

# Southern Regional **Emergency Plan**



**Northern Territory  
Emergency Service**

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# 1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services acknowledges the First Nations people throughout the Northern Territory, 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.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to describe the emergency management arrangements for the Southern Region.

### 2.2. Application

This Plan applies to the Southern Region of the NT.

### 2.3. Key Considerations

The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act<sup>1</sup>) 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 Emergency Plan<sup>2</sup>, form the basis for this Plan.

This Plan:

- Confirms appointment of a Regional Emergency Controller;
- Confirms establishment of the Regional Emergency Committee (REC);
- Specifies control and coordination arrangements for mobilisation of regional, and, if necessary, Territory and national resources;
- Identifies roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders;
- Provides for the effective transition to, and management of, regional recovery arrangements in accordance with the Territory Emergency Plan.

This Plan complements the Territory Emergency Plan as it relates to the Southern Region, and is based on contemporary emergency management principles and recognises four phases of activities. These activities contribute to the reduction or elimination of hazards and to reducing the susceptibility or increasing the resilience to hazards of a community or environment.

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<sup>1</sup> More information can be found at:

<https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/EMERGENCY-MANAGEMENT-ACT-2013>

<sup>2</sup> More information can be found at:

<https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2022/NTES%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan%202021-2022.pdf>

These phases are referred to as Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR). The activities described will generally be conducted at the local level, with regional support provided as required. This Plan is also complemented by functional group plans which are designed to operate on a stand-alone basis or as part of a wider response and describe that group's capabilities and activities as set out by the Territory Emergency Plan.

## 2.4. Plan Governance

Part 2, Division 2 of the Act outlines the preparation, consideration, approval and review requirements for Regional Emergency Plans.

## 3. Southern Region Context Statement

Southern Region emergency management area extends from Elliott in the north to the Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia borders. It covers approximately 873,700 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 41,000.

The Southern Region of the NT is a unique Australian environment from desert to wide tracks of bushland and open grasslands. It includes world heritage areas and national parks, with views that stretch across the countryside. The environment is vast and diverse - a land of ancient sandstone formations, wetlands, billabongs and unique native flora and fauna. Tourism is a major economic source for the southern NT, especially during the cooler months of the year. Many people travel from other states to experience the unique NT environment. The NT recognises the importance of minimising vulnerabilities associated with emergency events and aspires to build safe, resilient communities through a range of activities that contribute to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from, the impact of emergency events.

The Southern Region is characterised by two main zones, which experience distinct climatic conditions. They are the Grassland Zone and the Desert Zone.

