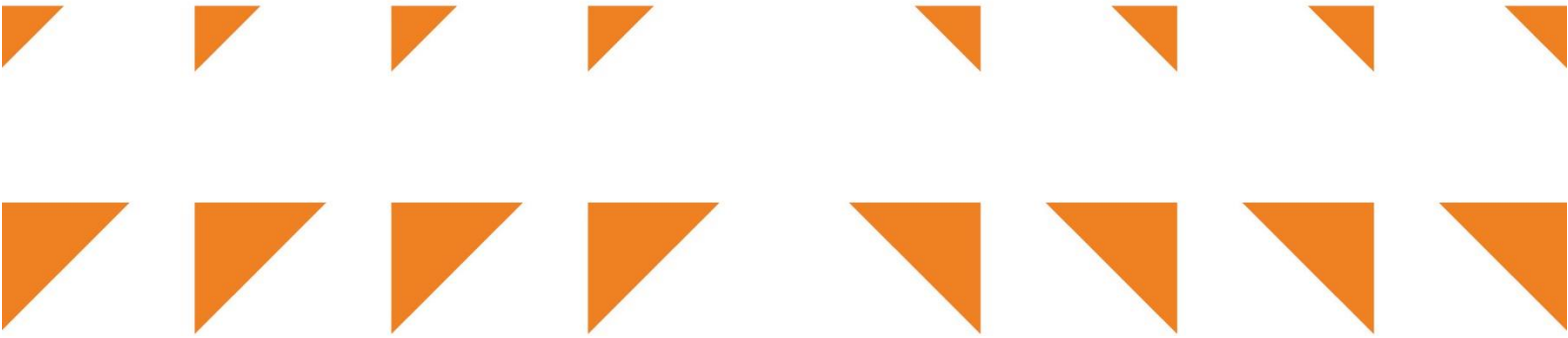


**Yarralin**  
**Local Emergency Plan**



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# 1. Document control

## 1.1. Governance

Document title	Yarralin Local Emergency Plan
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Approved by	Territory Controller
Date approved	30 December 2014
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TRM number	04:D23:65411

## 1.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
30/12/2014	1	John McRoberts	First version
04/11/2015	2	Reece P Kershaw	Reviewed and updated
30/12/2016	3	Kate Vanderlaan	Reviewed and updated
27/11/2018	4	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
18/02/2020	5	Michael Hebb	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
17/11/2020	6	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/01/2022	7	Janelle Tonkin	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
20/06/2023	8	Travis Wurst	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
13/06/2024	9	Matthew Hollamby	Reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Controller, as the Territory Controller's delegate
11/03/2025	10	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 Northern Territory 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 Yarralin 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 Plan<sup>1</sup> as it relates to the Locality. For further information on the hierarchy of plans, refer to the Territory Emergency Plan<sup>2</sup>. The Locality covers approximately 12,300 square kilometres (km) and is located approximately 382 km south west of Katherine and forms part of the Northern Region, as defined by the Territory Emergency Plan.

The Locality is accessed by the Buchanan Highway which is predominately a gravel road, and is also in close proximity of the Gregory National Park. The Locality comprises of 3 minor communities close to the township of Yarralin, being Lingara, Top Springs and Nitjpurru (formerly known as Pigeon Hole).

