



Territory Emergency Plan





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Authority

The Territory Emergency Plan (the Plan) has been prepared by the Northern Territory (NT) Emergency Service in accordance with Section 9 of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act).

In accordance with Section 10 of the Act the Territory Emergency Management Council has approved the Plan, providing a basis for coordinated emergency response and recovery operations in the Territory.

Version History

The following table lists all previous endorsed versions of this plan:

Date	Version	Plan	Endorsed by
17/12/2014	1	Territory Emergency Plan 2014	J McRoberts / G Barnes
10/02/2016	2	Territory Emergency Plan 2016	R Kershaw / J Coleman
19/01/2018	3	Territory Emergency Plan 2017	R Kershaw / J Ryan
03/08/2018	4	Territory Emergency Plan 2018	R Kershaw / J Ryan
April 2019	5	Territory Emergency Plan 2019/20	R Kershaw / J Ryan
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21/08/2024	9	Territory Emergency Plan 2023/24	M Murphy / K Davies
27/11/2024	10	Territory Emergency Plan 2024/25	M Murphy / K Davies

Disclaimer:

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



Foreword

Every year the NT experiences a number of emergency events, such as cyclones, floods and bushfires. Each event affects the Territory community in some way; all have the potential to significantly impact the lives of Territorians and have consequences on our people, economy, environment and infrastructure.

The NT Government is committed to ensuring that effective arrangements are in place to prevent, plan for, respond to and recover from a range of hazards that threaten to impact the NT. A robust and contemporary emergency plan provides a road-map for all NT Government agencies to navigate the complexities of an emergency event.

As co-chairs of the Territory Emergency Management Council, it is one of our legislated responsibilities to assume the roles of Territory Emergency Controller and Territory Recovery Coordinator during times of crisis. Successful emergency management relies on a planned, coordinated approach between agencies and the community.

The Territory Emergency Plan supports this effort by articulating an all-hazards, all-agencies approach and recognises the key principles of emergency management to include prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Territory Emergency Plan is reviewed every 12 months in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2013* to ensure it remains contemporary, effective and capable of supporting effective emergency management activities.

Territory Emergency Controller

Territory Recovery Coordinator

*Co-chairs of the Territory Emergency
Management Council*

Context Statement

The NT is a unique Australian environment from tropical coast to desert, including world heritage areas and national parks. The environment is vast and diverse - a land of ancient sandstone formations, wetlands, billabongs and unique native flora and fauna. 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.

Climate

Due to its geographical location and climate the NT is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards including tropical cyclones, severe thunderstorms, floods, bushfire, heatwave, earthquakes and tsunamis. Climate change projections for Australia suggest a tendency towards more extreme weather. The NT is characterised by 3 main climate zones: Tropical, Grasslands and Desert.

Tropical Zone

The NT tropics have a clear Wet and Dry Season as the tropical rain belt shifts south and then north of the equator. It is hot and humid during the Wet Season (October-April), while the Dry Season (May-September) is warm and dry due to winds travelling across the continent. The tropical zone can be affected by monsoons, tropical cyclones, severe thunderstorms and flooding during the wet season, while the fire season occurs during the drier months, typically May-October. Heatwaves are exacerbated by high humidity during the early wet season (October-December).

Grassland Zone

Central parts of the NT experience hot temperatures from October-March, while the middle of the year is more mild. At the peak of the Wet Season (December-March), 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-December.

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-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.

The climate of the NT is affected by large scale climate drivers, including the El Nino Southern Oscillation (El Nino and La Nina), Indian Ocean Dipole, and the Madden-Julian Oscillation.

Population

The NT's population totals just over 230,000 people living and working in this vast expanse of land. Throughout the NT, Aboriginal people, with many living traditional lifestyles in remote homelands, represent a quarter of the population and have a strong influence on the region's culture. The population also includes people from more than 100 nationalities. As Australia's gateway to Asia, the NT is home to third and fourth generation families from countries such as China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Economy

The Territory is home to renowned major projects and natural resources, with Darwin the closest Australian capital city to Asian markets, connected through a 24/7 international airport and the only functional deep water port in Northern Australia. The Territory's growth agenda is targeted at private investment into key industries which the Territory has competitive advantages in including:

- tourism
- international education and training
- energy
- minerals
- agribusiness
- space.



DARWIN ESPLANADE | Tropical Cyclone Marcus

1. Emergency Framework

1.1. Aim

This Plan describes the NT's¹ approach to emergency and recovery operations, the governance and coordination arrangements, and roles and responsibilities of agencies. This Plan is supported by regional and local emergency plans; as well as hazard-specific plans and functional group plans.

1.2. Objectives

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- describe the principles for emergency management in the NT to include prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- establish the NT emergency management arrangements
- identify control and coordination roles and responsibilities related to the functions in emergency response and recovery operations
- identify, in relation to each different form of hazard, the lead NT Government (NTG) agency responsible for controlling a response to an emergency event.

1.3. National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework²

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework outlines a national and comprehensive approach to proactively reducing disaster risk, now and into the future.

The multi-sector collaboration was led by the National Resilience Taskforce within the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs. The framework was co-designed with representatives from all levels of government, business and the community sector.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework identifies 4 national priorities that guide action to reduce disaster risk. Each priority has 5-year outcomes that are supported

by strategies for action. These priorities are related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The priorities of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework are:

1. Understand disaster risk
2. Accountable decisions
3. Enhanced investment
4. Governance, ownership and responsibility.

The NT recognises the importance of minimising vulnerability and enhancing capacity and capability to effectively manage emergency events. Consideration of vulnerability, risk reduction, response and recovery activities start at the local level, supported and informed by planning at the regional and Territory level.

1.4. Key principles of emergency management

Under Australia's constitutional arrangements, state and territory governments have primary responsibility for emergency management within their jurisdiction.

All levels of government acknowledge that the impact of some emergencies could be particularly severe or widespread and exceed the capability of a single state or territory. Dealing with emergencies is not a matter for governments alone. Individuals, families and communities all play a role in determining how well they are prepared for, safeguarded from emergencies and their ability to recover from them. Through an engaged multi-jurisdictional process, the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience has identified 11 core principles that underpin emergency management activities. These principles guide emergency management in the NT.

¹ Territory, Northern Territory or NT: when used in this document refers to the Northern Territory of Australia

² Copy of the strategy is available at [Disaster Risk Reduction: National DRR Framework \(aidr.org.au\)](https://aidr.org.au)



Table 1: Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience - Core Principles of Emergency Management

PRIMACY OF LIFE	The protection and preservation of human life (including both communities and emergency service personnel) and relief of suffering will be paramount over all other objectives and considerations.
COMPREHENSIVE	The development of emergency management arrangements will embrace the phases of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (PPRR) across all hazards. These phases of emergency management are not necessarily sequential. They are described throughout this Plan.
COLLABORATIVE	Relationships between emergency management stakeholders and communities are based on integrity, trust and mutual respect, building a team atmosphere and consensus. Planning and systems of work reflect common goals and all stakeholders work with a unified effort.
COORDINATED	The bringing together of organisations and other resources to support emergency management response, relief and recovery. It involves the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisational, human and equipment) in an emergency situation. Activities of all stakeholders are synchronised and integrated. Information is shared to achieve a common purpose and impacts and needs are continuously assessed and responded to accordingly.
FLEXIBLE	Emergency situations are constantly changing. Emergency management decisions may require initiative, creativity and innovation to adapt to new and rapidly emerging challenges. Emergency plans need to be agile to change and adapt to these new circumstances.
RISK BASED	Emergency managers use sound risk management principles and processes in prioritising, allocating and monitoring resources to manage the risks from hazards. Risk based planning will anticipate the effect of efforts, the changing hazard landscape and the changing consequences of the emergency.
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY	Everyone understands their own responsibility in an emergency, and the responsibility of others. Communities and individuals understand the risk. This encourages all stakeholders to prevent, prepare for, and plan for how they will safely respond to and recover from an emergency situation.
RESILIENCE	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.
COMMUNICATION	Information is crucial to decision making and to the preservation of life. Emergency managers need to support common information systems and are responsible for providing and sharing clear, targeted and tailored information to those who need it, and to those at risk, to enable better decision making by all stakeholders.
INTEGRATED	Emergency management efforts must be integrated across sectors, not progressed in silos, ensuring the engagement of the whole-of-governments, all relevant organisations and agencies, the business sector and the community.
CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT	All sectors continuously learn and innovate to improve practices and share lessons, data and knowledge so that future emergency management is better and the overall cost of impact of emergencies and disasters is reduced. Continuous monitoring, review and evaluation should examine the processes, timelines and outcomes of plans. Review informs communities and displays transparency and accountability. Review also enables facilitation of the adaptive change process with communities.

Comprehensive approach: The comprehensive approach to emergency management recognises 4 phases that contribute to the reduction or elimination of hazards and to reducing the susceptibility, or increasing the resilience, to hazards of a community or environment.

These phases are often referred to as PPRR.

- Prevention/mitigation activities, which seek to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of an event impacting themselves and/or to reduce the vulnerability and build the resilience of the community.
- Preparedness activities, which establish arrangements and plans and provide education and information to prepare agencies and the community to deal effectively with emergency events.
- Response activities, which activate preparedness arrangements and plans to put in place effective measures to deal with emergency events.
- Recovery activities, which restore the built, social, economic and natural environments of communities affected by an emergency event, and where possible, build back better.

All hazard: concerns arrangements for managing the large range of hazards and their possible effects on the community. This concept is useful to the extent that a large range of hazards impact communities in similar ways.

Many hazards require specific response and recovery measures and will almost certainly require specific prevention and mitigation measures. Hazard specific plans and arrangements articulate these measures.

Integrated approach: ensuring engagement occurs with whole-of-government (including local government), all relevant organisations, the business sector and the community.

The context of emergency management for specific agencies varies and may include:

- ensuring the continuity of its business or service
- protecting its own interest and personnel
- protecting the community and environment from risks arising from the activities of the organisation
- protecting the community and environment from credible risks.

1.5 Governance arrangements

Governance arrangements in response to, and recovery from, emergency events are shared between NT Police Force and the NT Fire and Emergency Services (response) and the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) (recovery coordination). Governance arrangements mirror the emergency plan hierarchy described throughout this document.

1.6 Legislative authority

The NT *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) reflects an all hazards approach to the management of emergencies, natural or otherwise, and provides the legislative authority for all 4 phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Act provides for the adoption of measures necessary for the protection and preservation of human life and property from the effects of large-scale emergency events. It forms the legislative authority for emergency management activities, defines the NT's emergency management structure and assigns roles and responsibilities across all levels of government. The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services is the responsible Minister for the Act.

Legislative frameworks other than the Act enable Controlling Authorities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to, a range of hazards. For example:

- *Fire and Emergency Act 1996* (NT Fire and Rescue Service in response to fire)
- *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (NT Department of Health in response to public health emergency)
- *Bushfires Management Act 2016* (Bushfires NT (BFNT) in response to bushfire).

1.7 Emergency Management Regions

The NT is divided into 2 emergency management regions. The regional emergency management structure reflects:

- Northern Region (includes Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and the Tiwi Islands)
- Southern Region (includes Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Yulara).

There are a number of localities within each emergency management region.

Localities: Northern Region

Adelaide River	Mataranka
Batchelor	Milikapiti
Borroloola	Minjilang
Bulman	Minyerri
Daly River	Ngukurr
Darwin	Nhulunbuy
Galiwinku	Numbulwar
Groote Eylandt	Peppimenarti
Gunbalanya	Pine Creek
Jabiru	Pirlangimpi
Kalkarindji	Ramingining
Katherine	Timber Creek
Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella)	Wadeye
Lajamanu	Warruwi
Maningrida	Wurrumiyanga
Maranboy	Yarralin

Localities: Southern Region

Ali Curung	Kulgera
Alice Springs	Ntaria
Arlparra	Papunya
Avon Downs & Alpururulam	Ti Tree
Elliott	Tennant Creek
Harts Range	Yuendumu
Kintore	Yulara

The NT emergency management regional boundary map:
Annexure B.

1.8 Emergency management positions in the NT

The Act identifies key emergency management positions, outlining their functions and powers. These positions reflect the governance arrangements shared between the NT Police Force and NT Fire and Emergency Services (response phase) and CM&C (recovery phase).

1.8.1 Territory Emergency Controller

The Commissioner of Police is the Territory Emergency Controller (hereby referred to as the Territory Controller (TC) responsible for controlling and directing emergency operations in the NT. An emergency operation refers to an activity (including training) to prevent, minimise, prepare for and respond to an emergency event.

The TC must ensure that an emergency plan is prepared for each region and locality.

1.8.2 Territory Recovery Coordinator

The Chief Executive Officer of CM&C coordinates and directs recovery operations in the NT.

1.8.3 Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services

The Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services must ensure that an emergency plan is prepared for the Territory.

1.8.4 Regional Emergency Controllers

A senior ranking police officer in the region will be appointed as the Regional Emergency Controller (hereby referred to as the Regional Controller) for their region and supervises emergency operations in that region.

1.8.5 Regional Recovery Coordinator

The Territory Recovery Coordinator (TRC) may appoint a Regional Recovery Coordinator (RRC) for a region that has been effected by an event to assess recovery requirements and coordinate recovery operations for the affected region.



1.8.6 Local Emergency Controllers

The TC may appoint a Local Emergency Controller (hereby referred to as the Local Controller) for a particular town, community or locality.

1.8.7 Local Recovery Coordinator

The TRC may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator to coordinate recovery operations in a particular town, community or locality.