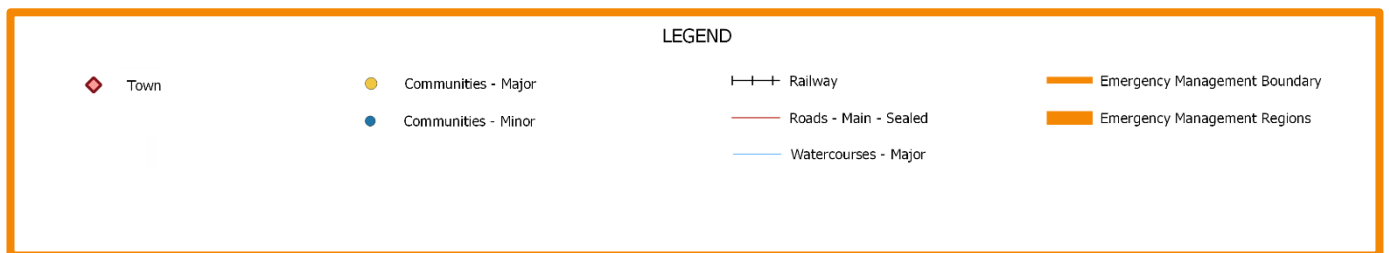
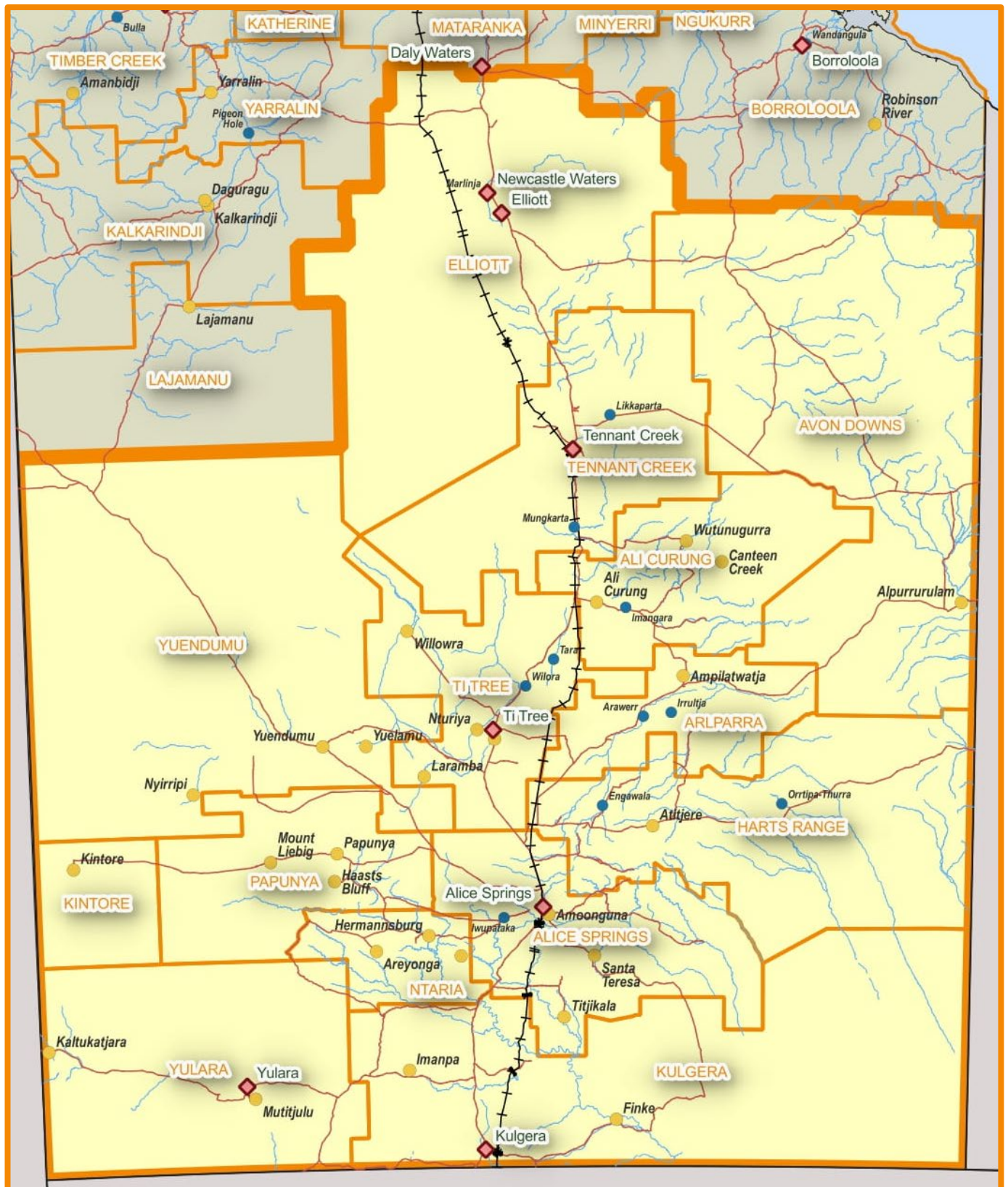
### 3.1. Grassland Zone

Central parts of the NT experience hot temperatures from October to March, while the middle of the year is mild in comparison. At the peak of the Wet Season (November - April), when the monsoon trough drifts south, rainfall is more reliable in the Northern part of the region and heavy rain events can occur. At other times of the year, rainfall across the region is unreliable. Fire danger is typically highest from September to December.

### 3.2. Desert Zone

The Desert Zone is characterised by a hot summer (December-February) and a cold winter (June-August). The majority of the region experiences low and unreliable rainfall across all seasons of the year. Rainfall is slightly more reliable from December to February as tropical moisture occasionally moves south, bringing an increased risk of heavy rain events and severe thunderstorms. Fire danger also increases during spring and summer (September-February) as heat builds.

### 3.3. Map of NT Southern Region



### 3.4. NT and Local Government

In March 2019, the NT Government (NTG) implemented six regional boundaries across the NT to strengthen the role of the Regional Network Group and align service delivery and reporting. The boundaries identified in the Southern Region are:

- Barkly
- Central Australia

The Region is represented by the following four local government authorities (councils), the remaining area is unincorporated and has no local government representation.

Local Government Authority	Size of district (km <sup>2</sup> )	Approx. Population
Alice Springs Town Council	327.5	24,750
Barkly Regional Council	322,514	6,650
Central Desert Regional Council	282,100	3,670
MacDonnell Regional Council	268,800	6,030

### 3.5. Localities and Communities

The Southern Region is divided into 14 localities and operates under a Local Emergency Plan. This provides a basis for coordinated emergency and recovery operations in the locality. Each of the localities, major communities and corresponding local government authorities are listed in the tables below.

### 3.6. Police Commands

By virtue of their legislated role in the *Emergency Management Act*, the emergency management boundaries of localities are in line with the existing NT Police boundaries. These boundaries are represented by the Police Commands of the Alice Springs District, Tennant and Barkly District and the Southern Desert District.

