

# Emergencies (Emergency Plan) 2023

Notifiable instrument NI2023–412

made under the

**Emergencies Act 2004, section 147 (Emergency Plan)**

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**1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Emergencies (Emergency Plan) 2023*.

**2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on the day after it is made.

**3 Emergency Plan**

In accordance with section 147 (2) of the *Emergencies Act 2004*, I make the emergency plan.

**4 Revocation**

This instrument revokes NI2014-442, *Emergencies (Emergency Plan) 2014 (No 1)*.

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
13 July 2023



**ACT**  
Government

# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## EMERGENCY PLAN

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE  
ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

DATE 2023

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## Authority

The Australian Capital Territory Emergency Plan (The Plan) has been prepared by the ACT Emergency Services Commissioner in accordance with Section 147 (1) of the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

This Plan replaces the Act Emergency Plan made on the 20 August 2014.

In accordance with the Section 147(2) of the Emergencies Act 2004, I make The Plan as the Emergency Plan for the Australian Capital Territory.

Date approved/effective: DD MONTH YEAR

Approved by: Mick Gentleman, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Signature:

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# PART 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 AIM

The ACT Emergency Plan (Plan) describes the responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms to manage emergencies and their consequences within the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in accordance with the requirements of section 147 (3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

## 1.2 AUTHORITY

This Plan has been prepared by the ACT Emergency Services Commissioner (The Commissioner) in accordance with section 147 (1) of the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has approved this Plan under section 147 (2) of the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

## 1.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- > Provide the principles for emergency management in the ACT.
- > Set how the components of emergency management in the ACT work together under a single, comprehensive and flexible framework.
- > Establish roles and responsibilities related to identified hazards and associated emergencies.
- > Identify, supporting agencies to each lead agency primarily responsible for planning for, and controlling, the response to an emergency from a hazard.
- > Outline the coordination of agencies in the ACT, Commonwealth and elsewhere in support of the designated lead response agency during an emergency in the Territory.
- > Identify the key functions and responsibilities that may be activated during an emergency.

## 1.4 CORE PRINCIPLES FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE ACT

The emergency management arrangements in this plan are based on the following core principles which are intended to guide balanced, effective and efficient emergency management.

- > The *comprehensive approach* which encompasses the spectrum of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) will be applied.

This approach allows ACT Government agencies and the community to approach emergency management in a comprehensive and structured manner. Flexibility in this framework is necessary and emphasis on a particular category may vary between individuals, organisations and locations, and over time.

(Note: for the definition of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery refer to the glossary.)

- > An *all-hazards* approach for managing the possible effects of emergencies will be applied. A range of hazards can cause similar consequences. Actions to manage the consequences such as warning, evacuation, medical services and support to the community may be required prior to, during and following emergencies. Many hazards require specific response and recovery arrangements along with specific prevention and mitigation measures.
- > An *all-agencies* approach to emergency management.

The all-agencies approach recognises that no single agency can address all the impacts of a particular hazard. A leading authority will collaborate, provide direction and coordinate the actions of ACT Government agencies, the private sector, community organisations and the community. This applies during prevention, response and recovery activities. The Commonwealth Government may also be supporting the coordinating authorities' priorities.

The Plan acknowledges the importance of the CCIP and the requirement for communication and media strategies to ensure effective and timely communication to the public.

- > Applying a risk-based approach to emergency management.

The Territory Wide Risk Assessment (TWRA) is the primary tool for comparison of the risks posed by a range of hazards, allowing for the prioritisation of actions to protect the community. This risk assessment was prepared consistent with National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) which provides a methodology consistent with the Australian / New Zealand Standard ANZ/ISO: 31000:2009 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines.

- > A shared responsibility for resilience.

Resilience minimises the vulnerability, dependency and susceptibility of a community, community assets and government by creating and strengthening capacity to cope, adapt, respond to and recovery from emergencies.

Increasing resilience to emergencies is the collective responsibility of all sectors of the ACT broader community and across all levels of government.

Disaster resilience is significantly increased by shared awareness of risks, responsibilities, planning, preparations and empowering appropriate choices and actions.

## 1.5 THE ACT CONTEXT

### 1.5.1 Geography and Demography

The ACT is a self-governing territory surrounded by the State of New South Wales. Recognising that many of the hazards that threaten the ACT will have cross jurisdictional implications, emergency management arrangements in the ACT are closely aligned and integrated with NSW arrangements.

The topography of the ACT is characterised by rugged mountains in the west and south, and plains and hill country in the north, with approximately 60% of the Territory hilly or mountainous.

- > 16,000 ha urban area.
- > 169,000 ha of national parks and nature reserves.
- > 42,500 ha of rural leases.
- > 8,500 ha of Commonwealth Land and other leases.

The population of the ACT as of 30 June 2021 was estimated at 432,266. The ACT population is projected to reach 456,666 by 2025 and 506,664 by 2032.

### **1.5.2 The Centre of Government**

The ACT is the seat of the Australian Federal Government. Consequently, within the ACT there are many Commonwealth Government departments and agencies.

Also present in the ACT are embassies, high commissions and consulates of other nations, with these mainly concentrated in the inner south region of Canberra. The higher-than-average concentration of foreign officials within the ACT presents specific challenges during an emergency incident.

The likelihood of Canberra being a focus for political groups and issue motivated groups means the Territory must maintain its preparedness in relation to emergent security issues and be prepared to respond effectively to any acts of violence or terrorism.

### **1.5.3 Natural Hazards Facing the Territory**

The ACT experiences, or may experience, a range of hazards that may result in loss of life or the injury and damage to private and public property and the environment.

The Territory Wide Risk Assessment assesses the risks facing the ACT from natural hazards. It assesses that the 15 most noteworthy risks facing the Territory are:

- > Bush Fire.
- > Heatwave.
- > Flooding (including flash flood).
- > Severe Storm.
- > Human Pandemic / Epidemic.
- > Cyber Event.
- > Earthquake.
- > Biosecurity Emergency.
- > Energy Supply Emergency.
- > Air Quality.
- > Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism.
- > Drought.
- > Terrorist Act.
- > Communications Infrastructure Emergency.
- > Supply Chain Interruption.

According to the recent ACT Whole-of-Government Climate Change Risk Assessment, climate change is creating a more unpredictable and potentially turbulent setting for the ACT Government and the communities it serves. Climate Change may result in the increased prevalence of extreme heat days, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and extended periods of drought conditions.

# PART 2 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

## 2.1 LEGISLATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) establishes strategic and whole of government arrangements for emergency management in the ACT.

The Act sets out the emergency management arrangements in the ACT. The objects of the Act include:

- > Protect and preserve life, property and the environment.
- > Provide for effective emergency management that—
  - Has regard to the need to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies.
  - Takes an all-hazards approach to emergency management.
  - Develops community resilience to emergencies.
- > To provide for the effective and cohesive management of the emergency services by the Commissioner.
- > Recognise the value to the community of all emergency service members, including volunteer members, and providers of operational and administrative support to the Commissioner and the Services.

The Act provides for the preparation of the Plan, which must include details of a plan for an emergency if there is a reasonable possibility of the emergency happening in the ACT, and the development of a Community Communication and Information Plan (CCIP).

The Act defines an emergency as “an actual or imminent event that requires a significant and coordinated response”. Examples of such events include:

- > Fire, flood, storm or earthquake.
- > Accident or explosion.
- > Epidemic or animal disease.
- > Shortage of electricity, gas, fuel or water.

Part 7.3 of the Act contains several strategic mechanisms to manage significant emergencies and their consequences before, during and after they occur. Under section 150 of the Act, this part of the Act applies to an emergency that, because of its scale or nature:

- > Presents a significant danger to the health or safety of people, animals or property in the ACT or to the environment of the ACT.
- > Presents a significant risk of disruption of essential services in the ACT.

The mechanisms established in Part 7.3 of the Act include arrangements for the appointment of an Emergency Controller, as well as arrangements for the declaration of a State of Alert or State of Emergency.

The Act, as well as other legislation, also confers specific powers and responsibilities on Lead Response Agencies and Supporting Agencies to respond to emergencies. Hazard specific arrangements may be detailed in the applicable legislation for that hazard, which includes:

- > Criminal and counter terrorism emergencies (*Coroners Act 1997, Crimes Act 1900, Terrorism (Extraordinary Temporary Powers) Act 2006*).
- > Natural hazards (*Emergencies Act 2004, Dangerous Substances Act 2004, Radiation Protection Act 2006*).
- > Health emergencies (*Public Health Act 1997, Food Act 2001*).
- > Animal disease (*Animal Diseases Act 2005*).
- > Infrastructure and utilities emergencies (*Utilities Act 2000, Electricity Safety Act 1971*).
- > Environmental emergencies (*Environment Protection Act 1997*).

Participants in emergency management arrangements for the Territory must also act in accordance with other laws applicable in the ACT. In this regard it is relevant that each of the participants referred to below is a 'public authority' for the purposes of Part 5A of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

## 2.2 ACT GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

### 2.2.1 Security and Emergency Management Committee of Cabinet

The Security and Emergency Management Committee of Cabinet (SEMC) provides general strategic direction to the ACT Government's prevention and preparedness arrangements for emergencies under the all-hazards planning framework.

Membership and governance of SEMC is established in the *ACT Government Cabinet Handbook (February 2021)*.

SEMC will not be activated for specific emergencies.<sup>1</sup>

### 2.2.2 ACT Chief Minister

Under section 156 of the Act, the Chief Minister may declare a State of Emergency.

Under section 150A of the Act, the Chief Minister must appoint a person to be the Emergency Controller for a Declared State of Emergency. The Chief Minister has the discretion to appoint an Emergency Controller where there is an emergency that is not a Declared State of Emergency.

Under section 174B of the Act, the Chief Minister may appoint a person to be the Recovery Coordinator to coordinate the recovery operation for the emergency.

For the purposes of making emergency appointments and for the declaration of a State of Emergency if the Chief Minister is absent from duty or otherwise unable to exercise the powers of Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister acts as Chief Minister.

### 2.2.3 Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Under section 9 of the Act the Minister for Police and Emergency Services must, in consultation with the Emergency Services Commissioner, ensure an Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is established and

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<sup>1</sup> The Cabinet will provide strategic leadership to the ACT Government's response to emergencies requiring whole-of-government coordination. In this role, it would be supported by advice from officials with particular responsibility for managing the incident, SEMSOG and the Emergency Controller if one has been appointed under the Act.

maintained, and that common planning, administrative and logistic support is provided for the emergency services and lead agencies.

Under section 151 of the Act, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services may declare a State of Alert.

#### **2.2.4 Emergency Controller**

The Chief Minister may appoint an Emergency Controller if satisfied that an emergency has happened, is happening or is likely to happen. An Emergency Controller must be appointed if a State of Emergency is declared.

The Emergency Controller has the following functions:

- > Managing the response to, and the recovery from, the emergency by ensuring that entities dealing with the emergency are appropriately deployed.
- > Coordinating the disposition of other resources to manage the emergency.
- > Advising the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Minister about the emergency.
- > Advising the community on anything relating to the emergency that the emergency controller considers appropriate.
- > Any other function given to the Emergency Controller under this Act or another territory law.

The Emergency Controller has a broad range of powers under Section 150C of the Act to manage an emergency.

The individual appointed as Emergency Controller will vary depending on the nature of the emergency. Annex A identifies a potential Emergency Controller for each hazard.

#### **2.2.5 Deputy Emergency Controller**

The Chief Minister may appoint a Deputy Emergency Controller to support the Emergency Controller to perform their functions during an emergency; and to act as the emergency controller if the emergency controller for the emergency is unavailable or is, for any other reason, unable to perform their functions.

#### **2.2.6 ACT Emergency Services Commissioner**

Section 8 of the Act identifies the functions of the Emergency Services Commissioner, which include responsibility for the overall strategic direction and management of the emergency services and ensuring operational and administrative support is provided to the services. The Commissioner is also responsible for ensuring community education and awareness regarding emergencies, improving community preparedness for emergencies and emergencies-related advice on planning and development matters.

The Emergency Services Commissioner also assists in recovery operations by supporting recovery activities.

The Emergency Services commissioner is responsible to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in the performance of their functions.

#### **2.2.7 ACT Emergency Services Assistant Commissioner's**

ACT Emergency Services Assistant Commissioner's when appointed under the *Emergencies Act 2004* support the Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services in the exercise of their functions. This may include acting on the Commissioner's behalf in their absence or whenever they are unable to perform their functions as the Commissioner.

### **2.2.8 Chief Police Officer**

The ACT Chief Police Officer has responsibility for the provision of police services to the ACT. This includes the protection of persons and property through the delivery of crime prevention strategies, the detection and prosecution of offenders, the investigation of coronial matters and provision of specialist capabilities.

The Chief Police Officer, subject to the authority of the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, is responsible to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

### **2.2.9 Emergency Services Chief Officers**

The Chief Officers of the ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Fire and Rescue Service, ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT State Emergency Service are established in Part 3.1 of the Act. Part 3.2 of the Act identifies the specific powers and functions of the Chief Officers, with Parts 4.1 through to 4.4 specifically identifying the roles and functions of each Service.

The Chief Officers are responsible to the Emergency Services Commissioner in the performance of their functions.

### **2.2.10 Chief Health Officer**

The Chief Health Officer (CHO) of the ACT Health Directorate, is a statutory appointment under Section 7 of the *Public Health Act 1997*. Under Section 9 of the *Public Health Act 1997*, the functions of the CHO include the requirement to develop and implement strategies to promote and protect public health. The CHO has a central role in national and jurisdictional health protection and response matters, and within the ACT health sector emergency management arrangements.