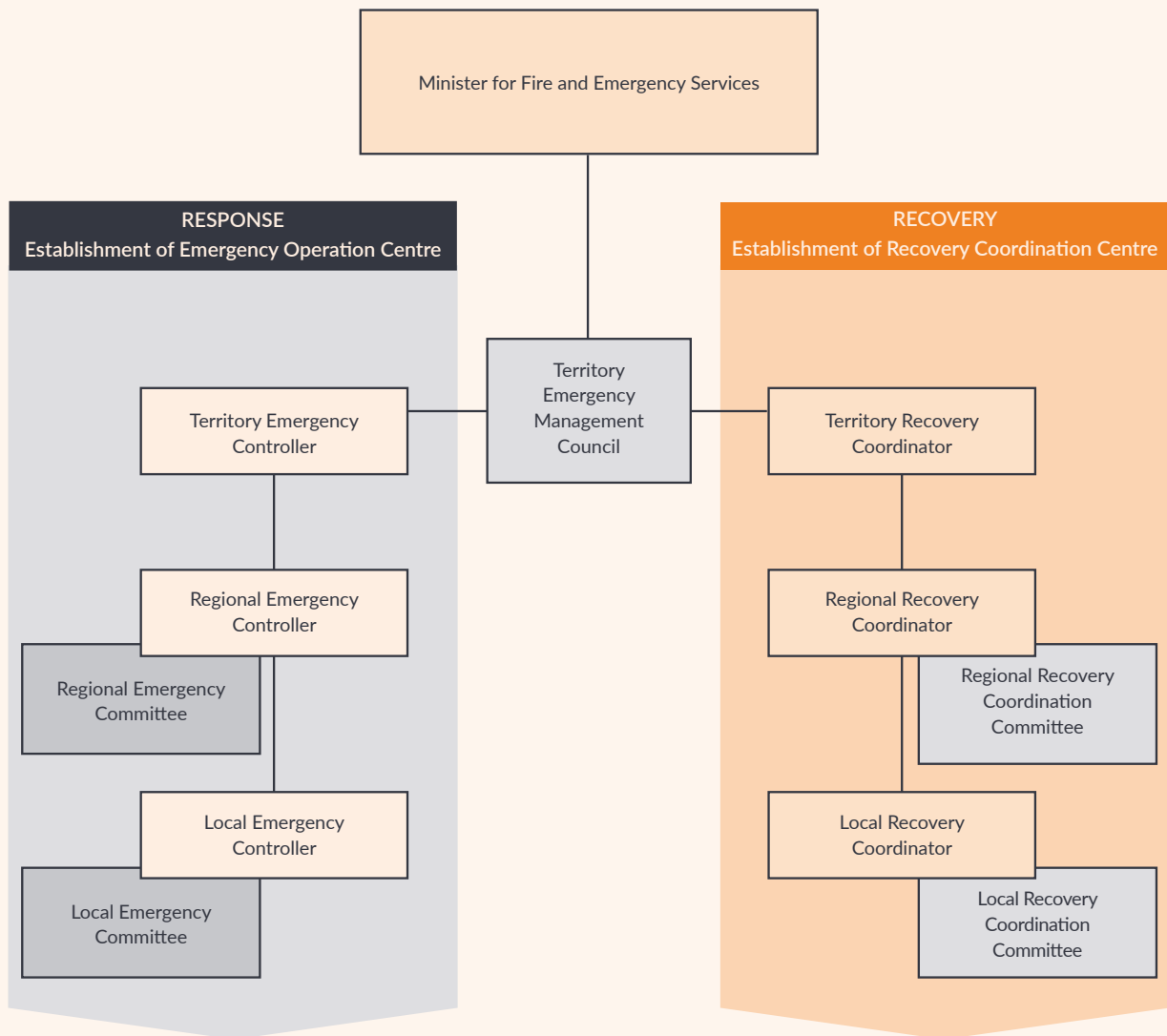


Diagram 1: Emergency Management Positions

1.9 NT emergency plan hierarchy

In accordance with the Act, emergency plans provide a basis for coordinated emergency and recovery operations at the Territory, regional and local level. Hazard-specific plans provide for response to a specific hazard, while functional group plans enable the coordination of resources across government in response to, and recovery from, emergency events.

1.9.1 Emergency plans

Emergency management planning in the NT is based on a hierarchical system of emergency plans. The planning hierarchy commences with this document, which provides the basis for subsequent regional, local and hazard-specific emergency plans. Territory, regional and local emergency plans reflect an all hazards integrated approach. The NT Emergency Service are responsible for overseeing the governance of the NT emergency plans.

- **Territory Emergency Plan:** This plan describes the NT's approach to emergency response and recovery operations, the governance and coordination arrangements, and roles and responsibilities of agencies. The plan is supported by regional and local emergency plans; as well as hazard-specific plans and functional group plans.
- **Regional Emergency Plans:** There are 2 regional emergency plans, reflecting the 2 emergency management regions in the NT. These plans provide a basis for coordinated emergency response and recovery operations in the Northern and Southern regions.
- **Local Emergency Plans:** There are a total of 46 local emergency plans across the NT's 2 emergency management regions. These plans provide a basis for coordinated emergency and recovery operations in the identified locality.

1.9.2 Hazard-specific plans and protocols

Hazard-specific plans and protocols outline the arrangements for the control, coordination and support during hazard-specific emergencies, such as emergency terrestrial and aquatic pest and disease incursions, major power outage or human disease (including pandemic).

A list of hazard-specific plans: Annexure D.

1.9.3 Functional group plans

Functional group plans outline the structure, governance, roles and responsibilities of each functional group. There are a total of 13 functional groups established by this Plan, forming the NT emergency management arrangements (NTEMA).

Functional groups may have the legislative authority, expertise, capability and capacity to support response and recovery operations.

Functional groups act as a mechanism for supporting a coordinated approach to operations that are outside the capacity or capability of a Controlling Authority and Hazard Management Authority in the event of an emergency.

1.9.4 Australian Government plans and arrangements

The Australian Government publishes a range of national plans to deal with a range of emergency and disaster events. These are available from the Home Affairs website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au

1.9.5 Territory-wide guidelines

NTG agencies have developed a number of guidelines that support response to, and recovery from, emergency events.

A list of Territory-wide guidelines: Annexure D.

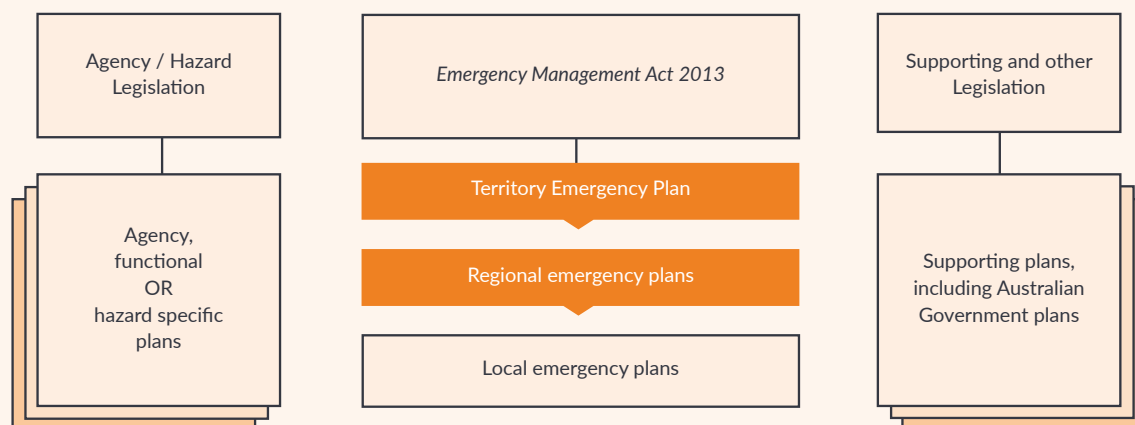


Diagram 2: Emergency Plan Hierarchy

1.10 Strategic Emergency Management Bodies

1.10.1 Territory Emergency Management Council

The Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC) is established under Section 36 of the Act. It is responsible to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services for the administration of the Act.

Membership of the TEMC includes the TC (Co-chair), the TRC (Co-chair), the Chief Officer NT Emergency Service (Executive Officer), and Chief Executives of key NTG agencies.

Full membership of the TEMC: Annexure A.

The functions and powers of the TEMC are detailed in Sections 36 to 43 of the Act. In summary, the role of the TEMC is to:

- direct resources for emergency operations and recovery operations in the NT
- advise the Minister in relation to emergency planning, emergency operations and recovery operations in the NT
- consider NT emergency plans for approval
- advise, assist and, if necessary, direct the TC, the TRC and the Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services in exercising their powers and the performance of their functions.

1.10.2 Crisis Management Sub-committee of Cabinet (CMSC)

The CMSC provides a forum for senior government ministers to receive advice concerning security situations or emergencies. The CMSC may receive advice from the TC and the TRC, in their capacity as co-chairs of the TEMC.

1.10.3 Senior Officers Group

The Senior Officers Group (SOG) is co-chaired by representatives from the NT Emergency Service (NTES) and CM&C. The role of the SOG is to provide support and advice to TEMC on strategic and operational matters to ensure responsibilities defined by the Act are met. The SOG is also responsible for progressing the annual review of the TEMC Strategic Plan.

1.11 Operational Emergency Management Bodies

1.11.1 Controlling Authority

The Controlling Authority is the NTG agency with delegated responsibility to direct or undertake response to a specified hazard. This includes managing the technical aspects of response operations and suppressing immediate consequences. The Controlling Authority establishes command, control and coordination of resources and appoints an Incident Controller.

Emergency response may involve activating hazard-specific plans or protocols and may require other agencies to assist. The Controlling Authority will retain overall responsibility of response operations.

1.11.2 Hazard Management Authority

The Hazard Management Authority is the NTG agency responsible for coordinating and preparing plans and capabilities to respond to a specific hazard. They are jointly responsible with the Controlling Authority for ensuring that preparations to respond to an identified hazard are adequate.

If the NTEMA are activated, the Hazard Management Authority will provide subject matter expert advice to an Incident Controller, working in conjunction with the Controlling Authority in response to, and recovery from, an emergency event.

1.11.3 Hazard-specific plans and protocols

In many instances, Australian, state and territory governments have produced specific plans or protocols to deal with hazard-specific emergency events, such as human disease, civil aviation or security emergency events. These situations may require the activation of the NTEMA as detailed in this plan.

Responsibilities for identified hazards have been allocated to designated Controlling Authorities and Hazard Management Authorities. Lead agencies for identified hazards are detailed on the next page.

Table 2: Lead agencies for identified hazards

	Hazard	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
	Air crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Coastal marine incident	NT Police Force	NT Police Force
	Cyber attack (NTG enterprise ICT environment only)	Department of Corporate and Digital Development	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
	Cyclone	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Dam safety	NT Police Force	Power and Water Corporation
	Earthquake	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Emergency animal disease	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Emergency aquatic animal disease	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Emergency plant pest or disease	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Emergency marine pest	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Fire (within Gazetted Area)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Management Zones)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (Bushfires NT)	NT Fire and Emergency Services (Bushfires NT)
	Flooding	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Hazardous material	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Heatwave	Department of Health	Department of Health
	Human disease	Department of Health	Department of Health
	Invasive animal biosecurity	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Invasive plant biosecurity	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Major power outage	Power and Water Corporation	Power and Water Corporation
	Marine oil spill (outside the port)	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
	Marine oil spill (inside the port)	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (Port Operator for Darwin, Melville, Gove, Alyangula and Bing Bong)	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (Port Operator for Darwin, Melville, Gove, Alyangula and Bing Bong)
	Rail crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Road crash	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Space Weather	Department of Corporate and Digital Development	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
	Storm surge	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Storm and water damage	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Structural collapse	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
	Terrorism	NT Police Force	NT Police Force
	Tsunami	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
	Water contamination (potable)	Power and Water Corporation	Power and Water Corporation

1.12 NT Emergency Management Arrangements

The response to, and recovery from, an emergency event may require multi-agency support. This support is provided through the activation and coordination of government agencies and non-government organisations based on a functional group framework. The NTEMA lists 13 dedicated functional groups that are established by this Plan.

The NTEMA may be activated whenever:

- the Controlling Authority does not have the resources to manage response operations effectively and requests assistance through the TC.
- the TC, in consultation with the TEMC, determines that the Controlling Authority is not capable of effectively managing response operations. While not a normal occurrence, a change of control will only be effected after consultation between the TC and the Chief Executive Officer of the Controlling Authority.
- a Controlling Authority is so directed by TEMC.
- hazard-specific emergency plans indicate they should be activated.
- the NTG, on advice from the TEMC, believes it is appropriate.

1.12.1 Functional group framework

Functional groups are integral to the effective management of emergency events across the NT. Their involvement through the activation of the NTEMA supports a coordinated approach to strategic and operational emergency management objectives. Functional groups are designed to achieve specific emergency management outcomes and have designated roles and responsibilities.

Functional groups are comprised of both government and non-government agencies. They are not Controlling Authorities or Hazard Management Authorities; however, some designated agencies have dual responsibilities.

Many functional groups will be activated before and during response operations and some may continue to operate throughout the recovery phase, depending on impact. This is particularly relevant for complex, protracted or significant emergency events.

For NT emergency management practitioners, a copy of the Functional group framework can be found on the WebEOC File Library.

1.12.2 Functional group lead agencies

The following table identifies the NTG lead agency for each of the functional groups. A comprehensive list of the roles, responsibilities, participating and supporting organisations for each group: Annexure F.

Table 3: Functional group lead agencies

Functional group	Lead agency
Animal Welfare Group	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Critical Goods and Services Group	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
Digital and Telecommunications Group	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
Emergency Shelter Group	Department of Education and Training
Engineering Group	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
Industry Group	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
Medical Group	Department of Health
Public Health Group	Department of Health
Public Information Group	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Public Utilities Group	Power and Water Corporation
Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group	NT Police Force
Transport Group	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
Welfare Group	Department of Children and Families

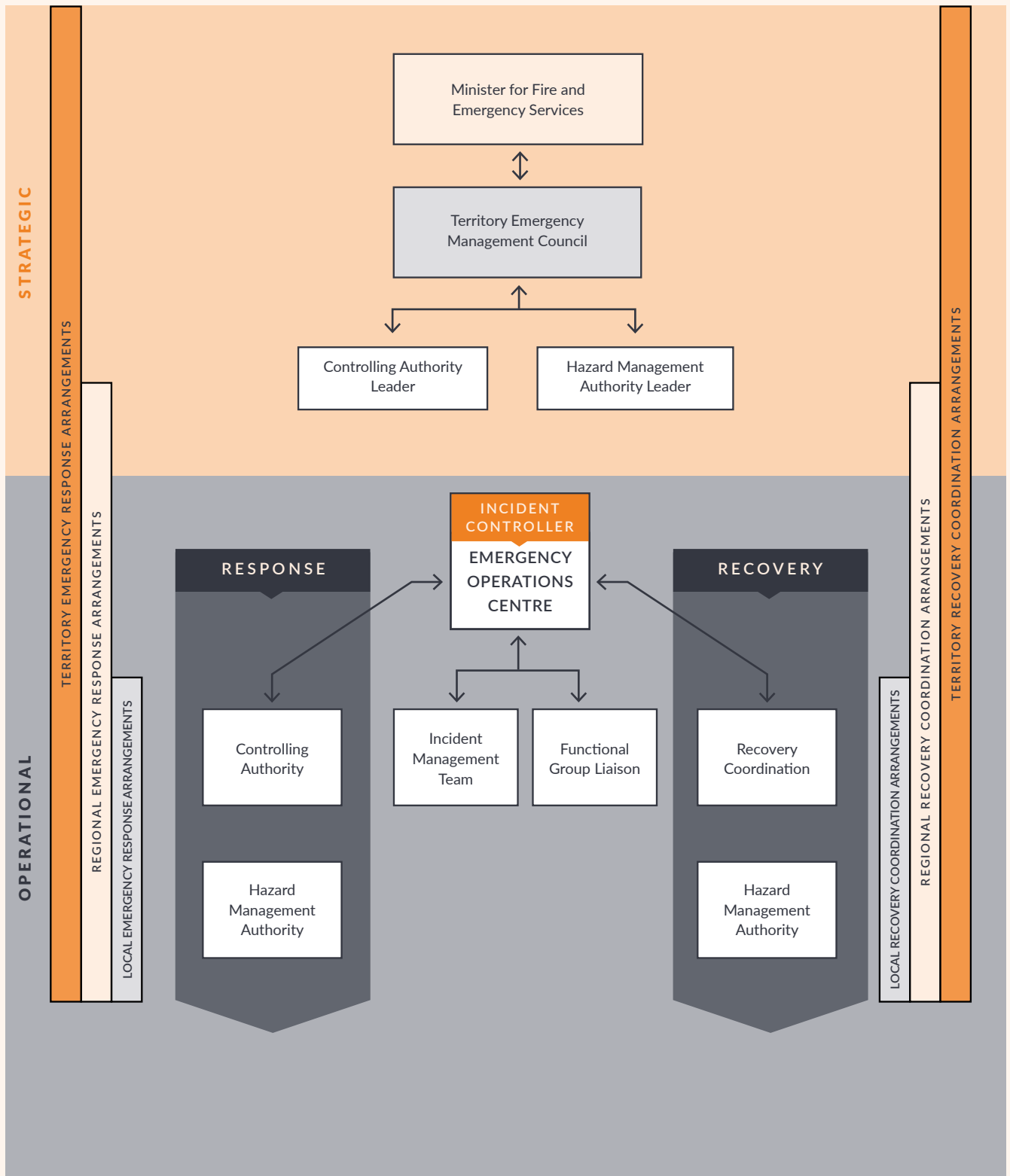


Diagram 3: Strategic versus Operational Emergency and Recovery Arrangements

Note - Infographic does not denote reporting lines between strategic and operational environments

1.13 Role of local government

Municipal and regional councils play a key role in emergency management activities, particularly at the regional and local level. Unlike other jurisdictions, local government does not have legislative responsibility to manage or control an emergency event in the NT.

