groups within the Locality may provide land management activities on Aboriginal land, such as back burning, installing firebreaks and other mitigation works.

4.9. Power generation and distribution

Power to the Locality is serviced by a stand-alone, diesel power station, which can be subject to flooding/storm surge. Outstations are powered by diesel generators which can also be subject to flooding/storm surge.

4.10. Water services

Numbulwar's primary water source is ground water.

4.11. Health infrastructure

The Numbulwar Primary Health Centre has the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment.

A locum doctor attends the centre 3 times a week when availability allows. Serious medical cases are required to be medically evacuated to Darwin or Nhulunbuy.

4.12. Medically vulnerable clients

A list of all vulnerable medical patients is held with the manager of the Numbulwar Primary Health Centre. Aged care in the Locality is provided by the RGRC at the Numbulwar Aged Care and Respite Centre. The centre maintains records of all clients and their specific medical requirements.

4.13. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- NTES Volunteer Unit (non-operational)
- police station

4.14. Roads

The Numbulwar Road is the major road for the Locality, joining the Roper Highway approximately 2 km north of Ngukurr and travelling 156 km northeast to Numbulwar, all of which is unsealed.

The Roper Highway is sealed for approximately 148 km and unsealed for 70 km to Ngukurr. The Numbulwar Road travels 156 km northeast to the Locality on the coast.

The Wumajbarr Access travels north from Numbulwar and is the service access for several inhabited homelands.

During the Wet Season, all roads may be subject to inundation and closure, at various creek, river crossings and low lying areas.

4.15. Airports

The table below lists the airstrips in the Locality:

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Numbulwar	14°16'26.48"S 135°43'5.11"E	Yes	Sealed 1300 m x 33 m	RGRC

4.16. Ports (barge landings)

The Locality has a barge landing located at the RGRC workshop, near the mouth of the Rose River.

4.17. Telecommunication

Telecommunications are available across the Numbulwar town area via a combination of landline, mobile and satellite communications delivery. Across the remainder of the locality, satellite communications are the only applicable service.

4.18. Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters

As a result of the Royal Commission into the 2019-2020 summer bushfires, the Commonwealth government implemented the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) initiative. STAND is a Commonwealth funded program, aimed at enhancing the resilience of Australia's telecommunication networks, to prevent, mitigate and manage outages during emergencies.

There are currently 56 sites across the Territory that have STAND capability, and additional sites will be incorporated within the next stage of installation.

There is one STAND site within this Locality which is located and managed by the following facility:

- Numbulwar School

4.19. Local radio stations

Numbulwar has the following broadcast:

- 106.1 FM Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) Radio

5. Prevention

5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Numbulwar LEC are responsible for undertaking appropriate activities to prevent and mitigate the impact of emergencies in their Locality.

5.2. Disaster hazard analysis and risk register

The Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC) have identified 30 hazards that may pose a risk across the NT, which have been allocated to designated Controlling Authorities and Hazard Management Authorities.

Many hazards require specific prevention and mitigation measures, an annual risk assessment (rated against the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines) is undertaken by the LEC and determines which hazards pose a greater risk to the Locality.

The following hazards were identified as posing a medium to high risk to the Locality, with further advice provided within **Annex C**:

- cyclone
- road crash
- storm surge

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Cyclone	Major	Unlikely	High
Road crash	Minor	Likely	Medium
Storm surge	Minor	Likely	Medium

The remaining hazards were identified as posing a low to very low risk to the Locality, and any queries regarding the response to these hazards should be directed through the Local Controller:

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Air crash	Minor	Rare	Low
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Coastal marine incident	Insignificant	Unlikely	Low
Cyber attack (NTG enterprise ICT environment only)	Insignificant	Rare	Very Low
Dam safety	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Earthquake	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Emergency animal disease	Minor	Rare	Low
Emergency aquatic animal disease	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Emergency marine pest	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Emergency plant pest or disease	Minor	Rare	Low

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Fire (within Gazetted Area)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Flooding	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Hazardous material	Minor	Rare	Low
Heatwave	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Human disease	Moderate	Extremely Rare	Low
Invasive animal biosecurity	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Invasive plant biosecurity	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Major power outage	Insignificant	Unlikely	Low
Marine oil spill (inside the port)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Marine oil spill (outside the port)	Minor	Rare	Low
Rail crash	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
Space weather	Insignificant	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Storm and water damage	Insignificant	Likely	Low
Structural collapse	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low
Terrorism	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Tsunami	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Water contamination (potable)	Minor	Very Rare	Very Low

5.3. Hazard specific prevention and mitigation strategies

Prevention and mitigation relates to measures to reduce exposure to hazards, and reduce or eliminate risk. Actions include identifying hazards, assessing threats to life and property, and from these activities, taking measures to reduce potential loss of life and property damage.

The cornerstone of mitigation is guided and coordinated risk assessments, which should involve all potentially affected members of a community. Strategies are developed based on a thorough understanding of hazards identified in emergency risk planning and their interaction with all aspects of society.

Specific prevention and mitigation strategies for identified hazards can be found at **Annex C**.

6. Preparedness

Arrangements to ensure that, should an emergency occur, all resources and services that are needed to provide an emergency response and / or recovery can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

6.1. Planning

NT emergency plans⁴ are required by the Act and are maintained at a Territory, regional and local level. Arrangements in plans aim to be flexible and scalable for all hazards. The planning process enables agreements to be reached between people and organisations in meeting communities' needs during emergencies. The Plan becomes a record of the agreements made by contributing organisations to accept roles and responsibilities, provide resources and work cooperatively.

The Regional Controller is responsible for the annual review of operations and the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Plan, supported by the LEC and the NTES Planning and Preparedness Command.

6.2. Emergency resources and contacts

The Local Controller is responsible for maintaining the emergency resource register and LEC contact lists. Local emergency management stakeholders are to advise the Local Controller of changes to resource holdings, operational response capabilities and key personnel contacts. Emergency resource and the LEC contact lists for each locality are available on Web-based Emergency Operations Centre (WebEOC).

6.3. Training and education

The Act provides the legislative requirement for those involved in emergency management activities to be appropriately trained. Training and education activities are undertaken to ensure agencies are familiar with and understand the NT emergency management arrangements, as well as the relevant controlling and hazard management authorities for identified hazards.

The NTES Learning and Development Command is responsible for emergency management training across the NT. Online and face to face training is scheduled throughout the year. For further information contact the NTES Learning and Development Command via email at Training.EMTU@pfes.nt.gov.au.

6.4. Community education and awareness

Effective and ongoing community education and preparedness programs that emphasise to communities the importance of practical and tested emergency plans and safety strategies is essential. Empowering communities to act in a timely and safe manner will minimise the loss of life, personal injury and damage to property and contribute to the effectiveness of any warning system.