### **2.2.11 ACT Recovery Coordinator**

The Chief Minister may appoint a Recovery Coordinator to coordinate recovery efforts across the ACT Government, community sector and private business.

The functions of the Recovery Coordinator are:

- > To coordinate recovery activities being carried out by territory agencies, private entities and members of the community.
- > To coordinate the provision of essential services to communities affected, or likely to be affected, by an emergency.
- > To report to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and SEMSOG about any matter relating to a recovery operation.
- > Any other function given to the Recovery Coordinator by this Act or another territory law.

The Recovery Coordinator will undertake the necessary responsibilities to perform the above functions including:

- > Assessing immediate relief needs.
- > Assessing immediate, mid-term and long-term recovery needs.
- > Setting immediate, mid-term and long-term recovery outcomes.
- > Developing an ACT disaster recovery action plan detailing the outcomes sought in each area of recovery, and the activities that will be undertaken to achieve these outcomes.
- > Monitoring and evaluating recovery activities against recovery needs and outcomes.

- > Advising SEMSOG and SEMC of the progress of recovery efforts.
- > Engaging with the community on recovery efforts.
- > Any other function given to the Emergency Controller under this Act or another territory law.

The Recovery Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring recovery planning, coordination, and stakeholder engagement. A key responsibility of the Recovery Coordinator is to determine the most effective way to inform and deliver recovery services to affected communities.

### **2.2.12 Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group (SEMSOG)**

SEMSOG is the primary mechanism for ensuring cooperation and coordination of activities between ACT Government agencies in planning for and responding to emergencies and security incidents.

In exercising its functions, SEMSOG seeks to:

- > Enhance emergency management capabilities, reduce community vulnerability to the effects of emergencies and security incidents, and improve security and emergency management awareness and training.
- > To support the preparation and maintenance of the emergency plan, the community communication and information plan, and emergency sub-plans.
- > Provide for the coordination and review of specific security and emergency management matters between government entities for consideration by SEMC.
- > Provide advice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Minister about security and emergency management.
- > Support the Emergency Services Commissioner and the Chief Police Officer in security and emergency management.
- > Provide policy advice to the Emergency Controller, Recovery Coordinator and Cabinet during emergencies.

### **2.2.13 Recovery Committee**

The ACT Recovery Committee is chaired by the Executive Group Manager JACS SEMD and reports to SEMSOG.

SEMD is responsible for providing secretariat services to the ACT Recovery Committee. Terms of Reference for the committee will be maintained by SEMD.

The ACT Recovery Committee is responsible for:

- > Maintaining this Plan.
- > Recovery preparedness.
- > Developing the ACT's recovery capability.
- > Recommending recovery policy to SEMSOG and the SEMC.
- > Advising SEMSOG on recovery preparedness and need to improve or amend arrangements to ensure that the ACT is prepared to recover from emergencies.
- > Overseeing recovery training exercises.
- > Supporting the ACT Recovery Coordinator to coordinate and deliver recovery actions as required.



- > Overseeing research into the recovery needs of the community after particular types of emergencies, such as pandemics or acts of extreme violence.
- > Maintaining a lesson learned management and dissemination process.

The ACT Recovery Committee is comprised of directorate and agency officials representing, but not limited to, the various domains of recovery.

The ACT Recovery Committee will engage with other national and jurisdictional recovery committees, to the extent needed to ensure that recovery plans and practices are in line with best practice approaches

#### **2.2.14 Security and Emergency Management Policy Group**

The Security and Emergency Management Policy Group (SEMPG) comprises officials from all relevant ACT Government agencies. SEMPG is tasked with developing, implementing and reviewing specific protective security, counter terrorism and emergency management plans and procedures.

Where appropriate, SEMPG may review the management of emergencies that have occurred in the region to identify and promote opportunities for improved emergency management.

SEMPG reports to SEMSOG and may be supported by sub-committees or working groups as required.

#### **2.2.15 Sub-committees**

Sub-committees or working groups may be established to:

- > Undertake, coordinate and oversight security and emergency management arrangements that may be routine and ongoing.
- > Promote opportunities for improved emergency management including checking that plans and arrangements are interoperable.
- > Provide for external stakeholder engagement and input to emergency management planning in the ACT.
- > Complete defined projects within a specified period.

## **2.3 NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **2.3.1 National Cabinet**

The National Cabinet is a forum for the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to meet and work collaboratively. The National Cabinet was established on 13 March 2020 and is chaired by the Prime Minister. National Cabinet is the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. Its role is to manage matters of national significance that require co-ordinated action by all jurisdictions. The Commonwealth and state and territory governments individually remain responsible for the implementation of decisions arising from the National Cabinet in their jurisdiction.

### **2.3.2 National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting**

On 13 November 2020, the National Cabinet agreed to the establishment of the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM). NEMMM is responsible for driving and coordinating implementation of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (the Royal Commission) recommendations. It provides a genuine whole-of-government forum to coordinate implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations. NEMMM comprises of Ministers from the

Australian, state and territory governments and the President of the Australian Local Government Association. The ACT is represented on NEMMM by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

### **2.2.16 National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**

NEMA was formed when the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and Emergency Management Australia merged in 2022 to create a single, enduring, end-to-end agency to better respond to emergencies, help communities recover, and prepare Australia for future disasters. NEMA

fund programs and initiatives that help communities through disaster recovery funding and the Disaster Ready Fund. NEMA works with communities, industry and NGOs by connecting local Recovery Support Officers and other NEMA staff right around Australia to share knowledge, situational awareness, and trends in disaster efforts to inform, guide and shape the national picture and decision-making at the Commonwealth, state and local government levels. NEMA also provides round-the-clock all-hazards monitoring and operational coordination for domestic and international emergencies, including supply chain disruptions, critical infrastructure outages, biosecurity risks and widespread cyber-attacks, and through supporting preparedness and response activities, including through the operationalisation of the AGCMF.

### **2.3.3 Australia and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee**

The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) is the senior officials committee responsible for emergency management. ANZEMC is responsible for informing, influencing and advocating for national policies and capabilities that reduce disaster risk, minimise the potential for harm and uphold public trust and confidence in emergency management arrangements. ANZEMC's vision is 'a nation that is prepared for, and resilient to, natural and human caused events, in particular those with severe to catastrophic consequences.

ANZEMC consists of senior officials from each Australian, state and territory government, plus a member from New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association. It is co-chaired by the Director General National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Department of Home Affairs, and a jurisdictional ANZEMC member on a one-year, rotational basis. The National Recovery and Resilience Agency is a Commonwealth member of ANZEMC. The ACT is represented on ANZEMC by the Emergency Services Commissioner and the Deputy Director General, Community Safety, Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS).

### **2.3.4 Australia and New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee**

The Australia New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) is a senior officials' group and the national coordinating body for counter terrorism in Australia. ANZCTC coordinates a nation-wide cooperative framework for counter terrorism and its consequences, maintains the National Counter-Terrorism Plan and provides expert strategic and policy advice to heads of government and other relevant ministers, ANZCTC is comprised of representatives from the Australian Government, Australian state and territory governments and the New Zealand Government. The ACT is represented on ANZCTC by the Chief Police Officer and the Deputy Director General, Community Safety, Justice and JACS.

### **2.3.5 Health Ministers Meeting (HMM)**

The Health Ministers' Meeting (HMM) provides leadership and facilitates joint decision making on health issues of national importance. HMM comprises membership of health ministers from all states and territories, along with the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care.

The HMM's functions include, but are not limited to:

- > consider legal and regulatory health matters covered under national law and provide governance on issues agreed to in national agreements;
- > oversee work administered by ministerial authorities on behalf of government;
- > deliver national health improvement strategies outlined in annual work plans; and
- > progress matters as delegated by National Cabinet.

### 2.3.6 Australian Health Protection Principal Committee

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) provides advice and makes recommendations on health protection matters; to mitigate emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment, natural disasters and disasters related to human endeavour in a context of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Membership comprises the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer and each State and Territory Chief Health Officer.

### 2.3.7 National Sub-Committees and Working Groups

The committees identified above have several groups established as sub-committees, working groups or forums:

- > Sub-committees undertake national programs that require ongoing strategic direction and input from the national committees.
- > Working groups are established to complete a defined national project within a specified period.
- > Forums are established to discuss largely jurisdictional responsibilities to promote information sharing and networking.

Where appropriate to the ACT's requirements for engagement, the ACT will be represented on these groups. In addition to ongoing contribution and support to the groups, ACT representatives will report on matters considered by these groups through SEMPWG and SEMSOG.

Figure 1 details the relationship of the key ACT and national forums for emergency management.

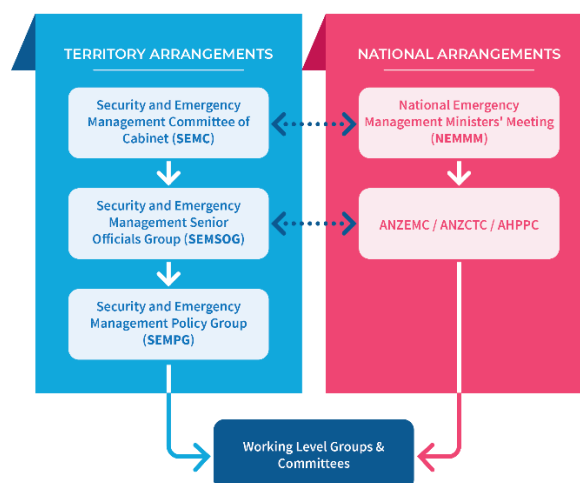


Figure 1: The interrelationship of key ACT and national forums for emergency management.

# PART 3 PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

## 3.1 CONTEXT

In the context of the Plan, arrangements for prevention establish a shared awareness and understanding of risk in the ACT, including the mechanisms and key considerations that will be applied in addressing risk.

Accountability for the management of risks in the ACT is defined and supported by a planning framework that ensures agencies have in place preparedness arrangements to respond to emergencies when they occur.

## 3.2 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Prevention and mitigation can be achieved through strategic oversight of the relevant research, risk assessment and risk reduction activities within the ACT across all levels of government. This can include but is not limited to:

- > Providing information on hazards so priorities can be set for risk reduction activities.
- > Appropriate land use requirements.
- > Supporting agencies, critical infrastructure owners and other organisations in hazard research and risk assessment activities.

The strategies for prevention and mitigation below need to be considered in the development of sub plans to the Plan.

### 3.2.1 Emergency Risk Management

The level of risk is used to describe the likelihood and consequences arising from the interaction of hazards, communities and the environment.

Risk management is a systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating and monitoring risk.

All ACT Government agencies are involved with risk management to some degree. This may include ensuring the continuity of their business or service, protecting their agency interests and personnel and protecting the community and environment from risks arising from the activities of the agency.

Accepted risk prevention measures in accordance with the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and *AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines* include:

- > Risk avoidance, that is not proceeding with the activity likely to generate the risk.
- > Risk reduction in the likelihood of harmful consequences occurring by modification of the source of risk.
- > Consequence reduction of the risk occurring by modification of susceptibility and/or increasing resilience.
- > Risk transfer resulting in another party sharing or bearing the risk.
- > Risk retention by accepting the risk and planning to manage its consequences.

The principles of Emergency Risk Management will be used to inform and develop hazard specific and supporting sub plans.

ACT Government Agencies will develop projects and plan that will aid in mitigating hazards and provide appropriate emergency management capability and capacity consistent with the TWRA which assists to prioritise natural disasters through the risk assessment process.

### **3.2.2 Climate Change and Adaptation**

The impacts of climate change have significant implications for our environment, economy and community. Many of these impacts are on the emergency management sector and appropriate planning is required for climate change to ensure our environmental, social and economic systems can cope. Current practice indicates that to effectively respond to climate change, a comprehensive and integrated process is required that:

- > Scopes and assesses the components of vulnerability within a region.
- > Assesses climate change risks and opportunities to identify priorities.
- > Results in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies to address priority risks and capitalise on opportunities.

The ACT Government released its *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025* in 2019.

The Climate Change Strategy requires consideration of climate change impacts to be ‘mainstreamed’ into policies and practices across government, households, businesses and the community. It identifies that some people in our community and some ecosystems in our region have a higher vulnerability to the risks from climate change and therefore warrant particular focus.

The Climate Change Strategy requires that climate change projections and risk vulnerabilities are reflected in disaster and emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, particularly for extreme heat, bushfire and flash flooding. Agencies consider the impact of climate change in the development of hazard specific and supporting sub plans, and where appropriate, identify appropriate mechanisms for adaptation.

### **3.2.3 Strategic Bushfire Management Plan**

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) is the overarching document that directs all levels of bushfire planning in the ACT. Its purpose is to provide a strategic framework to protect the ACT community from bushfires and reduce resulting harm to the physical, social, cultural and economic environment of the Territory.

### **3.2.4 Business Continuity**

Agencies must build business continuity management into government processes to underpin organisational resilience and support the continued delivery of the agency’s essential business in the face of disruptions caused by all types of hazards.

### **3.2.5 Protective Security**

Protective security policies and arrangements based on sound security risk management should be considered, where appropriate, in the broader context of any mitigation strategy. Effective application of protective security policies and arrangements assists in mitigating against the risk of emergency incidents which may occur because of a deliberate act.

## 3.3 PREPAREDNESS

### 3.3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

#### 3.3.1.1 Hazard Management Agencies

As defined in the Dictionary of the Act, hazard relates to a thing (including an intrinsic property of a thing), or a situation, with potential to:

- > Cause the death of or harm to a person.
- > Damage property or the environment.