Alice Springs District - Locality	Major Communities	Local Government Authority
Alice Springs	Alice Springs Amoonguna Iwupataka (Jay Creek) Titjikala (Maryvale) Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa)	Alice Springs Town Council MacDonnell Regional Council
Tennant Creek and Barkly District - Locality	Major Communities	Local Government Authority
Ali Curung	Ali Curung Canteen Creek Wutungurra (Epenarra) Imangara (Murray Downs)	Barkly Regional Council
Avon Downs & Alpurrurulam	Alpurrurulam	Barkly Regional Council
Elliott	Elliott Marlinja (Newcastle Waters)	Barkly Regional Council
Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek Likkaparta	Barkly Regional Council

Southern Desert District - Locality	Major Communities	Local Government Authority
Harts Range	Atitjere (Harts Range) Engawala (Alcoota) Orrtipa-Thurra (Bonya)	Central Desert Regional Council
Kintore	(Walungurra) Kintore	MacDonnell Regional Council
Kulgera	Aputula (Finke) Imanpa	MacDonnell Regional Council
Ntaria (Hermannsburg)	Areyonga Hermannsburg Wallace Rockhole	MacDonnell Regional Council
Papunya	Haasts Bluff Mount Liebig Papunya	MacDonnell Regional Council
Ti Tree	Laramba (Napperby) Pmara Jutunta Ti Tree Tara (Neutral Junction) Willowra Wilora	Central Desert Regional Council
Utopia (Arparra) and Ampilatwatja	Ampilatwatja Arawerr Arparra (Utopia) Irrultja	Barkly Regional Council
Yulara (Petermann)	Mutitjulu Watarrka Kaltukatjara (Docker River) Yulara*(Unincorporated)	MacDonnell Regional Council
Yuendumu	Nyrripi Yuelamu	Central Desert Regional Council



## 4. Prevention

### 4.1. Prevention and Mitigation

Southern Region hazards include riverine flooding in the Alice Springs and Alpururulam areas; flash flooding which may cause many communities to become isolated; earthquakes in the Tennant Creek area; and a range of local risks that are managed through Local Emergency Plans. The Southern REC will provide operational support coordination to local response or recovery operations. A copy of each approved Local Emergency Plan is located in the Web-Base Emergency Operations Centre (WebEOC) File Library and on the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Service (NTPFES) webpage.<sup>3</sup>

Prevention and mitigation relates to measures to reduce exposure to hazards, to 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.

## 5. Preparedness

The Regional Controller is responsible for ensuring an adequate level of planning, training and equipping has occurred in localities within the region. This includes ensuring Local Emergency Plans have been updated and readiness reports are prepared each year. Such reporting will generally occur within a pre-season readiness meeting of the REC.

Emergency plans are a legal requirement as set down by the Act. They become a record of agreements made by contributing parties to accept roles and responsibilities, provide resources and work cooperatively.

Appropriate training is a legislative requirement for those involved in emergency management activities. Exercises should also be undertaken when the plan has not been enacted since the last review or where substantial changes have occurred.

## 6. Response

Response actions are those 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.

### 6.1. Regional Emergency Committee

In accordance with section 58 of the Act, a REC is established for the Southern Region.

The Southern REC is responsible for the development of effective emergency management preparedness and response arrangements to deal with identified emergency/disaster threats affecting the Northern Region and the production and amendment of Emergency Management Plans. The functions, powers, membership and procedures of the REC are outlined in Part 4, Division 7 of the Act.

Contact details for members of the Southern REC can be accessed through the office of the Northern Regional Controller and WebEOC<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> More information can be found at: <https://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/emergency-service/emergency-management>

<sup>4</sup> More information can be found at: <https://webeoc.ntpfes.triservice/eoc7/>

## 6.2. Regional Emergency Controller

The Territory Controller in accordance with section 54 of the Act appoints a Regional Controller. The Regional Controller for Southern Region is the Assistant Commissioner, Regional and Remote Operations.

The Regional Controller is supported in the Southern Region by a Deputy Regional Controller(s), being the Commander Southern Command. The Regional Controller will nominate an appropriate Deputy Regional Controller to perform the functions as set out below to coordinate emergency operations.

The Regional Controller has the following functions:

- To supervise and coordinate emergency operations in the region
- To ensure that the Territory Controller's instructions, policies and procedures are complied with
- Any other functions conferred on the Regional Controller by the Territory Controller or by the Act
- To conduct such meetings as are required, whether for normal business or to coordinate safe and effective resolution of emergency operations.

The Regional Controller is responsible for the care and maintenance of equipment made available to the region by the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES). This will be coordinated through respective Local Controllers at locations where the equipment is held and NTES Northern Command staff.

## 6.3. Local Controller

Local Controllers within the Southern Region are the NT Police Officers in Charge of the police stations with the 14 localities identified by the Territory Controller, requiring Local Emergency Plans. Local Controllers report to the Southern Regional Controller, Deputy Regional Controller or a delegated Incident Controller to coordinate effective preparation and response management to an incident.