List of available activities and initiatives but are not limited to within the area:

- NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) Smart Sparx Program
- NTES hazard briefings
- NTES Paddy Program
- Australian Red Cross Pillowcase Program
- St Johns Ambulance First Aid in Schools Program

⁴ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

6.5. Exercises

Local level exercises are a key measure for testing the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Plan and should involve all relevant stakeholders. Exercises ensure that the Plan is robust and understood, and that capabilities and resources are adequate. Exercises are conducted if arrangements with the plan have not been enacted since the last review, or substantial changes have occurred, including:

- legislative changes
- major changes have occurred in the areas of key personnel, positions or functions across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- new or emerging hazards/risks have been identified.

The NTES Planning and Preparedness Command have developed resources that outlines the process to develop the exercise concept in designing, planning, conducting, facilitating, participating or evaluating exercises. The Local Controller can request an exercise by emailing the request through to EmergencyManagementPlanning@pfes.nt.gov.au.

7. Response

Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.

7.1. Control and coordination

Arrangements for response are based on pre-agreed roles and responsibilities for stakeholders. When the scale and complexity of an event is such that resources of the community are depleted a number of arrangements are in place to seek assistance from the region, the Territory and/or the Australian Government. Pathway for assistance is through the Regional Controller.

7.2. Local Emergency Controller

In accordance with section 76 of the Act, the Territory Controller or their delegate (section 112 of the Act) has appointed a Local Emergency Controller (Local Controller). The Local Controller for the locality is the Officer In Charge of the Numbulwar Police Station. The Local Controller is subject to the directions of the Regional Controller. The powers, functions and directions of the Local Controller can be found in sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Act.

7.3. Local Emergency Committee

In accordance with section 80 of the Act, the Territory Controller has established a Numbulwar Local Emergency Committee (LEC). The Local Controller is Chair of the LEC and remaining membership consists of representatives from NTG and non-government entities within the Locality. Division 11 of the Act specifies the establishment, functions, powers, membership and procedure requirements of a LEC.

7.4. Emergency Operations Centre/Local Coordination Centre

NT Emergency Management Arrangements	Controlling Authority Arrangements
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) (Territory and Regional level)	Incident Control Centre (ICC)
Local Coordination Centre (LCC) (local level)	Incident Control Point (ICP)

LCCs are established as required by the Local Controller to provide a central focus to the management, control and coordination of emergency operations in the Locality. When activated, the functions of the LCCs are:

- information collection and dissemination
- preparation and issue of official warnings and advice to the public
- coordination of the provision of resources required in the Locality
- submitting requests for resources through the Regional Controller to the Territory EOC where applicable
- dissemination of information to the media and general public.

The LCC for this Locality is the Numbulwar Police Station. The Regional EOC is located in Darwin at the Peter McAulay Centre. Agencies and functional groups may establish their own coordination centres to provide the focal point for the overall control and coordination of their own agency resources. Liaison officers from functional groups and support agencies will attend the EOC as required.

ICCs will be established as required by a Controlling Authority to provide an identified facility for the management of all activities necessary for the resolution of an incident.

An ICP is normally located near the incident in its early stages but may be relocated to an ICC where more permanent and convenient facilities and services are available.

7.5. WebEOC

WebEOC is a critical information management system used throughout the NT for emergency management activities. The system is owned and maintained by NTPF and NTFES. The online platform is used for the coordination of multi-agency response to, and recovery from, an emergency event. WebEOC also enables real-time information sharing across all agencies involved in emergency management activities.

7.6. Situation reports

It is essential for effective control and coordination of emergency management operations that the Local Controller is able to gather and collate relevant information relating to the emergency from regular, concise and accurate situation reports (SITREPs).

LEC members are to provide SITREPs at agreed times to enable the preparation of a consolidated report which will be distributed to all committee members and other relevant authorities. This may be achieved through WebEOC.

7.7. Activation of the Plan

This plan has 5 stages of activation and are designed to ensure a graduated response to hazardous events, reducing the possibility of under or over reaction by the emergency management agency.

The stages are:

Stage 1	Alert	This stage is declared when the Local Controller receives warning of an event which, in their opinion, may necessitate an emergency management response
Stage 2	Standby	This stage is declared when the Local Controller considers an emergency operation is imminent. During this stage passive emergency measures are commenced
Stage 3	Activation	This stage is declared when active emergency measures are required
Stage 4	Stand-down response operations and transition to Recovery	Stage 4 occurs when the Local Controller and Local Recovery Coordinator agree to transition to recovery (if required) in accordance with the transitional arrangements of this Plan
Stage 5	Recovery	This stage is called if ongoing recovery operations and coordination is required

The stages identified provide for a sequential response. However, it may be necessary because of the degree of warning and speed of onset of an event, for the Local Controller to skip the actions required under stage 1 or 2.

7.8. Stakeholder notifications

Upon activation of the Plan the following personnel are to be advised as a matter of urgency:

- all available members of the LEC
- Northern Regional Controller
- NTES Territory Duty Officer (TDO)

The Local Controller will notify LEC members of imminent events or activations through various means including but not limited to phone, SMS and email notifications dependant on the most appropriate and available at the time.

7.9. Official warnings and general public information

Official warnings and general public information will be broadcast to the Locality through the following means:

- radio broadcast
- television news broadcast
- SecureNT website and social media broadcasts and updates

Official warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), Geoscience Australia, NTPF, NTFES and Controlling Authorities.

Emergency Alert is a national telephony-based emergency warning system that can deliver warning messages to landlines and mobile handsets based on the service address and mobile handsets based on the last known location of the device. Authority to utilise the Emergency Alert may be given by virtue of the pre-approval of a hazard specific emergency plan or under the Territory Emergency Plan.

The approval for the release of an Emergency Alert message can only be authorised by one of the following:

- Territory Controller
- Chief Officer, NTES
- Regional Controller
- Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Executive Director, Bushfires NT (BFNT)
- Chief Fire Control Officer, BFNT

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is an audio alert signal (wailing siren) which may be broadcast on public media to draw attention to the fact that an urgent safety message is about to be made. Generally, SEWS is only played before announcements concerning significant emergencies where emergency management arrangements should be activated as a result.

Control and hazard management authorities may have pre-planned use of SEWS for non-weather related events, through a pre-approved hazard-specific emergency plan.

The approval for the release of a SEWS message can only be authorised by one of the following:

- Territory Controller
- Chief Officer, NTES
- Manager Hazard Preparedness and Response NT (the Bureau) (for weather and flood-related events)

Warning and information messages for general public are authorised by the Regional or Incident Controller. The dissemination of such emergency warnings and information is to be by whatever means are appropriate and available at the time.

7.10. Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System

The Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS)⁵ is a robust incident management system that enables the seamless integration of activities and resources of a single agency or multiple agencies when applied to the resolution of any event.

7.11. Closure of schools

The decision to close schools due to an impending threat will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC. When the nature of an event demands an immediate response, local authorities will take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety to the public. This action may include the temporary closure of a school to begin preparations, pending formal closure of the school by the Chief Minister for the remainder of the event.