Hazard Management Agencies are identified for specific hazards for the coordination of resources, information and knowledge for each hazard and undertake the appropriate level of emergency planning for the hazard.

In general, but not always, the Hazard Management Agency will be Lead Response Agency for a particular hazard as identified at Annex A.

Several different government and non-governmental agencies may have the responsibility for managing the elements of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery for a given hazard.

Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for different hazards will be dependent on support from, and collaboration with these bodies, and the Hazard Management Agency is responsible to identify and ensure appropriate coordination and input of advice from relevant agencies.

#### 3.3.1.2 Supporting Agencies

Support relates to those essential services, personnel or materials that support the operations of the Lead Response Agency that may arise from a range of different hazards.

Support may include recovery arrangements, as well as incident-based support in response to an emergency such as rescue, mass casualty and fatality management.

Supporting Agencies are those that:

- > Provide essential services, personnel or materials to support the operations of the Lead Response Agency.
- > Provide the single point of reference and advice to SEMSOG on the adequacy of the supporting agency functions.
- > Manage the coordination of resources, information and knowledge for the supporting function and undertake the appropriate level of emergency planning.

Annex B identifies those support functions that may be required by Lead Response Agencies and the Agency responsible for the delivery of supporting sub plans.

### 3.3.2 Emergency Management Planning

As required under section 147 of the Act, this Plan provides a basis for emergency management, coordination of emergency service agencies, and coordination of Territory, Commonwealth and State agencies.

Under section 148 of the Act, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services may make a hazard specific emergency sub plan. An emergency sub plan may also provide the basis for coordination of agencies.

This Plan sets out the requirements for hazard specific and coordination emergency sub plans at Annexes A and B. Annex C identifies the relationship of this Plan, the hazard specific sub plans and supporting sub plans. As required, additional sub plans may be prepared to address specific hazard or support functions.

#### 3.3.2.1 Hazard specific sub plans

Hazard specific sub plans are prepared to ensure the delivery of comprehensive emergency management arrangements relevant to the hazard.

Hazard specific sub plans will be prepared to address coordination aspects of emergency management for the hazard.

The development of hazard specific sub plans will be led and coordinated by the identified Hazard Management Agency.

When developing and reviewing sub plans, the Hazard Management Agency will consider the objectives and core principles underpinning the planning process outlined in Part 1 of this plan and ensure that adequate consultation is undertaken. As part of the review of sub plans, the lead response agency will ensure an update of the specific hazard risk assessment in the TWRA is undertaken.

Annex C identifies those hazard specific sub plans required to be prepared under this Plan.

#### 3.3.2.2 Community Communication and Information Plan (CCIP)

Section 149 of the Act requires the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to make a community communication and information plan to assist in for communicating information to the community during an emergency.

The all-agencies approach recognises that effective communication during any emergency or incident requires a coordinated and consistent approach to both operational safety advice and supporting whole of government services information.

The community communication and information plan must outline the approach to emergency communications in the ACT to enable the timely and accurate dissemination of information to the public.

The CCIP must outline the emergency communications strategy in the ACT that enables the timely and accurate dissemination of information to the public.

The Commissioner is responsible for preparing the community communication and information plan and must consult with the SEMSOG when preparing the plan. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services approves the plan.

#### 3.3.2.3 Supporting Sub Plans

Supporting sub plans will also be prepared where operational arrangements and functions may arise from a range of emergencies, such as arrangements for recovery, mass casualty and fatality management. These plans will generally be focussed on functional arrangements to provide support to the coordinating authority and may be required to operate independently of each other.

The development of supporting sub plans will be led and coordinated by the identified Supporting Agency.

Annex C identifies those supporting sub plans prepared under this Plan.

#### 3.3.2.4 Other Planning Arrangements

As required, operational plans, procedures and doctrines may be prepared to support emergency management arrangements in the ACT. These arrangements will usually be agency specific, and do not form specific sub plans to the Plan. They may include

- > operational plans for significant events, such as mass gatherings and major community or political events to direct police and emergency services in operational response specific to the event; or
- > operational procedures and doctrine to assist emergency services and agencies in responding to incidents that have a low level of complexity and require limited interagency coordination of resources. Such arrangements are at the tactical or operational level and provide the general day to day operational framework for response and supporting agencies. These arrangements will usually underpin the more complex and specific sub plans of the Plan.

#### 3.3.2.5 Commonwealth Planning Arrangements

The Australian Government through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) within the Department of Home Affairs has responsibility for Commonwealth disaster-related coordination and national security. Several strategic national plans are in place to facilitate these arrangements and are identified at Annex D.

#### 3.3.2.6 Planning Hierarchy

Planning requirements shall be consistent with the nature and potential impacts of a hazard and requirements for support.

Annexes B and C identify the appropriate level of planning required consistent with the following ranking:

- > Tier 1 - Hazard specific plans and supporting plans required as sub plans to this Plan.
- > Tier 2 – Agency specific operational plans required for hazard or support requirements, but not as a sub plan to this Plan.
- > Tier 3 – hazard or support requirements appropriately covered through Standard Operating Procedures and agency doctrine.

#### 3.3.2.7 Approval Process

Under section 147 (2) of the Act, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services must in writing make an Emergency Plan for the ACT and under section 148 (1) of the Act, may also make an emergency sub plan.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has delegated the making of emergency sub plans, except those relating to national security and the Community Communication and Information Plan.

The endorsement process for sub plans will be undertaken as follows:

- > The Sub Plan is prepared by the relevant agency for development and / or consideration by SEMPLG.
- > Following agreement by SEMPLG, the sub plan is presented by the relevant Chief Officer or Statutory Office Holder or responsible officer to SEMSOG for consideration.
- > Following agreement by SEMSOG, the sub plan is endorsed by the Chair of SEMSOG and is recommended by the relevant Chief Officer or Statutory Office Holder or responsible officer to the Emergency Services Commissioner.
- > If the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has delegated the making of the sub plan to the Emergency Services Commissioner, the Commissioner may then make the sub plan.



- > If the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has not delegated the making of the sub plan, the Commissioner may then recommend that the Minister make the sub plan.

If required by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Plan and any sub plan made under it may also be submitted to SEMC for noting.

Other operational plans and procedures (tier 2 and 3 Plans as described above) will be approved by the appropriate lead response agency or supporting agency, as identified in Annexes B and C.

#### 3.3.2.8 Document Control Arrangements

Arrangements to ensure the control of documents that include this plan, and its sub plans will be developed and maintained by the SEMD. These arrangements should include as a minimum the:

- > Roles and responsibilities related to the management of documents.
- > The infrastructure used to support document management.
- > Standards for document preparation and review.
- > Methods for document change control and review.
- > Arrangements for document storage, backup and retention.
- > Register of sub plans including indicative timelines for review.

Where appropriate, there will be restriction on distribution of sub plans and agency procedures and doctrine where information is classified under Territory or National protective security arrangements.

### 3.3.3 Capability and Capacity

Capacity and capability refer to the processes, systems, assets and supplies that enable resources for response and recovery to be assigned in a safe and efficient manner.

The requirements for capability and capacity will be addressed in detail through hazard specific sub plans and supporting sub plans and should consider the following key elements of capability and capacity that apply across agencies.

#### 3.3.3.1 Information Management

Plans will ensure processes are maintained so information is shared during operations in an appropriate and timely manner. This includes the sharing of information in order to better facilitate response as well as arrangements for progressively reporting the status of incidents to Territory Agencies and the Government.

The Lead Response Agency is responsible for providing information about an actual or potential emergency. This may utilise a range of mechanisms, including existing agency procedures and protocols.

#### 3.3.3.2 Community Warnings and Public Information

The Lead Response Agency is responsible for providing community warnings and public information about an emergency incident using the Australian Warning System (.AWS) In emergency incidents, it is a priority to:

- > Provide point-in-time information about a hazard that is impacting or is expected to impact communities.
- > Describe the impact and expected consequences for communities and includes advice on what people should do.

Strategies for community warnings and information should include:

- > Information that reflects current knowledge and understanding of how the community should prepare for and respond to different hazards.
- > Information and advice that is targeted for communities and individuals vulnerable to hazards.
- > Utilisation of a range of mediums for the dissemination of information.
- > The use of the Standard Emergency Warning Signals and Emergency Alert.

In providing public information and warnings, specific consideration will be given to community groups with special needs that can impair their capacity to access and appreciate the warnings and public information being provided.

The ACT has established and maintains Memoranda of Understanding between the ESA and local ACT media outlets to provide for information, warnings and advice to the community to assist them in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

### 3.3.3.3 Training and Exercising

The ACT will undertake exercises and workshops to examine and assess the effectiveness of emergency arrangements.

Training and exercising of this Plan and its sub plans will be undertaken on a routine basis to ensure Agencies are familiar with and understand the described emergency arrangements, and to provide for ongoing review of arrangements.

Exercises should also be conducted when:

- > A plan or a set of arrangements within a plan is new.
- > Substantial changes have occurred, or are imminent:
  - To the plan or interfacing plans or related legislation.
  - With key personnel, positions or functions across the PPRR spectrum.
  - Relevant to new or emerging sources of risk.

### 3.3.3.4 Operational Analysis and Lessons Management

The Commissioner will seek to analyse the response to and impacts of emergencies for future learning and adjust strategies where this new information and knowledge will result in improved outcomes.

Formal debriefings and analysis of findings following emergencies may be undertaken and the factors that may be considered in undertaking this analysis include:

- > Where the Lead Response Agency, Emergency Controller or Recovery Coordinator requests the analysis.
- > Whole of government or substantial resources were engaged.
- > There was loss of life or injuries, or safety was compromised.
- > There was loss of or damage to infrastructure, community assets or the environmental.
- > The community's ability to function normally was disrupted for extended periods of time
- > Where community outrage or dissatisfaction is expressed in public forums
- > Where requested through SEMSOG.

# PART 4 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

## 4.1 THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCIES IN THE ACT

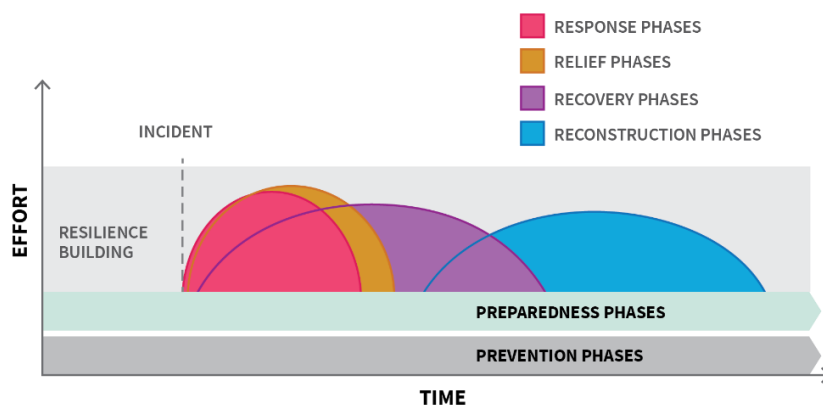
### 4.1.1 The Framework for Managing Emergencies

The framework for managing emergencies in the ACT encompasses the key functional areas of:

- > **Command and Control:** the overall direction of the activities, agencies or individuals concerned and direction of members and resources to respond to an emergency.
- > **Coordination:** bringing together of agencies and individuals to support the response to an emergency.
- > **Information and Communication:** the provision of information, advice and warnings relating to an emergency to the government and the community.

### 4.1.2 The Phases of an Emergency

An emergency may involve a number of phases. These phases may and do overlap, reflecting the dynamic nature of an emergency, and may extend for a significant period of time beyond the initial incident.