Local Controllers and their respective Local Emergency Committees (LECs) will establish Incident Control Points for local management of emergencies and report through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre, established by the Regional Controller or Deputy Regional Controller/s for coordination of supporting operations.

Responsibility for response rests initially at the local level and is to be coordinated by the Local Controller through the LEC. Coordination of resources may escalate to the Regional Controller, or if stood up, the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

## 6.4. Roles within the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

Working under the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS), roles will be assigned to appropriately trained personnel from across the NTPFES, government agency personnel and non-government personnel.

The EOC can be used as an Incident Control Centre (ICC).

For information on roles and responsibilities in an EOC, please refer to the AIIMS Manual.

## 6.5. Functional Group Leaders

Functional Groups roles and responsibilities are detailed within the Territory Emergency Plan.

Functional Group Leaders are appointed by their respective lead agency to provide advice to the REC and provide status reports as requested by the Regional Controller.

Where appropriate, functional groups will be requested to provide a liaison officer into an EOC to provide advice on their group's status, resource availability and operational issues; contribute as requested to Incident Action Plans, briefings and coordinate deployment of their respective group resources where applicable.

Overall incident planning, logistics and operations tasking will be managed from the EOC/ICC.

Functional groups may operate from their own facilities, according to their respective activation plans, and will be tasked through the operations functional area using WebEOC.

Communication from an EOC to functional groups will be via regular briefings, phone contact or video conferencing as required, emails and WebEOC.

## 6.6. Stages of Activation – Response/Recovery

With the exception of cyclones where six stages are used, this plan sets out five stages of activation. These stages are designed to ensure a graduated response to hazardous events, thereby 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 Regional 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 Regional 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	This stage is declared when the Regional Controller considers that no further emergency management is necessary but if the consequences of the emergency require ongoing recovery coordination the Regional Controller will advise the Director, SERT, DCMC in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Territory Emergency Plan.
Stage 5	Recovery	This stage is called if ongoing recovery operations and coordination is required.

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

Some events, pre-identified in local or hazard-specific emergency plans, may lead to activation of the Southern Region Emergency Plan. This plan may be activated by the Territory Controller, Director NTES or Regional Controller.

Recovery may be activated when an incident or event has occurred that did not necessitate the activation of response stages 1 to 4. This may be in relation to a sudden impact event such as a rail crash or an event with a long lead time such as flooding.

## 6.7. Regional level arrangements

Supporting organisations, agencies and functional groups may establish their own coordination centres to provide the focal point for the overall control and coordination of their agency resources. Nominal coordination centre locations are as follows:

- Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Group: AZRI Complex, South Stuart Highway
- Critical Goods and Services Group: Green Well Building, 50 Bath Street
- Emergency Shelter Group: First Floor Alice Plaza, Todd Mall
- Engineering Group: Green Well Building, 50 Bath Street

- EOC: Damian Clifton Centre, NTES Southern Command Headquarters
- Industry Group: Green Well Building, 50 Bath Street
- Major Defence Installations: location(s) dependent on location and nature of emergency.
- Medical, Welfare & Public Health Groups: Eurilpa House or Alice Springs Hospital
- Public Information Group: First Floor Alice Plaza & Primary EOC
- Public Utilities Group: Power and Water Corporation, Sadadeen Complex
- Recovery Coordination: location(s) dependent on size of recovery and nature of emergency.
- Survey/Rescue Group: Alice Springs Fire Station
- Transport Group: First Floor Alice Plaza

## 6.8. Warning systems, notifications and dissemination

In the event of an emerging incident occurring, REC members will be notified by any or all of the following means:

- email
- SMS messaging
- telephone
- WebEOC alerts

Response agencies will be activated as per their relevant Standard Operating Procedures.

Sources of warning information and warning systems utilised will depend upon the type of incident. No single warning system will be solely relied upon and multiple media types will be utilised to get information to the public about emerging incidents. As an example; with storm, flood and cyclone, the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) is the primary source of warning information, with NTES providing public action statements that are approved by the NTES Director or Regional Controller and disseminated by broadcast media, social media and websites.

Examples of warning systems that may be used in the Northern Region include:

- media: ABC radio (emergency broadcaster) and other locally-based radio stations may be utilised depending on the warning area;
- social media: Secure NT Facebook pages and Twitter platforms, as the primary source and other relevant agency social medial platforms;
- electronic media: websites, such as Secure NT and BoM which include links to specific information, sites and/or educational materials;
- print media: for long term events such as flooding or severe storms;
- the Bureau webpage;
- Emergency Alert System: a location-targeted voice and text message delivery system;
- Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS): Audio signal designed to draw attention to public safety announcement;
- loud hailer/door knocks: verbal messaging to specific small areas;
- Other local arrangements as identified in Local Emergency Plans.