The decision to reopen schools will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the Chief Executive, DET.

⁵ More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>

7.12. Closure of government offices

The decision to close government offices due to an impending threat will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC. When the nature of an event demands an immediate response, local authorities should take all appropriate steps to ensure public safety and the protection of property.

The decision to reopen government offices will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC.

All NTG agencies are to have an emergency preparedness plan which sets out their processes for closing down their offices once approval has been given. This should have clearly articulated employee guidelines to ensure employees know when they are authorised to leave and are required to return to work.

7.13. Emergency shelters or strong buildings

Emergency shelters and strong buildings are places of refuge that provide people with a place of protection and shelter during a disaster or emergency event such as a cyclone, flood or fire.

The recognised emergency shelters within the Locality are:

Shelter(s)	People capacity
Numbulwar School	300
Police Station	50

47 dwellings have been listed as being 'safe' (strong) dwellings', being built to the specific wind terrain code in the township. This list is held and maintained by the Local Controller.

The DET in conjunction with NTPF and the shelter owners are responsible for the management of emergency shelters during an emergency event.

The responsibilities of the emergency shelter manager are:

- the provision of personnel to staff and operate the emergency shelters at such times as they are activated
- the maintenance of effective liaison with other stakeholders with responsibilities relating to cyclone shelters, in particular the NTPF.

Emergency shelters are opened under the direction of the Territory or Regional Controller in consultation with the Shelter Group (DET). Emergency shelters will not normally operate for more than 48 hours.

The timing of the opening of emergency shelters will be dependent upon the severity of the impending incident, the numbers to be sheltered, the time of day the incident is expected to impact and the period of time the emergency shelters are likely to be occupied. The announcement that emergency shelters are open in the Locality will be made by radio broadcast and social media, and will include emergency shelter rules such as no pets or alcohol being permitted in shelters. It is up to the discretion of the local shelter manager if food will be provided.

7.14. Evacuation

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly as it represents significant resource and financial implications.

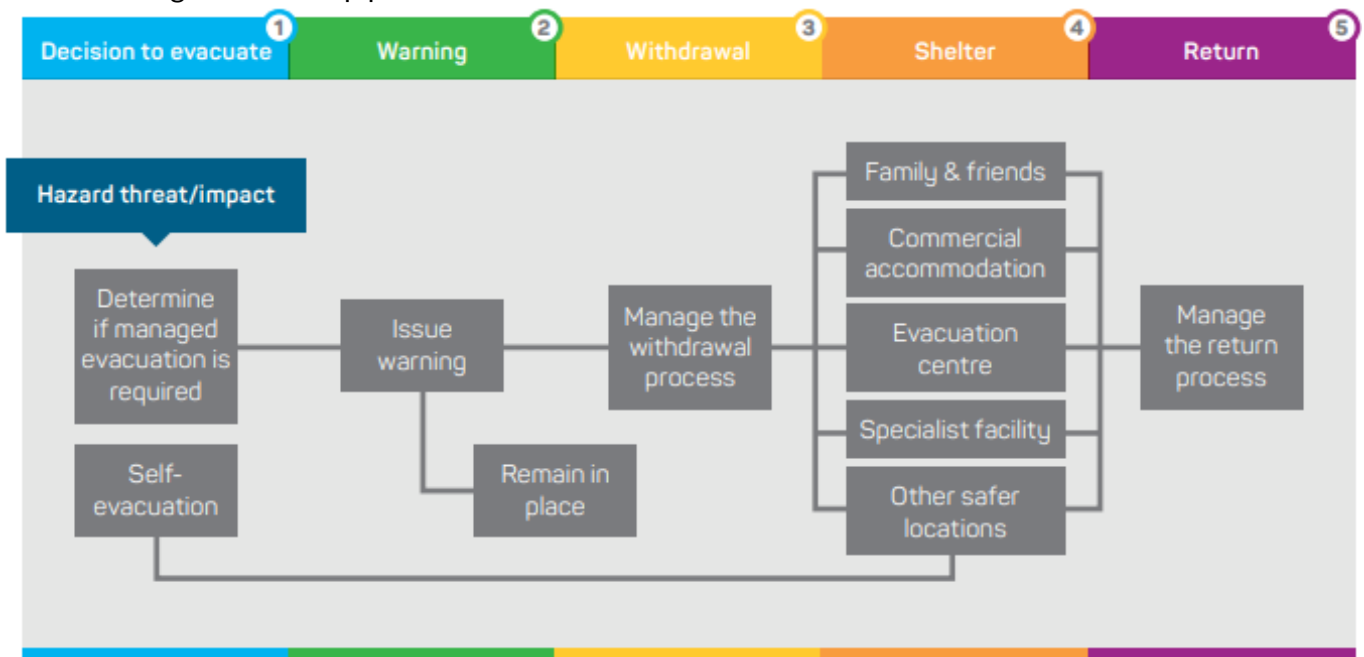
Evacuation of the Locality will be considered as a last resort. Where an evacuation is required the TEMC, in consultation with the Regional Controller, Local Controller and the LEC, will arrange emergency accommodation and transport, as necessary, through the relevant functional group/s.

An evacuation guideline for the Locality can be found at **Annex D**.

Evacuation is a complex process that has 5 distinct steps:

1. decision
2. warning
3. withdrawal
4. shelter
5. return

Each step is linked and must be carefully planned and carried out in order for the entire process to be successful. Given an evacuation centre will only be opened as a part an evacuation, it is vital to have an understanding of the 5-step process.



Source: Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Evacuation Planning Handbook, 2017

7.15. Identified evacuation centres

An evacuation centre is designed to accommodate people for short to medium periods of approximately 4 to 6 weeks, although this figure may vary.

An evacuation centre will provide some or all of the following services:

- assistance accessing finances and recreational activities
- beds
- linen
- meals
- medical services (or access to them)
- personal support

An evacuation centre's provision of some or all of these services is in contrast to an emergency shelter, in which people are expected to be self-sufficient.

For further information on evacuation centres/shelters management, refer to the NT Evacuation Field Guide available on WebEOC.

7.16. Register.Find.Reunite registration and inquiry system

The Australian Red Cross, in partnership with the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, has developed an improved system to help reunite families, friends and loved ones separated by an emergency. This system is called Register. Find. Reunite.⁶

This system can be activated by either the Territory or Regional Controller without the national system being activated, in consultation with the NTPF and the Welfare Group in the first instance.

7.17. Impact assessment

Immediately after an emergency event, there is a need to identify and assess impacts to inform short and long-term recovery priorities. Comprehensive assessment of all impacts is a vital component of emergency response activities. Guidelines for the conduct of rapid assessments in the NT, including the establishment of dedicated Rapid Assessment Teams (RATs) to collect data in the field, have been developed.

The Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group, led by the NTPF, is responsible for coordinating rapid impact assessments. At the local level, local controllers or an Incident Controller if appointed, should contact the Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group lead to discuss impact assessments if deemed appropriate.