The *Local Government Act 2019* provides scope for hazard reduction and mitigation efforts to be undertaken by local government associations. For example, fuel reduction and hazard mitigation activities contribute in the prevention and preparedness phases of bushfire or cyclone incidents. The desire to protect a community and provide a contribution to response and recovery activities makes local government a valuable asset across multiple emergency management phases.

1.14 Relationship with the Australian Government

The role of the Australian Government in context of emergency management is to:

- provide national leadership in collaborative action across all levels of government in disaster research, information management and mitigation policy and practice
- reduce risks and costs of disasters to the nation
- provide warnings for weather and ocean-related hazards through the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia
- mobilise resources when state and territory disaster response resources are insufficient
- provide national support for disaster relief and community recovery
- provide access to the Australian Business Register (ABR) for relevant agencies to source potential providers in times of an event.

In particular, the Australian Government has a major role in:

- coordinating national strategic emergency management policy, in collaboration with the state and territory governments and local government
- undertaking natural disaster research of national significance
- identifying national priorities for natural disaster mitigation in collaboration with other levels of government
- providing support for disaster risk assessment and mitigation measures, in conjunction with the states and territories and local government

- providing a national disaster relief and recovery framework and resources on a cost-sharing basis with the other levels of government
- providing vital information services such as meteorological, hydrological, geophysical and other geo-data services that support warnings and disaster management
- providing surge capacity personnel in relation to call-centre arrangements
- disaster relief payments in the NT through Services Australia.

1.15 Australian Government Emergency Management Arrangements

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs brings together Australia's federal law enforcement, national and transport security, criminal justice, emergency management, multicultural affairs, settlement services and immigration and border-related functions, working together to keep Australia safe.

Australian state and territory governments have responsibility for coordinating and planning for the response to and recovery from emergencies within their borders. When the total resources (government, community and commercial) of an affected jurisdiction cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation the nominated official can seek non-financial assistance from the Australian Government under the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN).

1.15.1 National Emergency Management Agency

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is a division of the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs. NEMA, through the Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR), continuously monitors and informs stakeholders on situations that may affect Australian jurisdictions. NEMA is guided by the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and leads the Australian Government's work on the United Nations' global blueprint to build the world's resilience to natural disasters.

1.15.2 National Coordination Mechanism

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs established the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) in response to the spread of COVID-19. The role of the NCM is to operate in conjunction with jurisdictions to coordinate whole-of-government responses to issues of national significance.

The NCM collectively identifies issues that need to be addressed and assesses the capabilities available to meet those challenges across all Australian government, industry and community sectors.

1.15.3 Australian Government National Situation Room

NEMA is home to the Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR). The all-hazards 24/7 NSR provides whole-of-government situational awareness to inform national decision-making during a crisis. The NSR also coordinates physical Australian Government emergency assistance and manages the National Security Hotline, vital to Australia's national counter-terrorism efforts.

Requests for assistance from the Australian Government during an emergency event are coordinated through NEMA unless hazard-specific arrangements indicate otherwise.

1.15.4 Australian Government plans

The Chief Officer NTES is the first point of contact for the NT and is the Territory's designated NEMA requesting officer. All requests for Australian Government level assistance are submitted through the Chief Officer NTES.

Australian Government support for emergencies may be provided under specific plans or under the COMDISPLAN which describes the general arrangements for the centralised coordination and deployment of Australian Government resources within Australia.

Under COMDISPLAN, the senior NT-based representatives of Australian Government agencies may be authorised by their central offices to commit local resources in support of NT emergency management organisations.

A copy of the detailed list of Australian Government plans, including the identified NT Hazard Management Authority can be found at Annexure H.

1.15.5 Australian Defence Force

Immediate mobilisation of Defence assistance necessary to save human life, alleviate immediate suffering, or prevent substantial damage to or loss of property may be approved by local Defence commanders if civilian resources cannot cope. These arrangements may not be subject to the provisions of the COMDISPLAN.

Defence assistance must not be planned for and the type of assistance provided should not be anticipated.

The Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) policy describes the agreed approach to providing DACC services.

A copy of the Policy can be found at:

www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/DACC-Policy.pdf

1.16 Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF) outlines the arrangements which enable the Australian Government's 'all hazards' crisis management approach. The main focus of the AGCMF is near-term crisis preparedness, immediate crisis response and early crisis recovery arrangements.

Crises may include:

- natural events - including but not limited to bushfire, cyclone or severe storm, flood earthquake, space weather, asteroid or extra-terrestrial body impacting on the earth, and non-naturally occurring radiological or other wide area environment contamination events. This does not include events such as human protests or industrial workforce activities.
- human-induced events - including but not limited to cyberattacks, space junk, malicious critical infrastructure sabotage or kinetic terrorism or bioterrorism, and non-naturally occurring radiological or other wide area environment contamination events. This does not include events such as human protests or industrial workforce activities.

National plans and arrangements developed by Australian Government agencies are required to reflect the roles and responsibilities set out in the AGCMF.

The AGCMF provides Australian Government ministers and senior officials with guidance on their respective roles and responsibilities. It also sets out the arrangements that link ministers and the work of key officials, committees and facilities.

The AGCMF aligns co-chair arrangements for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC) with those of its response equivalent, the Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC) and reaffirms the importance of the AGDRC in transition from response to relief and recovery.

The overarching objectives of crisis management are to:

- protect human life and critical infrastructure;
- support the continuity of the everyday activity; and,
- as far as possible, protect property and the natural environment.

These objectives are pursued through a flexible whole-of-government approach, underpinned by the National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum.



1.16.1 Hazard-specific national arrangements and functions

For Territory level arrangements refer to Annexure D: Hazard-specific emergency plans and guidelines

- a. **Biosecurity:** National agreements are established that outline the requirements and arrangements for emergency response to animal diseases, plant pests and environmental biosecurity. Under these agreements, jurisdictions are required to have the capability, including legislation, to respond to biosecurity emergencies.



- b. **Civil aviation emergencies:** Regulation of civil aviation is an Australian Government responsibility. However, emergency management relating to emergencies involving aircraft is a shared arrangement between Australian Government agencies: for example, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Air Services Australia, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Australian Search and Rescue, and state and territory-level government agencies, airline operators and airport owners and operators. The Australian Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan (AUSAVPLAN) provides the national framework for managing aviation disasters.



- c. **Maritime emergencies:** The Australian Government's role is to ensure security, regulate trade and protect the sea and marine environment from maritime pollution. Under the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* (Cwth), the Australian Government regulates the security arrangements of Australian ports, port facilities, ships and security plans for offshore oil and gas facilities. Maritime emergencies could involve agencies such as the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the Office of Transport Security within the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, and state or territory agencies. AMSA operates a 24/7 Australian Search and Rescue Coordination Centre that provides high-tech search and rescue capabilities enabling rapid response to people in distress.



- d. **Maritime environmental emergencies:** This is an extension of maritime emergencies arrangements that gives effect to international conventions and integrates with Australian emergency management arrangements. The National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies sets out national arrangements, policies and principles for the management of maritime environmental emergencies.



- e. **National Cyber Security Arrangements:** The Australian Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA) outlines the inter-jurisdictional coordination arrangements, roles and responsibilities, and principles for Australian Governments' cooperation in response to national cyber incidents. The National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC) is the peak cyber security coordination body for Australian governments. The NCSC provides strategic oversight and coordination of governments' cyber security policies and operational capabilities nationally. The Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre is the Australian Government's lead technical agency for cyber security and co-chairs the NCSC. The National Cyber Security Coordinator is the Lead Coordinating Senior Official for coordinating response to cyber incidents. The National Office of Cyber Security (NOCS), Department of Home Affairs, is the Australian Government Coordinating Agency.



- f. **Counter-terrorism:** The NT participates in and contributes to national counter-terrorism strategies and arrangements. The NTG has adopted a whole-of-government approach to managing the prevention of, preparation for and response to terrorism and its consequences. This approach is based on cooperative and coordinated relationships among government departments and agencies and other relevant organisations. The NT utilises national and territory-based threat assessments, the national counter-terrorism alert level and risk assessment processes to determine the appropriate responses for specific sectors, events or individuals.



- g. **Pandemic influenza emergencies:** As declared under the *NT Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, the NT Pandemic Plan establishes the Territory arrangements for the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of NTG agencies during a pandemic. The Australian Government Department of Health national plan (Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza) outlines the agreed arrangements between Australian Government, state and territory governments for the management of an influenza pandemic.

1.17 Model arrangements for leadership during emergencies of national consequence

The model arrangements represent how Australian Government departments would work together to coordinate the response to and recovery from emergencies of national consequence not covered by existing arrangements. In the event of an emergency of national consequence:

- The Prime Minister and the affected first Minister(s) will consult as necessary to coordinate the response to and recovery from the emergency, including policy, strategy and public messaging, in support of an affected state or territory.

- The Prime Minister and the affected first Minister(s) will consult on and deliver the key leadership messages to be conveyed to the public.
- There will be communication, as appropriate, with all other states and territories to enable the sharing of key information and public messages across jurisdictions.
- All jurisdictions will coordinate the development of public messages through established public information coordination arrangements.

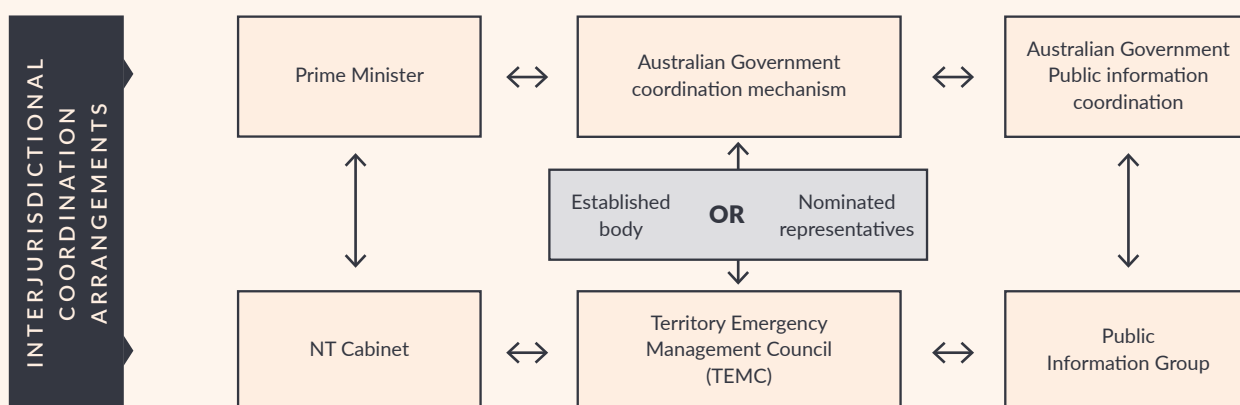


Diagram 4: Model arrangements for leadership during emergencies of national consequence

1.18 Relationships with other jurisdictions

The NT may call for assistance from other jurisdictions in the event of an emergency or provide assistance for an emergency in another jurisdiction. Initial coordination

of these arrangements could be either through NEMA, especially when there is significant Australian Government involvement, or through current bilateral or multilateral arrangements, depending on the nature of the emergency and agencies involved.

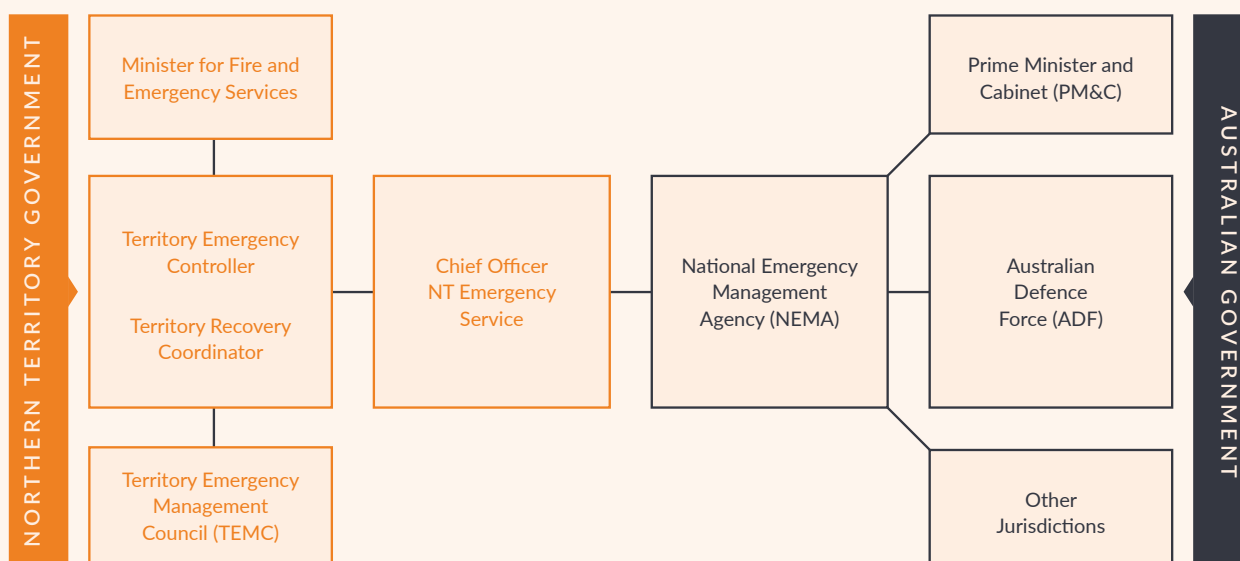


Diagram 5: Relationships with other jurisdictions

2. Prevention

2.1 Definition

Activities and measures aimed at reducing exposure and vulnerability to hazards, to reduce or eliminate risk.

Prevention or mitigation includes identifying hazards, assessing threats to life and property and taking measures to reduce potential loss of life and property damage.

2.2 Mitigation

Mitigation is one of the foundations for building a resilient community. Emergency mitigation means measures taken in advance of or after an emergency aimed at decreasing or eliminating the impact on society and the environment. Greater investment in hazard mitigation is likely to reduce the economic cost of disasters. Consideration of restoring infrastructure to a more resilient standard (build back better) following an emergency event is essential in any cost-effective long-term rebuilding strategy. Mitigation activities that are guided by active and coordinated risk assessments should be subject to rational benefit/cost and social investment decision-making processes and incorporated into normal government and private practices.

Mitigation strategies are developed based on a thorough understanding of hazards identified in emergency risk planning and their interaction with all aspects of society. The measures include:

- land use planning
- biosecurity and border control
- engineering (structural works)
- building codes
- business continuity planning
- public education
- increasing infrastructure resilience
- providing enhanced warning systems
- modifying behaviour.

2.3 Emergency risk assessments

Emergency risk assessment is the process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards or criteria. Risk assessments examine the risks and identify priorities to reduce the likelihood and impact of an emergency event occurring.

The NT has developed an NT Natural Hazard Risk Management Framework (the framework) for identified hazards. The Framework supports the identification of current and future risks, establishes mechanisms for incorporating risks and treatments into NT emergency management arrangements and enables the prioritisation of effort and investment according to risk (exposure and vulnerability). The Framework facilitates the standardised evaluation for the treatment of risk implemented by the NTG, non-government and local government organisations.