## 6.9. Emergency Shelters

The Regional Controller can direct emergency shelters to open, pending an emerging threat. Each Local Emergency Plan has identified shelters and/or strong buildings that are to be referred to as the situation dictates.

An emergency shelter can generally only operate for up to **48 hours**.

Although staffed by various community service providers, an emergency shelter offers minimal support services. People accessing a shelter are expected to be self-sufficient and provide their own food and emergency supplies.

## 6.10. Evacuation Centres

Where longer-term emergency accommodation and support is required following a disaster or event, an evacuation centre may be established. An evacuation centre is designed to accommodate people for short to medium periods of approximately four to six weeks, although this time may vary.

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

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

An evacuation centre implies the provision of these services in contrast to an emergency shelter, in which people are expected to be self-sufficient.

## 6.11. Welfare Recovery Centres

Welfare Recovery Centres (WRC) are one-stop-shops that provide a range of support services to an affected community. Accommodation services are not provided.

Types of services that may be provided in a WRC may include:

- financial support and advice
- insurance advice
- psychological support or counselling
- emergency accommodation information
- recovery information
- public health information.

Establishment and coordination of WRCs is led by the Welfare Group. Centres may continue to operate throughout response and recovery phases of an emergency event.

The Regional Controller, in consultation with the Director, SERT, DCMC, may request the opening of WRCs to support the recovery of an area. The relevant functional groups will be briefed and involved in planning to facilitate the set up and operation of WRCs. The Local Emergency Plans may include suitable locations in communities for use as WRCs.

## 6.12. 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 post impact return. The decision to evacuate a community, including establishing an evacuation centre, is not taken lightly as it can represent significant risk, resource and financial implications. Self-evacuation is a preferred strategy.

Planning for an evacuation will be completed in consultation with the Incident Controller, Functional Groups and relevant Local Emergency Committees.

Where an evacuation is required, the Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC) will be briefed by the Incident Controller and Regional Controller. A proposed evacuation plan formulated, and endorsed by the Territory Controller to proceed.

In planning for evacuation, consideration must be given to evacuation management, including evacuation centres, registration, reception and repatriation planning. A copy of the Evacuation Guideline can be found at **Annex B**.

The NT Evacuation Centre Field Guide has been developed for government and partnering agencies to provide guidance to personnel working in evacuation centres. A copy of the guide is available on WebEOC.

## 6.13. Closure of Schools and/or Government Offices

The decision to close schools due to an impending threat will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from TEMC. When the nature of an emergency demands an immediate response, local authorities will take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the public, which may include the temporary closure of the school to enable communities to begin preparations, pending formal closure of the school by the Chief Minister for the remainder of the emergency. The decision to re-open schools will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Education based on advice from the controlling authority's Incident Controller.

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 emergency demands an immediate response, local authorities should take all appropriate steps to ensure public safety and the protection of property. The decision to re-open government offices will be made by the Chief Minister on advice from the TEMC.

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

## 6.14. Impact Assessment

Immediately after a hazard has affected a community, assessment of the impact is a vital component of the situational awareness and implementation of response and recovery activities.

Impact Assessment may be carried out in three phases:

1. As part of initial post impact Survey and Rescue activities conducted by first responder agencies which will give a less detailed, big picture report on overall impact to a community
2. Rapid Assessment is a more in-depth, "door to door" assessment of building damage and personal needs of affected persons to enable responding agencies to provide specific relief and recovery services
3. Comprehensive Assessment is conducted as an event progresses by specific agencies and experts to determine continuing effect on the community and infrastructure as a whole.

Detailed guidelines to conduct rapid assessments in the NT, including the establishment of a dedicated Rapid Assessment Team/s (RAT) to collect data in the field have been developed. A copy is available in the WebEOC library for emergency management practitioners.

The Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group, led by the NTPFES is responsible for impact assessments.

### 6.15. EOC Purpose and Coordination

An EOC is a facility designed to meet the needs of an IMT and supporting personnel throughout the course of an emergency event. It acts as a central facility from which information is received, collated, analysed and disseminated.

The EOC is located at the Damian Clifton Centre at the NTES Southern Region Headquarters. When requested by the Regional Controller, the NTES will initiate set up of the EOC.

An EOC will be established by the Regional Controller in response to a major emergency event. This may occur at the Territory, regional or local level. The function of an EOC is to effect operational control and coordination of all resources required to effectively manage response operations. An EOC is scaled up, or down, in accordance with the key principles of AIIMS depending on the size, scale and complexity of the emergency event.

A large-scale emergency will trigger the activation of an EOC equipped with sufficient staff and communications facilities to coordinate Territory-wide resources, seek Australian Government support and provide streamlined public information via media outlets and other means.

Once the NT Emergency Management Arrangement are activated, liaison officers from each functional group attend the EOC as required by the Controlling Authority. Key functions within an EOC include:

- information collection, collation, analysis and dissemination
- preparation and issue of official warnings and advice to the public
- coordination of the provision of resources required by the Incident Controller and if necessary Australian Government resources
- briefing the Regional Controller, Territory Controller and TEMC
- dissemination of information to the general public via the media and other means.