⁶ More information can be found at: <https://register.redcross.org.au/>

8. Recovery

The coordinated process and measures for supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of the social, economic and natural environments. In the NT, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) lead recovery coordination.

8.1. Local Recovery Coordinator and Coordination Committee

When a region and/or Locality has been affected by an event, the Regional Recovery Coordinator may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator in accordance with section 87 of the Act, the responsible agency for Recovery is the CM&C.

The Local Recovery Coordinator will be an employee of the Big Rivers Region's CM&C office and will establish a Local Recovery Coordination Committee (LRCC) drawing from membership of the LEC and other relevant members of the community as needed. The Local Recovery Coordinator reports directly to the Regional Recovery Coordinator.

Local Recovery Coordinator and committee functions, powers and directions are established in Division 12 and 13 of the Act respectively.

8.2. Transitional arrangements

The transition from response to recovery coordination reflects the shift from the protection of life and supporting the immediate needs of the community to establishing longer term, more sustainable support structures.

The transition to recovery coordination occurs after the completion of the transition checklist and at a time agreed by the Territory Controller and Territory Recovery Coordinator in accordance with the Territory Emergency Plan.

Transition will occur when the Territory Recovery Coordinator is satisfied that the following has occurred:

- the Territory Controller has briefed the TEMC and the Territory Recovery Coordinator
- the Regional Controller has briefed the Regional Recovery Coordinator
- where there is significant changeover of personnel, the EOC planning operations and logistics sections have briefed incoming recovery planning, operations and logistics staff.

The Regional Recovery Coordinator will ensure all functional group leaders, agencies, support groups and other relevant stakeholders are notified prior to the transition to recovery. This notification is to include changes to relevant contact details and other pertinent information.

An example of response and recovery activities can be found at **Annex E**.

9. Debrief

Debrief processes embed continuous improvement into the delivery of emergency management activities. Consistent approaches to lessons learned encourage adaptability, and flexibility across all levels of government. Sharing of knowledge and experiences throughout emergency events assists with ongoing continuous improvement of people and organisations involved.

The NTG implements a lessons learned approach recognising the positive impact on organisational culture commensurate with increasing opportunities to achieve emergency management goals. Whilst lessons learned often begins in one agency through an internal debrief process, those lessons learned are transferable across multiple agencies.

During any operational response, personnel involved are encouraged to record activities where there are lessons to be learned. Activities can include decision making and consequential responses. Where decisions are made by an Incident Controller, Incident Management Team (IMT) member or a functional group member, those decisions should be recorded in a Decision Log (within WebEOC). Decision Logs can be referred to as part of the debrief process.

10. Related references

The following references apply:

- *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Building Regulations 1993*
- *Emergency Management Act 2013*
- National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Northern Regional Emergency Plan
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (NT) 1989*
- Rapid Assessment Team Guidelines
- Territory Emergency Plan
- Transition to Recovery Checklist

11. Annexures

Annex A Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Annex B Functions table

Annex C Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards

Annex D Evacuation guideline

Annex E Summary of response and recovery activities

11.1. Annex A: Functional groups - roles and responsibilities

Functional group	Local contact
Animal Welfare	Numbulwar Rangers
Critical Goods and Services	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations (DTBAR)
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	Numbulwar School
Engineering	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Industry	DTBAR
Medical	Numbulwar Primary Health Centre
Public Health	Numbulwar Primary Health Centre
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	Power and Water Corporation (PAWC)
Transport	DLI
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF
Welfare	Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Full details on functional group roles and responsibilities are detailed in the Territory Emergency Plan.

11.2. Annex B: Functions table

Emergency response and recovery functions with identified agencies/organisation/provider

During an event some of these functions may be needed at a local level.

Functions	Agency /organisation/provider responsible
Animal/livestock management	RGRC
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	Traditional Credit Union
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	ABC/RGRC
Clearing of essential traffic routes	RGRC/DLI
Clearing storm water drains	RGRC/DLI
Clothing and household Items	Newtown General Store/Numburindi Store/Op Shop
Community clean up	RGRC/Individual property owners
Control, coordination and management	Designated control authority
Coordination to evacuate public	NTPF
Critical goods and services (protect/resupply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • camping equipment • building supplies. 	Newtown General Store/Numburindi Store/DTBAR
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	RGRC/DLI/Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD)
Disaster victim identification capability	NTPF
Emergency alerts	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency food distribution	Numburindi Store ALPA – Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), including WebEOC	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter - staff, operations and control	DET/RGRC/NTPF
Evacuation centre – staff, operations and control	DCF
Financial relief/assistance	Centrelink
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	LEC
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Services via DHLGCD
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling Authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the Controlling Authority
Medical services	Numbulwar Primary Health Centre
Network communications (IT):	Telstra/DCDD

Functions	Agency /organisation/provider responsible
Responders, public maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	
Power: Protection and restoration	PAWC (ESO)
Public messaging during response and recovery.	Hazard management authority/CM&C
Public/Environmental health (EH) management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All EH functions including water & food safety Disease control 	NT Health/RGRC/DOH
Rapid impact assessment	NTPF
Recovery coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	As per local arrangements/DCF
Restoration of public buildings	DLI/DHLGCD
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	RGRC/DLI
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	NTPF/RGRC
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	PAWC (ESO)
Survey	NTPF/NTFES
Traffic control	NTPF
Transport: Commercial and public airport/ Planes, automobiles, ferries, buses	RGRC/DLI
Vulnerable groups	Aged Care RGRC Roper Gulf Regional Council/Clinic NT Health
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collection disposal of stock 	RGRC
Water (including drinking water): Protection and restoration	PAWC

11.3. Annex C: Prevention, mitigation strategies and action plans for identified hazards

11.3.1. Cyclone

Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
 Cyclone	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

A tropical cyclone⁷ hazard includes a cyclone threat to the township, housing and infrastructure of the Locality including the surrounding areas. During the cyclone season, November to April, the Bureau keeps a 24-hour watch on developing tropical weather systems. The Bureau will issue a Tropical Cyclone Advice whenever a tropical cyclone is likely to cause winds in excess of 62 km/h (gale force) over Australian communities within the next 48 hours.

The northern region coast is affected by an average of 2 – 3 tropical cyclones annually, cyclones can seriously affect the social, built, natural and economic environments of communities impacted.

Table - Tropical cyclone categories

Category	Max mean wind (km/h)	Typical strongest gust (km/h)	Transport effects
1	63 - 88	< 125	Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings
2	89 - 117	125 - 164	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings.
3	118 - 159	165 - 224	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failures likely.
4	160 - 199	225 - 279	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5	>200	> 279	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

Note: Corresponding approximate wind gusts and central pressure are also provided as a guide. Stronger gusts may be observed over hilltops, in gullies and around structures.

As the Hazard Management Authority the NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units, to support response and recovery operations to tropical cyclones.