The Framework aligns closely to the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG), which are designed to provide a contextualised, emergency-related risk assessment and prioritisation approach, nationally consistent with the Australian Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – principles and guidelines.

NERAG at: <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/handbook-national-emergency-risk-assessment-guidelines/>



KAKADU | Bushfire

3. Preparedness

3.1 Definition

Arrangements to ensure that, should an emergency occur, all those resources and services that are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

3.2 NT preparedness

Within the NT, emergency plans are developed at the Territory, regional and local level. In order to prepare for the impact of emergency and disaster events, it is necessary to have:

- an alert, informed and resilient community
- an understanding of disaster risk through comprehensive emergency risk assessment processes
- a program of prevention and mitigation activities to known and emerging hazards
- hazard-specific response plans to combat an emergency event
- recovery plans for the restoration of physical, emotional, social and environmental wellbeing
- identification of those responsible for controlling and coordinating emergency response and recovery activities
- acceptance of support roles and responsibilities
- cooperation between emergency services and others, and acceptance of one another's role in emergency management
- a coordinated approach to the use of all resources
- shared responsibility where NTG agencies and local government actively contribute to achieving integrated and coordinated disaster resilience, and in turn, communities, individuals and households that take responsibility for their own safety and act on advice
- A skilled and deployable workforce ready to respond to emergencies
- arrangements to help communities help themselves to recover from emergencies.

3.3 Community education and engagement

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.

3.4 Planning

Emergency plans 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.

3.5 Training and education

The Act provides the legislative requirement for the NT Emergency Service to advise, assist, educate and train members of the public and organisations, including agencies and volunteer organisations in emergency planning and operations. Training and education activities are undertaken to ensure agencies are familiar with and understand the NTEMA, as well as the relevant Controlling and Hazard Management Authorities for identified hazards. A function of the NTES is to advise, assist, educate and train members of the public and organisations, including Agencies and volunteer organisations, in emergency planning and operations.



3.6 Exercises

Exercises are a key measure for testing the effectiveness of emergency plans and should be conducted at all levels and involve all agencies. Exercises ensure that plans and arrangements are robust and understood, and that capabilities and resources are adequate to implement them.

Exercises are conducted when the plan has not been enacted since the last review of the plan or substantial changes have occurred such as:

- legislative changes
- major changes in the areas of key personnel, positions or functions
- new or emerging hazards or risks.

Delivery of exercises is guided by the advice from the Territory, Regional or Local Controllers, the TRC, TEMC or as required by functional groups.

3.7 Vulnerable persons

A person's level of vulnerability to a disaster impact is not determined by a single indicator and should be considered in terms of risk. Thorough and considered planning and preparedness can reduce a person's risk in an event. Responding to the needs of high risk individuals in an emergency is shared responsibility across the community, service providers and government sectors.



4. Response

4.1 Definition

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.

4.1.1 Governance arrangements for response

The NT responds to emergency events based on local, regional and territory level response arrangements. Governance structures, plans and supporting resource deployment align with this hierarchy.

Controlling Authorities for identified hazards maintain overall responsibility for immediate response operations. The appointment of an Incident Controller is managed by the Controlling Authority.

4.1.2 Response to emergencies

The response to emergencies may involve more than one organisation and response activities will often involve a number of functions simultaneously.

Consequently, appropriate processes are required to ensure:

- all aspects of the emergency are efficiently, effectively and appropriately managed
- cooperation between organisations
- all organisations achieve their operational objectives.

4.1.3 Emergency declarations and special powers

The size, scale and complexity of some emergency events may require special powers under the Act.

When this occurs special powers for authorised officers through the declaration of an 'emergency situation', 'state of emergency' or 'state of disaster' can be made available.

Emergency management bodies established by the Act support both strategic and operational priorities throughout response.

4.2 Emergency committees

4.2.1 Local Emergency Committees

A Local Emergency Committee (LEC) is established by a Local Controller under Section 80 of the Act to oversee emergency planning and operations in each locality.

The function of a LEC is to:

- advise and assist the Local Controller for the locality in the exercise of his or her powers and the performance of his or her functions
- perform any other functions conferred on the LEC by the TEMC or the Act.

Localised emergency response arrangements are detailed in local emergency plans.

4.2.2 Regional Emergency Committees

A Regional Emergency Committee (REC) is established by a Regional Controller under Section 58 of the Act to oversee emergency planning and operations in each region.

The function of a REC is to:

- direct resources for emergency operations in the region
- advise and assist the Regional Controller of the region in the exercise of his or her powers and the performance of his or her functions
- perform any other functions conferred on the REC by the TEMC or the Act.

Regional emergency response arrangements are detailed in regional emergency plans. Regional arrangements are activated when local emergency response arrangements are insufficient.

4.3 Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System

The NT adopts the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) to effectively manage the response to, and recovery from, emergency events.

AIIMS 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 emergency or operational situation.

Controlling and Hazard Management Authorities, as well as functional groups, should align response and recovery operations with the key principles of AIIMS.

These principles are:

- flexibility
- management by objectives
- functional management
- unity of command
- span of control.

4.3.1 Command, Control, Coordination and Communication

A Controlling Authority will appoint an Incident Controller to assert operational command and control of response operations.

An Incident Controller, in accordance with the principles of AIIMS, may determine the need for assistance with functional management.

This assistance is provided by way of an Incident Management Team (IMT). The functions and size of the IMT will depend on the size, scale and complexity of the emergency event.

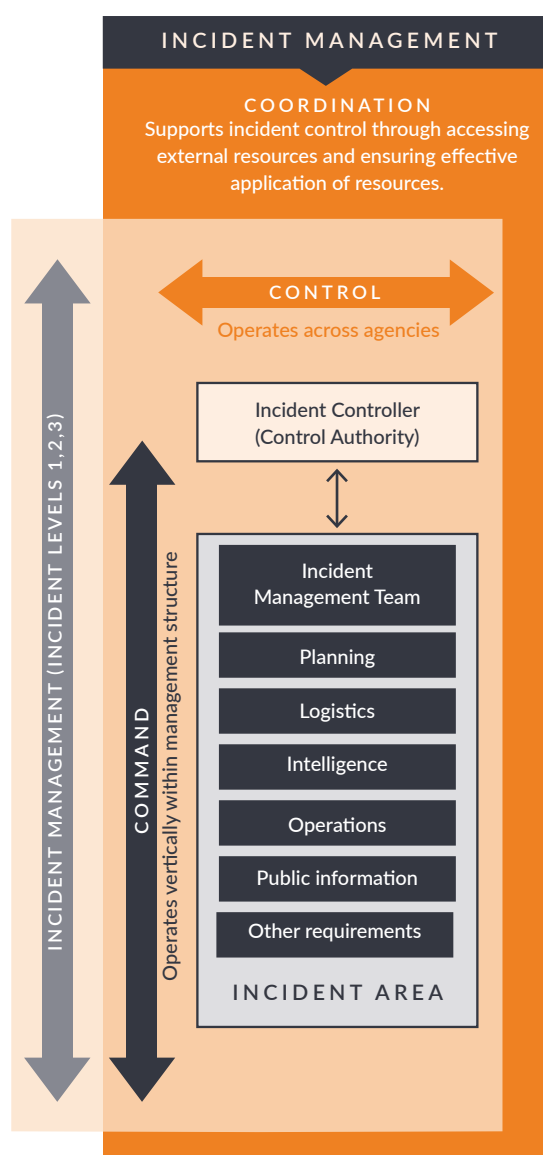


Diagram 6: Incident Management - Relationship between Control, Command and Coordination

Activation of the NTEMA may trigger the deployment of functional group liaison officers into the nominated Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). In conjunction with their function group the liaison officer complements and supports an IMT by promoting an integrated approach to response and recovery operations.

4.3.2 Territory Crisis Coordination Centre

Under the National Counter-Terrorism Plan, the states, territories and the Commonwealth are committed to the development and maintenance of a nation-wide capability to counter terrorism and its consequences.

The Territory Crisis Coordination Centre (T3C) is activated in response to a terrorist act, security incident or significant threat. The role of the T3C is to:

- support the Chief Minister, ministers and senior officials
- liaise with the Australian Government and other state and territory governments.

4.3.3 Emergency Operations Centre

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.

An EOC will be established by the relevant Emergency Controller in response and recovery to a emergency event. This may occur at the Territory, regional or local level.

The function of an EOC is to effect operational control and coordination and recovery 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 NTEMA 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
- identify the need for Australian Government resources
- briefing the Regional Controller, TC and TEMC
- dissemination of information to the general public via the media and other means.

Once transition to recovery has occurred, and if deemed necessary, an EOC may transition into a Recovery Coordination Centre (RCC). See Chapter 5 for details on recovery coordination.

4.3.4 Incident Control Centres

Incident Control Centres (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. When activated, the functions of the ICC are:

- collection, analysis and dissemination of information to the media, general public, supporting agencies and control structure
- development and implementation of plans to resolve the incident
- acquisition and tasking of resources required to resolve the incident
- preparation and issue of official warnings and advice to impacted communities
- tracking and acquittal of expenditure incurred to resolve the incident.

Agencies and functional groups should establish their own operations centres (crisis management centres, command centres, function-specific IMTs) as appropriate to provide a central focus to the management, control and coordination for their own resources.

4.3.5 Incident Control Points

An Incident Control Point (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.

4.3.6 WebEOC

WebEOC (web-based EOC) is a critical information management system used throughout the NT for emergency management activities. The system is owned and maintained by the NT Police Force.

The online platform is used for the coordination of multi-agency response to, and recovery from, an emergency event. WebEOC provides the capacity to record real-time information relevant to an emergency including:

- a statement of intent
- common operating picture including real-time situational awareness
- incident action plans or recovery coordination plans
- designated Controlling and Hazard Management Authority
- critical decisions made by the Incident Controller/ Recovery coordinator
- key functional group tasks and activities including resource capability
- situation reports.

WebEOC also enables real-time information sharing across all NTG agencies involved in emergency management activities.

4.4 Warnings and alerts

4.4.1 Emergency Alert system

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.

The NT Fire and Emergency Services are responsible for the management of the Emergency Alert system in the NT.

The NT Emergency Alert Protocol provides the relevant Controlling Authority with a consistent set of guidelines for warnings, and in particular, the use of the Emergency Alert system.

Approval for the release of an emergency alert message can only be authorised by any of the following:

- the TC
- the Chief Officer NTES
- Regional Controller (Northern Region or Southern Region)
- the Executive Director, BFNT
- the Chief Fire Control Officer, BFNT
- the Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Territory Operations, NTFRS.

Authority to use an Emergency Alert may be given by virtue of the approval of a hazard-specific emergency plan.

4.4.2 Standard Emergency Warning Signal

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is an audio alert signal (wailing siren) that may be broadcast on public media channels 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, and emergency management arrangements should be activated in these situations.

Responsibility for the management of the SEWS within the NT rests with the NT Police Force and NT Fire and Emergency Services in conjunction with the NT Regional Director of the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) for meteorological purposes.

Approval for the release of a SEWS message can only be authorised by:

- the TC
- the Chief Officer NTES

- the NT Regional Director, the Bureau (for weather and flood-related events).

Controlling Authorities and Hazard Management Authorities may have the pre-planned use of SEWS for non-weather related events approved by virtue of an approved hazard-specific emergency plan.

4.4.3 Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau is Australia's national weather, climate and water agency. Its expertise and services assist Australians in dealing with the harsh realities of their natural environment, including drought, floods, fires, storms, tsunami and tropical cyclones. Through regular forecasts, warnings, monitoring and advice, the Bureau provides one of the most fundamental and widely used services of government for the NT.

4.4.4 Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System (AWS) is a national approach to information and warnings, which has been rolled out across the NT, for bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, heatwave and severe weather hazards. The AWS aims to deliver a more consistent approach to emergency warnings, using a nationally consistent set of icons. There are 3 levels within the AWS - Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning. For each level, there are a series of clear action statements to guide positive action by the community.

4.5 Public information

4.5.1 SecureNT

The SecureNT website is designed to support community resilience by providing information about preparing for, responding to and recovering from a range of emergency and hazardous events. SecureNT is owned and maintained by CM&C. Supported by Facebook, X and social media, SecureNT is the central online point of information for the public and media to receive all NTG information before, during and after an emergency event. SecureNT: <https://securent.nt.gov.au>

4.5.2 Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is Australia's national emergency broadcaster.

The ABC NT will endeavour to provide local emergency broadcasting on ABC Radio, ABC TV, ABC News 24, online and on social media platforms 24 hours a day, for as long as necessary. Cyclone, fire, flood and other emergency alert information will be broadcast to the public during emergency events.

The ABC NT will work collaboratively with the Public Information Group; as well as Controlling Authorities to improve communication flow in the lead-up to peak danger periods (e.g. cyclone and bushfire prone months).

4.5.3 NT Emergency Call Centres

Emergency Call Centres are used as part of a suite of services to support the delivery of public information to the general population. The key stakeholders responsible for the establishment and running of an emergency call centre are the Controlling and Hazard Management Authority. The volume of calls and/or the incident level severity, will influence the response and support required.

4.6 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 emergency event demands an immediate response, a Controlling Authority 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 emergency event. 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 and Training based on advice from the Controlling Authority's Incident Controller.

4.7 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 emergency demands an immediate response, a Controlling Authority will take all appropriate steps to ensure public safety through the protection of human life and property.

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

NTG agencies maintain dedicated internal emergency plans and protocols that determine procedures for evacuation or closing down an office or office building. All plans and protocols should clearly articulate employee guidelines to ensure employees know when they are authorised to leave and when they are required to return to work.

4.7.1 Key government employees

NTG agencies identify key government employees who have service delivery or management responsibilities during emergency events. This includes when other employees have been released from duty.

Employees should be clear about (and trained in) their emergency responsibilities and related work, health and safety requirements.

4.8 Emergency shelter

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

Overall coordination of emergency shelters, as well as the development of operational policies and plans pertaining to emergency sheltering arrangements, are the responsibility of the Emergency Shelter Group. This group is led by the Department of Education and Training as defined at Annexure F.

Cyclone shelters are specific emergency facilities designed to offer increased protection during severe tropical cyclones. These shelters are constructed to safeguard occupants from structural failures and building collapses caused by powerful winds. Additionally, they protect against airborne debris and flooding.

Local emergency plans identify buildings designated as emergency shelters, including cyclone shelters, in each locality.

Responsibility for the management of designated emergency shelters during an emergency event is as follows:

- it is the responsibility of shelter owners to provide the personnel to both manage and operate the shelters when they are activated
- operational training for emergency shelter managers is the responsibility of the Shelter Group
- provision of security at emergency shelters during an emergency event is the responsibility of the NTPF.

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

Although staffed by NTPF, St John Ambulance and other volunteers, an emergency shelter offers minimal support services. People accessing an emergency shelter are expected to be self-sufficient and provide their own food and emergency supplies.

Cyclone shelters should be checked annually in accordance with the NT Cyclone Shelter Framework and Shelter Summary Spreadsheet. The Framework and Spreadsheet are owned and maintained by the Emergency Shelter Group.

For emergency management practitioners a copy of the framework is available in the WebEOC file library.

Emergency shelter locations for the public are available via SecureNT: <https://secrent.nt.gov.au/prepare-for-an-emergency>

4.9 Evacuation Centres

Evacuation Centres provide emergency accommodation for a community following the impact of a hazard. These facilities are not designed to provide protection from the hazard.