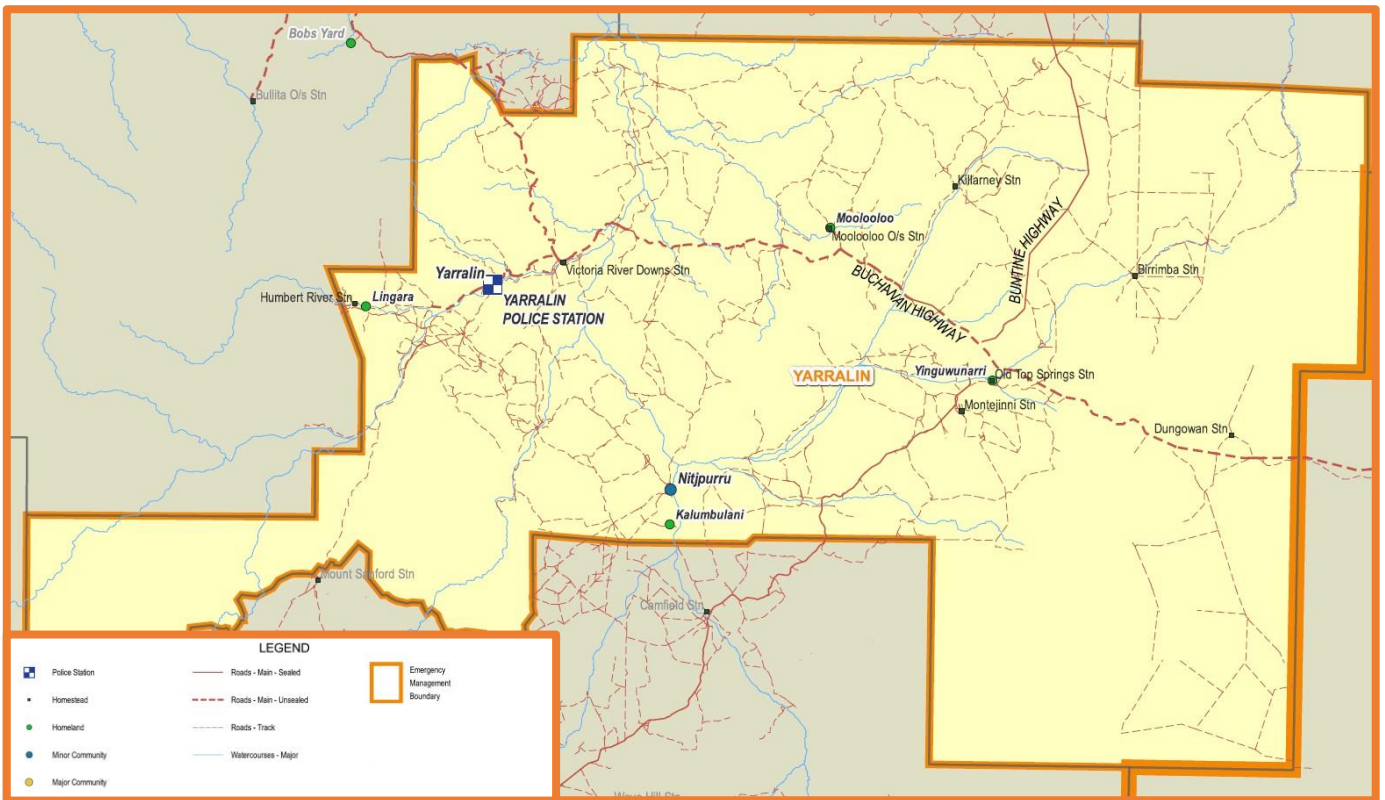
To obtain more information about this Locality, Bushtel<sup>3</sup> is the central point for information about the remote communities of the NT, their people and cultral and historical influences.

The population centres within the Locality are estimated as follows:

- Yarralin 283
- Nitjpurru 142
- Lingara 46

Homelands:

- Kalumbulani not recorded
- Moolooloo not recorded
- Yinguwunarri not recorded



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

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

<sup>3</sup> More information can be found at: <https://bushtel.nt.gov.au/>

## 4.1. Climate and weather

The Locality experiences similar weather conditions which occur throughout the Top End of the NT. There is a distinct Wet Season (October to April) and Dry Season (May to September). Compared to Darwin, temperatures tend to be slightly higher during the Wet Season and slightly lower during the Dry Season.

## 4.2. Geography

The Locality topography ranges from sandy soils and salt flats, to rocky outcrops into the escarpment and Jasper Gorge area of the Gregory National Park. The communities are in close proximity to the Victoria, Humbert and Yarralin Rivers that are fed from a number of small creeks within the catchment areas west and south-west of Yarralin.

## 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](mailto:enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au).

## 4.4. Sites of conservation

There are no sites of conservation significance in this Locality, for further information about these sites contact the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment<sup>4</sup> (DLPE).

## 4.5. Tourism

The Locality is exposed to tourism by way of through traffic, and although on the increase, has no significant impact on the Locality.

## 4.6. NT and local government

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

- NTPF
  - Yarralin Police Station
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
  - Yarralin School
  - Nitjpurru School

The Locality is within the Victoria Daly Regional Council (VDRC) region.

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<sup>4</sup> More information can be found at: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/conservation-significance-list>

## 4.7. Building codes

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

## 4.8. Land use

The Locality land use is in consultation between VDRC landowners and Traditional Owners. A number of freehold and leasehold pastoralists utilise the area for the production of export cattle. Land use in the Locality includes:

- air strips
- cemeteries
- indigenous protected areas
- pastoral
- power stations
- residential
- sewerage ponds
- waste management

## 4.9. Homelands

Homelands 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 AUS Projects NT. 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.

## 4.10. Power generation and distribution

The Power and Water Corporation (PAWC) is responsible for the supply of power to Yarralin, Nitjpurru and Lingara.

## 4.11. Water services

The PAWC is responsible for the supply of water to Yarralin. Bore water is supplied throughout the Locality.

## 4.12. Health infrastructure

The Yarralin and Nitjpurru communities are serviced by Katherine West Health Board having the capacity to provide emergency medical aid in addition to routine health treatment.

Nitjpurru is only serviced between Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon, with staff travelling from Kalkarindji. Serious medical cases are required to be evacuated to Katherine or Darwin. Patients can be evacuated either via road or air.