## 4.2 RESPONSE

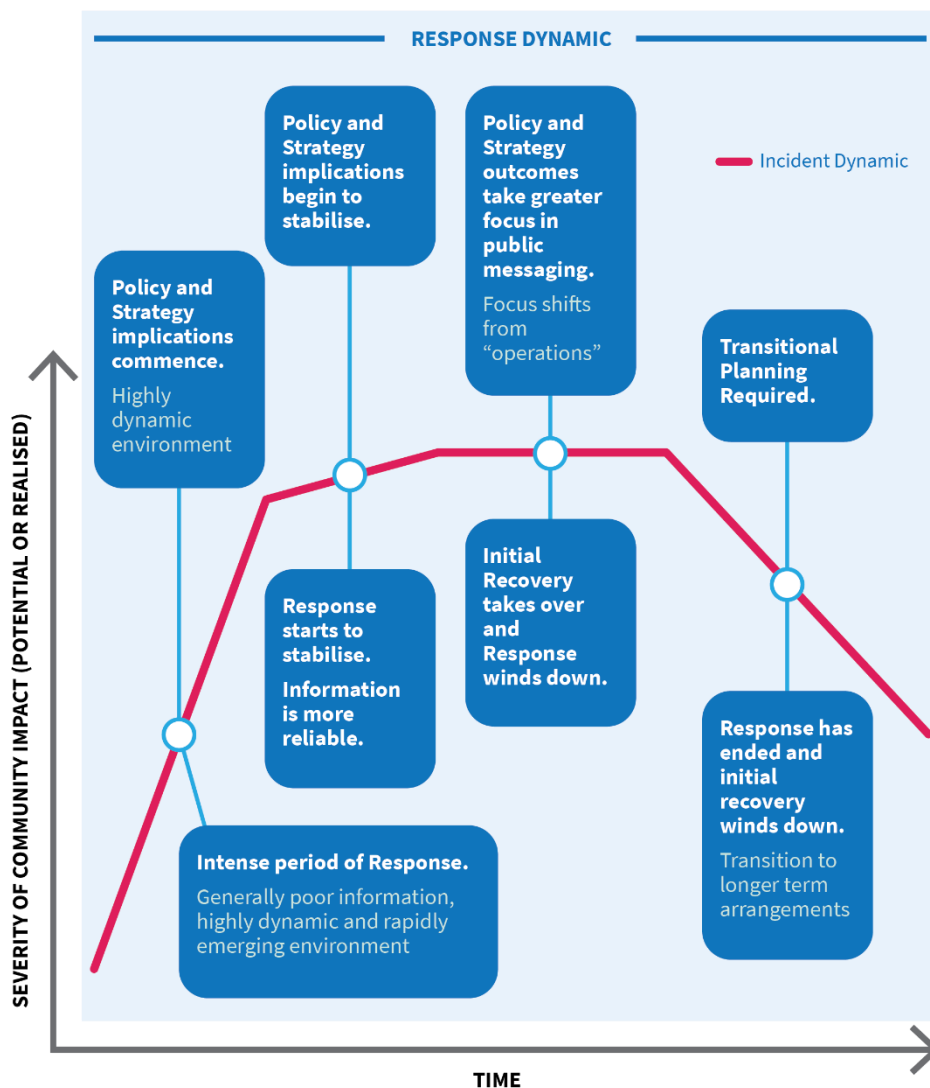
### 4.2.1 Context

For the Plan, response refers to the deployment of resources to save lives, protect property and the environment, and preserve the social and economic structure of the community. This includes, but is not limited to:

- > Activating and deploying resources and capabilities.
- > Arranging the deactivation and stand down of resources.
- > Coordinating support functions (including supporting immediate recovery).
- > Dissemination of warnings.
- > Maintaining public information and communications

> Gaining and maintaining situational awareness flow of operational information.

The response phase is characterised by its intense and dynamic operational environment. Information flows may be fragmented and/or incomplete, posing challenges for emergency managers. It is the responsibility of emergency managers effectively manage and stabilise the dynamic environment, allowing for greater situational appreciation and awareness and any policy and strategy implications arising from the incident. At some point initial response and relief efforts will wind down, transitioning to the recovery and reconstruction phases.



Response operations will be led by the relevant Lead Response Agency or Emergency Controller, as listed in Annex A.

## **4.2.2 Concept of Operations for the Management of Emergencies in the ACT**

ACT Agencies respond to a wide range of incidents and emergencies daily. Most of these responses involve only one agency however, large scale, long duration and complex incidents or emergencies require a coordinated multi-agency response.

## **4.2.3 Incident Management Systems**

The use of an Incident Management System (IMS) is an important element across multijurisdictional or multiagency incident management activities. It provides a structure to enable agencies with different legal, jurisdictional, and functional responsibilities to coordinate, plan, and interact effectively. In the ACT, two incident management systems are applied, depending on the Lead Response Agency for the incident:

### ***Australasian Interagency Incident Management System***

The Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) is the IMS adopted by the ESA Services and ACT Health to provide a management framework for all incident types, from first response to demobilisation that maximises the opportunity for seamless integration of a range of emergency response agencies.

Whilst AIIMS operates at the incident level, it provides a common, well-structured foundation for greater understanding across the various agencies (emergency and non-emergency alike) and enables better formulation of emergency management arrangements at the state and national levels.

AIIMS allows for the functional groups of Incident Control, Operations, Planning, Intelligence, Investigations, Public Information, Finance and Logistics to be established at a scale required for the emergency.

### ***Incident Command and Control System***

The system of command and control endorsed by the ANZCTC and used by ACT Policing is known as Incident Command and Control System (ICCS). It is used by ACT Policing for all incidents requiring a coordinated response, regardless of the incident type.

The principles of AIIMS are consistent with those of ICCS, which incorporate the functional areas of Command, Planning, Administration & Logistics, Operations, Investigation, Intelligence, Media and Public Information.

## **4.2.4 Legislative Arrangements**

For more significant emergencies, the Act provides for the declaration of a State of Alert or a State of Emergency, as well as the appointment of an Emergency Controller and Deputy Emergency Controller.

### **4.2.4.1 Declaration of a State of Alert**

#### ***Authority to Declare***

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services may declare in writing that a State of Alert exists for all or part of the ACT, if satisfied that an emergency is likely to happen, and the Chief Minister has not declared that a State of Emergency exists.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services may be satisfied that an emergency is likely to happen if an event has already happened or is happening, or a circumstance that exists, that may give rise to the likelihood of an emergency.

### ***Factors to Consider in Making Declaration***

Declaration of a State of Alert should be considered where it is identified as appropriate for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to directly provide information, advice and warnings to the community for an actual or impending emergency. The effect of the State of Alert is to emphasise the significance of the actual or impending emergency and its potential impact on life and property in the ACT.

### ***Recommendation to Declare***

This declaration will usually be made on the recommendation of the SEMSOG. In certain circumstances, this recommendation may come directly from the Emergency Services Commissioner, the Chief Police Officer or the Chief Health Officer. In making this recommendation, the matters considered should be discussed between these officers where the nature of the emergency permits.

In practice, this declaration should occur following consideration of the issues by the Cabinet, however it is recognised the timing and rapid or immediate onset of emergencies may require application of these arrangements without Cabinet consideration.

### ***Procedures for Declaration***

The declaration of a State of Alert requires the completion of an instrument, the template for which is held by SEMD. SEMD will coordinate the preparation and Ministerial approval of all documentation associated with a State of Alert.

The declaration of a State of Emergency automatically terminates the State of Alert. Otherwise, the revocation of a State of Alert requires the completion of an instrument, the template for which is held by SEMD.

Under section 153 of the Act, as soon as possible after the declaration that a State of Alert exists the notice of the declaration must be communicated to the public.

## **4.2.4.2 Declaration of a State of Emergency**

### ***Authority to Declare***

The Chief Minister may, if satisfied that an emergency has happened, is happening or is likely to happen, declare in writing a State of Emergency exists for all or part of the ACT.

### ***Factors to Consider in Making Declaration***

Factors that may be considered in making a declaration of a State of Emergency may include one or more of the following:

- > An emergency is imminent that could cause a significant impact on public safety, public order and/ or essential services in the ACT.
- > An emergency is happening (or has happened) that is resulting in significant impact on public safety or public order.
- > A requirement for the control and coordination of multiple agencies or whole of Territory resources by a single authority.
- > Management of the emergency exceeds or is expected to exceed the resources of the Territory.
- > Regional assistance is unable to meet the requirements of the incident.

### ***Recommendation to Declare***

This declaration will usually be made on the recommendation of the SEMSOG. In certain circumstances, this recommendation may come directly from the Emergency Services Commissioner, the Chief Police Officer or the Chief Health Officer. In making this recommendation, the matters considered should be discussed between these officers where the nature of the emergency permits.

In practice, this declaration should occur following consideration of the issues by the Cabinet, however it is recognised the timing and rapid or immediate onset of emergencies may require application of these arrangements without Cabinet consideration.

### ***Procedures for Declaration***

The declaration, and subsequent revocation, of a State of Emergency requires the completion of an instrument, the template for which is held by SEMD. SEMD will coordinate the preparation and Chief Ministerial approval of all documentation associated with a State of Emergency.

Under section 158 of the Act, as soon as possible after the declaration that a State of Emergency exists the notice of the declaration must be broadcast in the ACT by television or radio and posted on social media.

#### **4.2.4.3 Emergency Controller**

##### ***Authority to Appoint***

The Chief Minister may appoint an Emergency Controller if satisfied that an emergency has happened, is happening, or is likely to happen.

##### ***Appointment During a Declared State of Emergency***

Under section 150A of the Act, this appointment will be mandatory where a State of Emergency has been declared. See *Declaration of a State of Emergency* above.

##### ***Appointment When a State of Emergency Has Not Been Declared***

Under section 150A of the Act, the Chief Minister may appoint an Emergency Controller where no State of Emergency has been declared if the Chief Minister is satisfied an emergency has happened, is happening or is likely to happen but it is not necessary to declare a State of Emergency.

Factors that may be considered in making an appointment may include one or more of the following:

- > There is the potential for an emergency to happen that would cause a significant threat to public safety, public order and/or essential services in the ACT<sup>2</sup>.
- > On the advice of the Lead Response Agency a requirement to make provisions to manage the response to an emergency in advance of its potential impacts<sup>3</sup>.
- > The requirement for sustained application of multiple agency resources or whole of Territory resources to respond to the emergency or its consequences.
- > A requirement for the control and coordination of multiple agencies or whole of Territory resources by a single authority.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, increased threat of terrorism related activities.

<sup>3</sup> For example, forecast elevated bushfire fire danger ratings or a significant hailstorm event is predicted.

### ***Recommendation to Appoint***

This appointment will usually be made on the recommendation of SEMSOG. In certain circumstances, this recommendation may come directly from the Emergency Services Commissioner, the Chief Police Officer or the Chief Health Officer. In making this recommendation, the matters considered should be discussed between these officers where the nature of the emergency permits.

In practice, this appointment should occur following consideration of the issues by the Cabinet, however it is recognised the timing and rapid or immediate onset of emergencies may require application of these arrangements without Cabinet consideration.

### ***Determination of Appropriate Individual***

The determination of the appropriate person to undertake the role of the Emergency Controller is at the discretion of the Chief Minister.

The appointment should consider the nature and scope of the emergency and the skills, competence and experience necessary to manage the response to, and the recovery from, the emergency. Annex A has identified potential appointments to the position of Emergency Controller that reflect these considerations and the Lead Response Agency for the emergency. The recommending officer (above) will advise the Chief Minister on the nomination of an appropriate individual, considering the notional appointments in Annex A.

### ***Powers of the Emergency Controller***

The functions and powers of an Emergency Controller are identified in sections 150B and 150C of the Act.

The Chief Minister retains the capacity to direct that the Emergency Controller is not to have a particular function or part of a function or has another stated function.

General provisions applying if the Emergency Controller is appointed are identified under division 7.3.1C of the Act including the requirement to form a management executive and provision of advice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or Chief Minister.

The statutory powers of an Emergency Controller are not reduced because it is not necessary to declare a State of Emergency.

### ***Procedures for Appointment***

SEMD will undertake the necessary procedures for appointment of an Emergency Controller. The appointment of an Emergency Controller requires the completion of an instrument of appointment, the template for which is held by SEMD. That instrument of appointment specifies the powers available to the Emergency Controller.

#### **4.2.4.4 Deputy Emergency Controller**

##### ***Authority to Appoint***

The Chief Minister may appoint a Deputy Emergency Controller if satisfied that an emergency has happened, is happening, or is likely to happen.

The appointment of a Deputy Emergency Controller is not mandatory, irrespective of whether a State of Emergency has been declared.

##### ***Factors to Consider in Making Appointment***



Under section 150CA of the Act, the Chief Minister may appoint a Deputy Emergency Controller where no State of Emergency has been declared.

Section 150CA (7) requires that a person may only be appointed as Deputy Emergency Controller if the person has the management, professional and technical expertise to exercise the functions of the Deputy Emergency Controller in in section 150CB.

In practice, this appointment should occur following consideration of the issues by the Cabinet, however it is recognised the timing and rapid or immediate onset of emergencies may require application of these arrangements without Cabinet consideration.

#### ***Requirement to Consult Prior to Appointment***

Section 150CA (8) requires the Chief Minister to consult with the Emergency Controller (if one has already been appointed) or the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, SEMSOG or both if an Emergency Controller has not yet been appointed or will be appointed at the same time as the Deputy.

#### ***Determination of Appropriate Individual***

The determination of the appropriate person to undertake the role of the Deputy Emergency Controller is at the discretion of the Chief Minister.

#### ***Powers of the Deputy Emergency Controller***

The functions of a Deputy Emergency Controller are identified in sections 150B of the Act. These are to:

- > support the Emergency Controller to perform the Emergency Controller's functions mentioned in section 150B during the emergency, as directed by the Emergency Controller.
- > act as the Emergency Controller if the Emergency Controller is unavailable or is, for any other reason, unable to perform the functions of the Emergency Controller.

The Deputy Emergency Controller has all the powers of the Emergency Controller whilst acting as Emergency Controller. The Deputy Emergency Controller is not granted any powers in their role as deputy.

#### ***Procedures for Appointment***

SEMD will undertake the necessary procedures for appointment of a Deputy Emergency Controller. The appointment of a Deputy Emergency Controller requires the completion of an instrument of appointment, the template for which is held by SEMD.

## **4.3 ROLES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE ACT**

### **4.3.1 Control and Command**

#### **4.3.1.1 Cabinet**

The Cabinet provides strategic leadership to the ACT Government's response to a major incident requiring whole-of-government coordination, as appropriate to the situation. In this role, it would be supported by advice from:

- > The Emergency Controller (if one has been appointed under the Act), supported by SEMSOG.

- > SEMSOG in relation to the coordination of whole of government resources, particularly in relation to the strategy and policy implications of an emergency.
- > Where no Emergency Controller has been appointed, the Emergency Services Commissioner, Chief Police Officer, the Chief Health Officer (as appropriate to the incident).
- > In circumstances where other Directorates undertake the role of lead response agency (for example, a biosecurity emergency), that Directorate's SEMSOG representative.