The management of Evacuation Centres is the responsibility of the Welfare Group, led by the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

4.10 Evacuations

Evacuation is a risk management strategy used to mitigate the effects of an emergency on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return.

The NT adopts a 5-stage evacuation process:

- decision
- warning
- withdrawal
- shelter
- return.

Evacuation planning in the NT encompasses all 5 stages, acknowledging that an operation is not complete until members of an evacuated community are returned to their homes.

Once a decision is made to evacuate a community, the following should be considered by the Controlling Authority:

- public information on the need for an evacuation
- embarkation processes
- registration or tracking procedures (paper based or electronic)
- reception arrangements
- provision of temporary accommodation
- repatriation arrangements.

An evacuation centre may be established when accommodation and support are required in response to an evacuation.

An evacuation centre is designed to accommodate people for short to medium periods of time, which may vary from a few days to several weeks (no more than 30 days).

Evacuation centres may be established in major population centres for remote communities severely impacted by an event or in anticipation of a large-scale event likely to cause significant impacts.

An evacuation centre aims to meet the immediate essential needs of individuals and families and promote self-efficacy. Some or all of the following services may be provided: meals, beds, linen, personal support, access to medical services and recreational activities. These services are in contrast to

an emergency shelter, where occupants are expected to be self-sufficient.

The opening of an evacuation centre should be in accordance with the NT Evacuation Centre Field Guide. For NT emergency management practitioners a copy of the Evacuation Centre Field Guide is available in the WebEOC file library.

4.11 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 (DCF). Centres may continue to operate throughout response and recovery phases of an emergency event.

4.12 Register.Find.Reunite. registration

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

Register.Find.Reunite. is a voluntary registration and enquiry service for people impacted by an emergency. It registers, finds and reunites family, friends and loved ones through a web-based filing and retrieval system. It provides basic details on the whereabouts of people affected by an emergency to their family and approved authorities supporting the emergency response and recovery.

Within the NT, Register.Find.Reunite. can be initiated by either the Territory or Regional Controller without the national system being activated. The Australian Red Cross or the NTPF will use manual or local computer procedures to record details of disaster affected persons.

National activation of the system may be necessary when the number of registrations or enquiries has the potential to overwhelm the processing capacity of the NT. The Regional Controller will forward a national activation request to the Red Cross Emergency Services Manager NT and will enable Red Cross to activate other jurisdictions to assist.

Register.Find.Reunite. is available online at www.register.redcross.org.au

4.13 Impact assessment

Immediately after an emergency event, the community impacts and supports required need to be identified and assessed 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 NT Police Force are responsible for coordinating rapid impact assessments.

For NT emergency management practitioners a copy of the Impact Assessment Guideline and supporting training manuals for the conduct of RATs is available in the WebEOC file library.

4.14 Assistance to the Australian Government

Assistance to the Australian Government may be provided under a series of separate plans for response to specific events. The national plans, guidelines and protocols most likely to be used are listed at Annexure H.

4.15 Australian Government assistance arrangements

When the NT's total resources (government, community and commercial) cannot reasonably deal with a situation, the NT may request Australian Government assistance, including financial assistance and human and material resources.

This assistance may already be deployed within the NT in the form of an Australian Government department or it may be necessary for a specific form of assistance to be transported to the Territory. The criteria for enabling the provision of physical Australian Government support are:

- assistance required to save life or property or relieve suffering
- the task is beyond the resources of the NT or resources cannot be mobilised in time
- the task cannot be undertaken by commercial means within the NT.

Australian Government assistance is coordinated in accordance with the COMDISPLAN, which details the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in an emergency event.

Under COMDISPLAN, the senior NT-based representative of the Australian Government agencies may be authorised by their central offices to commit local resources in support of NT emergency management organisations. All requests under the COMDISPLAN should be progressed through the Chief Officer NT Emergency Service.

4.15.1 Australian Defence Force support

Immediate mobilisation of Defence assistance necessary to save human life, alleviate immediate suffering, or prevent substantial damage to or loss of property may be approved by local Defence commanders if civilian resources cannot cope. All requests for Defence aid should be progressed through the Chief Officer NT Emergency Service.

4.15.2 Financial support arrangements

A range of financial assistance measures is available during and following emergencies in the NT. The principal financial assistance mechanism is the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), a joint funding arrangement between the Australian and NT governments.

CM&C administers the arrangements, which provide assistance for:

- counter-disaster operations
- individuals through personal hardship and distress payments
- small businesses, primary producers and not-for profit organisations
- reconstruction of NTG assets associated with transport, health, education, justice or welfare, such as roads and buildings
- community recovery funds.

The Australian Government also provides financial assistance through:

- the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (for significant events)
- flexible welfare arrangements
- special measures.



GARRAMILLA BOULEVARD | Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, Communications and Engagement Unit

5. Recovery Arrangements

5.1 Definition

The coordinated process and measures for supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of social, economic and physical wellbeing. Disaster recovery is the final phase of the PPRR continuum, often representing a heavy investment of time and resources to restore essential services and build resilience.

5.2 Recovery principles

Recovery operations in the NT are underpinned by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery:

- understanding the context: understanding the community context, with each community having its own history, values and dynamics
- recognising the complexity: responsive to the complex and dynamic nature of both emergencies and the community
- use community-led approaches: community-centred, responsive and flexible, engaging with community and supporting them to move forward
- coordinate all approaches: planned, coordinated and adaptive approach, between community and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs
- communicate effectively: effective communication between the affected community and other partners
- recognise and build capacity: recognises, supports and builds on individual, community and organisational capacity and resilience.

5.3 Recovery objectives

In all aspects of recovery, the emergency recovery objectives of the NT are to:

- successfully meet the objectives of the recovery action plan

- deliver recovery across the social, built, natural and economic environments
- where possible, 'build back better'.

5.4 Recovery governance

The coordination of recovery occurs across 3 levels: Territory, Regional and Local.

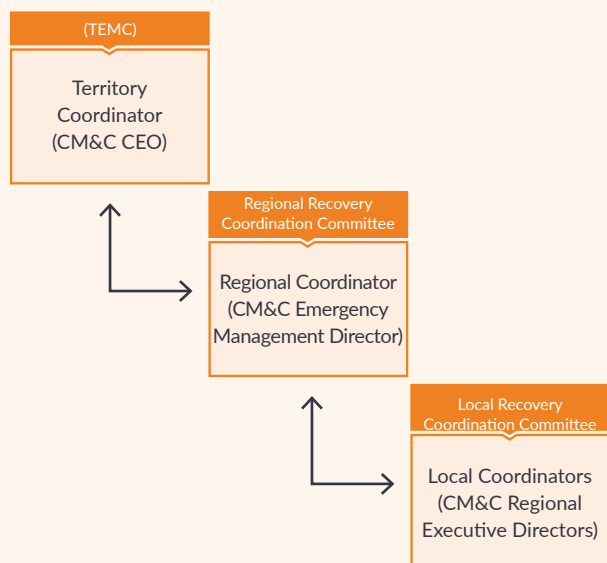


Diagram 7: Recovery Governance Coordination

As with response operations, recovery coordination arrangements are scaled according to the complexity and impact of an event. While recovery is coordinated at the regional level, it is led at the local level through a Local Recovery Coordination Committee in the first instance, supporting the principle of a 'community-led approach'. Each level of recovery effort has a corresponding Recovery Coordinator and Recovery Committee to support operations. A Territory-wide recovery occurs when recovery coordination is simultaneously undertaken across 2 regions.

Early and accurate information is critical to facilitating planning, decision making and to activate the most appropriate mechanisms to assist with recovery.

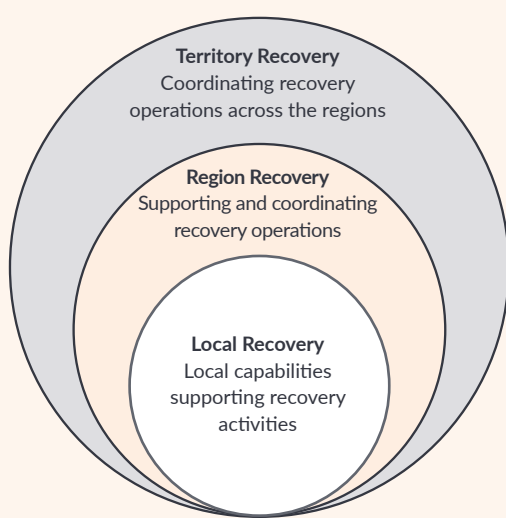


Diagram 8: Recovery Governance

5.5 Key roles and responsibilities

Key recovery positions within the NT include:

- TRC
- RRC
- Local recovery coordinators
- Hazard Management Authority
- functional groups.

The TRC is a statutory appointment under the Act; all other appointments in emergency recovery are made by legal Instrument.

5.6 Territory Recovery Coordinator

The Chief Executive Officer of CM&C is the TRC, responsible for coordinating and directing recovery operations in the NT.

The role of the TRC is to:

- coordinate and direct recovery operations in the Territory
- co-chair the TEMC
- appoint Regional and Local Recovery Coordinators

- establish and direct Regional and Local Recovery Committees
- ensure the accessibility of instructions, policies and procedures for Regional and Local Recovery Coordinators
- perform any other functions conferred on the TRC by the Council or the Act.

5.7 Regional Recovery Coordinator

The TRC may appoint a RRC for a region that has been affected by an event.

The role of the RRC is to:

- coordinate the assessment of recovery and restoration requirements in the region
- determine recovery priorities and develop a recovery action plan
- direct and coordinate recovery operations in the region
- ensure that the TRC's instructions, policies and procedures are complied with
- take responsibility for the care and maintenance of equipment made available to the region by the Territory
- appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator for a locality within the region that has been affected by an event
- establish and chair the Recovery Coordination Committee
- perform any other functions conferred on the RRC by the TRC or the Act.

5.8 Local Recovery Coordinator

Local Recovery Coordinators supervise recovery operations in affected localities. Local Recovery Coordinators may be appointed by the RRC for a locality within an affected region. The Local Recovery Coordinator is subject to the directions of the RRC.

The role of the Local Recovery Coordinator includes:

- coordinating the assessment of recovery and restoration requirements in the locality
- working with the RRC to determine recovery priorities and develop a recovery action plan
- directing and coordinating recovery operations in the locality
- ensuring that the instructions, policies and procedures of the TRC and the RRC for the region are complied with
- take responsibility for the care and maintenance of equipment made available to the Local Recovery Coordinator by the Territory
- chair their Local Recovery Coordination Committee
- champion community-led recovery outcomes
- perform any other functions conferred on the Local Recovery Coordinator by the TRC, the RRC or the Act.

5.9 Hazard Management Authority

As in a response phase, the Hazard Management Authority is to remain engaged throughout the recovery phase providing subject matter expert advice to the Territory, regional and local recovery coordinators.

5.10 Functional groups

As outlined in the NT functional group framework, functional groups are the mechanism for supporting a coordinated approach to recovery operations. Functional groups are activated during response to an emergency event, transitioning to support recovery as required. They provide a key role in supporting regional recovery efforts.

5.11 Recovery committees

Recovery committees are established to support recovery coordination. Each committee is an emergency management body with legislated functions, powers and memberships. Meetings are conducted in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Act.

Powers include:

- the powers necessary to perform its functions
- any other powers conferred on it by the Act.

5.12 Regional recovery coordination committee

Regional recovery coordination committees are established to support local recovery efforts when capacity is exceeded and to assist in coordinating resources across the region.

The committee is chaired by the RRC.

5.12.1 Functions of the Regional Recovery Coordination Committee

- advise and assist the RRC
- direct resources for recovery operations in the region
- perform any other functions conferred on it by the TRC or the Act.

5.12.2 Regional Recovery Coordination Committee members

- RRC for the region (chair)
- Regional Controller for the region
- Local Recovery Coordinator for a locality in (or partly in) the region
- at least 11 persons appointed by the council as mentioned below
- any other person the committee considers necessary or desirable to appoint.

5.12.3 Appointed members

Appointed members, to be nominated by their Chief Executive Officer or equivalent, will be representatives of the following organisations:

- the NT Fire and Emergency Services
- agency primarily responsible for health
- agency primarily responsible for community welfare services
- agency primarily responsible for public housing
- agency primarily responsible for infrastructure
- agency primarily responsible for roads and transport
- agency primarily responsible for education
- CM&C
- Power and Water Corporation (PAWC)
- each local government council for a local government area in (or partly in) the region
- non-government welfare agencies, nominated by the RRC.

5.13 Local Recovery Coordination Committee

Local Recovery Coordination Committees are established to assist with recovery operations for the locality. The committee is chaired by the Local Recovery Coordinator.

5.13.1 Functions of the Local Recovery Coordination Committee

- advise and assist the Local Recovery Coordinator
- direct resources for recovery operations in the locality
- perform any other functions conferred on it by the TRC, RRC or the Act.

5.13.2 Local Recovery Coordination Committee Members

- Local Recovery Coordinator for the locality (chair)
- Local Controller for the locality
- any other person the committee considers necessary or desirable to appoint.

5.14 Recovery domains

Recovery operations focus on 4 nationally recognised domains: social, built, natural and economic. Effort on each domain is dependent on the type of hazard and scale of impact. For example, a cyclone may cause large scale impact to all 4 domains, while a pandemic may require greater recovery effort across the economic and social domains.

Rarely does any event affect a recovery domain in isolation and all 4 domains are connected to varying levels, dependent on the hazard and a community's level of resilience.

5.14.1 Social

The social domain considers individual and community social wellbeing. Social wellbeing is supported when essential needs are met, including the ability to work; access income or welfare support; access to food, water, shelter, social and medical services; and a sense of feeling safe and secure. Impacts to the social environment may include:

- wealth
- employment
- amenities
- health services
- social services
- social belongings
- recreation and leisure activities.

5.14.2 Built

The built domain includes the physical, social and critical infrastructure supporting a community. Impacts on the built environment may include:

- damage to essential services, power, water, food security, fuel, sewerage, gas, communications and internet
- loss of community infrastructure; for example, public buildings, schools, hospitals, iconic buildings
- loss of or damage or disruption to transport services (for example, roads, air, marine and rail transport infrastructure, facilities and assets), which has a flow-on effect on the movement of people and goods, and on transport and traffic management on transport networks (for example, road and rail closures, detours, vehicle permits and regulatory services, passenger transport, road traffic management systems)
- loss of property (residential, rural, industrial, public)
- subsequent changes to planning and building regulations, or planning scheme overlays, as a consequence of the disaster.

5.14.3 Natural

The impact on the natural environment may occur as a direct result of the disaster or may be secondary impact resulting from the disaster or recovery process. Impact on the natural environment may include:

- air quality
- water quality, disruption of waterways,
- land erosion and soil quality
- loss of plant and animal populations, impacts to biodiversity.

5.14.4 Economic

Impacts on the economic environment can be classified as direct and indirect. Direct economic loss is the cost of direct damage to physical assets in an affected area. Indirect economic loss is defined as losses that have a dollar value easily assigned but are less tangible. Impacts on the economic environment may include:

- loss of personal income
- damage to business premises or infrastructure
- loss of tourism activities
- loss of workforce
- loss of productive land.

5.15 Recovery planning

In the event of a significant emergency event, planning for recovery will occur concurrently with the initial response. Initial planning activities are crucial as they directly influence and inform the Transition Checklist and the Recovery Action Plan. Activities may include:

- impact and needs assessment analysis
- gap analysis of capabilities to support recovery operations in the impacted area
- understanding the community context
- development of a Recovery Action Plan to outline priorities for community recovery and restoration of essential services.