### 4.13. Emergency service infrastructure

The Locality has the following emergency service infrastructure:

- police station and cells

### 4.14. Roads

The Locality has an approximate total of 320 km of unsealed roads and 25 km of sealed roads. Main access is from the sealed Victoria Highway and the unsealed Buchanan Highway (384 km from Katherine) which is often impassable during the Wet Season. Alternative access is from the Buntine Highway through Top Springs (404 km from Katherine). This is also impassable during the Wet Season with occasional 14 metres (m) of water flooding the Dashwood Crossing.

A one-way trip from Katherine to the community will take approximately 4-5 hours, and apart from the Victoria and Buntine Highways, all roads are unsealed gravel and often rocky.

### 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
Yarralin	12°26.6'S 131°52.8'E	No	Dimensions: 1210 m x 18 m Surface: sealed Windsock: yes Hazards: wildlife Fuel Held: nil Lighting: LED solar lighting Fenced: yes	DLI
Kidman Springs	16°6.9'S 130°57.2'E	No	Dimensions 1100 m Surface: unsealed gravel Windsock: nil Hazards: nil Fuel held: nil Lighting: yes	Kidman Springs Station
Lingara Community	16°29.5'S 130°37.7'E	No	Dimensions: 1200 m Surface: gravel/dirt unsealed Windsock: no Hazards: fenced but not maintained Fuel Held: nil Lighting: nil	YHBR Humbert River Station (Lingara Community)

Name of the strip	Datum	Certified Aerodrome	Details (type, length, etc.)	Operator of the strip
Nitjpurru Community	16°48'S 131°13'E	No	Dimensions: 1000 m x 18 m Surface: unsealed limestone gravel Windsock: yes (solar illuminated) Hazards: Nil Fuel held: Nil Lighting: Nil	VDRC Yarralin
Victoria River Downs	16°24'S 131°00'E	No	Dimensions: 1251 m x 30 m Surface: unsealed limestone gravel Windsock: yes Hazards: wildlife and cattle Fuel held: AVGAS/AVTUR Lighting: emergency lighting Fenced: nil	VRD Station

#### 4.16. Telecommunication

There is 4G mobile coverage in Yarralin, as well as fixed line. There is one payphone in the Yarralin township, one in Lingara and 2 in Nitjpurru. Satellite phones are the only available communications across the remainder of the Locality.

#### 4.17. Local radio stations

Yarralin does not have a local radio station, but has the following broadcasts:

- 95.5 FM Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Local Radio
- 102.9 FM Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA)

#### 4.18. Medically vulnerable clients

The Yarralin Primary Health Centre has a list of medically vulnerable clients. The list are updated regularly. Currently there is a service to assist the elderly in Yarralin and outstations.

## 5. Prevention

### 5.1. Emergency risk assessments

The Yarralin 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 risk to the Locality, with further advice provided within **Annex C**:

- bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)
- flooding
- road crash

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium
Flooding	Moderate	Rare	Medium
Road crash	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
Coastal marine incident	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Air crash	Minor	Rare	Low
Cyber attack (NTG enterprise ICT environment only)	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Cyclone	Moderate	Extremely Rare	Low
Dam safety	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Earthquake	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Emergency animal disease	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Emergency aquatic animal disease	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Emergency marine pest	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Emergency plant pest or disease	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Fire (within Gazetted Area)	Moderate	Extremely Rare	Low
Hazardous material	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Heatwave	Minor	Rare	Low
Human disease	Moderate	Extremely Rare	Low
Invasive animal biosecurity	Moderate	Very Rare	Low
Invasive plant biosecurity	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Major power outage	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Marine oil spill (inside the port)	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Marine oil spill (outside the port)	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Hazard	Overall consequence	Overall likelihood	Risk rating
Rail crash	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Space weather	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Storm and water damage	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Storm surge	Minor	Extremely Rare	Very Low
Structural collapse	Minor	Unlikely	Low
Terrorism	Moderate	Extremely Rare	Low
Tsunami	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Water contamination (potable)	Minor	Unlikely	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 plans<sup>5</sup> 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 NT Emergency Service (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 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

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

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](mailto: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:

- NTES hazard briefings
- NTES Paddy Program
- NTFRS Smart Sparx Program

## 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](mailto: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) can appoint a Local Emergency Controller (Local Controller). The Local Controller for the locality is the Officer In Charge of the Yarralin 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 Yarralin 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 Local Controllers 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 Yarralin 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/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)

## 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
- Secure NT 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, 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)<sup>6</sup> 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.