#### 4.3.1.2 Emergency Controller

If appointed, the Emergency Controller has the following functions (unless otherwise directed in writing by the Chief Minister):

- > To manage the response to, and the recovery from, the emergency by ensuring that entities dealing with the emergency are appropriately deployed.
- > To coordinate the disposition of other resources to manage the emergency.
- > To advise the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Minister about the emergency.
- > To advise the community on anything relating to the state of emergency that the emergency controller considers appropriate.

The Emergency Controller's powers are outlined in section 150C (2) of the Act.

The Emergency Controller will operate from a location appropriate to ensure timely decision making and information flow to undertake the role.

The Emergency Controller may delegate functions under the Act. An instrument of delegation template is maintained by SEMD.

#### 4.3.1.3 Management Executive of the Emergency Controller

As soon as possible after an Emergency Controller is appointed (in either a declared State of Emergency or otherwise) the Emergency Controller must establish a management executive for the emergency. The management executive will provide support to the Emergency Controller in the exercise of this role.

While the makeup of the management executive is at the discretion of the Emergency Controller, it is expected the members of the SEMSOG will form the Emergency Controller's Management Executive in most emergencies.

While the function of the management executive is to provide advice and support to the Emergency Controller, the Emergency Controller is not required to consult with the management executive in undertaking their duties to manage the response to an emergency.

#### 4.3.1.4 Operational Advisory Group

During a significant incident, an Operational Advisory Group (OAG) may, at the direction of the Commissioner, Chief Police Officer or Chief Health Officer be established to provide incident specific advice to the Commissioner, Chief Police Officer or Chief Health Officer.

Membership of an OAG includes, but is not limited to the Emergency Services Agency Executive, the Incident Controller(s), the Recovery Coordinator, the Public Information Coordinator and the ECC Coordinator.

An OAG should always be activated when multiple and/or concurrent incidents are occurring. For example, the OAG will be established to provide advice during concurrent Bushfire, Extreme Heat and Energy Supply incidents.

The OAG will not be established, or will be disbanded, in the event an emergency is declared, and the functions of this group will be undertaken by the management executive of the Emergency Controller.

4.3.1.5 Incident Controller

All emergency incidents will have a single controlling individual, consistent with the concept of Unified Command.

The title of this individual may differ depending on who is the lead agency and the scale of incident; however, the functions and responsibilities do not. Table 1 below identifies differing terminology used by the main ACT Response Agencies in this matter. For the purposes of this plan, the term *Incident Controller* will be used to describe this role.

Table 1 – Examples of Agency Specific Titles for Incident Controller

Type of incident	Incident Controller - Specific Titles		
	AFP- ACT Policing	ESA Services	ACT Health
Routine operational response	Police Forward Commander	Incident Controller	Health Controller
Significant response or emergency	Police Commander	Incident Controller	Health Controller

The Lead Response Agency, identified in Annex A, is the responsible agency for managing response to an incident because of its expertise and resources.

The Incident Controller may be located at, close to or remote from the incident depending on complexity and support requirements.

The appointment of Incident Controller will be determined based upon the nature and scope of incident and the skills, competence and experience necessary to manage the response to the incident as determined by the Lead Response Agency.

If an Emergency Controller is appointed, the role of Incident Controller will remain, and continue to undertake the necessary functions in relation to combating the incident, with overall direction and coordination through the Emergency Controller.

The Incident Controller will have the appropriately delegated responsibility to undertake the necessary response to an incident as determined by the Lead Response Agency.

Regardless of lead response agency arrangements, several response agencies may be required to work closely to mitigate the consequences of incidents<sup>4</sup>. Consistent with the concepts of Unified Command, all relevant responding agencies will operate within a common set of incident objectives and strategies whose focus is on the tactical management of the incident.

The following infrastructure will be maintained to support the functions of the Incident Controller:

#### ***Incident Control Centre***

ESA will administer and maintain an Incident Control Centre (ICC) and draw upon liaison staff and other specialist support as necessary when ESA Services are the lead response agency to manage the overall incident.

Where other Lead Response or Supporting Agencies (e.g., for biosecurity incidents or environmental, infrastructure or social recovery) have no dedicated facilities, the ESA facilities may be utilised, or other locations may be identified to support directorate operations or to provide for continuity of operations.

#### ***Police Operations Centre***

ACT Policing administer and maintain the Police Operations Centre (POC). It is used by the Police Commander to support the overall operational response to a planned or unplanned incident requiring command and control activity which is beyond normal operational response and communications (and or impacts on routine operational management and communications). Where appropriate the Police Commander will utilise the expertise and technical skills of liaison officers.

#### ***Health Emergency Control Centre***

ACT Health administer and maintain the Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) capability for controlling a health sector emergency response. ACT Health will draw upon liaison staff and other specialist staff when the HECC is activated as necessary.

#### ***Forward Command Post or Police Forward Command Post***

Where appropriate, Control may be exercised near the incident site through the establishment of a Forward Command Post (FCP) or Police Forward Command Post (PFCP).

The FCP or PFCP allows the Lead Response Agency or the Police Forward Commander a location from which they can exercise command, facilitate control and coordinate allocated resources.

The FCP/PFCP may change location or nature to meet the changing circumstances of the event.

More than one FCP/PFCP may be established for multiple and simultaneous incidents.

### **4.3.2 Coordination**

#### **4.3.2.1 Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group**

SEMSOG may be convened to support the government's planning for, and response to, an emergency where there is a requirement for the sharing and prioritisation of government resources in response to

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<sup>4</sup> For example, ACT Policing are the Lead Response Agency for Motor Vehicle Collisions, however the supporting functions of ACT Fire and Rescue Service and ACT Ambulance Service for extraction and patient transport respectively will be the immediate priority for response.

the emergency and to consider and coordinate response to the strategic and policy implications of the emergency.

A meeting of SEMSOG may be called by the chair following consultation with, or at the request of, other SEMSOG members, the Incident Controller or Emergency Controller if appointed.

Lead Response Agencies may nominate an appropriate officer to represent their Agency in circumstances where the appointed official is unable to attend.

Specifically, SEMSOG's principle focus during the response and recovery phases for an emergency is to:

- > Assist in making available the necessary resources and commitment from the relevant Directorates to support an effective emergency response and recovery capability.
- > Consider the strategic and policy implications of the emergency on the operation and functions of the ACT Government, including the role of the ACT Government in providing support to the community.
- > Provide advice to the Incident Controller, Emergency Controller or Recovery Coordinator (if appointed) on matters requiring attention and the functioning of Directorates in responding to an emergency.
- > Provide advice to Ministers and Cabinet on the strategic and policy implications of an emergency.
- > Establishing and supporting the governance structures and resources required to manage the longer terms issues associated with recovery and reconstruction.
- > Supporting the functions of the Recovery Coordinator and recovery arrangements.

Should an Emergency Controller be appointed, the emergency controller, in conjunction with SEMSOG, will determine the requirements for a Management Executive and what functions of SEMSOG can be temporarily transferred to the Management Executive with the Ministers for Police and Emergency Services approval.

The Management Executive will be supported by the ECC, with secretariat support for the Management Executive being provided by the JACS Security and Emergency Management Division.

#### 4.3.2.2 Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)

The role of the ECC is to support the operations of the Incident during emergencies and provide strategic policy advice to SEMSOG through agency liaison officers.

The ECC in the ACT is administered and maintained by the ESA. Where other Lead Response, Emergency Controller, Recovery Coordinator or Supporting Agencies (e.g., for biosecurity Incidents or environmental, infrastructure or social recovery) have no dedicated facilities, the ESA ECC facilities may be utilised, or other locations may be identified to support directorate operations or to provide for continuity of operations. The ECC can also be established as a virtual coordination centre.

The ECC Coordinator will manage the operation of the ECC when activated. The activation of the ECC will be at the discretion of the Emergency Controller (if appointed) or Commissioner. When activated, the ECC will initially include as a minimum, representatives from all ACT Government Directorates with further activation or deactivation of Liaison Officers dependent on the scale of the emergency and the functions that may need to be undertaken.

The functions of the ECC are to provide for the coordination of resources required to support the operations of the Incident Controller and/or Emergency Controller and/or Recovery Coordinator (if appointed) and to manage the consequences of an emergency. This will principally be undertaken through Supporting Agencies:

- > Implementing the requests and direction of the Incident Controller or Emergency Controller (if appointed) or Recovery Coordinator (if appointed) through the structures of the Supporting Agency. This may include recovery actions, closures and exclusions and provision of resources and capability in support of the operation.
- > Coordinating relevant government assistance and support during major incidents.
- > Providing for the engagement and coordination of non-governmental agencies and organisations to provide support to the emergency operations and support to manage the consequences of an emergency.
- > Coordinating agency specific planning and preparation for undertaking supporting functions in the short term, as well as over extended periods. Consistent with the sub plans to this plan, Supporting Agencies may establish coordination arrangements and infrastructure within their agency to assist in their Agency's response to an emergency.
- > Assisting in information management between other jurisdictional governments and the Commonwealth Government.

Further detail outlining the functioning of the ECC is available in the ECC Operations Plan which is a supporting sub plan to this Emergency Plan.

#### 4.3.2.3 Emergency Coordination Centre Coordinator

An Emergency Coordination Centre Coordinator (ECC Coordinator) will be appointed when the complexity of incidents exceeds the capacity of the Incident Controller to coordinate the necessary resources to support incident response and an ECC is required. The ECC Coordinator will lead the ACT Government Directorates and other agencies represented in the ECC in providing the necessary support to the lead response agency.

The ECC Coordinator will report to the Incident Controller or the Emergency Controller (where appointed).

The ECC Coordinator has the overall responsibility for the coordination and delivery of resources in support of the Lead Response Agency. This will include government directorates and their resources and may require the activation of specific supporting sub plans.

#### 4.3.2.4 Agency Liaison Officers

For emergency coordination, Supporting Agency Liaison Officers will represent their Directorate or agency at the ECC.

The role of the Liaison Officers is to:

- > Maintain communications with and convey the directions or requests of the Emergency Controller (if appointed), Incident Controller and/or Recovery Coordinator (if appointed) to their Directorate or agency.
- > Provide advice to the Emergency Controller (if appointed), Incident Controller and/or Recovery Coordinator (if appointed) on the status, capabilities and requirements of their organisation in supporting emergency response.
- > Provide information and advice to their Directorate or agency on the status and other relevant information relating to the emergency, including their organisation's operations in support of the emergency response.
- > Ensure that their Directorate's arrangements for notifying their Minister are activated.

- > Provide advice and support to their SEMSOG member.

Directorates need to ensure Liaison Officers have the appropriate level of delegation to direct internal resources of their agencies in the context of the incident and provide appropriate information and advice to their Directorate. For significant emergencies, senior agency officers may be required to undertake this role.

Agencies need to ensure appropriate personnel are identified to provide for continuous and ongoing support during significant and potentially long running incidents, both to support Agency functions within the ECC and within their Agency.

Further detail outlining the role of Liaison Officers and Agencies is available in the ECC Operations Plan which is a supporting sub plan to this Emergency Plan.

#### 4.3.2.5 High Level Coordination Arrangements and Concurrent Emergencies

Considerations of high-level coordination arrangements, including the management of concurrent emergencies is contained at Annex

#### 4.3.2.6 Arrangements for Responding to a Terrorism Incident

Consistent with national arrangements for counter terrorism, support and policy advice to the SEMSOG and Cabinet in response to Terrorism incidents will be provided through the ECC.

### 4.3.3 Information and Communications

#### 4.3.3.1 Public Information Coordinator

The Public Information Coordinator is responsible for the operation of the PICC when activated. The scaling up of the PICC will be at the discretion of the Public Information Coordinator and they may appoint one or more Deputy Public Information Coordinator. The level of activation of the PICC is determined by the scale of the emergency and the functions that may need to be undertaken because of the emergency.

The PICC will be maintained in readiness to coordinate the development, clearance and delivery of Whole of Government information to the community through multiple channels.

#### 4.3.3.2 Public Information Coordination Centre

The Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC) will be maintained to support the functions of the Public Information Coordinator.

The Public Information Coordinator is responsible for the operation of the PICC when activated. The scaling up of the PICC will be at the discretion of the Public Information Coordinator and they may appoint one or more Deputy Public Information Coordinator. The level of activation of the PICC is determined by the scale of the emergency and the functions that may need to be undertaken as a consequence of the emergency.

The PICC will be maintained in readiness to coordinate the development, clearance and delivery of Whole of Government information to the community through multiple channels.

### 4.3.4 Operational Arrangements and Relationships

Figures 2 and 3 below illustrate the relationship of the functions of control, command, coordination and information for a significant emergency where Emergency Controller has not been appointed (figure 2) and where an Emergency Controller has been appointed (figure 3) Other functions relating to specific emergencies, such as Health emergencies, may have additional arrangements consistent with this plan and which are identified in the appropriate sub plan for that hazard.