If transition to recovery has occurred (if deemed necessary), an EOC may transition into a Recovery Coordination Centre.

## 7. Recovery

Recovery is the coordinated process and measures for supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of social, economic and physical well-being.

### 7.1. Transitional Arrangements

Transition from response to recovery operations represents a fundamental shift away from protection of human life and supporting the immediate needs of the community, to establish long-term, more sustainable support structures.

Transition from response to recovery operations is outlined in Section 5 of the Territory Emergency Plan. Recovery activities may commence with response operations through the development of a transition to recovery checklist. The Territory Controller and the Territory Recovery Coordinator will agree to the transition of control on advice from the Regional Controller and Regional Recovery Coordinator, in consultation with the TEMC.

Formal handover to recovery will not occur until the Territory Recovery Coordinator is satisfied the following briefings have been completed:

- the Territory Controller has briefed the TEMC and the Territory Recovery Coordinator
- the Regional Controller has briefed the Regional Recovery Coordinator
- the IMT has conducted a handover briefing with the new Team.

The indicators listed in the Territory Emergency Plan provide guidance for emergency managers to identify the most appropriate time for the transition to occur without loss of operational tempo.

Some of the indicators when the transition to recovery is ready to occur includes:

- survey and rescue operations are complete
- road clearance of main arterial roads is complete
- first round impact assessments have been completed and an initial assessment of the impact of the event has been developed
- evacuations have been completed to the shelter phase
- a visit by the Regional Recovery Coordinator or representative to the affected location/s has been undertaken
- a Recovery Coordination structure has been developed and is ready to be activated
- evacuation centres (where required) have been established.

## 7.2. Recovery Action Plan

A Recovery Action Plan will be developed for each impacted community or location, articulating the overarching recovery objectives and strategies for execution. Where there is no longer a requirement for a multi-agency recovery effort, the Territory Recovery Coordinator will seek endorsement from the TEMC to transition to agency arrangements.

## 8. Debrief

An operational debrief should be undertaken after all responses and is the responsibility of the control and/or recovery agency, typically the Incident Controller and Recovery Coordinator.

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, IMT 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.

Three debrief methods are:

- Hot debrief – usually held immediately after response operations, providing an opportunity for instant feedback especially in relation to addressing pressing or immediate concerns
- Internal organisational debrief – to be held within 14 days of the event, where organisational issues are addressed, looking at both strengths and weaknesses to guide future training and development



- Multi-agency whole of government debrief – to be held within 28 days of the event where the activity resulted in a multi-agency response. A formal debrief report should be formulated to ensure consistency in the approach to the collation of information.

More information and templates on debriefs can be found in Section 6 of the Territory Emergency Plan and are available in the WebEOC file library.

## 9. Related references

The following references apply:

- *Emergency Management Act 2013*<sup>5</sup>;
- Territory Emergency Plan<sup>6</sup>;
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework<sup>7</sup>.

## 10. Annexures

Annex A - Functional Groups

Annex B - Evacuation Guideline

Annex C - Summary of Response and Recovery Activities

Annex D - Definitions and acronyms

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<sup>5</sup> More information can be found at: <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/EMERGENCY-MANAGEMENT-ACT-2013>

<sup>6</sup> More information can be found at: [https://pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2021/NTES\\_Territory\\_Emergency\\_Plan\\_2021.pdf](https://pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2021/NTES_Territory_Emergency_Plan_2021.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> More information can be found at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/national-disaster-risk-reduction-framework.pdf>

## 10.1. Annex A: Functional Groups

Functional Group	Agency
Biosecurity and Animal Welfare	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT)
Digital and Telecommunication	Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)
Critical Goods and Services	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT)
Emergency Shelter	Department of Education (DoE)
Engineering	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)
Industry	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT)
Medical	Department of Health (DoH)
Public Health	Department of Health (DoH)
Public Information	Department of the Chief Minister & Cabinet (DCMC)
Public Utilities	Power and Water Corporation (PAWC)
Transport	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES)
Welfare	Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (DTFHC)