## 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.

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<sup>6</sup> More information can be found at: <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/publications>



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

There are currently no emergency shelters within the Locality, the below areas are used for staging purposes:

Shelter(s)	People capacity
Nitjpurru Airstrip	(for staging only)
Yarralin Airstrip	(for staging only)
Yarralin Primary School	(for staging only)

The DET in conjunction with NTPF 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 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

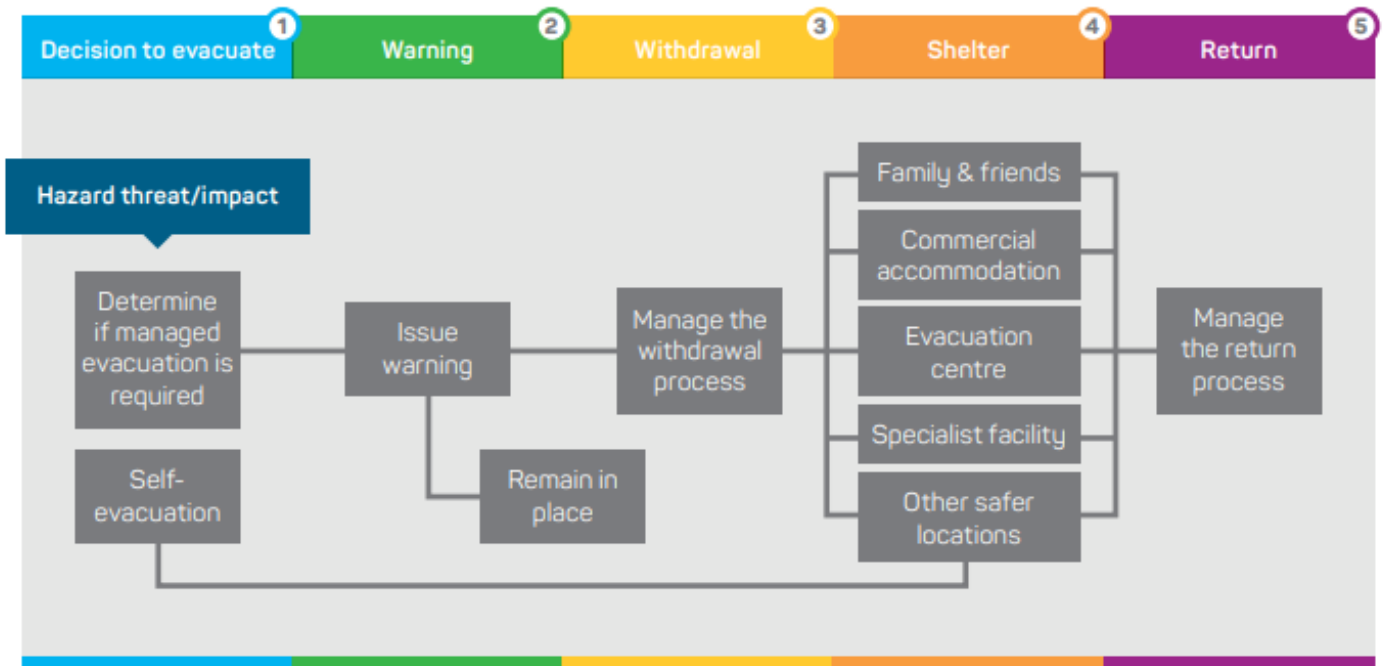
Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effect of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly 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 of an evacuation, it is vital to have an understanding of the 5-step process.



Source: Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Evacuation Guideline, 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 implies the provision of these services 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 Centre 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<sup>7</sup>.

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.

<sup>7</sup> More information can be found at: <https://register.redcross.org.au/>

## 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/NTFES, 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.

## 8. Recovery

The coordinated process and measures for supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of social, economic and natural environments.

### 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 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C). The Local Recovery Coordinator will establish a Local Recovery Coordination Committee (LRCC) drawing from membership of the Local Emergency Committee and other relevant members of the community as needed. The LEC 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 multi-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 member or a functional group member, those decisions should be recorded in a Decision Log (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 Specific 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	VDRC
Critical Goods and Services	Yarralin Store/VDRC Store
Digital and Telecommunications	Department of Corporate & Digital Development (DCDD)
Emergency Shelter	DET
Engineering	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)
Industry	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)
Medical	Yarralin Health Centre
Public Health	Yarralin Health Centre
Public Information	CM&C
Public Utilities	PAWC
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Transport	VDRC
Welfare	Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Full details of 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	NTPF
Anti-looting protection	NTPF
Banking services	N/A
Broadcasting: What radio stations provide announcements?	ABC Radio/TEABBA
Clearing of essential traffic routes	VDRC
Clearing storm water drains	VDRC
Clothing and household Items	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
Community clean up	VDRC
Control, coordination and management	Designated control authority
Coordination to evacuate public	NTPF
Critical Goods and Services (protect/resupply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• food</li> <li>• bottle gas</li> <li>• camping equipment</li> <li>• building supplies</li> </ul>	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
Damaged public buildings: Coordination and inspections	DIPL
Disaster Victim identification capability	NTPF/Yarralin Health Centre
Emergency Alerts/SEWS	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency food distribution	VDRC/Yarralin Store/Nitjpurru Store
EOC, including WebEOC, Recovery coordination centre (RCC)	NTPF/NTFES
Emergency shelter staff, operations and control	NTPF/DET
Evacuation centre - Staffing, operations and control	DCF
Financial Relief/assistance	DCF