The NTES maintain the Territory EOC in a state of readiness. If the EOC is required to be activated by the Regional Controller, the NTES will support this activation and facilitate, where possible, the staffing requests for IMT personnel.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of cyclone preparation initiatives and council clean ups
- radio, television and social media posts.

⁷ More information can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/tropical-cyclone-knowledge-centre/understanding/tc-info/>

Public safety message process:




- the Bureau issue a cyclone advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTPF and NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern Command
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern Command consults with the Bureau, Regional Controller, NTES Chief Officer and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTPF and NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Officer receives approved messaging to publish
- responsibility for development and promulgation of warnings and information post the establishment of an IMT will rest with the Public Information Officer and the Incident Controller.

The response to a cyclone event is staged and dependant on timings of the Watch and Warnings issued by the Bureau and the projected impact on the communities. The following table provides a guide to typical actions for members of the LEC upon receipt of notifications from the Bureau. The table also notes the need for LEC members to contribute to the recovery process post the impact of the cyclone.

Warnings and advice approval flow (bushfire only):

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like storm, flood and cyclone. The system uses a nationally consistent set of icons that are found below.

There are 3 warning levels:

	Warning level	Description
	Advice (Yellow)	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
	Watch and Act (Orange)	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
	Emergency Warning (Red)	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all 3 warning levels depending on the hazard.

On advice from the Bureau’s weather warnings, the NTES determine the Australian Warning System level.

The NTES TDO is responsible for issuing Australian Warning System warnings and advice prior to an Incident Controller is appointed.

Actions to be taken – Cyclone – guide only⁸

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
All members	Attend briefings Inform key stakeholders Provide SITREPs Assist the Local Controller as required Ensure final preparations are undertaken prior to Warning	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Assist the Local Controller as required Inform key personnel	Assist the Local Controller as required Take and remain in shelter	Remain in shelter until directed by Local Controller Assist the Local Controller as required	Attend briefings Inform key personnel Assist the Local Controller as required
Local Controller	Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure LEC members and community have activated their Cyclone Plan Co-ordinate the dissemination of the cyclone watch information to the relevant local community Communications established and maintained with Regional Controller, and NTES TDO and advise state of preparedness	Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained Advise Regional Controller of state of preparedness and ascertain SITREPs requirement Activate EOC if required	Update LEC and allocate tasks as required LEC to be daily during this weather development Ensure that the dissemination of the cyclone warning information to the public is maintained At the appropriate time, advise persons at risk to move to a	Take and remain in shelter	When it is declared safe to move outside, ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property Give directions to survey teams advising community of reduced risk Provide SITREPs to Regional Controller and Incident Controller	Convene meeting of the LEC Ensure LEC members and community have activated their Cyclone Plan Co-ordinate the dissemination of the cyclone watch information to the relevant local community Communications established and maintained with Regional Controller, and NTES TDO and advise state of

⁸ Action stages as per Tropical Cyclone advice and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
	Participate in REC meetings as required		shelter		Prepare for transition to recovery	preparedness Participate in REC meetings as required
NT Police Force	<p>Brief station staff</p> <p>Disseminate warnings and information as required</p> <p>Maintain normal police duties</p> <p>Assist Local Controller as required</p> <p>Ensure all operational vehicles are fully fuelled</p>	<p>Brief station staff</p> <p>Assist with preparation of EOC if needed</p> <p>Disseminate warnings and information as directed by the Local Controller</p> <p>Limit transport and ensure all operational vehicles are fully fuelled</p> <p>Assist the Local Controller as required</p>	<p>Brief station staff</p> <p>Disseminate warnings and information as directed by the Local Controller</p> <p>Coordinate the movement of personnel to shelter</p> <p>Direct a final patrol of the town</p> <p>Carry out registration/evacuation duties as required</p>	<p>Brief station staff</p> <p>Take and remain in shelter</p>	<p>Brief station staff</p> <p>At direction of Local Controller commence survey</p> <p>Commence clean up and relief operations</p> <p>Assist in advising the public of the conclusion of the operation</p>	
PAWC	Attend emergency management meetings and perform actions as required	Monitor	Monitor	Take and remain in shelter	<p>At the direction of the Local Controller, commence survey</p> <p>Advise Local Controller of damage and what essential services are still in operation</p>	Assist the Local Recovery Coordinator as required

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
Medical	<p>Brief health centre personnel</p> <p>Advise the Numbulwar Local Controller of stage of preparedness and of any urgent requirements</p> <p>Collect and collate information on personnel who may require assistance moving to shelters (e.g. incapacitated, wheelchairs etc) and advise Numbulwar Local Controller</p> <p>Advise General Manager, Health Gove on declaration of Watch</p> <p>Maintain normal health and family services</p> <p>The Numbulwar Health Centre comes under East Arnhem South – as such the District Manager is based in Gove and the General Manager is in Darwin. These are the people that Health will be liaising with</p>	<p>Brief health centre personnel</p> <p>Determine health services priorities and advise the Numbulwar Local Controller</p> <p>Provide the Numbulwar Local Controller with information and advice on communications, first aid, medical and public health and family service matters</p> <p>Advise General Manager, Health Gove on declaration of initial Warning</p> <p>Check, prepare and secure Health Centre stores and equipment</p>	<p>Brief health centre personnel on the declaration of the Warning progression</p> <p>Advise General Manager, Health Katherine/Gove on declaration of Warning progression</p> <p>Complete security of Health Centre facilities including ambulance/essential vehicles and communications equipment</p> <p>Ensure that ALL requests for assistance are channelled through the Numbulwar Local Controller</p> <p>Upon advice from the Numbulwar Local Controller ensure all personnel take shelter</p> <p>Ensure personnel and facilities are</p>	<p>Confirm debrief arrangements</p> <p>Brief Health Centre personnel</p> <p>Restore health centre facilities</p> <p>Advise General Manager, Health and Families Katherine/Gove on declaration of final Warning advice</p> <p>Take and remain in shelter</p>	<p>Remain in shelter until advised safe to move out</p> <p>Brief departmental personnel</p> <p>Ensure personnel and facilities are available for casualty receipt and treatment upon receipt of All Clear advice</p> <p>Restore departmental facilities</p>	<p>Advise Local Recovery Coordinator of any urgent priorities and participate in meetings as required</p>

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
			available for casualty receipt and treatment upon receipt of All Clear advice Advise Numbulwar Local Controller on all first aid/medical, public health and family services matters and if necessary liaise with CareFlight			
DET	Advise the Local Controller of the state or preparedness and availability of human resources Maintain normal education services	Brief departmental staff on declaration of initial Warning In conjunction with the Local Controller and consider the closure of schools	Brief departmental staff on the declaration of Warning progression Ensure all personnel take shelter Where possible, assist with welfare and other community services	Brief departmental staff Take and remain in shelter	Brief departmental staff When it is considered safe to move outside ascertain the extent of injury to persons and damage to property as directed by the Local Controller Restore facilities and resume normal education duties as soon as possible	Advise Local Recovery Coordinator of any urgent priorities and participate in meetings as required