5.16 Phases of recovery

There are 5 key phases to recovery: transition to recovery (activation), relief, early recovery, medium to long term recovery and transition to business as usual (BAU). Recovery effort in each phase largely depends on the impact of the event and the level of disruption to the community. The timeframes for each phase are directly related to the impact, level of disruption to communities and capacity to recover.

5.16.1 Transition to recovery

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 establishing longer-term, more sustainable support structures. Activities supporting transition are undertaken during response operations through the development of a transition to recovery checklist. The TC and the TRC, in consultation with the TEMC and on advice from the Regional Controller and RRC, will formally transition from response to recovery.

Formal transition to recovery will only occur after:

- completion of the transition checklist
- the TC has briefed the TEMC and the TRC
- the Regional Controller has briefed the RRC, and
- where there is a significant changeover of personnel, the EOC planning, operations and logistics sections have briefed incoming recovery planning, operations and logistics staff.

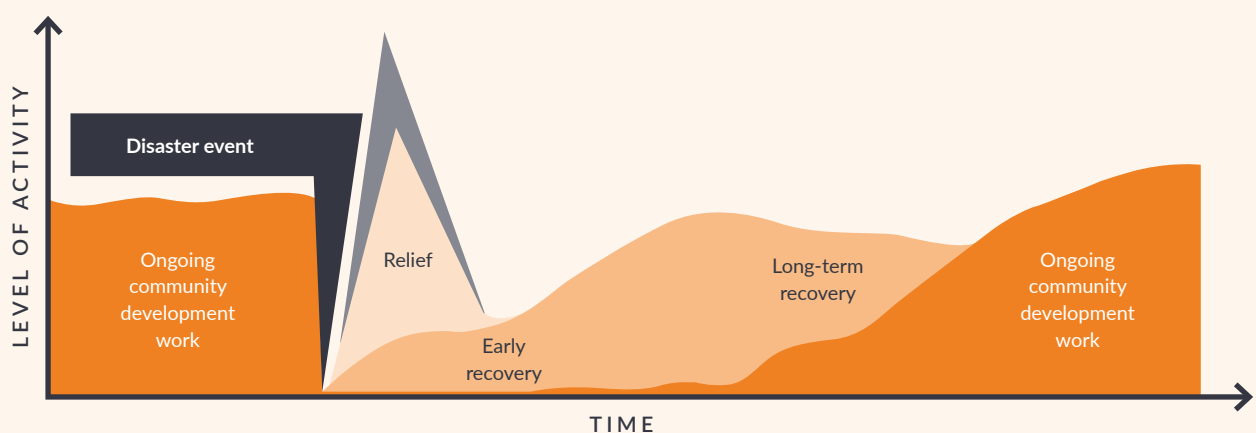
5.16.2 Transition to recovery checklist

The transition checklist will include the following:

- survey and rescue operations are complete
- clearance of main arterial roads is complete
- first round impact assessments are complete, and an initial assessment of the impact of the event has been developed
- joint visit to the affected location(s) has been undertaken
- evacuation(s) of impacted communities have been completed to the shelter phase (where required)
- the majority of functional groups have completed their respective response tasks and are focusing on early recovery priorities
- a recovery coordination structure has been developed and is ready to be activated
- a Recovery Action Plan has been developed using impact and needs assessments.

The RRC will notify functional groups and other key stakeholders of the transition to recovery with the establishment of the Regional Recovery Coordination Committee.

Diagram 9: Phases of Recovery



5.16.3 Relief

Immediate relief measures ensure that affected community members have access to basic physical needs and social and psychological services. Immediate relief for impacted communities may be facilitated initially during response and continue throughout recovery. Activities are often operationalised and implemented by functional groups in line with the NTEMA.

Relief activities could include those such as animal welfare activities, public health measures, access to DRFA payments or the establishment of an evacuation centre or WRC.

5.16.4 Early recovery

Early recovery focuses on restoring essential services and ensuring people have access to basic needs, including temporary shelter options, social and medical services, opening of education and schooling for children.

Plans to reopen businesses and returning to routine for community members are included in the early recovery phase.

5.16.5 Long-term recovery

A severe or catastrophic event may require a prolonged, complex recovery period. In order to meet the social, economic and physical recovery and reconstruction needs of the community, government may decide that a single authority or entity is to be established to deliver the government's program.

The establishment of a single authority or entity would enable a prioritised and coordinated approach to work being undertaken in an efficient and effective manner.

5.16.6 Transition to business as usual

When a whole-of-government coordination is no longer required, a decision will be made to transition to business as usual (BAU). The TEMC will be advised by the TRC and provide its endorsement. The transition to BAU at the regional level represents a return to normality; however, longer-term recovery efforts may continue at the local level.



6. Debrief process and management of lessons learned

Debrief processes embed continuous improvement into emergency management. 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 begin in one agency through an internal debrief process, those lessons learned are transferable across multi-agencies.

6.1 Circumstances under which debriefs are required

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. Decision Logs can be referred to as part of the debrief process.

6.2 Hot debrief (immediately post event)

A hot debrief is usually held immediately after response operations are complete or when a person concludes their shift. It allows rapid capture of real-time feedback aimed at addressing pressing or immediate concerns. This is a key time to address any health or safety issues and provides an opportunity for instant feedback.

6.3 Internal organisational debrief

An internal debrief should occur when:

- significant injury has been sustained by responders or the public; or where there was a serious actual risk (near miss)
- substantial resources were engaged by the agency
- significant operational gaps were identified
- significant property damage occurred, or
- issues related to the recovery phase.

This debrief should be held within 14 days of the event. If the management of the event is ongoing, it will be necessary to hold regular internal debriefs as operational objectives are reached.

Internal debriefs need to identify key stakeholders within the Controlling Authority structure that play a role in the delivery of emergency management outcomes. It should only address organisational issues, not personal issues, and should look at both strengths and weaknesses to guide future training and development. It also provides an opportunity to thank staff and provide positive feedback.



6.4 Multi-agency whole-of-government debrief

The whole-of-government debrief should be conducted for all emergency events that require a multi-agency response. This debrief should be facilitated by the Controlling Authority and held within 28 days of the event.

If the management of the emergency event is ongoing, it will be necessary to hold regular internal debriefs as operation objectives are reached. This debrief should focus on the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination.

The process should identify strengths and weaknesses as well as areas for development and improvement, with considerations to both response and recovery phases.

A formal debrief report is to be formulated to ensure consistency in the approach to the collation of information for the debrief process. This report covers off on the following areas:

- date of the debrief and persons in attendance
- sequence of events, response measures and arrival actions of functional areas
- what went well including facets that may have exceeded expectations and why this was the case
- what did not go well and why
- whether there was sufficient capacity and capability across key functions of emergency response and recovery operations
- other related issues that contributed to the execution of response and recovery operations
- open discussion points
- review and record of findings and how action items will be monitored
- welfare and recognition of all personnel involved.

6.5 Lessons management process

Lessons management is an overarching term that refers to the collecting, analysing, disseminating and applying learning experiences from operations. The intent of a whole-of-government debrief process is to ensure that a Controlling Authority's ability to respond to an emergency event evolves. This should include providing an opportunity for impacted communities to be involved in the debrief through their relevant Local Emergency Committee.

The Whole-of-government Debrief Process and Lessons Management document aims to ensure learnings are translatable across multiple organisations.

For NT emergency management practitioners, a copy of the document is available in the WebEOC file library.

7. Plan Administration

7.1 Approval process for NT emergency plans

In accordance with the Act, the Plan must be prepared by the Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services and submitted to the TEMC for approval.

In accordance with the Act, regional and local emergency plans must be prepared and submitted to the TC for approval.

Hazard-specific plans and functional group plans must be endorsed by the TEMC.

7.2 Review and amendments

In accordance with the Act, the Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services must review the operations and effectiveness of the Plan at least once every 12 months.

Suggestions for amendments can be forwarded at any time to:

Manager Planning and Preparedness, NT Emergency Service

PO Box 37171 Winnellie NT 0821

Tel: 08 8946 4168

emergencymanagemeNTPPlanning@pfes.nt.gov.au

Subject field: NT Emergency Plans Amendment

7.3 Distribution

This plan is a public document and is on the NTES website <https://pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Publications> and the SecureNT website <https://securent.nt.gov.au>

7.4 Glossary

As defined in Annexure I.

7.5 Acronyms

As defined in Annexure J.



LNG TANKER AT GAS TERMINAL | Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

8. Annexures



ELECTRICAL STORM | Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

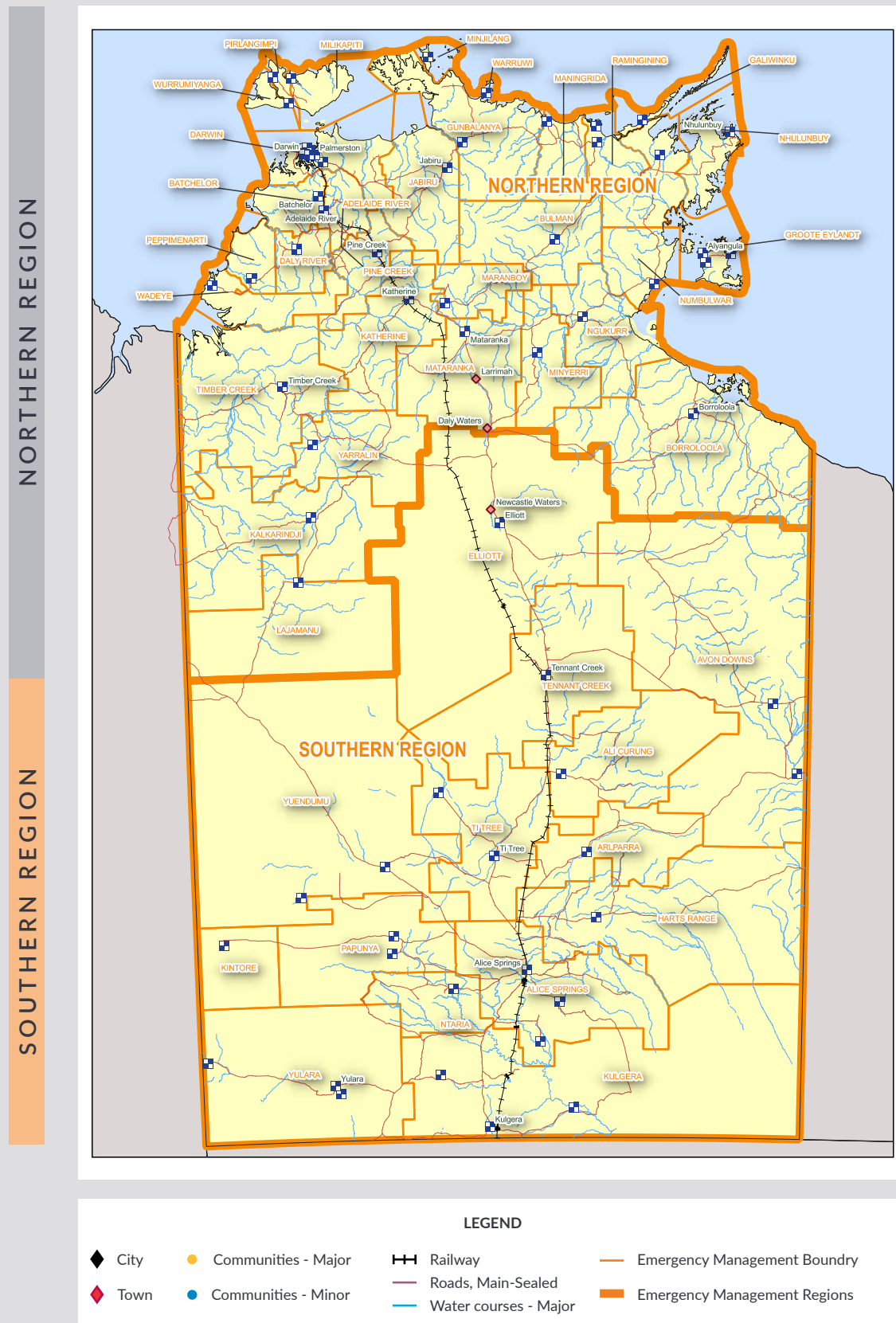
Annexure A: Territory Emergency Management Council membership

Title	Agency	Role
Territory Emergency Controller	NT Police Force	Co-chair
Territory Recovery Coordinator	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	Co-chair
Chief Officer	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)	Executive Officer
Chief Executive Officer	Attorney-General Department	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Children and Families	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Corporate and Digital Development	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Corrections	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Education and Training	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Health	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department Housing, Local Government and Community Development	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Tourism and Hospitality	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations	Member
Under Treasurer	Department of Treasury and Finance	Member
Commissioner	NT Fire and Emergency Services	Member
Chief Fire Officer	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)	Member
Deputy Commissioner	NT Police Force	Member
Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment	Member
Chief Executive Officer	Power and Water Corporation	Member

Observers or subject matter experts may also be invited to attend TEMC meetings. These may include:

- Australian Defence Force – Joint Operations Support Staff (JOSS)
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Territory Generation
- senior officers or advisors
- LGANT
- other NTG departments and hazard management authorities as required.

Annexure B: NT emergency management regional boundary map



Annexure C: Territory, regional and local emergency plans

Regional emergency plans	
Northern Regional Emergency Plan	Southern Regional Emergency Plan

Northern local emergency plans	
Darwin	Maningrida
Adelaide River	Maranboy
Batchelor	Mataranka
Milikapiti	Kalkarindji
Pirlangimpi	Minjilang
Wurrumiyanga	Minyerri
Borroloola	Ngukurr
Bulman	Nhulunbuy
Daly River	Numbulwar
Galiwinku	Peppimenarti
Groote Eylandt	Pine Creek
Gunbalanya	Ramingining
Jabiru	Timber Creek
Katherine	Wadeye
Lake Evella	Warruwi
Lajamanu	Yarralin

Southern local emergency plans	
Alice Springs	Kulgera
Ali Curung	Ntaria
Arlparra	Papunya
Avon Downs and Alpururulam	Ti Tree
Elliott	Tennant Creek
Harts Range	Yuendumu
Kintore	Yulara

Annexure D: Hazard-specific emergency plans and guidelines

Northern Territory hazard-specific plans	
Title	Responsible agency
Alice Springs Airport Emergency Plan	Alice Springs Airport
Fire Hazard Management Plan	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service and Bushfires NT)
Cyber Attack Plan	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
Copperfield Dam Safety Emergency Plan	Power and Water Corporation
Darwin River Dam Safety Emergency Plan	
Manton Dam Safety Emergency Plan	
Darwin International Airport Emergency Plan	Darwin International Airport
Darwin Port Authority Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Darwin Port Corporation
Emergency and Crisis Management Plan	Darwin Port Corporation
Liquid Fuel Emergency Plan	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
NT Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Plan	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
NT Counter Terrorism Plan	NT Police Force
NT Health Pandemic Plan	Department of Health
NT Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Nuclear Powered Warships	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Territory Biosecurity Emergency Plan	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Territory-wide guidelines and frameworks	
Title	Lead Agency
Cyclone Shelter Framework	Department of Education and Training
Finance and Procurement Guidelines During an Emergency	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Northern Region Subplan - Cyclone and Flood Shelters	Department of Education and Training
Southern Region Subplan - Cyclone and Flood Shelters	
NT Emergency Alert Protocols	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service) NT Police Force
NT Evacuation Centre Field Guide	Department of Children and Families
NT Emergency Call Centre Framework	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
NT Natural Hazard Risk Assessment Framework	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Recovery Coordination Centre Concept of Operations	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Temporary School Closure	Department of Education and Training