Figure 2 - Emergency arrangements for a significant incident with no Emergency Controller appointed

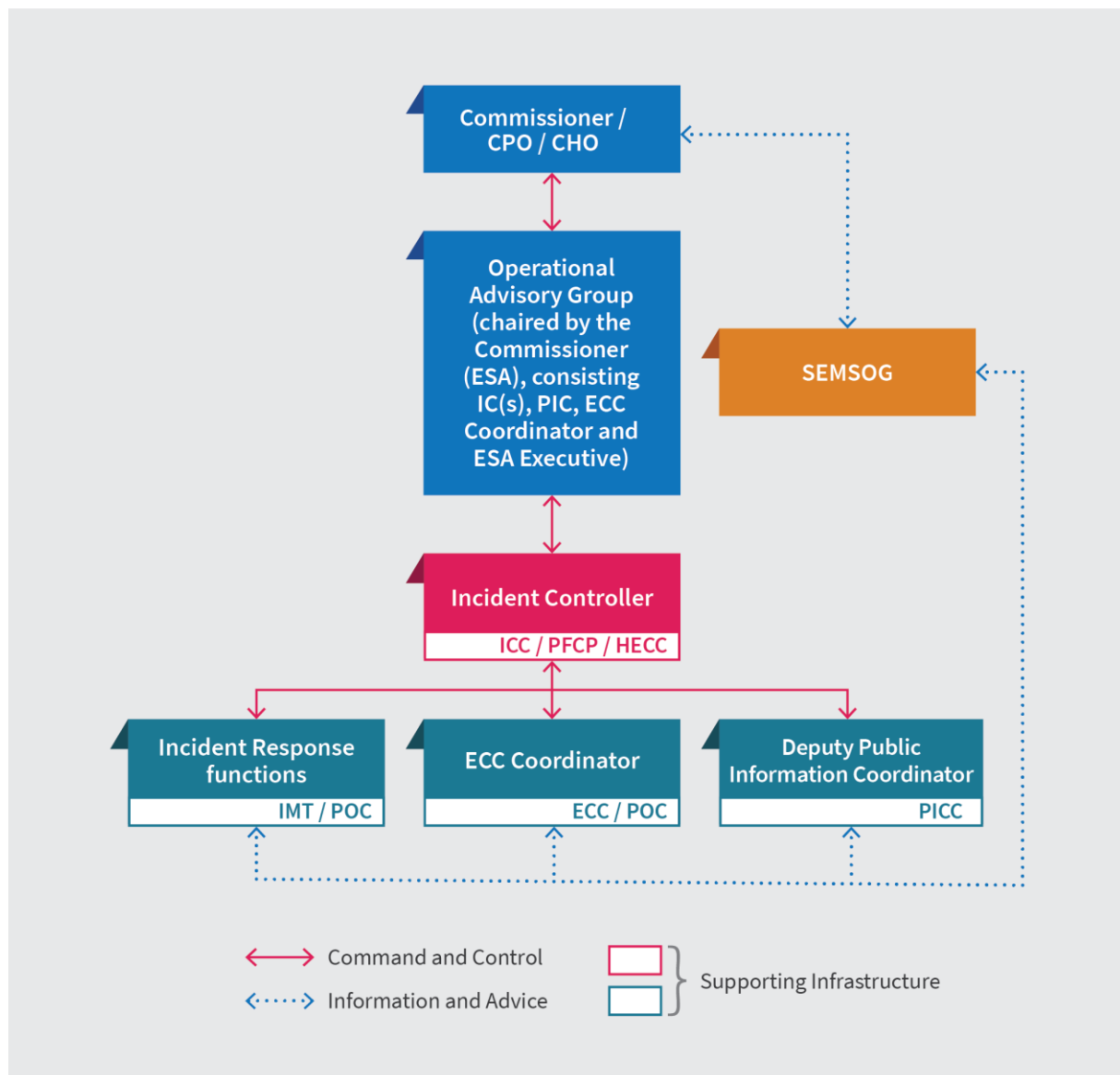
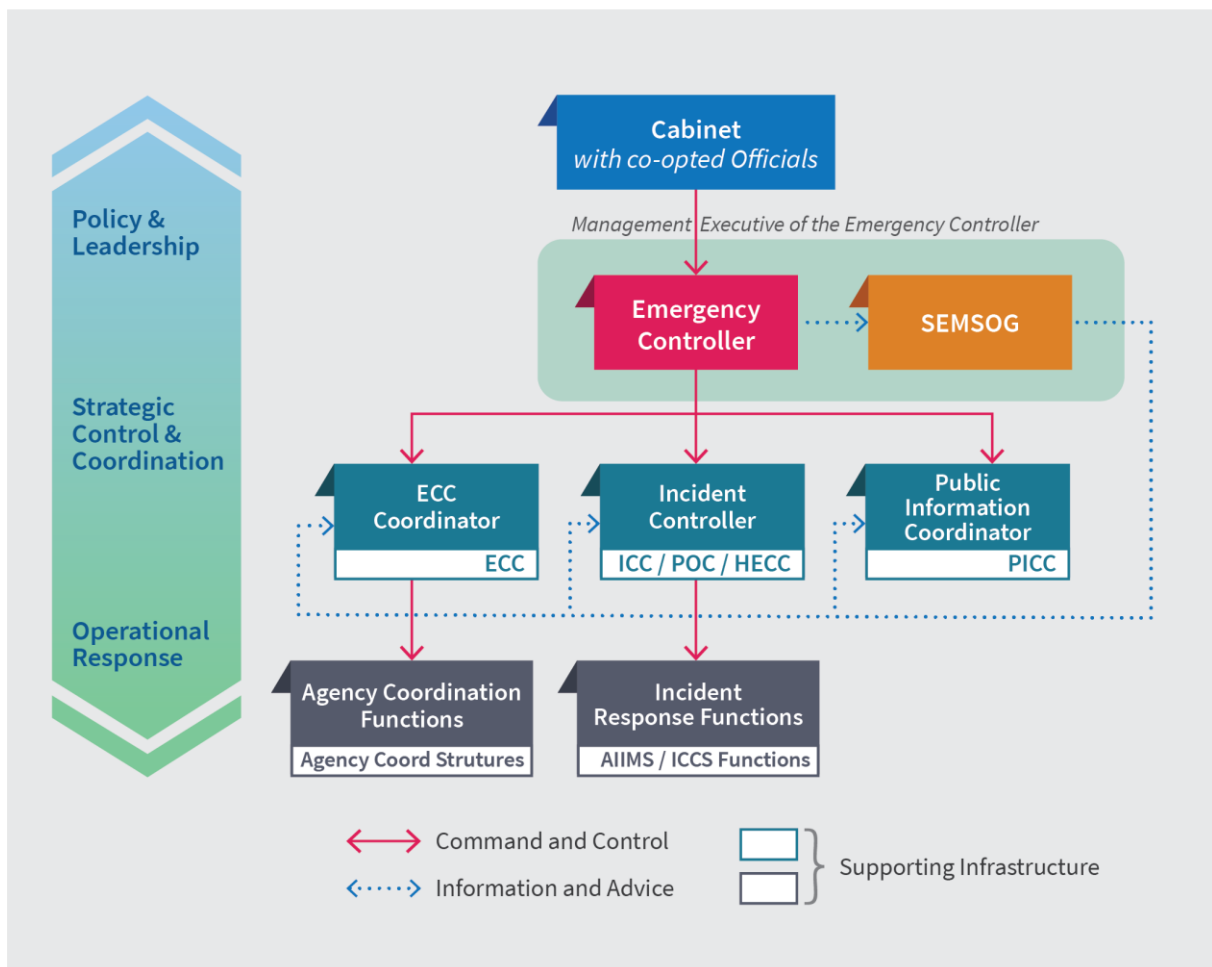




Figure 3 - Emergency arrangements for an emergency with an Emergency Controller appointed



The functional areas in figures 2 and 3 must operate in a seamless and collaborative manner. The flow of operational information between the functional areas of Command / Control, Coordination and Information / Communication must operate effectively to ensure timely and accurate provision of information between ACT Governments directorates, the government as well as the provision of information, warnings and advice to the community. Important objectives relating to information management and communication during emergencies include:

- > Clear and unambiguous arrangements to provide for decisive leadership and accountability.
- > Rigorous but simplified arrangements, recognising the normal structures and pathways for communication in government may not be responsive to the emergency environment.
- > Timely and accurate information, warnings and advice to the community.
- > Short pathways of communication (oral and written) between functions in a rapidly evolving public information environment to enable the collation, validation and dissemination of information.
- > Information that is consistent and validated – a “single point of truth”.

These objectives become severely tested during the operations phase of emergencies, particularly during the intense period of response and it is for this reason that the co-location of essential functions is critical to:

- > Disseminate timely and accurate information across control, coordination and information structures in a rapidly evolving emergency environment.
- > Ensure the coordination functions (ECC) provided by supporting agencies are closely integrated with the command-and-control functions (ICC) to the incident.
- > Provide for timely activation of coordination and public information functions in support of Response and Initial Recovery operations.
- > Provide the ability for all functions to attend strategic operational briefings, maintain effective formal and informal communication pathways and ensure that Emergency Controller, the management executive and SEMSOG can maintain an overview of the emergency.
- > Provide the ability for the Chief Minister and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to be accurately briefed in a timely manner allowing them to fulfil their statutory obligations with regards to the provision of regular situation reports to the community.
- > Address the need for immediate access by the media to the Chief Minister, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and relevant Emergency Services and other Government officials who have been briefed with the latest, most up-to-date information.

### **4.3.5 Support to Other Jurisdictions**

#### **4.3.5.1 Interstate and Commonwealth Assistance**

When the scale and complexity of an emergency event is such that the response resources of the ACT are likely to be depleted, several arrangements are in place for State and Commonwealth assistance to be requested and administered to the ACT, subject to the nature of the presenting emergency.

#### **4.3.5.2 Interstate Memoranda of Understanding**

ACT Policing and ESA maintain multiple memoranda of understanding (MOU) and arrangements that direct day-to-day and emergency cooperative arrangements with corresponding organisations in other jurisdictions. During complex multi-agency events, frameworks to support collective decision-making are required.

Under multi-agency responses participating and support agencies intent for the utilisation of inter jurisdictional MOUs should be communicated through the highest activated level of control. Notifications on the requirement for extra-jurisdictional assistance are a matter for agency executives to collectively consider.

#### **4.3.5.3 Emergency Services Cooperative Agreements**

Under the Act the Minister for Police and Emergency Services may enter a written arrangement with a Commonwealth or State agency, or an agency of a foreign country, to facilitate cooperation in emergency management; or in the day-to-day operations of an ACT agency if the operations involve the provision of emergency services outside the ACT or the provision of emergency services in the ACT by a Commonwealth or State agency. Arrangements for the command and control of interstate support units and individual specialists operating under cooperative agreements are stated in the Act.

#### **4.3.5.4 Commonwealth Assistance**

At an operational level, the Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) sets out arrangements for requests for assistance from jurisdictions affected by emergencies and disasters.

Commonwealth resources can be requested by the Chair of the SEMSOG through the National Situation Room (NSR) to respond to the request.

Standing arrangements exist for government-to-government consultation and cooperation in the face of an emergency with particular severity (which might trigger the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements or National Counter-Terrorism Committee arrangements, for example) or with cross-jurisdictional or even national impacts. Typically, this would occur between the Chief Minister and the relevant First Minister.

#### 4.3.5.5 Australian Defence Force Assistance

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) maintains capabilities to assist civil authorities in emergencies under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) and Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities (DFACA) arrangements (Part IIIA of the Defence Act 1903). DACC and DFACA may apply when a specific threat or incident is beyond the capabilities of the civil authorities.

Where the Chief Minister determines the ACT's resources and capabilities are insufficient to manage a threat or incident and the use of force is envisaged, the Governor-General can authorise the use of ADF resources under the provisions of Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities (DFACA) (Part IIIA of the Defence Act 1903 or section 61 of the Australian Constitution). In practice this should occur following consideration of the issues by the Cabinet.

Where force is not required, the ADF can assist under the provisions of DACC. Requests for such assistance are made directly to local ADF Command in the case of DACC 1 requests or via a request for Australian Government Assistance to EMA.

## 4.4 RELIEF AND RECOVERY

### 4.4.1 Context

Relief is the provision of essential and urgent assistance to individuals, families and communities during and immediately after an emergency. It enables affected individuals and families to get the assistance they need to meet their urgent and immediate needs, including medical services, shelter, food, water, household items and financial assistance. Relief is generally within 24 hours of an emergency and up to 3 months, however relief and recovery activities generally occur concurrently.

Recovery includes medium term recovery through to long term recovery (over 12 months). The term recovery describes the sustained activities undertaken after an emergency to assist impacted individuals, families and communities to regain a sustainable and effective level of functioning. Recovery is a whole of government responsibility. It is a significant component of emergency management and is integral in preparing for emergencies.

Effective recovery in the ACT will require the application of government and non-governmental resources and capability in planned and coordinated activities. Arrangements for the coordination of recovery efforts are set out in the ACT Recovery Plan.

The recovery process will commence as soon as possible either during or immediately following the incident and it is essential that the requirements of recovery operations are assessed and planned during the earliest stages of emergency response operations. The Emergency Controller (if appointed) or Incident Controller is responsible for ensuring initial recovery planning occurs.

Usually, recovery is initially managed in close collaboration with emergency response efforts and may transition into a longer-term effort separate to emergency response. Recovery arrangements run in

parallel to the response to an emergency and will continue until the transition to usual community and government structures.

The ACT's recovery arrangements are based on the National Principles for Disaster Recovery, which were endorsed in 2018 by the Social Recovery Reference Group as an independent advisory group to the ANZEMC Community Outcome and Recovery Sub-Committee. In addition, the ACT has its own recovery principles which build on the National Principles and provide further guidance on the approach in the ACT.

#### **4.4.2 Administrative Arrangements**

The ACT Recovery Plan provides broad and scalable options for recovery arrangements in the ACT.

This Plan informs and assist recovery activities from smaller incidents, potentially able to be managed by as business as usual, escalating to deliberate activities requiring cross-agency coordination.

##### **4.4.2.1 Relief and Immediate Recovery**

During and in the immediate aftermath of an emergency, community relief and immediate recovery is mostly focused on supporting affected persons to deal with the immediate consequences of the event, particularly to meet basic personal needs (e.g., food, water, shelter).