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters	DIPL
Interpreter services	Aboriginal Interpreter Service/VDRC
Management of expenditure in emergencies	Controlling authority and any activated functional groups at the direction of the controlling authority
Medical services	Yarralin Health Clinic
Network communications (IT): Responders /Public Maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Telstra/DCDD
Power: Protection and restoration:	PAWC
Public messaging during response and recovery.	Hazard management authority/CM&C
Public/Environmental Health (EH) management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all EH functions including water &amp; food safety</li> <li>disease control</li> </ul>	DoH/Yarralin Health Clinic
Rapid Impact Assessment	NTPF/NTFES
Recovery Coordination	CM&C
Repatriation	DCF
Restoration of public buildings	DIPL
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	VDRC
Road management and traffic control including public Information on road closures	VDRC
Sewerage: Protection and restoration	PAWC/AUS Projects
Survey	NTPF/NTFES/VDRC/PAWC
Traffic control	VDRC/NTPF
Transport: Commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, buses	DIPL
Vulnerable groups	Yarralin Health Clinic (Medical only)

Functions	Agency/organisation/provider responsible
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• collection</li><li>• disposal of stock</li></ul>	VDRC
Water (including drinking water): Protection and restoration	PAWC/ESO



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

### 11.3.1. Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)

A fire hazard is an event, accidentally or deliberately caused, which requires a response from one or more of the statutory fire response agencies.

**A fire hazard can include, but not limited to:**

Term	Definition
Structure fire	A fire burning part, or all of any building, shelter, or other construction.
Bushfire	An unplanned fire. It is a generic term that includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires. Bushfires are a natural, essential and complex part of the NT environment. The term bushfire is interchangeable with the term wildfire.
Vehicle fire	An undesired fire involving a motor vehicle.

Across the NT, landowners are an essential part of the fire management process. Communication, co-operation, and shared responsibility within the community, matched by a capacity to undertake self-protective measures, form the basis of successful fire management throughout the NT.

In areas where there is no gazetted fire protection and management zones, if the owner or occupier of land is unable to control fire on the land, the owner or occupier must notify BFNT of this fact. When fires are reported to 000, the JESCC will contact BFNT to triage the report. In these areas, firefighting response from BFNT is not guaranteed as there is no established volunteer firefighting resource. BFNT may assist the owner or occupier of the land through the coordination of information and advice to assist the owner or occupier to control the fire. This may include liaison with affected neighbouring owners or occupiers for resource support, provision of fire weather information or the issuing of public information. In some circumstances, BFNT may deploy firefighting resources from larger regional centres to assist the owner or occupier to control the fire. BFNT have a rostered NT TDO to provide 24/7 incident triage coverage who can be contacted through the JESCC.

#### **Actions to be taken**

As described above, in areas where there is no fire protection zone (BFNT) or Emergency Response Area (ERA) (NTFRS), fire is the responsibility of the land owner or occupier. Where an owner or occupier has contacted BFNT that they are unable to control fire on the land, BFNT may contact the Local Controller to discuss local response arrangements and coordination of resources.

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




- a Fire Danger Period is declared over large areas when climatic and seasonal conditions presents increased fire risk for a prolonged period of time. A Fire Danger Period usually coincides with the accepted 'fire season' in an area. Broadly this is during the Austral summer months in central Australia and during the Dry Season further north. A permit to burn is required before using fire during a Fire Danger Period in all zones
- a Fire Ban can be declared for up to 24 hours. A combination of factors are considered when declaring a fire ban period including forecast fire danger, ignition likelihood, hazards and resourcing. All permits to burn are revoked within the declared fire ban area
- a Fire Management Area can be declared in an area where BFNT have identified heightened fire risk. A fire management plan can be prescribed for a Fire Management Area, and the plan can require landowners to take action to prepare for, or prevent, the spread of fire

- additional fire regulations apply within NTFRS ERA and BFNT Fire Protection and Management Zones. Permits to burn are required throughout the entire year inside an ERA or Fire Protection and Management Zones and a minimum 4 m wide firebreak within the perimeter boundary of all properties and additional firebreaks around permanent structures and stationary engines is required within a Fire Protection and Management Zone
- BFNT Regional Fire Management Plan
- establishment of an Incident Management Team with liaison officers from other agencies to assist
- radio, television and social media posts

**Warning and advice approval flow (bushfire only):**

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire. The System uses a nationally consistent set of icons, like those 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.

All warnings and advice will be issued by the Incident Controller from the relevant controlling authority for fire (NTFRS or BFNT).

### 11.3.2. Flooding

Hazard	Controlling authority	Hazard management authority
 Flooding	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

The Yarralin Locality may be subject to isolation caused by seasonal monsoonal/severe storm activity. When such isolation occurs, access by road will be restricted. Isolation causes communities/individuals to be cut off from the rest of the area. This could mean some people in an area are affected by a flood while others are not.