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

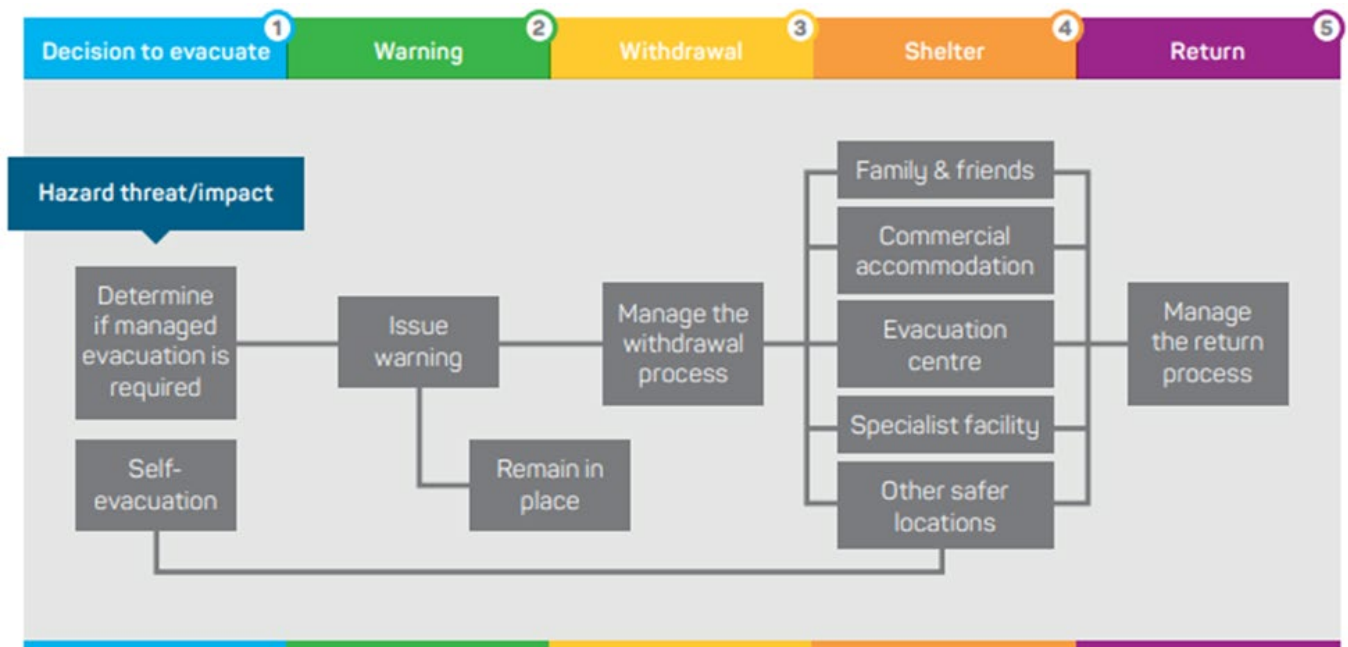
## 10.2. Annex B: Evacuation Guideline

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that can be used to mitigate the effects of an emergency or disaster on a community. Evacuation involves moving people to a safer location, and is usually considered to include the return of the affected community. It is recommended that when advance warning is available to notify the TEMC.

Evacuation is a complex process that has five distinct steps:

1. decision
2. warning
3. withdrawal
4. shelter; and
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 five-step process.