The Incident Controller will work closely with the Community Services Directorate to provide social relief and immediate recovery services following an emergency and can be supported by other government and non-governmental organisations, depending on their capacity and the presence of support services in the area.

##### **4.4.2.2 The Appointment of a Recovery Coordinator**

In the event of escalation of recovery beyond initial and business as usual requirements, SEMSOG may provide advice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on the most appropriate person to undertake the role of the Recovery Coordinator. A Recovery Coordinator may be appointed by the Minister if the Minister is satisfied that the scale or nature of the emergency requires, or is likely to require, a recovery operation involving different territory agencies. This appointment is based off advice from SEMSOG or the Emergency Controller (if appointed).

The responsibilities of the Recovery Coordinator could include assessing immediate, medium- and long-term recovery needs, developing an ACT Recovery Action Plan, advising SEMSOG and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services of the progress of recovery activities and engaging with the community on recovery efforts. As far as practicable, the recovery coordinator's functions must be exercised in accordance with any part of this plan, or any sub-plan, that deals with recovery operations.

A Recovery Taskforce (led by the Recovery Coordinator) may also be established on the advice of SEMSOG to plan and coordinate long-term recovery across all areas of government and to consider the needs of the affected community, consistent with the Recovery Plan.

#### **4.4.3 Elements of Recovery**

Recovery requires a consideration of the following elements:

- > Social Recovery.
- > Economic Recovery.
- > Built Recovery.
- > Environmental Recovery.

While the different domains require different recovery actions, the domains are inextricably linked. Impacts on any one of these can also impact another. For example – large scale economic impacts, such as job losses are likely to affect the mental health and well-being of community members. Therefore, activities to address one domain must be considered alongside other domains.

#### 4.4.3.1 Social Recovery

The ACT Government Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No1) assigns responsibility for Community Recovery and Emergency Relief to the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services. The Community Services Directorate has responsibility for managing and delivering social recovery services during and following an emergency. This includes immediate relief such as emergency accommodation, food, water. Clothing and emergency finance. These arrangements are delivered in conjunction with, or by, community functional partners and non-government organisations.

CSD is also responsible for the operation of ACT evacuation centres and recovery centres.

#### 4.4.3.2 Economic Recovery

Financial assistance for the restoration of the community, infrastructure or environment will be targeted towards the restoration of government services and business activity within the ACT. It may include medium and long-term financial support to the community and affected businesses and will be undertaken with consultation with industry groups and the business sector.

CMTEDD is responsible for economic recovery and will undertake recovery activities aimed at stimulating the economic recovery of the ACT after an emergency. CMTEDD will also oversee and manage recovery work undertaken by telecommunications providers to restore telecommunications services after an emergency. If recovery efforts require the centralisation and coordination of public messaging, the Public Information Coordinator (PIC) will coordinate this through CMTEDD and the Recovery Coordinator (if appointed).

The Commonwealth Government provides support to States and Territories through tailored assistance programs. These programs include the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP). Details of these arrangements are to be found in the Economic Recovery Annex of the ACT Recovery Plan.

#### 4.4.3.3 Built Recovery

Built Recovery provides for a coordinated response to, and recovery from, emergencies including the restoration of transport networks, public transport and waste management and includes the management of demolition and clean up processes.

The restoration of critical and social infrastructure is also required and includes those physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies, and communication networks which, if destroyed or unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact on the social or economic well-being of the ACT.

#### 4.4.3.4 Environmental Recovery

Environmental Recovery is aimed at the restoration of the natural and rural environment and the services this provides, including agricultural and primary production, biodiversity, air quality and water catchments.

Public health is an important component of recovery as health issues can arise as the consequence of an emergency (e.g., disease, acute illness and sanitation). Environmental health considerations have consequences for populations with existing vulnerabilities.

# PART 5 DICTIONARY & ACRONYMS

## 5.1 GLOSSARY

Unless otherwise referenced, definitions used in this Glossary are sourced from the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

Other definitions used in this plan are sourced from:

- > The *Legislation Act 2001* and other relevant Australian Capital Territory legislation.
- > The Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary.
- > The National Counter-Terrorism Plan.
- > ACT Government Cabinet Handbook.

**All Agencies Approach:** Arrangements for dealing with emergencies involving an active partnership between Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and local levels of government, statutory authorities, and voluntary and community organisations. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**All Hazards Approach:** Dealing with all types of emergencies or disasters and civil defence using the same set of management arrangements. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Chief Health Officer:** a statutory office under the ACT *Public Health Act 1997*. Under the Public Health Act 1997, the chief Health Officer has designated powers and roles to develop and implement strategies to promote and protect the health of the public. (Source: *Public Health Act 1997*).

**Chief Minister:** means the Chief Minister of the ACT.

**Emergency Services Chief Officer:** means the Chief Officer of one of the ACT Emergency Service Agency's four services being the:

- > ACT Ambulance Service.
- > ACT Fire & Rescue Service.
- > ACT Rural Fire Service.
- > ACT State Emergency Service

**Chief Police Officer:** means the Chief Police Officer of the Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing.

**Command:** The direction of members and resources of an organisation in the performance of the organisation's role and tasks. Authority to command is established by legislation or by agreement with the agency/organisation. Command relates to organisations and operates vertically within an organisation. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Concept of Operations:** This refers to the Incident Controller's general operational intent, given the anticipated problems of the effects of the event, of how the emergency response and recovery operation is to be conducted. It is a statement of the Controller's operational intentions and may be expressed in terms of stages / phases of the emergency operation.

**Comprehensive Approach:** 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. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Control:** The overall direction of Emergency Management activities in an emergency. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency plan and carries with it the responsibility for tasking other organisations in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across organisations. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Coordination:** The bringing together of organisations and elements to ensure an effective response, primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisation, personnel and equipment) in accordance with the requirements imposed by the threat or impact of an emergency. Coordination relates primarily to resources, and operates, vertically, within an organisation, as a function of the authority to command, and horizontally, across organisations, as a function of the authority to control. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Critical Infrastructure:** The physical structures, facilities, networks and other assets which provide services that are essential to the social and economic functioning of a community or society. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC):** Defence Aid to the Civil Community is the physical assistance provided by the Australian Defence Force in emergency situations. Generally, DACC assistance is provided in situations where immediate action is needed to save human life, or prevent extensive loss of animal life, or loss or damage to property and the scale of the emergency is beyond local civilian resources.

**Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities (DFACA):** Where civilian authorities determine that their resources and capabilities are insufficient to manage the threat or incident and the use of force is envisaged, the Governor-General can authorise the use of ADF resources under the provisions of Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities.

**Emergency:** an actual or imminent event that requires a significant and coordinated response. Examples of such events include:

- > Fire, flood, storm or earthquake.
- > Accident or explosion.
- > Epidemic or animal disease.
- > Shortage of electricity, gas, fuel or water.

**Emergency Controller:** means the person appointed to be the Emergency Controller under the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

**Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC):** The Emergency Coordination Centre is established to coordinate the ACT support to Emergency Management operations and is located at the Emergency Services Agency Headquarters at Fairbairn, ACT. The ECC brings resources of organisations together to meet requirements imposed by the threat of hazard impact.

**Emergency Coordination Centre Coordinator:** The ECC Coordinator will lead the agencies represented in the ECC in providing the necessary support to the lead response agency.

**Emergency Management:** A range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment; the organisation and management of resources for dealing with all aspects of emergencies. Emergency

management involves the plans, structures and arrangements which are established to bring together the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to deal with the whole spectrum of emergency needs including prevention, response and recover. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Emergency Services Agency:** is a business unit of the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

**Emergency Service Agency Executive:** includes (but is not limited to) the positions of Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioners, Chief Officers of the Emergency Services and the senior financial officer of the ESA.

**Emergency Services Commissioner:** The public servant appointed by the Director-General in accordance with section 7 of the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

**Evacuation:** Evacuation is a risk management strategy, which may be used as a means of mitigating the effects of an emergency or hazard on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location. However, to be effective in must be correctly planned and executed.

**Supporting Sub-Plan:** A document describing roles and responsibilities and arrangements for the performance of a key response or recovery function in support of the ACT Emergency Plan to an identified hazard.

**Hazard:** Hazard relates to a thing (including an intrinsic property of a thing), or a situation, with potential to (a) cause the death of or harm to a person; and (b) damage property or the environment.

**Hazard Management Agency:** A government and non-governmental agency that has responsibility for managing the elements of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery for a given hazard. Several different agencies may have these responsibilities for a hazard.

**Hazardous Material Incident:** An incident involving a hazardous material causing or creating a substantial risk of death or serious harm to a person, or substantial damage to property or the environment.

**Incident:** An event, occurrence or set of circumstances that: has a definite spatial extent; a definite duration; calls for human intervention; has a set of concluding conditions that can be defined; is or will be under the control of an individual who has the authority to make decisions about the means by which it will be brought to an end. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Incident Controller:** The individual responsible for the management of all incident control activities across a whole incident. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Incident Control Centre (ICC):** The location where the Incident Controller and various members of the Incident Management Team provide overall direction of response activities. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Interstate or Overseas Emergency Service:** Any entity established under law of the Commonwealth, a State, another Territory or a foreign Country as an Ambulance Services, Fire Brigade, Rural Fire or emergency service.

**Lead Response Agency:** An organisation which, because of its expertise and resources, is primarily responsible for dealing with an identified hazard.

**Minister:** means the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.



**Mitigation:** means measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Natural Disaster:** a natural disaster is a serious disruption to a community or region caused by the impact of a naturally occurring rapid onset event that threatens or causes death, injury or damage to property or the environment and which requires significant and coordinated multi-agency and community response. Such serious disruption can be caused by anyone, or a combination, of the following natural hazards: bushfire; earthquake; flood; storm; cyclone; storm surge; landslide; tsunami; meteorite strike; or tornado.

**Non-Governmental Agency:** Non-profit making organisation operating at the local, national, or international levels. Distinct from a governmental organisation, having no statutory ties with a national government. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Operational Advisory Group:** The Operational Advisory Group (OAG) may, at the direction of the Commissioner, Chief Police Officer or Chief Health Officer be established to provide advice relevant to the Incident controller(s), Police Commander or Health Controller. Membership of an OAG includes, but is not limited to the Emergency Services Agency Executive, the Incident Controller(s), the Public Information and ECC Coordinators.

**Police Commander:** The name used by ACT Policing to refer to an Incident Controller when that position is held by a member of ACT Policing for a police-led incident.

**Police Forward Commander (PFC):** The ACT Policing officer responsible for establishing unified command and takes responsibility for the operational and tactical application of resources at the scene.

**Police Forward Command Post:** The Police Forward Command Post (PFCP) is the location from which the PFC exercises command, facilitates control and coordinates allocated resources. A PFCP can be established at any time when a situation presents a physical threat requiring a police response. It can range from a police vehicle to a room or facility containing sophisticated communication and computer equipment.

**Police Operations Centre:** A centre established to control and support police operations. It is the location from which the Police Commander directs the overall operational response to an incident.

**Preparedness:** The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters. Preparedness action is carried out within the context of disaster risk management and aims to build the capacities needed to efficiently manage all types of emergencies and achieve orderly transitions from response to sustained recovery. Preparedness is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and good linkages with early warning systems, and includes such activities as contingency planning, the stockpiling of equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Prevention:** Activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks. Prevention (i.e., disaster prevention) expresses the concept and intention to completely avoid potential adverse impacts of hazardous events. While certain disaster risks cannot be eliminated, prevention aims at reducing vulnerability and exposure in such contexts where, as a result, the risk of disaster is removed. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Public Information Coordinator:** The Public Information Coordinator is responsible for oversight of public and media information activities for emergencies in the ACT.

**Public Information Coordination Centre:** A centre maintained in readiness to coordinate development, clearance and delivery of information through multiple channels, including forward media briefing sites, internet, media/social media and Access Canberra.

**Recovery:** The restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better’, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk (Australian Disaster Recovery Framework 2022).

**Recovery Coordinator:** means the person appointed to be the Recovery Coordinator under the Emergencies Act 2004.

**Response:** Actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**Risk:** a concept used to describe the likelihood of harmful consequences arising from the interaction of hazards, communities and the environment.).

**Risk Assessment:** Overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation. (Source: ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management – vocabulary & ISO standard 31000).

**Risk Management:** the systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating and monitoring risk. (Source: Australia Disaster Resilience Glossary).

**State of Alert:** A declaration by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services may declare in writing that a State of Alert exists for all or part of the ACT, if satisfied that an emergency is likely to happen, and the Chief Minister has not declared that a State of Emergency exists and the Minister is satisfied that an emergency is likely to happen if an event has already happened or is happening, or a circumstance that exists, that may give rise to the likelihood of an emergency.

**State of Emergency:** A declaration by the Chief Minister under section 156 of the *Emergencies Act 2004* for all or part of the ACT when an emergency has or is likely to occur and the nature of the emergency calls for an urgent, significant and coordinated response to minimise or manage a substantial risk to: the safety of people, animals or property; or the preservation of the environment; or the provision of essential services.

**Unified Command:** A method for all agencies or individuals who have jurisdictional responsibility, or in some cases who have functional responsibilities at the incident, to contribute to:

- > Determination of overall objectives for the incident.
- > Selection of strategies to achieve the objectives. (Source: Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience).