Organisation/ Provider	Watch	Warning (onset of Gale Force Winds)			Reduced risk	Transition to recovery
	48 hours	24 + hours	6 + hours	3 + hours		
Roper Gulf Council	<p>Brief council personnel</p> <p>Coordinate the dissemination of the Cyclone Watch information to the public, and in conjunction with the Police, ensure the community and businesses are informed</p> <p>Maintain services</p> <p>Establish and maintain liaison with the Numbulwar Local Controller to provide regular reports on status of all council provided services</p>	<p>Commence preparation of buildings for use as public cyclone shelters</p> <p>Brief council personnel</p> <p>Maintain services</p> <p>Advise the Numbulwar Local Controller on essential service matters</p> <p>Liaise with Health Centre representative on community service matters</p>	<p>Brief Council personnel on the declaration of Warning progression</p> <p>Advise the Numbulwar Local Controller on essential service matters</p> <p>Ensure all personnel take shelter, when directed</p> <p>When outside movement is considered safe, provide qualified personnel for damage assessment and provide Numbulwar Local Controller with regular SITREPs</p> <p>If necessary, restore services according to priorities given by the Numbulwar Local Controller</p>	<p>Confirm debrief arrangements with the Numbulwar Local Controller</p> <p>Advise all Council personnel and advise the Numbulwar Local Controller when all Council personnel are accounted for</p> <p>Provide information for inclusion in the final SITREP as requested by the Numbulwar Local Controller</p> <p>Ensure all Council equipment used in the operation is accounted for, supervise, cleaning/repair, servicing and refurbishment</p>	<p>Remain in shelter</p> <p>Upon direction of the Local Controller advise the staff when it is considered safe to leave shelter</p> <p>Provide emergency response as required.</p> <p>Coordinate rescue operations in conjunction with NTPF</p>	<p>Assist Local Controller as required</p>

11.3.2. Road crash

	Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
	Road crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)

A road crash occurs when a vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, or other stationary obstruction, such as a tree, pole or building. Road crashes often result in injury, disability, death, and or property damage as well as financial costs to both society and the individuals involved. Emergency services are frequently called on to extricate seriously injured casualties from their vehicles following road crashes. This is achieved by employing space creation techniques to create openings in the vehicle. These openings make it possible to administer first aid to the casualty and to remove them from the vehicle.

Several factors contribute to the risk of collisions, including vehicle design, speed of operation, road design, weather, road environment, driving skills, fatigue, impairment due to alcohol or drugs, and behaviour, notably aggressive driving, distracted driving, speeding and street racing.

Responses to road crash incidents will be coordinated from the JESCC. NTFRS will respond as per pre-determined response arrangements contained within the SerPro system for incidents occurring within an NTFRS Emergency Response Area (ERA). For incidents occurring outside of an ERA, response will be approved by the rostered NTFRS TDO.


Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- radio, television and social media posts
- targeted road safety campaigns
- community engagement strategies
- NTES road crash trailer and fire trailer
- training in PUASAR024 - undertake road crash rescue delivered by NTES and NTFRS to NTPF and NTFES members.

Public message approval flow:

- NTPF Territory Duty Superintendent to approve public messaging and forward to NTPF and NTFES Media Unit for dissemination.

11.3.3. Storm surge

	Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
	Storm surge	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

Storm surge is a powerful ocean movement caused by wind action and low pressure on the ocean’s surface. These types of events can swamp low-lying areas, sometimes for distances inland. Strong winds at the coast can also create large waves, worsening the impact. While significant surges usually accompany tropical cyclones, storm surge caused by large low-pressure systems can also bring dangerous storm tides and damage to coastal communities around Australia.

Storm surge is an abnormal rise in sea level over and above the normal (astronomical) tide levels. It can be thought of as the change in the water level due to the presence of a storm. These powerful ocean movements are caused by strong winds piling water up against the coast as a cyclone approaches.

Storm tide is the water level that results from the combination of the storm surge and the normal (astronomical) tide. A 3 m storm surge on top of a high tide that is 2 m above the mean sea level will produce a storm tide that is 5 m above mean sea level.

Storm surges are very sensitive to the characteristics of cyclones, making it very hard to predict. The paths of cyclones are often erratic, making it hard to forecast where and when they will make landfall and how high the tide will be at the time. Other elements that contribute to the risk of storm surge include the cyclone’s speed and intensity, the angle at which it crosses the coast, the shape of the sea floor, and local topography.

Prevention and preparative controls include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of cyclone and storm preparation initiatives and council clean ups
- radio, television and social media posts.
- localised community messaging.

Public safety message process:

- the Bureau issue a storm surge advice to NTES TDO
- NTES TDO issues Australian Warning System to the NTPF and NTFES Media Unit
- NTES TDO notifies Local Controller and NTES Manager Northern Command
- Local Controller notifies LEC
- NTES Manager Northern Command consults with the Bureau, Regional Controller, NTES Chief Officer and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTPF and NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Officer receives approved messaging to publish.

11.4. Annex D: Evacuation guideline

The following is to be used as a **guide** only.

Stage 1 - Decision		
Authority	<p>The Regional Controller will authorise the activation of the evacuation plan.</p> <p>This evacuation plan is to be approved by the TEMC prior to activation.</p>	Regional Controller in conjunction with TEMC
Legal references	The Act and approved Local Emergency Plan. It is recommended that the Minister declares an Emergency Situation under section 18 of the Act, when this evacuation plan is activated.	
Alternative to evacuation? i.e. shelter in place, temporary accommodation on-site/nearby.	If needed residents will be progressively relocated within the community to <location to be determined>.	Local Controller to arrange
Summary of proposed evacuation	<p>Decision – made by the Regional Controller when the community have sustained damage during <to be determined> that cannot support residents in situ during recovery.</p> <p>The Local Controller to disseminate information to the community.</p> <p>Withdrawal – 3 stage process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <location to be determined>; community to the <location to be determined>; to be registered for evacuation to <location to be determined> 2. once registered, groups to move to the airstrip assembly area using buses/vehicles 3. Australian Red Cross to register check utilising Register Find Reunite. <p>Shelter – evacuees will be encouraged to stay with friends or family. The remainder will be accommodated at an evacuation centre <Location to be determined></p> <p>Return – to be determined once recovery can sustain return to <location to be determined>.</p>	The decision will be informed by additional advice from technical experts, e.g. the Bureau.
Which communities/outstations or geographical area does the evacuation apply to?	<Out stations, Homelands and homesteads>	