Hazard-specific capabilities		
Hazard-specific Capability	Controlling Authority	Hazard Management Authority
Chemical, biological, radiological response	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
Confined space rescue	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
Land search and rescue	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Urban search and rescue	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
Vertical rescue	NT Police Force	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)



Annexure E:

Annexure E (i): Animal Welfare Group

Functional Group	Animal Welfare Group
Lead Agency	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Role	The role of the Animal Welfare Group is the provision of NT wide coordination of animal welfare in emergencies.
Responsibilities	The prime responsibility of the Animal Welfare Group is, in a disaster situation affecting the NT, to coordinate the care, treatment and (where appropriate human euthanasia) of domestic and commercial animals and wildlife through the activities of government, veterinary clinics, private animal care organisations, local government and contractors at the request of the Incident Controller.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet • Department of Lands, Planning and Environment • Department of Logistics and Infrastructure • Local Government • NT Police Force • NT Fire and Emergency Services • Department of Treasury and Finance
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate and federal primary industry departments • primary industry peak bodies (e.g. NT Cattlemen's Association, NT Farmers Association, NT Seafood Council) • animal welfare organisations • private veterinary clinics • wildlife care groups • private contractors

Annexure E (ii):

Annexure E (ii): Critical Goods and Services Group

Functional Group	Critical Goods and Services Group
Lead Agency	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
Role	The role of the Critical Goods and Services Group is to work with internal and external stakeholders to assure the supply of critical goods and services following a disaster or an emergency event. Depending upon the emergency, this may include the supply of food, groceries, ice, bottled gas, cleaning products, building/hardware supplies, camping equipment and bank services.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Critical Goods and Services Group are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> advise on the availability and durability of supply of critical goods and services from suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers and major retailers liaise with industry and other stakeholders in order to facilitate arrangements that assist with the restoration and/or provision of critical goods and services provide assistance with the sourcing of critical goods and services to support the other group leaders during emergency activities provide advice to the TC, the TRC and the TEMC (through Regional Controllers/Coordinators) on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> measures to improve the robustness of supply chains for critical goods and services in the event of a disaster; and any issues impacting on response and recovery measures.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Department of Children and Families Department of Health NT Fire and Emergency Services
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private enterprises Industry Capability Network NT (ICN NT)

Annexure E (iii):

Annexure E (iii): Digital and Telecommunications Group

Functional Group	Digital and Telecommunications Group
Lead Agency	Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)
Role	The role of the Digital and Telecommunications Group is to liaise with telecommunications providers on outages and restoration issues during emergencies and disasters; and to manage contracted services and NTG ICT enterprise services and disaster recovery to ensure effective NTG preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters affecting the NTG ICT enterprise environment.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Digital and Telecommunications Group are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> planning and preparedness for emergencies that may affect ICT capability/environments (including mobile and radio communications) liaising with required organisations on restoration of communications networks for NTG incident responders and communities in the event of a disaster and to provide direction to ICT service providers in regard to TC directives and requests providing advice to the TC and the TEMC in regard to service providers' restoration of communications networks in the event of a disaster or major incident coordinating restoration of communications networks establishment and maintenance of effective liaison with service providers and other required stakeholders to facilitate restoration of digital and communications infrastructure facilitate emergency ICT capabilities where feasible, including the provision of NT call-centre capabilities.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NT Police Force (Communications and electronic systems support)
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Carriers (Optus, Telstra, Vocus, NBN, Speedcast) ICT Service Providers Key supplier(s) relevant to incident/emergency

Annexure E (iv):

Annexure E (iv): Emergency Shelter Group

Functional Group	Emergency Shelter Group
Lead Agency	Department of Education and Training
Role	The role of the Emergency Shelter Group is the overall coordination of the provision of emergency shelters and development of NT operational policies and plans in the preparation, response and recovery phases of an emergency.
Responsibilities	<p>The responsibilities of the Emergency Shelter Group are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> coordination of buildings designated as emergency shelters coordination of personnel to staff and operating emergency shelters when they are activated maintenance of effective liaison with other organisations with responsibilities relating to emergency shelters assisting with the staffing and operation of such shelters as they may be designated evacuation centres and welfare assembly centres in a post event phase. The management of evacuation centres and welfare assembly centres is the responsibility of the Welfare Group provision of advice to the TC and TEMC on measures to improve shelter arrangements in the event of a disaster provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and the Recovery Coordination Group on shelter and emergency accommodation issues impacting on response and recovery measures. <p>Note: It is the responsibility of shelter owners to provide the personnel to both manage and operate the shelters when they are activated.</p>
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NT Police Force NT Fire Emergency Services Department of Children and Families Department of Health Attorney-General Department (Supreme Court) Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations St John Ambulance Australia (NT)
Supporting Organisations	Nil

Annexure E (v):

Annexure E (v): Engineering Group Emergency

Functional Group	Engineering Group Emergency
Lead Agency	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
Role	The role of the Engineering Group is to coordinate the provision of appropriate NT-wide emergency engineering and NTG infrastructure plans and policies in the preparation, response and recovery phases of an emergency.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Engineering Group are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearing essential traffic routes by transporting rubbish and debris to designated tips, in conjunction with the Public Utilities Group to remove fallen power lines in the first instance coordination, inspection and advice in relation to road, government buildings and other structural infrastructure (and their associated assets) waste management (i.e. opening and maintaining rubbish/debris tips) and collection, transportation and disposal at designated areas of affected livestock, pets and animals generally facilitating and coordinating the sourcing and provision of additional and/or external equipment/resources such as plant, hire equipment, labour and consulting engineers clearing storm water drains facilitating the restoration of public roads, bridges, buildings, air strips, barge landings, wharves and associated assets to a serviceable state and assisting CM&C with resources for rapid impact assessment provision of advice to the TC and TEMC on measures to improve the capacity of the Engineering Group to undertake its responsibilities in the event of an emergency provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and the Recovery Coordination Group on Engineering Group issues impacting on response and recovery measures managing the temporary closure of roads and traffic management issues provision of assistance on repair costs to houses and buildings and assist in data for repair grants in recovery assist the Emergency Shelter Group in establishing, fueling and testing generators at public shelters as requested to procure, mobilise and manage contractors and consultants to identify the extent of damage and to subsequently deliver rectification works.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics Local Government councils Department of Education and Training Department of Children and Families Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (Waste Management)
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private enterprise Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (Infrastructure Planning Division and Building Advisory Services) Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations Department of Health

Annexure E (vi):

Annexure E (vi): Industry Group

Functional Group	Industry Group
Lead Agency	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
Role	The emergency role of the Industry Group is to liaise with business, industry and tourism operators not otherwise represented by a functional group during emergencies and disasters to coordinate policies and plans to ensure effective NTG preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters affecting the NT.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Industry Group are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. planning and preparedness for emergencies that may affect NT business capability/environments (not including mobile and radio communications) 2. providing advice to the TC and the TEMC in regard to industry, tourism and trade matters in the event of a disaster or major incident 3. establishment and maintenance of effective liaison including via relevant NTG agency staff with industry, tourism and trade providers and other stakeholders to understand the potential impacts on their activities. 4. facilitate emergency industry capabilities beyond the scope of CGSG and Engineering Group, where appropriate.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet • Department of Mining and Energy • Department of Tourism and Hospitality
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Mining and Exploration Companies • Austrade • Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association • Chamber of Commerce • Hospitality NT • NT Cattlemen's Association • NT Farmers Association • NT Seafood Council • Minerals Council of Australia – NT Division • Retail Drinks Australia • Tourism Australia • Tourism Central Australia • Tourism Top End

Annexure E (vii):

Annexure E (vii): Medical Group

Functional Group	Medical Group
Lead Agency	Department of Health
Role	The role of the Medical Group is to coordinate regional and NT-wide policies and plans to ensure the preparation for and provision of medical services during the response to and recovery from an emergency.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Medical Group are to co-ordinate and control the mobilisation of all health responses to emergencies. This includes medical, nursing, pre-hospital care, first aid, pharmaceutical supplies, laboratory services and public mental health services and involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing hospital and medical services, including the management of large numbers of casualties resulting from an emergency or disaster where possible, the provision of medical teams to manage casualties in the field at any stage of the response or recovery the coordination of medically vulnerable clients the provision of pre-hospital ambulance services and patient care laboratory services: diagnostic, monitoring and therapeutic services including the Red Cross Lifeblood Service liaising and coordinating with other jurisdictions for the provision of additional support provision of advice to the TC and TEMC on measures to ensure a medical response in the event of a disaster provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and/or the TRC on medical issues impacting on response and recovery measures coordinate the provision of mental health services to response/recovery agency personnel.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Children and Families St John Ambulance Australia Aeromedical Services, CareFlight and Royal Flying Doctor Services Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, including peak bodies
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Service Providers NT Primary Health Network National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre NT Pharmacy Guild Territory Pathology Private diagnostic imaging e.g. I-MED Radiology Network; Katherine Diagnostic Imaging Darwin Private Hospital Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Services Department of Education and Training Department of Logistics and Infrastructure NT Fire and Emergency Services Australian Government Aged Care

Annexure E (viii):

Annexure E (viii): Public Health Group

Functional Group	Public Health Group
Lead Agency	Department of Health
Role	The role of the Public Health Group is coordinate NT-wide policies and plans to ensure the provision of appropriate public health services during the preparation, response and recovery phases of an emergency.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Public Health Group are to monitor and preserve public health and hygiene standards, provide an environmental health service, provide a disease control service and provide public health information. This involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental health: Coordinate and control mobilisation of all environmental health responses to emergencies. This includes providing expert public health advice and monitoring of drinking water quality, food safety, personal hygiene, disinfection, sewage disposal, radiation hazards, hazardous waste management of medical waste and radiation sources, inspection of evacuation centres and assisting Department of Health – Medical Entomology with vermin and vector control Centre for Disease Control: Coordinate and control mobilisation of all disease control responses to emergencies. This includes: communicable disease risk assessment, determining immunisation policy, coordinating and assisting in the provision of immunisation, monitor the incidence of communicable and other infectious diseases, provide expert medical advice on communicable diseases, provide advice about the storage of deceased persons and monitoring disease trends in the recovery phase and beyond provide advice to Engineering Group related to bio and other hazardous materials containment, disposal and treatments to ensure not public exposure risks provision of advice to the TC and the TEMC to improve public health measures in the event of a disaster provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and/or the TRC on public health issues impacting on response and recovery measures.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power and Water Corporation Medical Group Engineering Group
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Logistics and Infrastructure Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Department of Education and Training Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations Department of Children and Families NT WorkSafe Local Government councils NT Environment Protection Authority

Annexure E (ix):

Annexure E (ix): Public Information Group

Functional Group	Public Information Group
Lead Agency	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Role	The role of the Public Information Group is to ensure timely, accurate, consistent and coordinated release of information in the event of a threat or emergency. The Public Information Group is also responsible for ensuring appropriate physical and human resources are allocated to achieve this objective.
Responsibilities	<p>The Public Information Group coordinates all NTG communication and media activity during multi-agency emergency events, in conjunction with government-owned corporations, any partner organisations or key stakeholders specific to particular emergency events.</p> <p>The key responsibilities of the Public Information Group are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> lead the development and release of all NTG public messages during response and recovery from an emergency event; this may include the coordination of Australian Sign Language (AUSLAN) interpreters and Aboriginal Interpreter Service for televised public messaging and translated materials in relevant Aboriginal and ethnic languages ensure public messages are timely, accurate, consistent, and coordinated across government provide advice to the TC, TRC and TEMC on measures to improve media arrangements and public information dissemination liaise with external agencies involved in the response or recovery and ensure agreed national protocols associated with particular events, such as counter-terrorism, are adhered to ensure appropriate physical and human resources are allocated to achieve the group's responsibilities. Communication and media staff from other government agencies or government business divisions may be co-opted to the Public Information Group.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABC (National Emergency Broadcaster) NT Media outlets and corporations
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most instances, a number of agencies will be involved in the response and recovery phases. All participating agencies will provide information and resources into the Public Information Group. In a prolonged event, suitably qualified communication and media staff from across government can be, and are likely to be, requested to work in the Public Information Group. When necessary, media support can also be obtained through the Department of Defence Public Affairs Branch and local councils. The support of Aboriginal organisations and multi-cultural groups will be sought to ensure comprehensive, timely and relevant communication to relevant sectors of the community.

Annexure E (x):

Annexure E (x): Public Utilities Group

Functional Group	Public Utilities Group
Lead Agency	Power and Water Corporation
Role	The role of the Public Utilities Group is to lead the development and implementation of Territory-wide policies and plans for the prevention, preparation, response and recovery to, emergency events relating to public utilities.
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Public Utilities Group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. protection, maintenance and restoration of power, water and sewerage services b. provision of advice to the TC and TEMC on measures to improve the availability and robustness of public utilities in the event of a disaster c. provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and the TRC on public utilities issues impacting on response and recovery measures.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and Water Corporation
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public utilities, electricity system and market participants

Annexure E (xi):

Annexure E (xi): Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group

Functional Group	Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group
Lead Agency	NT Police Force
Role	The role of the Survey, Rescue and Impact Assessment Group is to coordinate the provision of survey and rescue activities during an emergency event; as well as the rapid impact assessment of effected areas.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. conduct detailed survey and reconnaissance tasks within allocated areas b. provision of accurate, current and timely information through Survey EOC to the relevant Local or Regional Controller c. dissemination of information and advice to the public within the allotted areas d. provision of first aid to trapped and/or wounded persons e. searching debris, structure or areas for endangered persons and if possible and safe to do so, the release of trapped person <p>If deemed necessary after conducting survey and rescue operations, the NT Police Force will coordinate Rapid Impact Assessment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. assessing damage to homes and other structures g. assessing the immediate needs of the affected population including requirements for psycho-social support and welfare support h. gathering basic personal information of affected people i. providing advice to the relevant Controller and TEMC extent of impact to the community. <p>Rapid impact assessment process to include the coordination and deployment of RATs.</p>
Participating Organisations	<p>Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT Fire and Emergency Services
Supporting Organisations	<p>Impact Assessment</p> <p>Considering potential requirement to undertake impact assessments, the group may call upon government, non-government or private sector organisations for assistance with impact assessments. For example: welfare, animal welfare, medical or engineering support personnel may be required to form rapid impact assessment teams.</p>

Annexure E (xii):

Annexure E (xii): Transport Group

Functional Group	Transport Group
Lead Agency	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
Role	<p>The role of the Transport Group is to coordinate Territory-wide policies and plans to ensure the provision of transport support during the preparation, response and recovery phases of an emergency.</p> <p>Transport support includes the coordination of advice relating to road, rail, air and marine operations.</p>
Responsibilities	<p>The prime responsibilities of the Transport Group are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> coordinate the provision of transport support as required under the direction of the TC or an Incident Controller maintaining (as far as is practical) the normal operations and activities of public and commercial transport services provision of advice to the TC and TEMC on measures to improve transport arrangements in the event of a disaster provision of advice to the TC (through regional controllers) and the TRC on transport issues impacting on response and recovery measures.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> commercial operations (air, rail, road and marine) NT Police Force NT Fire and Emergency Services NT Fleet
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private enterprise

Annexure E (xiii):