## 5.2 ACRONYMS

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACT Health	ACT Health Directorate (ACT Government)
ACTAS	ACT Ambulance Service

ACTF&R	ACT Fire and Rescue Service
ACTRFS	ACT Rural Fire Service
ACTSES	ACT State Emergency Service
AIIMS	Australian Inter-services Incident Management System
ANZCTC	Australia New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (Commonwealth)
ANZEMC	Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (Commonwealth)
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CHS	Canberra Health Services (ACT Government)
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate (ACT Government)
COAG	Council of Australian Governments (Commonwealth)
CSD	Community Services Directorate (ACT Government)
DACC	Defence Aid to the Civil Community
DFACA	Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
EPA	Environment Protection Agency, Access Canberra
ESA	Emergency Services Agency, JACS
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT Government)
IC	Incident Controller
ICC	Incident Control Centre
JACS	Justice and Community Safety Directorate (ACT Government)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCA	National Capital Authority
NEMMM	National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NCTP	National Counter Terrorism Plan
OAG	Operational Advisory Group
PICC	Public Information Coordination Centre
PFC	Police Forward Commander
PFCP	Police Forward Command Post

POC	Police Operations Centre
SEMC	Security and Emergency Management Committee
SEMD	Security and Emergency Management Division
SEMPG	Security and Emergency Management Policy Group
SEMSOG	Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (ACT Government)

# PART 6 ANNEXES

## ANNEX A - LEAD RESPONSE AGENCIES FOR IDENTIFIED HAZARDS

Hazard	Lead Response Agency	Emergency Supporting Agencies	Plan Tier	Potential Emergency Controller
<b>Transport</b>				
<b>Transport Crash</b>	ACT Policing	ACTF&R, ACTAS, CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	3	Chief Police Officer
<b>Space Debris</b>	ESA	ESA, ACT Policing, CSD, Health, CHS	3	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>				
<b>Hazardous Materials:</b> - Unintentionally released	ACTF&R	ACT Policing, ACTAS, CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	1 (Hazmat and CBRN Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Hazardous Materials:</b> - Intentionally released	ACT Policing	ACTF&R, ACTAS, CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	1 (Hazmat and CBRN Plan)	Chief Police Officer
<b>Energy and Infrastructure</b>				
<b>Energy Supply Emergency:</b> - Electricity, Gas, Fuel	EPSDD	ESA, EVO Energy, TCCS, ACT Policing, ACTF&R, ACTAS, CSD	1 (Energy Coordination Emergency Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Water Supply/Sewage Emergency:</b>	Icon Water	Icon Water, EPSDD, ESA	1 (Water supply and sewage emergency plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner

Hazard	Lead Response Agency	Emergency Supporting Agencies	Plan Tier	Potential Emergency Controller
<b>Infrastructure Failure:</b> - Structural collapse, including roads, bridges and buildings	ACTF&R	TCCS, ACT Policing, ACTAS, CSD, EPA	1 (Major Structural Collapse Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Cyber Attack</b> - cyber incidents and cyber emergencies including data leakage and spills	ACT Policing	CMTEDD, ESA, SEMD,	1 (Cyber Security Plan)	Chief Police Officer
<b>Fire</b>				
<b>Fire:</b> - Industrial / Structural	ACTF&R	ACT Policing, ACTAS, CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	3	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Fire:</b> - Bushfire, Built Up Area	ACTF&R	ACT Policing, ACTAS, ACTRFS, ACTSES, CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	1 (Bushfire Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Fire:</b> - Bushfire, Rural Area	ACTRFS	ACT Policing, ACTAS, ACTF&R, ACTSES CSD, EPA, TCCS, Health, CHS, CMTEDD	1 (Bushfire Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Social</b>				
<b>Intentional Violence:</b> - Sieges, terrorist events	ACT Policing	CMTEDD, CSD, ACTF&R, ACTAS	1 (CT Plan)	Chief Police Officer
<b>Civil Disobedience:</b> - Public Protest Civil Disorder and Large Localised Protests	ACT Policing	CMTEDD, CSD, ACTF&R, ACTAS, TCCS, NCA	3	Chief Police Officer
<b>Mass Gathering Public Safety</b>	ACT Policing	CMTEDD, CSD, ACTF&R, ACTAS, ACTSES, TCCS, NCA	2	Chief Police Officer

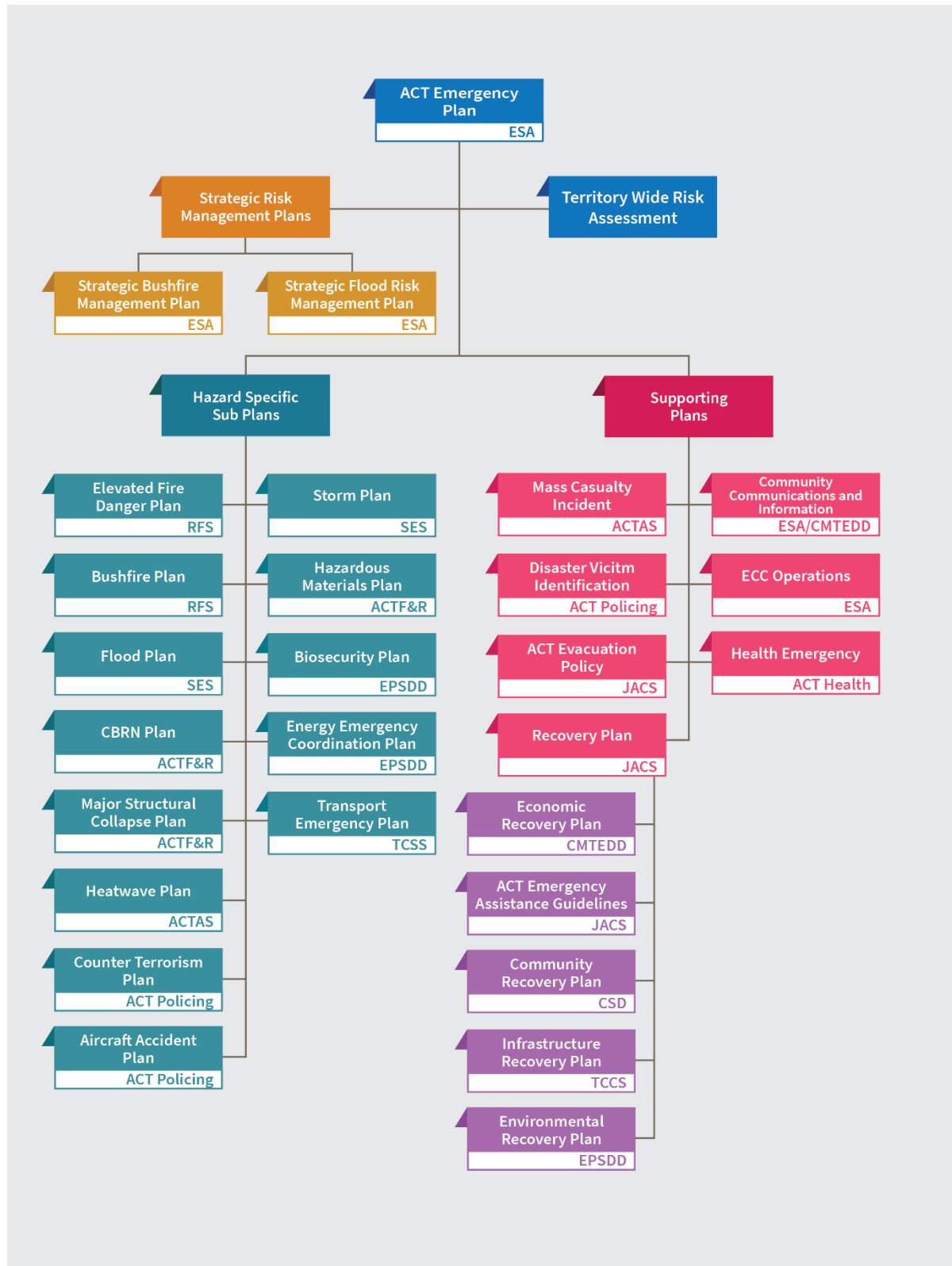
Hazard	Lead Response Agency	Emergency Supporting Agencies	Plan Tier	Potential Emergency Controller
<b>Health and Environmental</b>				
<b>Human Epidemic Infectious Disease, including Pandemic</b>	ACT Health	CHS, ACTAS, ACT Policing, CSD, CMTEDD	2	Chief Health Officer
<b>Food Contamination</b>	ACT Health	CHS, EPA, ACTAS, ACT Policing, CSD, CMTEDD	3	Chief Health Officer
<b>Water Contamination</b>	ACT Health	Icon Water, CHS, EPA, ACTAS, ACT Policing, CSD, CMTEDD, NCA	3	Chief Health Officer
<b>Biosecurity Emergencies:</b> - includes exotic/endemic animal, plant and pest emergencies	EPSDD	Health, CSD, ESA, ACT Policing,	1 (Biosecurity Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Natural</b>				
<b>Heatwave</b>	ACTAS	Health, CHS, ESA, CMTEDD, CSD,	1 (Extreme Heat Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Flooding</b>	ACTSES	Icon Water, TCCS, ESA, ACT Policing, CSD, Health, CHS, EPA, CMTEDD, NCA	1 (Flood Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Severe Storm</b>	ACTSES	ESA, TCCS, ACT Policing, CSD, Health, CHS, EPA, CMTEDD	1 (Storm Plan)	Emergency Services Commissioner
<b>Earthquake</b>	ESA	Evoenergy, Icon Water, Zinfra, ACT Policing, CMTEDD, CSD, Health, CHS	1	Emergency Services Commissioner

## ANNEX B - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Function	Lead Supporting Agency	Plan Tier
<b>Evacuation</b>	ESA, ACT Policing, CSD	2
<b>Rescue</b>		
- Vertical Rescue (Built Up area)	ACTF&R	3
- Vertical Rescue (Rural Area)	ACT Policing	3
- Water	ACT Policing	3
- All Other Rescue	ACTF&R	3
<b>Search</b>	ACT Policing	3
<b>Casualty Care and Transport</b>		
- (single and multi/mass-casualty events)	ACTAS	1 (Mass Casualty Incident Plan)
<b>Decontamination</b>		
- (Biosecurity emergencies, CBRN events, Hazardous Materials emergencies)	ACTF&R	3
<b>Road Management and Traffic Control</b>	ACT Policing / TCCS	3



## ANNEX C – ACT GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PLANS, HAZARD SPECIFIC SUB PLANS AND SUPPORTING PLANS





## **ANNEX D – CONSIDERATIONS FOR HIGH LEVEL COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONCURRENT EMERGENCIES**

**TO BE ISSUED**

## ANNEX E - NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND PLANS

The Australian Government through Emergency Management Australia within the Attorney-General's Department has responsibility for Commonwealth disaster-related coordination and national security. Several strategic national plans are in place to facilitate these arrangements. This plan should be read in conjunction with:

### **Australian Government Overseas Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Coordinates the provision of emergency Australian Government organised physical assistance to overseas countries.

### **Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Coordinates the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in an emergency or disaster.

### **Australia's Domestic Health response Plan for All-Hazards Incidents of National Significance (AUSHEALTHRESPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Health*

National health framework for the coordination and response arrangements for national health sector operations, including patient management and transfer, health workforce availability, and provision of resources.

### **Australian Government Plan for The Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign nationals Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Describes the tasking, coordination, cost recovery and reception arrangements into Australia of evacuees from overseas, following a decision of the Australian Government to conduct an evacuation.

### **Australian Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan (AUSAVPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Outlines the communications and information flow between the Australian Government, states and territories as well as industry stakeholders in the event of an actual or imminent aviation disaster.

### **National Catastrophic Natural Disaster Plan (NATCATDISPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Explains the national coordination arrangements for supporting states, territories and the Australian Government in responding to and recovering from catastrophic natural disasters in Australia.

### **Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan (AUSPREDPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs via Emergency Management Australia.*

Provides for the coordination of Australian Government support to States and Territories in response to a space debris re-entry threat.

#### **Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI)**

*Commonwealth Department of Health.*

This is a national health plan for responding to an influenza pandemic and minimising its impact on the health of Australians and the health care system.

#### **Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements (National CD Plan)**

*Commonwealth Department of Health.*

Establishes agreed national coordination and communication arrangements for the management of communicable disease incidents of national significance.

#### **National Search and Rescue (SAR) Arrangements**

*Australian Maritime Safety Authority.*

The arrangements for search and rescue (SAR) in Australia have been influenced by the physical size of the island continent, the large size of the search and rescue region, Australia's relatively small population and the nature of governmental processes. Dedicated SAR facilities are limited in Australia. When necessary, other facilities are diverted from their primary function by arrangement or request. Australia has developed a SAR organisation to direct, coordinate and control search and rescue operations within the Australian Search and Rescue region (SRR) and to provide the organisational basis for cooperation between different SAR authorities. This is especially necessary in Australia because of our political system involving a federation of States and Territories, and the SAR responsibilities assumed by the Defence Forces.

#### **National Counter-Terrorism Plan**

*Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.*

The National Counter-Terrorism Plan (NCTP) describes Australia's high-level strategy for preventing, and dealing with, acts of terrorism against Australia and its interests.

#### **National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan (NLFERP)**

*Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.*

Details the arrangements between the Commonwealth and the states and territories relating to the declaration and management of any liquid fuel emergency.

#### **Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)**

*Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment via Animal Health Australia.*

The national contingency planning framework for the management of emergency animal disease (EAD) incidents in Australia. The purpose of AUSVETPLAN is to ensure coherent operations and procedures among national, state and territory animal health authorities, and emergency management organisations in the management of an EAD incident.



**ACT**  
Government

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE  
ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

DATE 2022