Flood events can cause long-term impacts on communities, such as disruptions to supplies of food, clean water, wastewater treatment, electricity, transport, communication, education and health care. Where isolation is likely to occur for an extended time, pre-season planning by the LEC is critical to ensure there will be limited disruptions to critical goods and services.

A flood hazard includes a flood threat to the township, housing and infrastructure of the Locality including the surrounding areas. The Bureau will issue a flood watch advice with up to 4 days lead time in situations where forecast rainfall and catchment conditions may lead to flooding.

Yarralin is prone to isolation and flooding with extreme rainfalls in the catchments of the Wickham and Humbert Rivers. As the only flood gauge in the area is located at Williams Crossing, a long warning time of a possible flood in the Yarralin Locality will not always be possible. Although the gauge at Williams Crossing provides a guide to probable levels of the Wickham River adjacent to the community<sup>8</sup>.

Consideration must be given to the Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) community, if the flood will impact the community. Previous evacuations include the 2001 and the 2023 and 2024 major floods, where the community were evacuated to Darwin. Whilst there are no gauging stations for the locality, the following table provides guidance for riverine flooding on NT communities.

The indicative impact of floods levels are provided in the table below:

#### Yarralin

Flood Classification	Consequence
Minor	Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to water courses are inundated. Roads become boggy with some major roads (Buchanan hwy) becoming inaccessible to 2wd and heavy vehicles also may be closed and low-level bridges submerged.
Moderate	In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required.
Major	In addition to the above, extensive rural areas and/or urban areas are inundated. Many buildings may be affected above the floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. Utility services may be impacted.

<sup>8</sup> More information can be found at: [http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap\\_fwo.pl?IDD60022.html](http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDD60022.html)

**Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole)**

Flood Classification	Consequence
Minor	Community becomes isolated due to road access through river bed (normally dry when river at Kalkarindji is at low levels)
Moderate	Low lying areas become inundated, residents self-evacuate generally to higher levels and begin preparing longer term shelter at "The Shed" on high ground
Major	Community township becomes inundated due to flood waters with substantial losses to all infrastructure

**Lingara**

Flood Classification	Consequence
Minor	Community may become isolated due to rising creek and river crossings. Community is prepared with extra fuel supplies (self purchased from Yarralin)
Moderate	Community remains isolated – prolonged food supply becomes an issue
Major	Community is on high ground with all houses elevated, with generator (electric) supplies able to be sourced through nearby station – Humbert River (owned by Heytesbury Pastoral Group)

As the Hazard Management Authority the NTES have established, equipped and trained volunteer units within the NT, to support response and recovery operations to flood events.

Other factors also affect flooding in the community, including local rain which feeds creeks and watercourses downstream from the crossing, the tide times and levels in the Victoria River which influence the rate of flow of the Wickham River and the ability of the surrounding countryside to absorb water. Should flooding occur, it will not be possible to access the community by road and it is likely the airstrip will only be operable for a short period of time due to the billabong at the rear of the airstrip flooding and water rising to the fence line of the airstrip or further.

It is difficult to assess when and to what extent flooding will affect the Yarralin community throughout any given Wet Season. Although some warning may be possible due to computation of data collected from Williams Crossing, a flood event may occur with little warning.

Lingara community has 3 – 4 creek and river crossings between the community and Yarralin. These crossings flood easily and quickly. Lingara residents are to be advised at the earliest possible time to evacuate and head into Yarralin. Should flash flooding occur, it will not be possible to relocate to Yarralin via road and is likely that a helicopter rescue will need to be initiated.

Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) is susceptible to inundation from flood waters from the Victoria and Camfield Rivers. Where major flood levels are reported at Kalkarindji (on the Victoria River), these flood waters can be expected to impact Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) in approximately 2½ days' time.

During the major floods in 2023 and 2024, where floodwaters peaked at the rooftops of houses within the community, resulted in catastrophic damage to residential properties and critical infrastructure. Flood waters flowing in from the Camfield River may have an impact on Nitjpurru (PigeonHole), on top of major flooding on the Victoria will have a major effect on the community.

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

- Community education, flood updates and forecasting




**Public safety message process:**

- the Bureau issues a flood 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 and Incident Controller to determine recommended messaging
- NTPF and NTFES Media Unit or Public Information Group receives approved messaging to publish

**Warnings and advice approval flow**

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 – Flooding – guide only<sup>9</sup>

Organisation/ Provider	Flood Watch	Isolation
All members	Attend LEC meetings Relay information to other key stakeholders	Assist where necessary and ensure all procedures for each location/area to be affected is well prepared
Local Controller	Update LEC members of the impending situation	SITREP is to be circulated to committee members and key stakeholders

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<sup>9</sup> Action stages as per Flood products issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

### 11.3.3. 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.

A number of 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 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
- training in PUASAR024 - undertake road crash rescue delivered by NTES and NTFRS to NTPFES members