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

### 10.3. Annex C: Summary of Responses 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road clearance teams</li> <li>General public</li> <li>Media reports</li> <li>Survey and rescue teams</li> <li>Impact assessment teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes to recovery planning through impact assessment data</li> <li>Comprehensive Impact Assessments</li> <li>Needs Assessment</li> </ul>
2. Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Information Group activation</li> <li>Spokes persons identified</li> <li>SecureNT activated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continues in recovery</li> </ul>
3. Survey and Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey teams deploy to designated areas</li> <li>Critical sites surveyed</li> <li>Deploy rescue teams – NTFRS and Territory Response Group provide primary Urban Search and Rescue capability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey and Impact Assessment data used to develop the Recovery Action Plan</li> </ul>
4. Road clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road patrol teams deploy and check assigned routes</li> <li>Road clearance to priority sites</li> <li>Assess Stuart Hwy to Katherine (supply route)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of road networks and bridges</li> <li>Return to business as usual</li> </ul>
5. Emergency accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency accommodation and shelter                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evacuation centres</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evacuation centres may continue into recovery.</li> </ul>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of resources that will enable people to remain in their homes</li> <li>• Emergency clothing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary accommodation options</li> <li>• Repatriation planning</li> </ul>
6. Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- road clearance to the hospital</li> <li>- damage assessment</li> <li>- increase morgue capacity</li> <li>- divert patients from remote and regional areas</li> <li>- power (fuel) and water supplies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medical clinics and field hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determine the need for clinics to be opened</li> <li>- Assess damage to clinics</li> <li>- Deploy field hospital/s</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medical presence in WRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supplied by the Medical Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ambulance pick up points on key, cleared roads</li> <li>• GP clinics and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify GP clinics able to open</li> <li>- Identify pharmacies able to open</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medically vulnerable people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support agencies to follow-up and advise the Medical Group</li> <li>- Vulnerable people in shelters</li> <li>- Support for vulnerable people at shelters</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Care Flight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repair works</li> <li>- Business continuity plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Department of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Centres</li> <li>- Repair works</li> <li>- Reopen other clinics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support return of 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>• CareFlight - resume business as usual</li> <li>• St John Ambulance - resume business as usual</li> </ul>
7. Essential goods and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish emergency feeding and food distribution points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the re-opening of the private business sector</li> <li>• Monitor levels and availability of essential goods</li> </ul>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the damage to suppliers and retailers of critical resources</li> <li>Assess the impact on barge operations and any effect on the ability to supply remote communities</li> <li>Implement interim banking arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage logistics arrangements supplying resources to outlying communities</li> <li>Public Health inspections (food outlets)</li> <li>Banking sector business continuity arrangements</li> </ul>
	<u>Fuel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel suppliers and point of sale</li> <li>Manage fuel supplies to emergency power generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor fuel levels</li> <li>Infrastructure repairs</li> <li>Emergency fuel supplies for recovery</li> <li>Liaise with fuel suppliers, distributors and wholesalers to re-establish long term supply</li> </ul>
	<u>Banking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess damage to banks and ATMs</li> <li>Implement temporary arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency cash outlets</li> <li>Implement long term arrangements</li> </ul>
8. Evacuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evacuations within community</li> <li>Evacuation out of community</li> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support services for evacuees</li> <li>Recovery information for evacuees</li> </ul>
9. Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicable disease control response</li> <li>Drinking water safety standards</li> <li>Sewage and waste disposal</li> <li>Safe food distribution and advice</li> <li>Vector and vermin control</li> <li>Food and commercial premises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing in recovery</li> </ul>
10. Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power supply</li> <li>Power generation</li> <li>Water supply</li> <li>Sewerage</li> <li>Emergency sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore power network</li> <li>Restore water and sewerage infrastructure</li> <li>Issue alerts until safe to use</li> </ul>
11. Impact Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training assessment teams</li> <li>Initial Impact Assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive impact assessments</li> <li>Ongoing needs assessments</li> </ul>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
12. Transport infrastructure (supply lines)	<u>Air (Airport/Airstrip)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear the runway to allow air movements</li> <li>• Establish a logistics hub at the airport</li> <li>• Terminal damage and operational capability assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor repairs and business continuity activities</li> </ul>
	<u>Road</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway and critical access roads damage assessment</li> <li>• Repair work to commence immediately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and prioritising repair work of all affected key Territory Highways (Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem)</li> </ul>
	<u>Rail</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail damage assessment</li> <li>• Outage estimation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing liaison with operator to support restoration to business as usual</li> </ul>
	<u>Port, Harbour and Barge</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess damage to Port infrastructure and harbour facilities</li> <li>• Assess the damage to barge facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairing infrastructure</li> <li>• Establish alternate arrangements for the supply of remote communities</li> </ul>
13. Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management requirements and develop waste management plan if required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues in recovery</li> </ul>
14. Repairs and reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact Assessments</li> <li>- Temporary repairs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damage assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact Assessments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damage assessments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information and support to facilitate repairs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Government buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repairs and reconstruction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long term repair plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Private industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repair and reconstruction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Temporary accommodation for a visiting construction workforce</li> </ul>
15. Transport Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staged re-establishment of public transport services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues in recovery</li> </ul>

Activity	Response activities	Recovery activities
16. Tele-communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telstra and Optus will assess the damage to their infrastructure</li> <li>Put in place temporary measures to enable landline and mobile services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair damage networks and infrastructure (for private entities there is support for operators only)</li> </ul>
17. Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police will maintain normal policing services to the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gradual return to business as usual</li> </ul>
18. Animal welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary emergency arrangements for pets and wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reunite pets with their owners and cease emergency support arrangements</li> </ul>
19. Community consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provision regarding the overall situation, response efforts, what services are available and how to access them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community consultation process regarding long term recovery and community development</li> </ul>



## 10.4. Annex D: Definitions and acronyms

Acronyms	Definitions
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
AZRI	Arid Zone Research Institute
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DCMC	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
DITT	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
DoE	Department of Education
DTFHC	Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ICC	Incident Control Centre
IMT	Incident Management Team
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
NT	Northern Territory
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police Force
NTPFES	Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
PAWC	Power and Water Corporation
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
REC	Regional Emergency Committee
SERT	Security and Emergency Recovery Team

Acronyms	Definitions
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
WebEOC	Web-Base Emergency Operations Centre
WRC	Welfare Recovery Centre

# 11. Document control

## 11.1. Governance

Document title	Southern Region Emergency Plan
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TRM Number	04:D22:144658

## 11.2. Version history

Date	Version	Author	Summary of changes
29/12/2014	1	John McRoberts	First Version
18/11/2016	2	Reece Kershaw	Reviewed and Updated
23/01/2019	3	Reece Kershaw	Reviewed and Updated
07/01/2020	4	Michael White	Reviewed and Updated
16/02/2021	5	Jamie Chalker	Reviewed and Updated
24/02/2022	6	Jamie Chalker	Reviewed and Updated

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.