Annexure E (xiii): Welfare Group

Functional Group	Welfare Group
Lead Agency	Department of Children and Families
Role	The role of the Welfare Group is to co-ordinate and implement responses operationalised by its member organisations, to meet the immediate essential needs of individuals and families and promote self-efficacy during the response to and recovery from emergency events.
Responsibilities	<p>The key responsibilities of the Welfare Group are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provide a general assessment of the needs of individuals and families affected by disaster provide advice to the TC and TRC on appropriate responses and recovery strategies coordinate the establishment and operation of evacuation centres and/or welfare recovery centres coordinate the provision of, or access to support services that assist to meet the immediate essential needs of affected people during response and recovery. Support services may include access to personal support and counselling, emergency clothing and alternate accommodation advice facilitate DRFA (Category A) for affected individuals to alleviate personal hardship work with individuals, families and the community to build people's capacity to recover, by promoting self-efficacy, helping people to identify their strengths and abilities to meet their own needs contribute to broader operational planning and activities which impact on or include welfare group activities provide advice to the TEMC on measures to improve provision of welfare support in the event of a disaster.
Participating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Corrections Department of Education and Training Department of Corporate and Digital Development Department of People, Sport and Culture Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development Department of Human Services (Australian Government) Australian Red Cross Salvation Army St Vincent de Paul Foodbank SA NT EASA NT Council of Churches 54 Reason (Save the Children) United Muslims of NT Other non-government agencies and Aboriginal controlled organisations specific to the event or locality.
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial providers such as evacuation centre owners/organisations

Annexure F: Functions table

Emergency response and recovery functions with identified agencies

Functions	Agency or functional group responsible
Animal/livestock management	Animal Welfare Group
Anti-looting protection	NT Police Force
Banking services	Critical Goods and Services Group
Emergency broadcasting arrangements	Public Information Group ABC and/or regional broadcasters
Building Advisory Services	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Clearing essential traffic routes	Engineering Group
Clearing storm water drains	Engineering Group
Essential clothing and household items	Welfare Group
Community clean-up	As identified in local emergency plans
Control, coordination and overall management of specific hazard	Designated Controlling Authority
Coordinate emergency fleet vehicles	Transport Group
Coordination to evacuate public	NT Police Force
Critical goods and services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • bottled gas • camping equipment • building supplies 	Critical Goods and Services Group
Defence Aid to Civil Community (DACC) request	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Damaged public buildings: coordination and inspections	Engineering Group
Disaster victim identification capability	NT Police Force
Emergency alerts/SEWS	NT Police Force and NT Fire and Emergency Services
Emergency Catering	Controlling Authority
Emergency Food Distribution	Controlling Authority
Emergency management leadership	Controlling Authority (response phase) Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (recovery phase)
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	Controlling Authority (response phase)
Recovery Coordination Centre (RCC)	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (recovery phase)
Emergency shelters	Emergency Shelter Group
Evacuation centres	Welfare Group
Expenditure in emergencies	Controlling Authorities and any activated Functional Groups at the direction of the Controlling Authority
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Reporting	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Payments	Welfare Group and Industry Group
Liquid fuel shortages	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
Identification of suitable buildings for shelters in a particular locality	Local emergency plans based on advice from the Emergency Shelter Group
Survey, rescue and rapid impact assessment Comprehensive or in-depth assessments of NTG and public assets only	NT Police Force Engineering Group

Annexure F: Functions table

Functions	Agency or functional group responsible
Interpreter services	Welfare Group and Public Information Group
Medical services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical/nursing • first aid • pharmaceutical • laboratory services • mental health • ambulance service 	Medical Group
Mining emergencies	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
National registration and enquiry	NT Police Force (Through agreement with Australian Red Cross)
Network communications (IT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responders and public Maintenance and restoration of emergency communication	Digital and Telecommunications Group
Psychosocial Support	Welfare Group
Power: protection and restoration	Public Utilities Group
Pre-event preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk management • emergency planning 	Hazard Management Authority
Public awareness (preparedness)	Hazard Management Authority
Public messaging during response and recovery to a significant emergency event	Public Information Group
Public/environmental health management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all environmental health functions including water and food safety • disease control 	Public Health Group
Reception of affected people	Welfare Group in locations where they have a presence, or an agency identified by the Local Emergency Committee or Local Recovery Coordination Committee
Recovery call centre arrangements	Hazard Management Authority
Recovery coordination	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (Emergency Management Unit)
Request for Commonwealth assistance	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Territory Crisis Coordination Centre (T3C)	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (Security, Policy and Programs)
Repatriation	Controlling Authority
Restoration of public buildings	Engineering Group
Restoration of roads and bridges (council/territory) excluding railways	Engineering Group
Road management and traffic control including public information on road closures	NT Police Force and Engineering Group
Sewerage: protection and restoration	Public Utilities Group

Annexure F: Functions table

Functions	Agency or functional group responsible
Accommodation advice relating to the evacuated population	Welfare Group
Transport: commercial and public airport/ planes, automobiles, ferries, buses	Transport Group
Urban search and rescue	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection • disposal of stock (excluding livestock) 	Engineering Group
Water (including drinking water): protection and restoration	Public Utilities Group
Weather event public messaging	Bureau of Meteorology
Welfare recovery centre	Welfare Group

Annexure G: Australian Government and national plans, including the identified NT Hazard Management Authority or point of contact

Name of Australian Government or national plan	Purpose	NT Hazard Management Authority / NT point of contact
Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and other Approved Persons Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN)	Outlines the arrangements for the reception into Australia of Australian citizens, permanent residents, and their immediate dependents and approved foreign nationals evacuated from overseas.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Australian Aquatic Animal Diseases Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN)	Provides nationally consistent guidelines for response procedures under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Arrangements (EADRA).	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan (EMPPLAN)	Provides nationally consistent guidelines for response procedures under the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA).	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan (AUSSPREDPLAN)	Details the arrangements for the Australian Government to inform states and territories of any risk posed to Australian interests by the re-entry of space debris. The plan outlines how the Australian Government will support states and territories if space debris should impact within their jurisdictions.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Fire and Rescue Service)
Australian Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan (AUSAVPLAN)	Provides guidance in the management of the time-critical phases of a response to an aircraft accident.	NT Police Force
Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)	Describes the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian Government physical assistance to states or territories or offshore territories in the event of a disaster.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assist Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN)	Details the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian emergency assistance, using Australian Government physical and technical resources, following a disaster or emergency in another country.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI)	Outlines the agreed arrangements between the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments for the management of an influenza pandemic.	Department of Health
Australian Plant Emergency Response Plan (PLANTPFLAN)	Technical response plan used to respond to an emergency plant pest incident. It provides nationally consistent guidelines for response procedures under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Annexure G: Australian Government and national plans, including the identified NT Hazard Management Authority or point of contact

Name of Australian Government or national plan	Purpose	NT Hazard Management Authority / NT point of contact
Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)	Provides nationally consistent guidelines for response procedures under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Arrangements (EADRA).	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance (CDPLAN)	Describes how the health sector will respond to and manage communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics that threaten to impact human health and result in increased demand for health service delivery and healthcare workers.	Department of Health
Australia's Domestic Health Response Plan for All-Hazards Incidents of National Significance (AUSHEALTHRESPAN)	Provides an agreed framework for the coordination and response arrangements for national health sector operations with a focus on patient management and transfer, health workforce availability, and provision of resources in response to an all-hazards incident of national significance.	Department of Health
National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan (NLFERP)	Outlines arrangements for the management of a liquid fuel emergency. Activated by a likely or actual disruption to fuel supplies, requiring a declaration of a national fuel emergency.	Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
National Counter-Terrorism Plan (NCTP)	Sets out Australia's strategic approach to preventing and dealing with acts of terrorism in Australia and its territories.	NT Police Force
National Food Safety Incident Response Protocol	A guide for the coordination of Australian Government agencies responsible for food safety and food issues in the event of a national food incident.	Department of Health
National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies (The National Plan)	Framework enabling effective response to marine pollution incidents.	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
National Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents Involving Australians Overseas (OSMASSCASPLAN)	Provides an agreed framework for agencies in all Australian jurisdictions to assess, repatriate and provide care for Australians and other approved persons injured or killed overseas in numbers that exceed the capacity of normal day-to-day operations of relevant agencies in any incident and is declared a mass casualty event by ministers.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)
Nuclear Powered Warship Visit Planning (OPSMAN1)	Detailed information on the conditions, procedures and responsibilities for the visits by nuclear-powered vessels to Australian ports.	NT Fire and Emergency Services (NT Emergency Service)

Annexure H: Glossary

Term	In the context of this plan, this means:
All hazards approach	The application of one set of control, coordination and communication policies and procedures in a universal manner to emergency situations of varying type thereby promoting consistency of emergency management at all levels.
Affected area	A particular area where either an emergency situation, state of emergency or state of disaster exists.
Approved emergency plan	A plan approved under section 10(3), 13(2), 16(2) of the Act.
Authorised officer	Person or persons authorised under section 98 of the Act.
Chief Executive Officer	The appointed position that leads the governance and management of a service responsible for the effective exercise of the relevant statutory powers, authorities, duties and functions consistent with the NTG policy.
Command	The internal direction of the members and resources of an agency in the performance of the organisation's roles and tasks. Command operates vertically within an organisation.
Comprehensive approach ⁴	The development of emergency and disaster arrangements to embrace the aspects of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR). PPRR are aspects of emergency management, not sequential phases. Syn. 'disaster cycle', 'disaster phases' and 'PPRR'.
Control ⁵	The overall direction of activities, agencies or individuals concerned (control operates horizontally across agencies/organisations, functions and individuals).
Controlling Authority	The authorised agency that has the overall direction of activities, agencies or individuals concerned.
Coordination ⁶	The bringing together of agencies and individuals to ensure effective emergency and rescue management but does not include the control of agencies, organisations and individuals by direction.
Debrief	A meeting held during or at the end of an operation with the purpose of assessing the conduct or results of an operation.
Delegate	A person nominated to act as the representative of an officially appointed position holder, having the same powers and authority to commit the resources of the official employee.
Emergency	An event that requires significant coordinated response using the combined resources of the NTG and non-government entities within the NT.
Emergency Management Act	Provides for matters relating to emergency management and for related matters.
Emergency situation	Exists in an area once a declaration to that effect is declared by the Minister under section 18 of the Act.
Functional group	A combination of entities that have primary responsibility, arrangements and coordination of relevant/associated organisations with a supporting role. These responsibilities are laid out in functional group plans.
Group leader	The individual allocated responsibility to prepare for, respond to and command and control a functional group in response to a specific hazard based on their legislated and or technical capability and authority.
Lead agency	An agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and respond to a specific hazard based on their legislated and/or technical capability and authority.
Local Controller	For a locality, the Local Emergency Controller for the locality mentioned in section 76 of the Act.
Hazard Management Authority	The agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and respond to a specific hazard based on their legislated and/or technical capability and authority.
Invasive animal ⁷	Implies a distinction from an emergency animal disease addressed by Department of Trade, Business, and Asian Relations and covers those animal pests that have negative environmental, economic, social or human health impact as a result of their introduction.
Participating organisation	Agencies that participate in the function group role and responsibilities in preparing for and responding to a specific hazard based on their legislative and/or technical capability and authority.
Preparedness ⁸	Arrangements to ensure that should an emergency occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed. Measures to ensure that should an emergency occur, communities, resources and services are capable of coping with the effects. See also comprehensive approach.
Prevention ⁹	Regulatory and physical measures to ensure that emergencies are prevented or their effects mitigated. Measures to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of emergencies. See also comprehensive approach.

Annexure H: Glossary

Term	In the context of this plan, this means:
Recovery ¹⁰	The coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing. See also comprehensive approach. Measures which support emergency-affected individuals and communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, economic and physical wellbeing.
Region	A region specified in a Gazette notice under section 27 of the Act.
Regional Controller	For a region, the Regional Emergency Controller for the region mentioned in section 54 of the Act.
Response ¹¹	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. Measures taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure its effects are minimised. See also comprehensive approach.
Responsibilities ¹²	The state or fact of being responsible, answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control or management.
Risk ¹³	The effect of uncertainty or objectives.
Risk identification ¹⁴	The process of finding, recognising and describing risks.
Stand down	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations. There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event and the threat is no longer present.
Stand up	The operational state whereby resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated.
State of disaster	A state of disaster declared under Section 21 of the Act.
State of emergency	A state of emergency declared under Section 19 of the Act.
Supporting organisations	Agencies that provide a supporting role to the functional group or participating organisations in preparing for and responding to a specific hazard or event.
Territory Emergency Controller	The Territory Emergency Controller mentioned in Section 28 of the Act.
Territory Emergency Management Council	The management council established under the terms laid out in Division 4 of the Act.
Territory Recovery Coordinator	The Territory Recovery Coordinator mentioned in Section 32 of the Act.
Vulnerability ¹⁵	The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community or persons to the impact of hazards.
WebEOC	A critical information management system used throughout the NT. Used by agencies with defined roles and responsibilities under the TEP during all phases of an emergency event.

⁴ Source: AIDR Glossary

⁵ Source: AIDR Glossary

⁶ Source: AIDR Glossary

⁷ Source: Department Industry, Tourism and Trade

⁸ Source: AIDR Glossary

⁹ Source: AIDR Glossary

¹⁰ Source: AIDR Glossary

¹¹ Source: AIDR Glossary

¹² Dictionary.com

¹³ ISO Guide 73.2018 Risk management – Vocabulary

¹⁴ ISO Guide 73.2018 Risk management – Vocabulary

¹⁵ Source: AIDR National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines Handbook

Annexure I: Acronyms

List of Acronyms

Acronyms	Stands for
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABR	Australian Business Register
ACIMA	Australian Cyber Incident Management Arrangements
ADF	Australian Defence Force
AGCC	Australian Government Crisis Committee
AGCMF	Australian Government Crisis Management Framework
AGDRC	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee
AHMPPPI	Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza
AIDR	Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AQUAVETPLAN	Australian Aquatic Animal Diseases Veterinary Emergency Plan
AUSASSISTPLAN	Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assist Plan
AUSAVPLAN	Australian Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan
AUSRECEPLAN	Australian Government Plan for the reception of Australian Citizens and other
AUSSPREDPLAN	Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assist Plan
AUSHEALTHRESPLAN	Australia's Domestic Health Response Plan for All-Hazards Incidents of National Significance
AUSVETPLAN	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan
AWS	Australian Warning System
BAU	Business as usual
BFNT	Bushfires NT
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CDPLAN	Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance
CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
CMSC	Crisis Management Sub-committee of Cabinet
COMDISPLAN	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
DCDD	Department of Corporate and Digital Development
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
EMPPPLAN	Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ICC	Incident Control Centre
ICP	Incident Control Point
IMT	Incident Management Team
JOSS	Joint Operations Support Staff
LEC	Local Emergency Committee
LFEG	Liquid Fuel Emergency Act Guidelines
NCCTRC	National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCTP	National Counter-Terrorism Plan
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NERAG	National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
NSDR	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
NT	Northern Territory
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Service
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPF	Northern Territory Police
NCSC	National Cyber Security Committee
NSR	National Situation Room
NLFERP	National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan
NTEMA	Northern Territory Emergency Management Arrangements
OPSMAN1	Nuclear Powered Warship Visit Planning
OSMASSCASPLAN	National Response Plan for Mass Casualty
PAWC	Power and Water Corporation
POC	Point of contact
PLANTPFLAN	Australian Point Emergency Response Plan
PM&C	Prime Minister and Cabinet
PPRR	Prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
RAT	Rapid Assessment Team
RCC	Recovery Coordination Centre
REC	Regional Emergency Committee
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SOG	Senior Officers Group
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
TCCC	Territory Crisis Coordination Centre
TRC	Territory Recovery Coordinator
WAC	Welfare Assembly Centre
WebEOC	Web-based Emergency Operations Centre
WRC	Welfare Recovery Centre