**Public message approval flow:**

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

## 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><b>Decision</b> – made by the Regional Controller when the community have sustained damage during &lt;to be determined&gt; that cannot support residents in situ during recovery.</p> <p>The Local Controller to disseminate information to the community.</p> <p><b>Withdrawal</b> – 3 stage process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. &lt;location to be determined&gt;; community to the &lt;location to be determined&gt;; to be registered for evacuation to &lt;location to be determined&gt;</li> <li>2. once registered, groups to move to the airstrip assembly area using buses/vehicles</li> <li>3. Australian Red Cross to register check utilising Register Find Reunite.</li> </ol> <p><b>Shelter</b> – evacuees will be encouraged to stay with friends or family. The remainder will be accommodated at an evacuation centre &lt;Location to be determined&gt;</p> <p><b>Return</b> – to be determined once recovery can sustain return to &lt;location to be determined&gt;.</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>	
Vulnerable groups within the community	The Medical Group will liaise with local health staff and provide information on medically vulnerable people.	Medical Group and Transport Group to action



	<p>The identified people will be evacuated &lt;at a time to be determined&gt;.</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"> <li>• the total number of people being evacuated</li> <li>• an estimate of the number of people likely to require accommodation in the evacuation centre</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• a summary of cultural considerations, family groups, skin groups and community groups</li> <li>• potential issues that may arise as a result of these groups being accommodated in close proximity to one another</li> <li>• a summary of people with health issues, including chronic diseases, illnesses and injuries.</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<p>What is the nature of the hazard?</p>	<p>&lt;To be determined&gt;</p>	
<p>Estimated duration of the potential evacuation?</p>	<p>&lt;To be determined&gt;</p>	

<p>Triggers for the evacuation</p>	<p><b>Example</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. evacuation planning to commence when the Locality is under a &lt;to be determined&gt;</li> <li>2. implement evacuation if the severity and impact has caused major damage and disruption to all services</li> <li>3. elderly and vulnerable people are to be considered for evacuation due to limited health services.</li> </ol> <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><b>Stage 2 – Warning</b></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"> <li>• broadcasted over radio and television</li> <li>• social media utilising the NTPFS Facebook page SecureNT</li> <li>• loud hailer</li> <li>• door to door</li> <li>• Emergency Alert System.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• outline of the proposed evacuation plan</li> <li>• measure to prepare residences</li> <li>• safety issues; not overloading transport</li> <li>• items to bring on the evacuation</li> <li>• arrangements for pets and animals.</li> </ul>	Local Controller Animal Welfare Group liaison
Responsibility for the coordination of Stage 2	Local Controller/Regional Controller	
<b>Stage 3 - Withdrawal</b>		
Outline	3 stage process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. community residents to &lt;staging area 1&gt;</li> <li>2. &lt;staging area 1&gt; to airport</li> <li>3. airport to &lt;location to be determined&gt; evacuation centre</li> </ol>	
<Location> community to the airstrip	<p><b>Lead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTPF</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the community will gather at the &lt;location to be determined&gt; prior to being transported by community buses to the airstrip.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risks/other considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evacuation should be undertaken during daylight hours, if possible.</li> <li>• risks include inclement weather, persons with infectious diseases, vulnerable persons, and frail/elderly persons, chronically ill</li> <li>• estimated time en-route: ___ minutes each way</li> <li>• estimated timeframe overall: ___ hours utilising current resources.</li> <li>• alternate transport options.</li> </ul>	NTPF

<p><b>Assembly area</b></p>	<p>Likely location of evacuation centre: &lt;to be determined&gt;.</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><b>Services to be provided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Red Cross Coordinator: Red Cross</li> </ul> <p><b>Other details</b></p> <p>Evacuee registration. Residents will need to register at &lt;location to be determined&gt; or airport if (self-evacuating) to be permitted access to the evacuation centre at the &lt;location to be determined&gt;.</p>	<p>NTPF/DCF</p>
<p>&lt;Location&gt; community to &lt;location to be determined&gt;</p>	<p><b>Lead - NTPF</b></p> <p><b>Example Lead - Transport Group</b></p> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Group has identified commercial operators and the Police Air Section able to provide evacuation assistance.</li> <li>• Total proposed air assets: _____. Commercial operators will be charging commercial rates for their services at a cost of (\$_____).</li> <li>• The operation will begin at _____hrs with the first aircraft, leaving &lt;to be determined&gt; and arriving at _____hrs</li> <li>• 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 &lt;to be determined&gt;).</li> </ul>	<p>NTPF/Transport/Logistics</p>

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

Coordination Stage 3	Regional Controller	IMT coordination
<b>Stage 4 – Shelter</b>		
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 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
<b>Roles</b>		
• Director	DCF	Welfare Group
• Deputy Director	DCF	Welfare Group
• Logistics/planning	EOC	Controlling Authority
• Admin teams	EOC	CM&C/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.	
<b>Stage 5 – Return</b>		
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>	
• 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>	
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 table outlines 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 Assess Stuart Highway to Katherine (supply route)	Restoration of road networks and bridges Return to business as usual
5. Emergency accommodation	Emergency accommodation and shelter	Evacuation centres may continue into recovery



Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evacuation centres</li> </ul> <p>Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes</p> <p>Emergency clothing</p>	<p>Temporary accommodation options</p> <p>Repatriation planning</p>
<p>6. Medical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify any issues with accessing facilities</li> <li>○ Initial Impact assessment</li> <li>○ Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water</li> <li>○ ongoing acute clinical care and critical services requirements</li> <li>○ increase morgue capacity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health Centres                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ identify any issues with accessing facilities</li> <li>○ Access to critical supplies e.g. medicines, consumables, power or fuel and water</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GP clinics and pharmacies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ identify operational GP services</li> <li>○ identify operational pharmacies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support Medically vulnerable people</li> <li>• Medical retrieval services (air and road)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing provision of health services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- which may include business continuity plans</li> <li>- engagement with stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Repatriation of medically vulnerable people in community</li> <li>• GP clinics and pharmacies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ongoing liaison by the Medical Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medical retrieval services – resume business as usual</li> </ul>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
<p>7. Essential goods and services</p>	<p>Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points</p> <p>Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources</p> <p>Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities</p> <p>Implement interim banking arrangements</p>	<p>Support the re-opening of the private business sector</p> <p>Monitor levels and availability of essential goods</p> <p>Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities</p> <p>Public health inspections (food outlets)</p> <p>Banking sector business continuity arrangements</p>
	<p><u>Fuel</u></p> <p>Fuel suppliers and point of sale</p> <p>Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation</p>	<p>Monitor fuel levels</p> <p>Infrastructure repairs</p> <p>Emergency fuel supplies for recovery</p> <p>Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply</p>
	<p><u>Banking</u></p> <p>Assess damage to banks and ATMs</p> <p>Implement temporary arrangements</p>	<p>Emergency cash outlets</p> <p>Implement long term arrangements</p>
<p>8. Evacuation</p>	<p>Evacuations within community</p> <p>Evacuation out of community</p> <p>Registration</p>	<p>Support services for evacuees</p> <p>Recovery information for evacuees</p> <p>Repatriation</p>
<p>9. Public health</p>	<p>Communicable disease control response</p> <p>Drinking water safety standards</p> <p>Sewage and waste disposal</p> <p>Safe food distribution and advice</p> <p>Vector and vermin control</p> <p>Food and commercial premises</p>	<p>Ongoing in recovery</p>
<p>10. Utilities</p>	<p>Power supply</p> <p>Power generation</p> <p>Water supply</p> <p>Sewerage</p> <p>Emergency sanitation</p>	<p>Restore power network</p> <p>Restore water and sewerage infrastructure</p> <p>Issue alerts until safe to use</p>
<p>11. Impact assessments</p>	<p>Training assessment teams</p> <p>Initial impact assessments</p>	<p>Comprehensive impact assessments</p> <p>Ongoing needs assessments</p>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
<p>12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)</p>	<p><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</p>	<p>Monitor repairs and business continuity activities</p>
	<p><u>Road</u>                      Highway and critical access roads damage assessment                      Repair work to commence immediately</p>	<p>Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key Territory Highways (Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem)</p>
	<p><u>Rail</u>                      Rail damage assessment                      Outage estimation</p>	<p>Ongoing liaison with operator to support restoration to business as usual</p>
	<p><u>Port, harbour and barge</u>                      Assess damage to port infrastructure and harbour facilities                      Assess the damage to barge facilities</p>	<p>Repairing infrastructure                      Establish alternate arrangements for the supply of remote communities</p>
<p>13. Waste management</p>	<p>Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required</p>	<p>Continues in recovery</p>
<p>14. Repairs and reconstruction</p>	<p>Private housing                      - impact assessments                      - temporary repairs                      Government buildings                      - damage assessment                      Public housing                      - impact assessments                      Private industry                      - damage assessments</p>	<p>Private housing                      - information and support to facilitate repairs                      Government buildings                      - repairs and reconstruction                      Public housing                      - long term repair plans                      Private industry                      - repair and reconstruction                      Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce</p>
<p>15. Transport services</p>	<p>Staged re-establishment of public transport services</p>	<p>Continues in recovery</p>
<p>16. Telecommunication</p>	<p>Telstra and Optus will assess the damage to their infrastructure</p>	<p>Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)</p>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services	
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

## 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
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DET	Department of Education and Training
DLI	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DoH	Department of Health
DTBAR	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ERA	Emergency Response Area
ESO	Essential Services Operators
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre
KM	Kilometres
LCC	Local Coordination Centre
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordination Committee
M	Metres
NERAG	National Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines
NT	Northern Territory
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service

Acronyms	Definitions
NTFES	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SITREP	Situation Report
TDO	Territory Duty Officer
TEABBA	Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
VDRC	Victoria Daly Regional Council
WebEOC	Web-Based Emergency Operations Centre