<p>Vulnerable groups within the community</p>	<p>The Medical Group will liaise with local health staff and provide information on medically vulnerable people.</p> <p>The identified people will be evacuated <at a time to be determined>.</p>	<p>Medical Group and Transport Group to action.</p>
<p>Community demographics (approx. total number, family groups, cultural groups etc.)</p>	<p>For more information, refer to the Evacuation Centre Field Guide (page 20 section 4.3) which can be found in WebEOC.</p> <p>Examine the demographic breakdown of the community to be evacuated including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the total number of people being evacuated • an estimate of the number of people likely to require accommodation in the evacuation centre • a breakdown of the evacuees to be accommodated by age and gender. For example, the number of family groups and single persons, adult males and females, teenage males and females, and the number of primary school-aged children, toddlers and infants • a summary of cultural considerations, family groups, skin groups and community groups • potential issues that may arise as a result of these groups being accommodated in close proximity to one another • a summary of people with health issues, including chronic diseases, illnesses and injuries. • details of vulnerable clients (other than medically vulnerable), such as the elderly, frail and disabled (and if they are accompanied by support i.e. family members) • details of community workers also being evacuated who may be in a position to support the operation of the evacuation centre. Examples include teachers, nurses, health workers, shire staff, housing staff and police. 	
<p>What is the nature of the hazard?</p>	<p><To be determined></p>	
<p>Estimated duration of the potential evacuation?</p>	<p><To be determined></p>	

<p>Triggers for the evacuation</p>	<p>Example</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. evacuation planning to commence when the Locality is under a <to be determined> 2. implement evacuation if the severity and impact has caused major damage and disruption to all services 3. elderly and vulnerable people are to be considered for evacuation due to limited health services. <p>Further details of the intra-community relocation plan are required.</p>	<p>Regional Controller</p>
<p>Self-evacuation</p>	<p>Where possible residents will be encouraged to self-evacuate and make their own accommodation arrangements if they wish to do so. Individuals and families taking this option will be encouraged to register prior to leaving the community.</p>	<p>Local Controller</p>
<p>Responsibility for the coordination Stage 1</p>	<p>Regional Controller Local Controller</p>	
<p>Stage 2 – Warning</p>		
<p>Who has the authority to issue warnings?</p>	<p>The Bureau will issue advice and warnings. All further public information will be approved by the Regional Controller in consultation with the Public Information Group and NTES.</p> <p>The Local Controller will coordinate the dissemination of community level information.</p> <p>A combination of the following will be utilised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadcasted over radio and television • social media utilising the NTPF and NTFES Facebook page SecureNT • loud hailer • door to door • Emergency Alert System. 	<p>Regional Controller to liaise with Public Information Group and NTES</p>
<p>Process for issuing evacuation warnings and other information</p>	<p>At community level, the Local Controller is to appoint a community spokesperson to disseminate up to date situational information at community meetings which are to be held immediately post a convening LEC meeting, at each declared stage of the Local Emergency Plan. A media brief approved by the Local Controller at each LEC meeting, will be announced over the local radio station containing current situational information, relevant safety information, what to prepare, when to self-evacuate, and where to go.</p>	<p>Local Controller</p>

When will warnings be issued (relative to the impact of the hazard)?	Immediately upon a decision to evacuate being made the LEC will commence coordinating residents to prepare for transport.	Local Controller
What information will the messages contain? (What do people need to know?)	To be determined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline of the proposed evacuation plan measure to prepare residences safety issues; not overloading transport items to bring on the evacuation arrangements for pets and animals. 	Local Controller Animal Welfare Group
Responsibility for the coordination of Stage 2	Local Controller/Regional Controller	
Stage 3 - Withdrawal		
Outline	3 stage process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> community residents to <staging area 1> <staging area 1> to airport airport to <location to be determined> evacuation centre 	
<Location> community to the airstrip	<p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTPF <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the community will gather at the <location to be determined> prior to being transported by community buses to the airstrip. <p>Risks/other considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evacuation should be undertaken during daylight hours, if possible. risks include inclement weather, persons with infectious diseases, vulnerable persons, and frail/elderly persons, chronically ill estimated time en-route: ___ minutes each way estimated timeframe overall: ___ hours utilising current resources. alternate transport options. 	NTPF

<p>Assembly area</p>	<p>Likely location of evacuation centre: <to be determined>.</p> <p>Additional resources will be required to host an evacuation centre in the form of tents and bedding. This will also be the point where evacuee registration will take place. Basic services should be provided i.e. drinking water, information.</p> <p>Services to be provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross Coordinator: Australian Red Cross <p>Other details</p> <p>Evacuee registration. Residents will need to register at <location to be determined> or airport if (self-evacuating) to be permitted access to the evacuation centre at the <location to be determined>.</p>	<p>NTPF/DCF</p>
<p><Location> community to <location to be determined></p>	<p>Lead - NTPF</p> <p>Example Lead - Transport Group</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Group has identified commercial operators and the Police Air Section able to provide evacuation assistance. • Total proposed air assets: _____. Commercial operators will be charging commercial rates for their services at a cost of (\$_____). • The operation will begin at _____hrs with the first aircraft, leaving <to be determined> and arriving at _____hrs • The operation will continue throughout the day until all community members are evacuated. It is estimated that all community members can be evacuated by _____hrs (arriving in <to be determined>). 	<p>NTPF/Transport/Logistics</p>

<p><Location> airport to evacuation centre <to be determined></p>	<p>Lead - Transport Group</p> <p>Example</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be on standby at <location to be determined> airport from ____am to receive passengers and continue throughout the day transferring to <to be determined> only, as required. • Transport staff will be on the ground at <location to be determined> airport to marshal passengers on buses only. • Buses to be arranged by the Transport Group. Evacuees will be collected from <location to be determined> airport and transported to the <location to be determined>. <p>A reception team provided by NTPF will meet evacuees and facilitate transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details <to be determined> • estimated time en-route: ____ minutes • estimated timeframe: possibly ____ hours, dependant on aircraft arrivals • alternate transport options: ____. 	<p>Transport Group</p>
<p>End point</p>	<p><Location to be determined></p>	<p>IMT/Welfare</p>
<p>Transport of vulnerable members of the community</p>	<p>Medical Group to arrange transport of vulnerable people from the community to <location to be determined>.</p>	<p>Medical Group</p>
<p>Registration and tracking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Group to activate registration arrangements. Registration will be undertaken by NTPF and will occur at <location to be determined>. • Names of evacuees will be obtained prior to boarding buses. • Where possible details of individuals and families self-evacuating to be obtained on arrival at the <location to be determined> airstrip. • If persons are not registered as evacuees or self-evacuees they will not be provided access to the evacuation shelter. 	<p>Welfare Group/ NTPF</p>

Coordination Stage 3	Regional Controller	IMT coordination
Stage 4 – Shelter		
Overview	An evacuation centre will be established at the <location to be determined>. The <location to be determined> will be the primary areas used.	
Alternate shelter options	Where appropriate, noting cultural as well as financial consideration, including overcrowding, possible evacuees will be encouraged to seek alternative accommodation with family, friends or through commercial accommodation.	
Estimated duration of the shelter phase	<To be determined>	
Arrangements for domestic animals	No domestic animals are to accompany evacuees. Any self-evacuees with domestic animals will be expected to make their own arrangements for the animals.	Advise Animal Welfare Group
Roles		
• Director	DCF	Welfare Group
• Deputy Director	DCF	Welfare Group
• Logistics/planning	EOC	Controlling Authority
• Admin teams	EOC	Welfare Group
• Shift manager/s	<To be determined> – drawn from pool of trained staff.	Welfare Group
• Welfare team	<To be determined>	Welfare Group
• Facility team	<To be determined>	
• Sport and Rec team	<To be determined>	
• Medical team	<To be determined> It is likely St Johns volunteers will be requested. Evacuees will be referred to off-site medical services.	Medical Group
• Public health team	<To be determined>	Public Health Group
• Transport team	<To be determined>	Transport Group

Evacuation centre set-up	Refer to the evacuation centre template for set-up considerations.	
What strategy will be put in place to close the evacuation centre?	Closure of the evacuation centre will be largely dependent on the extent of inundation and complexity of the recovery process.	
Stage 5 – Return		
Indicators or triggers that will enable a return	(Refer to Recovery action plan for the community) CM&C	
Who is responsible for developing a plan for the return?	Recovery coordination in conjunction with IMT.	
• Transportation	<To be determined>	Transport Group
• Route/assembly points en-route	<To be determined>	
• End point	<To be determined>	
How will information about the return be communicated to evacuees?	<To be determined>	Public Information Group
What information needs to be conveyed to the evacuated community members?	<To be determined>	

11.5. Annex E: Summary of response and recovery activities

The following tables list a summary of possible response and recovery activities to be considered following an event.

This table is presented as a guide only, assisting emergency managers with operational decision making, planning and resource allocation. It also highlights the importance of response and recovery coordination working collaboratively.

Activities have been broken down and are listed under either response or recovery for simplicity and ease of use. In practice not all response activities will be completed during the response phase. Likewise not all recovery activities will commence after the transition to recovery.

The post event period of any event is highly dynamic and produces many challenges, both foreseen and unpredicted. Response and recovery coordination must be flexible and able to adapt to the situation as it evolves.

In most cases the points noted in this table and in the ensuing document are outlined in greater detail in functional group or agency plans.



Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
1. Situational awareness	Road clearance teams General public Media reports Survey and rescue teams Impact assessment teams	Contributes to recovery planning through impact assessment data Comprehensive Impact Assessments Needs Assessment
2. Public Information	Public Information Group activation Spokespersons identified SecureNT activated	Continues in recovery
3. Survey and Rescue	Survey teams deploy to designated areas Critical sites surveyed Deploy rescue teams – NTFRS and NTPF Specialist Response Division provide primary Urban Search and Rescue capability	Survey and Impact Assessment data used to contribute to the Recovery Action Plan
4. Road clearance	Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes Road clearance to priority sites	Restoration of road networks and bridges Return to business as usual
5. Emergency accommodation	Emergency accommodation and shelter - evacuation centres Provision of resources that will	Evacuation centres may continue into recovery Temporary accommodation options

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	enable people to remain in their homes Emergency clothing	Repatriation planning
6. Medical	Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify any issues with accessing facilities - initial impact assessment - access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water - ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements - increase morgue capacity Health Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify any issues with accessing facilities - Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water GP clinics and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify operational GP services - identify operational pharmacies Support Medically vulnerable people Medical retrieval services (air and road)	Ongoing provision of health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which may include business continuity plans - engagement with stakeholders Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community GP clinics and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ongoing liaison by the Medical Group Medical retrieval services – resume business as usual
7. Essential goods and services	Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities Implement interim banking arrangements <u>Fuel</u> Fuel suppliers and point of sale	Ensure enablers are in place to support the re-opening of essential services Monitor levels and availability of essential goods Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities Public health inspections (food outlets) Banking sector business continuity arrangements Monitor fuel levels Infrastructure repairs

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation	Emergency fuel supplies for recovery Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply
	<u>Banking</u> Assess damage to banks and ATMs Implement temporary arrangements	Emergency cash outlets Implement long term arrangements
8. Evacuation	Evacuations within community Evacuation out of community Registration	Support services for evacuees Recovery information for evacuees Repatriation
9. Public health	Communicable disease control response Drinking water safety standards Sewage and waste disposal Safe food distribution and advice Vector and vermin control Food and commercial premises	Ongoing in recovery
10. Utilities	Power supply Power generation Water supply Sewerage Emergency sanitation	Restore power network Restore water and sewerage infrastructure Issue alerts until safe to use
11. Impact assessments	Training assessment teams Initial impact assessments	Comprehensive impact assessments Ongoing needs assessments
12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)	<u>Air (airport/airstrip)</u> Clear the runway to allow air movements Establish a logistics hub at the airport Terminal damage and operational capability assessment	Monitor repairs and business continuity activities
	<u>Road</u> Highway and critical access roads damage assessment Repair work to commence immediately	Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key roads for the Locality. (Numbulwar Road, Roper Highway)

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<p><u>Port, harbour and barge</u></p> <p>Assess damage to port infrastructure and harbour facilities</p> <p>Assess the damage to barge facilities</p>	<p>Repairing infrastructure</p> <p>Establish alternate arrangements for the supply of remote communities</p>
13. Waste management	Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required	Continues in recovery
14. Repairs and reconstruction	<p>Private housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impact assessments - temporary repairs <p>Government buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - damage assessment <p>Public housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impact assessments <p>Private industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - damage assessments 	<p>Private housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information and support to facilitate repairs <p>Government buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repairs and reconstruction <p>Public housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long term repair plans <p>Private industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repair and reconstruction of enabling infrastructure - support DRFA payment facilitation where eligible <p>Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce if necessary or suitable accommodation is unavailable</p>
15. Transport services	Staged re-establishment of public transport services	Continues in recovery
16. Telecommunication	<p>Telstra and Optus will assess the damage to their infrastructure</p> <p>Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services</p>	Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)
17. Public safety	NTPF will maintain normal policing services to the community	Gradual return to business as usual
18. Animal welfare	Temporary emergency arrangements for pets	Reunite pets with their owners and cease emergency support arrangements
19. Community consultation	Information provision regarding the overall situation, response efforts, what services are available and how to access them	Community consultation process regarding long term recovery and community development led by relevant departments

12. Acronyms

Acronyms	Definitions
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DHLGCD	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
DET	Department of Education and Training
DOH	Department of Health
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Services Operators
FERG	Fire and Emergency Response Group
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
IMT	Incident Management Team
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre

Acronyms	Definitions
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
NERAG	National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
NT	Northern Territory
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
PAWC	Power and Water Corporation
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
RGRC	Roper Gulf Regional Council
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SerPro	Serve and Protect
SITREP	Situation Report
STAND	Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre