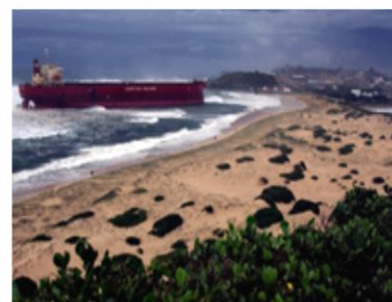




Justice
Office of Emergency Management

Emergency Management Arrangements for NSW



Version 1.3 January 2016



Justice
Office of
Emergency Management

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	3
SECTION 2: KEY ELEMENTS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	4
LEGISLATION AND THE NSW STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMPLAN)	4
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	5
ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH	7
ALL-AGENCY APPROACH	8
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE	9
HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?	10
SECTION 3: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	13
FUNCTIONAL AREAS.....	16
FUNCTIONAL AREA COORDINATORS	17
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.....	18
STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SEMC).....	19
REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (REMC)	21
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC).....	22
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EOCONS	23
EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRES	24
STATE OF EMERGENCY.....	25
RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS IN NSW	26
SECTION 4: THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK	28
POLICIES AND PLANS	28
EMPLAN.....	29
SUB PLANS.....	29
SUPPORTING PLANS	33

Section 1: Introduction

The people of New South Wales are no strangers to natural disasters and other emergencies. Whether it's droughts and flooding rains, bushfires, cyclones or other emergencies, we have a long history of working together through adversity and helping one another in times of trouble.

Emergency Management Arrangements in NSW exist to enable different parties to work effectively together to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

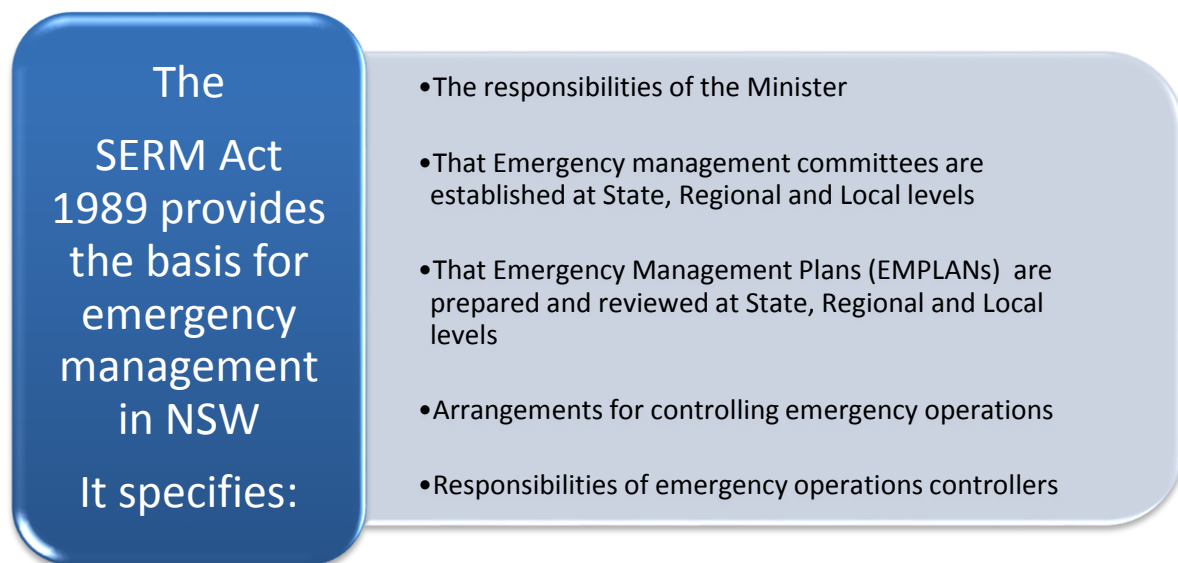
Whether you have been working in Emergency Management for many years, or you're new to the Emergency Management field — your skills and knowledge are valued. All people who play a role in emergency management must work together to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.



Section 2: Key Elements of Emergency Management

Legislation and the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)

The State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (SERM Act 1989) sets out the general legal and governance framework for emergency management in NSW.



What do we mean by 'emergency'?

The NSW legislation, defines an 'emergency' as:

'an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, terrorist act, accident, epidemic or warlike action) which:

(a) endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State, or

(b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, property in the State, being an emergency which requires a significant and coordinated response'.

SERM Act 1989

The EMPLAN is the New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan. It sets out the State level approach to emergency management, the governance and coordination arrangements and roles and responsibilities of agencies.

It sets out key principles that underpin emergency management arrangements in NSW. These are aligned to nationally-recognised and agreed concepts and approaches that are fundamental to managing emergencies:

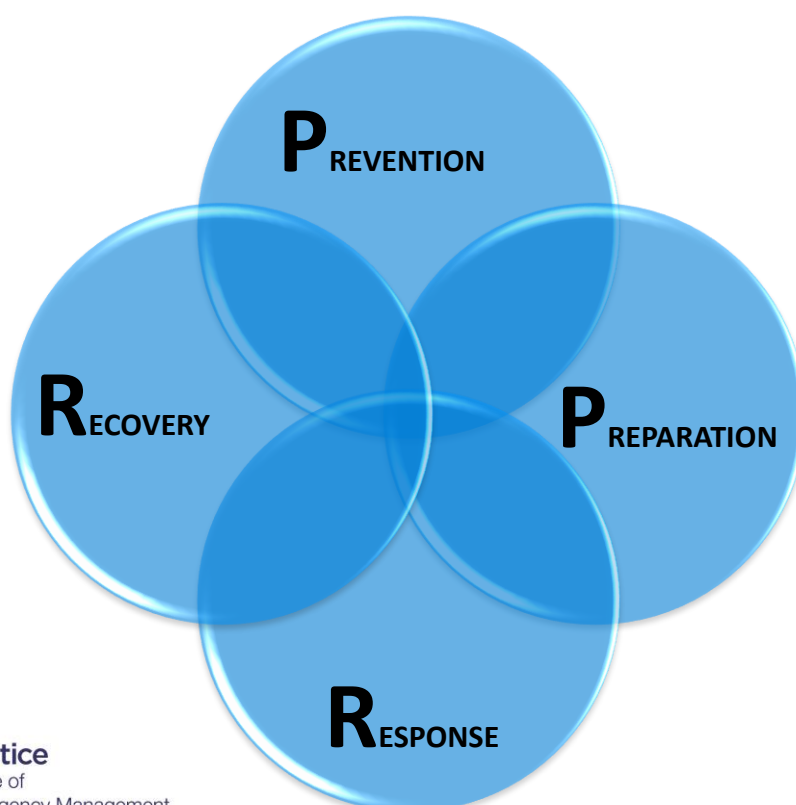


Comprehensive Approach to Emergency Management

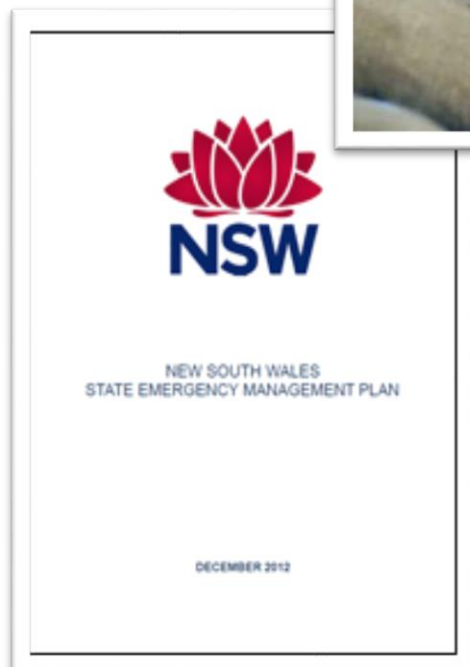
Emergency management is not just about responding to an emergency.

Emergency management is a range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment. It includes the development and maintenance of arrangements to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

It begins well before an emergency occurs, and continues through to well after the emergency has passed. The comprehensive approach is best remembered with the initials, PPRR:



Prevention	To eliminate or reduce the level of the risk or severity of emergencies. It includes identifying hazards, assessing threats to life and property and taking measures to reduce potential loss to life or property.
Preparation	To build the capacity of communities to cope with the consequences of emergencies. It includes arrangements or plans to deal with an emergency or the effects of an emergency.
Response	To ensure the immediate consequences of emergencies to communities are minimised. It includes the process of combating an emergency and providing immediate relief for persons affected by an emergency
Recovery	To support individuals and communities affected by emergencies in reconstructing physical infrastructure and restoring physical, emotional, environmental and economic wellbeing. It includes the process of returning an affected community to its proper level of functioning after an emergency

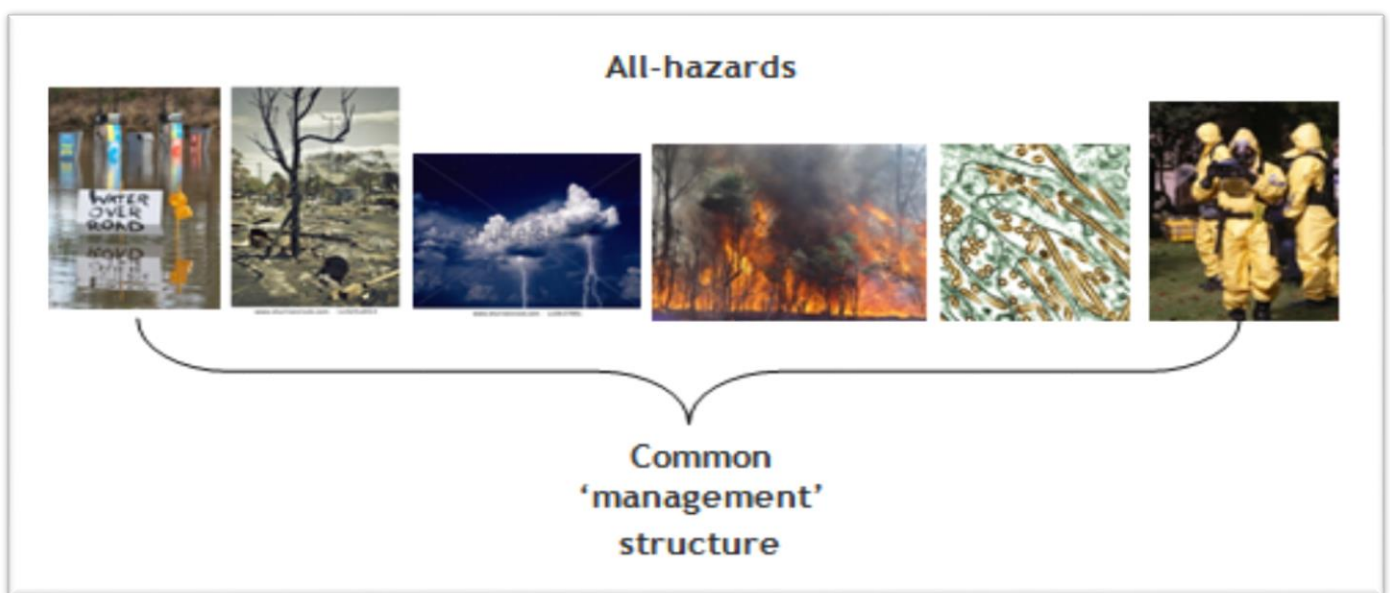


All-hazards approach

A hazard is a potential or existing condition that may cause harm to people or damage to property or the environment.

As New South Wales is faced with a diversity of hazards, emergency management arrangements need to be sufficiently robust to provide a common 'management' structure, systems and methods of operation that will cater for *all- hazards* which have the potential to impact on a community.

The all-hazards approach is based on the principle that those systems and methods of operation which work for one hazard are most likely to work for other hazards. It does not, however, prevent the development of specific plans and arrangements for hazards that require specialised approaches



All-Agency approach

The EMPLAN provides for an all-agency approach. For all elements of PPRR to be effective, the arrangements will incorporate all government agencies and other organisations that are involved in emergency management.

The community and all agencies need to actively partner, be prepared for and work collaboratively to provide a safer community.

This approach recognises that no one agency can address all of the impacts of a particular hazard, either in a proactive or reactive sense. It is necessary for a lead agency to coordinate the activities of the large number of organisations and agencies that are involved in emergency management.



Emergency Services Organisations – means the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Rural Fire Service, NSW Ambulance, State Emergency Service, NSW Volunteer Rescue Association or other agencies which manages or controls an accredited rescue unit.

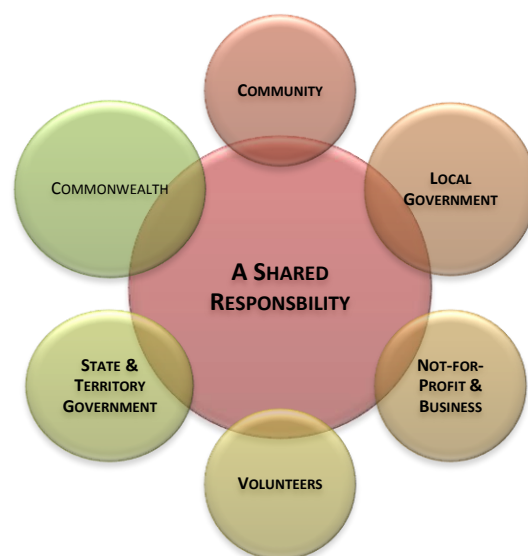
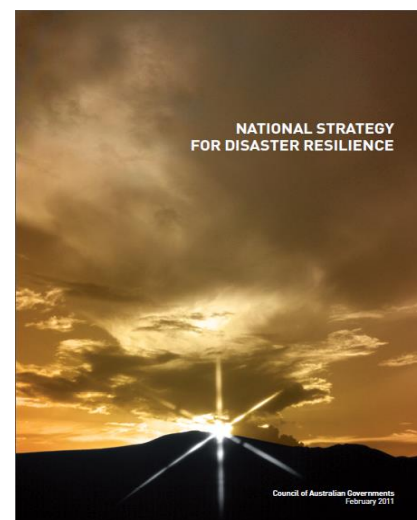
Functional Areas are business units within NSW Government agencies that perform specific emergency management functions. They provide a category of services involved in the preparations for an emergency. They include: Agriculture and Animal Services; Telecommunications Services; Energy and Utility Services; Engineering Services; Environmental Services; Health Services; Public Information Services; Transport Services; and Welfare Services.

National Strategy for Disaster Resilience

- In February 2011 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.
- While the concept of resilience is not new, the endorsement of the Strategy marked a significant shift in Australia's approach to emergency management.
- This shift came on the back of several devastating disasters, as it became clear that the Australian community needed to reframe its thinking and commit to a more sustainable approach. This meant rebalancing a 'response and recovery' mindset to one of 'preparation and mitigation'.
- The Strategy is about better understanding risk and communicating with individuals and communities to help us all understand the risks we face and empower people to take responsibility.
- Applying a resilience based approach cannot solely be the domain of emergency management agencies. In fact, many of the actions needed to improve disaster resilience sit well outside the emergency management sector. This is why the Strategy emphasises the principle of shared responsibility between governments, business, communities and individuals.
- It also acknowledges that achieving a shift to disaster resilience will require long term behavioural change.
- The Strategy provides high level guidance on disaster management to federal, state, territory and local governments, business and community leaders, and the not-for-profit sector.
- The Strategy's Community Engagement Framework is also an important resource for those who work in emergency management. It provides a shared understanding of community engagement values, principles and practices.

Source: National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Companion Booklet.

<http://www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement/Documents>

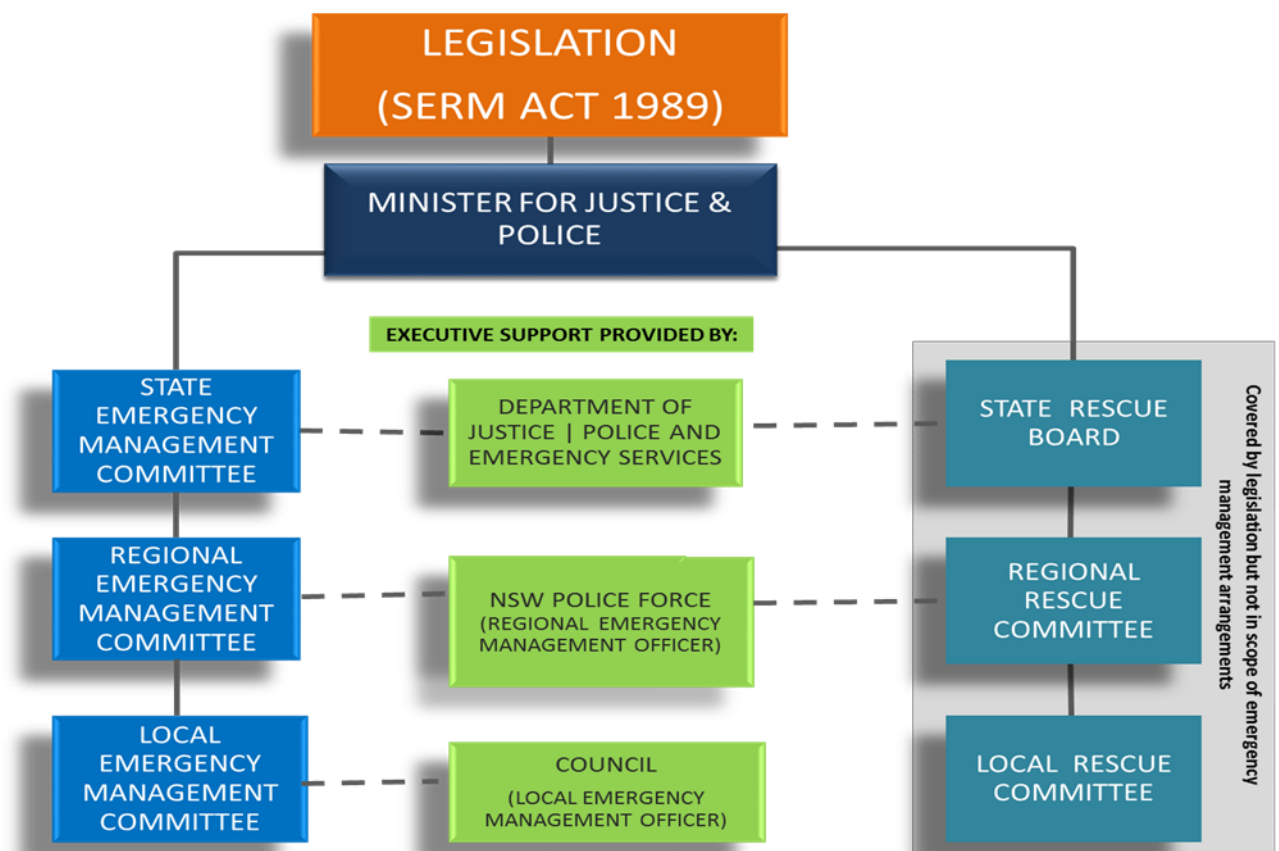


How does it all work?

Emergency management is effective when everyone works together and is co-ordinated according to the plans required by legislation. This collaboration is needed all the way from Prevention through to Recovery, to address any identified risk that may arise.

SERM Act 1989 specifies roles and responsibilities in the planning for and controlling emergency operations.

The following illustrates the management structure and the committees established by the SERM Act 1989 and their respective responsibilities.



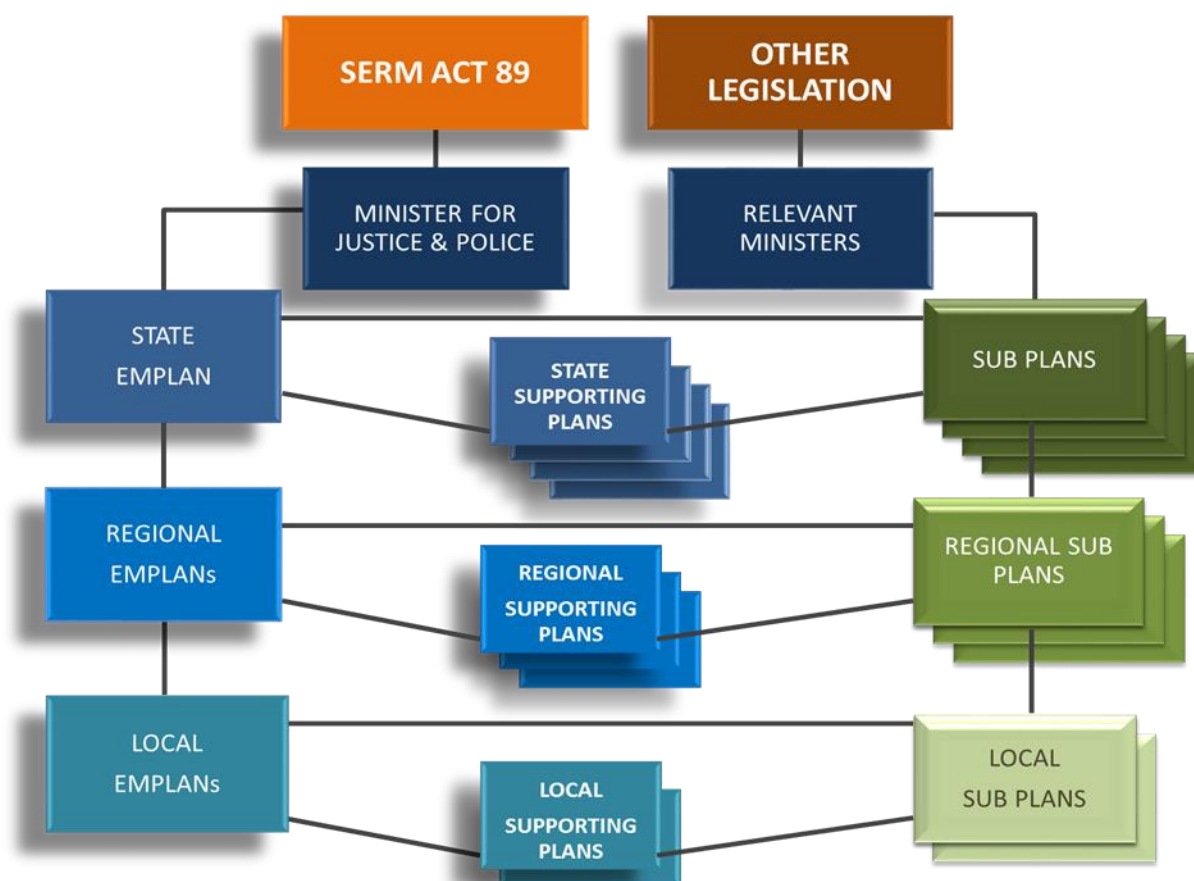
- **Minister for Justice & Police** is responsible for:
 - a. ensuring that adequate measures are taken by government agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and assist recovery from emergencies
 - b. coordinating the activities of government agencies in taking those measures
 - c. arranging for the preparation and review from time to time of the State Emergency Management Plan
- **State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)** is the peak committee of officials, which develops emergency management policy and oversees emergency management in New South Wales. While not directly engaged in operational responses, the SEMC has a role in

convening, briefing and raising the situational awareness of its members during imminent or occurring emergencies

- **Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)** For emergency management purposes the State is divided in emergency management regions. In each of these regions, a REMC is in place which reflects the composition of the SEMC (where appropriate), and which is representative of the emergency management resources available in the Region.
- **Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)** The SERM Act 1989 recognises that the involvement of local government in all stages of an emergency is critical (ie, in prevention, preparation, response and recovery). Therefore, the emergency management structure and arrangements at local level are based on the Local Government Areas (LGAs) or combined Local Government Areas).

The NSW emergency management planning framework is set via the combination of the SERM Act 1989 and other legislation, Government priorities endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee. The interaction of the various plans is shown below.

Emergency management planning within the state is a structured process that comprises three types of plans at state, regional or local level, where appropriate:



Emergency Management Plans (EMPLAN), these are the main plans which outline the overarching management arrangements and documents the agreed roles and functions of various agencies. These are prepared at the State, Regional and Local Level.

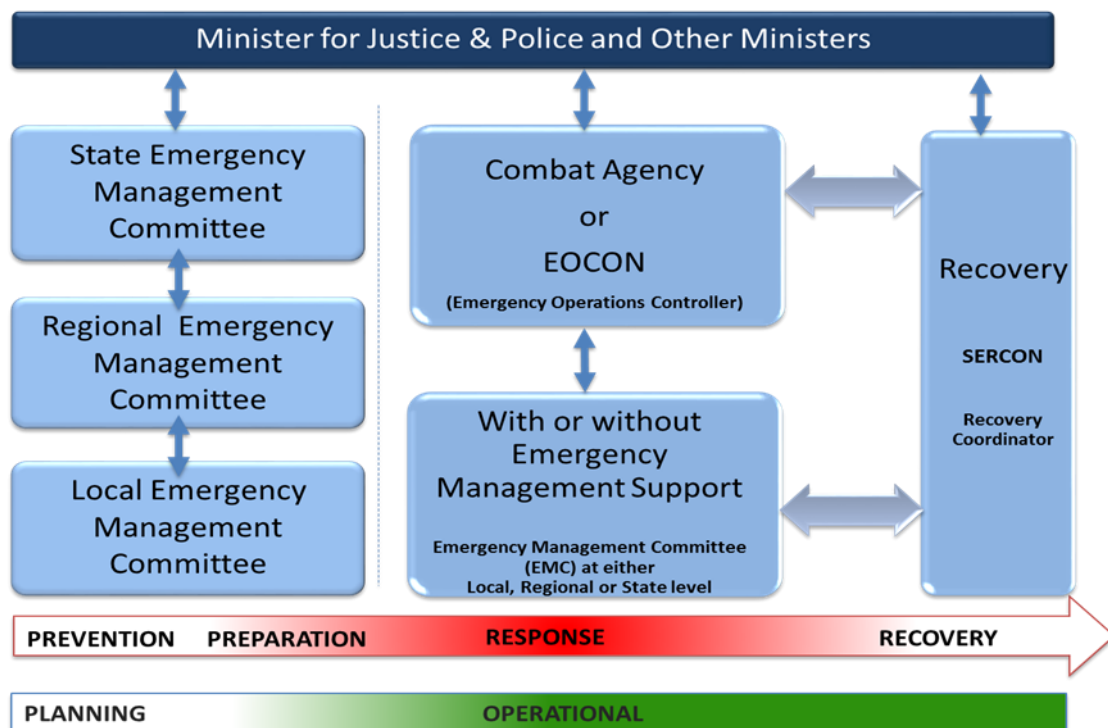
Supporting plans, outline the arrangements by which the Functional Area will coordinate the support services allocated in the EMPLAN.

Sub plans are prepared to address specific hazards or events where the required detail is different to or greater than that included in EMPLAN.

Interrelationships

The following illustrates the roles that are allocated across the spectrum of the PPRR and the interrelationship between the various committees and groups that work together.

The commitment to an all hazards, all-agencies approach includes maximum co-ordination and information sharing across prevention, preparation, response and recovery phases.



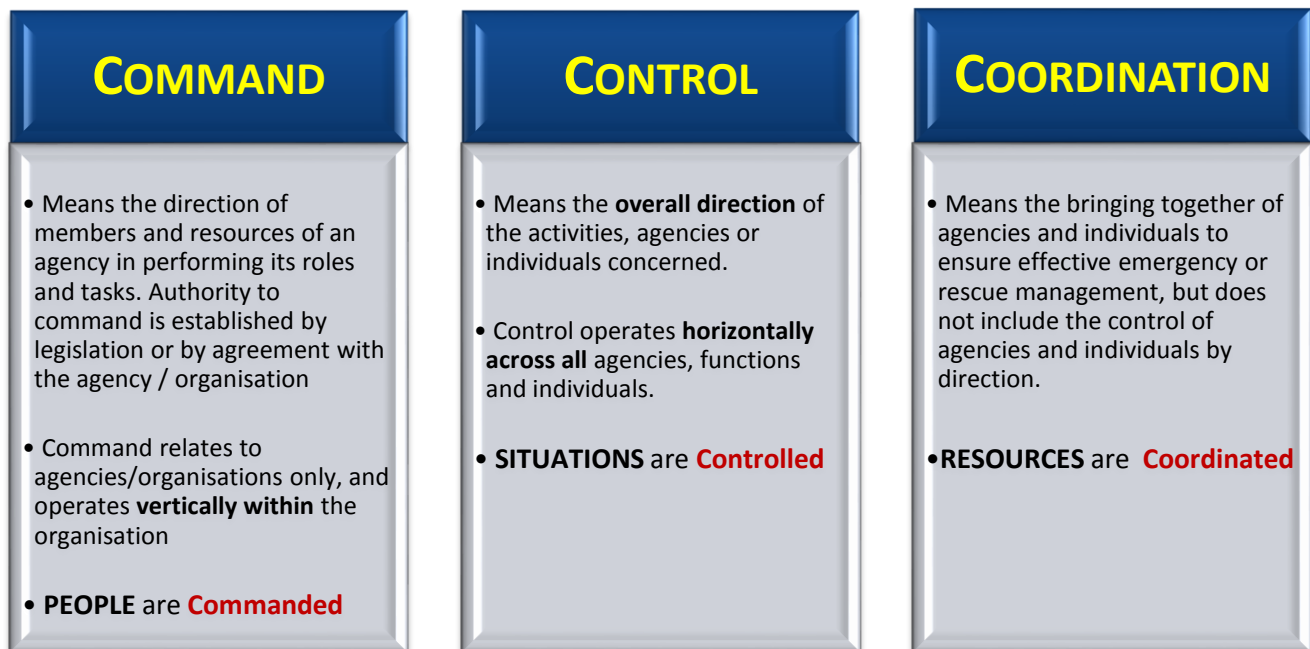
The State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) is the Secretary of the Department of Justice. The SERCON:

- oversees the preparation and maintenance of NSW recovery policies, arrangements and plans
- liaises closely with the EOCON during the response phase of an emergency
- coordinates comprehensive assessments of the extent of damage and the need for recovery operations
- recommends the appointment of a Recovery Coordinator to the Minister if required
- oversees and supports Region and State level Recovery Coordinators as needed
- coordinates activities of agencies in relation to recovery activities

Section 3: Emergency Management Arrangements

The purpose of formal emergency management arrangements is to facilitate collaboration between different groups of people who play a role across the PPRR spectrum to manage any type of emergency that could occur.

The EMPLAN provides clarity as to command and control roles and coordination of functions in emergency management across all levels. It is vital to distinguish between these terms to describe roles and responsibilities



Emergencies will be **controlled** by either:

(1) A Combat Agency, or

(2) An Emergency Operations Controller, if requested by the Combat Agency or where the Combat Agency is not specified.

Emergencies and the Combat Agency Controlling Response

A Combat Agency is the agency identified in the State Emergency Management Plan as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency.



Combat Agency for Animal, Plant Disease, Rodent or Insect Plague: Department of Primary Industries



Combat Agency for the Food industry: Department of Primary Industries – Food Authority



Combat Agency for Fire:
Within a Rural Fire District - NSW Rural Fire Service
Within a Fire District – Fire and Rescue NSW



Combat Agency for Flood: NSW State Emergency Service



Combat Agency for Hazardous materials:
On land and inland waters - Fire and Rescue NSW
In State waters - Relevant Port Authority or Roads and Maritime Services outside of declared port areas.



Combat Agency for Law enforcement during a declaration: NSW Police Force



Combat Agency for Marine oil & chemical spills: Relevant Port Authority or Roads and Maritime Services outside of declared port areas



Combat Agency for Pandemic:
NSW Health



Combat Agency for Storm:
NSW State Emergency Service



Combat Agency for: Tsunami
NSW State Emergency Service



Combat Agency for Terrorism:
NSW Police Force



Combat Agency for Major structure collapse: Fire and Rescue NSW where a USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) response is required. See note below.

NOTE: Major structure collapse emergencies are likely to require a multi-agency response that may or may not incorporate USAR. The Emergency Operations Controller controls elements of the response operation not directly under the control of the combat agency.

Where a Combat Agency has not been identified, for example, for earthquakes, landslides, heatwave and aviation emergency, the respective Emergency Operations Controller is responsible for the control of the response.

Functional Areas

As we've already seen in this module, effective emergency management relies on many different organisations working together in a coordinated way.

Functional Areas are defined in the SERM Act 1989 and EMPLAN as a category of services involved in activities to prevent, prepare for, respond to or recover from an emergency.

They are business units within NSW Government agencies that perform specific emergency management functions.

They are usually in support of Combat Agencies or other Functional Areas during emergency operations. It is therefore critical that they are engaged in all stages of PPRR for those hazard types.

The functional areas are:

- Agricultural and animal services
- Telecommunication services
- Energy and utility services
- Engineering services
- Environmental services
- Health services
- Public information services
- Transport services
- Welfare services

Functional Areas with Combat Agency Responsibilities

Functional Areas are not limited to supporting Combat agencies in actual emergencies. They may in effect, perform a Combat Agency role in dealing with an emergency event, such as a supply chain crisis or infrastructure failure.

Other examples where Functional Areas perform a Combat Agency role include the NSW Health as the Combat Agency for Pandemic events, and the Department of Primary Industries for agriculture related issues like animal disease outbreak.

Functional Area Coordinators

Functional Area Coordinators maintain overall responsibility for their respective functions. They are also appointed members of Emergency Management Committees to represent their functions.

At State and Regional levels, Functional Area Coordinators may establish sub-committees to assist. These sub-committees comprise representatives of government and non-government agencies.

Functional Area Co-ordinator (FAC): Richard

Richard is a Business Manager in the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). He also fulfils the role of Functional Area Coordinator for Disaster Welfare Services. As such, he represents the functional area on the Regional Emergency Management Committee and contributes to emergency management planning.

Richard's preparedness tasks include: chairing the District Welfare Services Functional Area Committee, which consists of government and non-government agencies; maintaining a current contact list of the Functional Area agencies; appointing deputy Welfare Functional Area Coordinators (WelfACs) to ensure coverage across the District; establishing and maintaining an After Hours Duty Roster and facilitating appropriate training for FACS staff and functional area agencies.

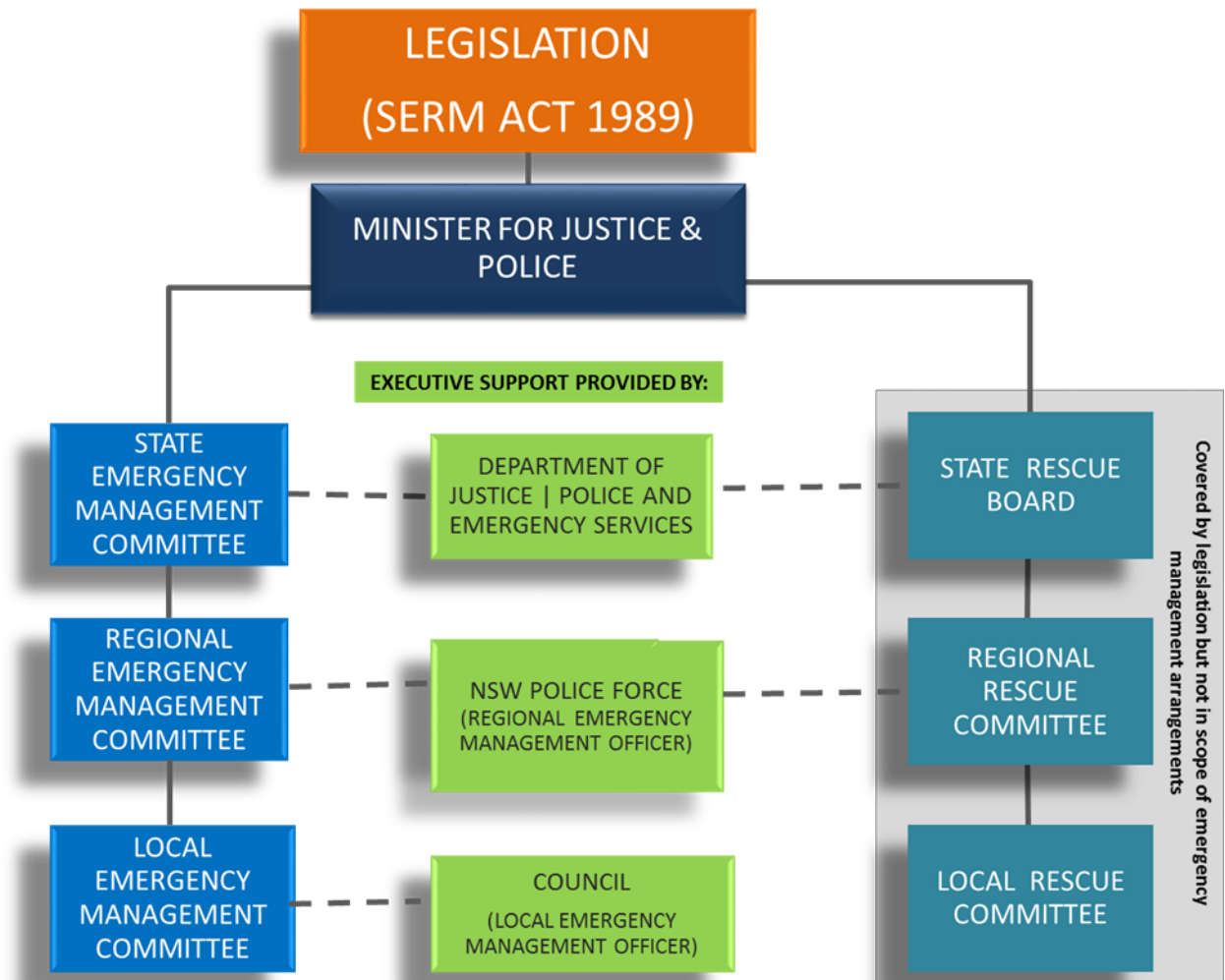
When operational, Richard is the central point of communications in the District, supported by the Deputy WelfACs. He coordinates the activation of staff and volunteers when assistance is requested by a Combat Agency: this may be a request to open an evacuation centre or deploy a Welfare Services Liaison Officer to an Emergency Operations Centre. Richard may also participate in a Recovery Committee to assist with the Welfare Services response in the Recovery Phase of an operation.



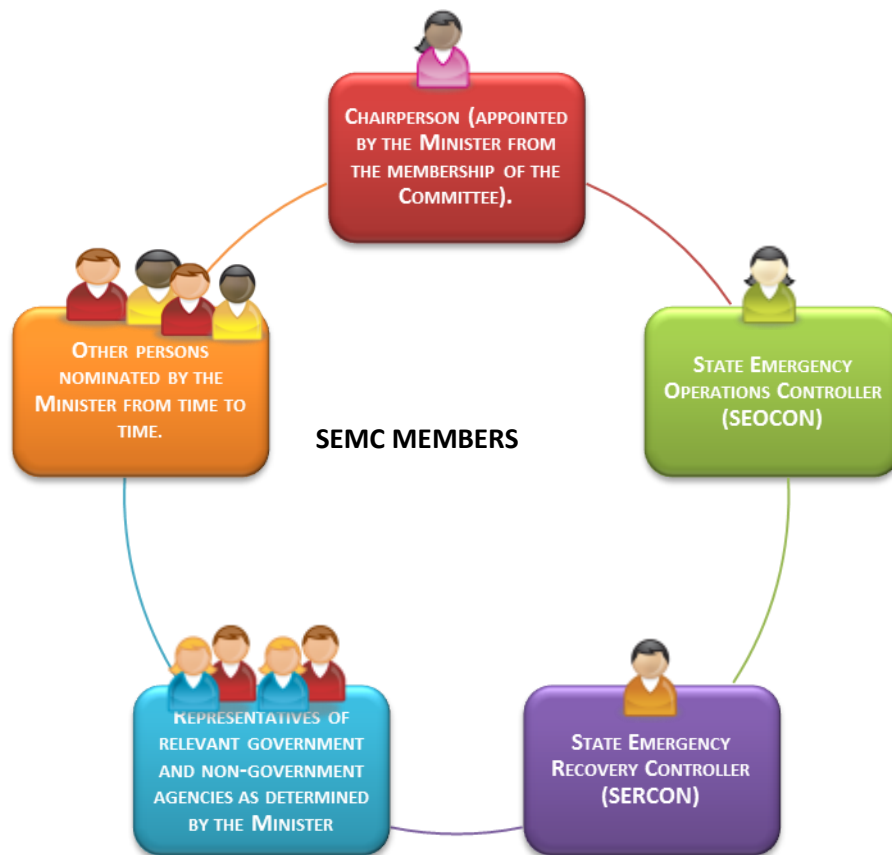
Emergency Management Committees

Emergency Management Committees are responsible for planning for emergencies.

In keeping with the 'All Agency' approach to emergency management, there are three levels of committees. The SERM Act 1989 governs the structure of these committees and their responsibilities.



State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)



State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

Area of Responsibility: Statewide

• RESPONSIBILITIES

- Principal committee for emergency management in NSW
- Oversees and maintains the State EMPLAN
- Review, monitor and advise the Minister on the adequacy of the provisions of the SERM Act 1989 relating to emergency management.
- Provides strategic policy advice to the Minister in relation to emergency management
- Review, monitor and develop emergency management policy and practice at a State level and disseminate information
- Endorse any sub plans or supporting plans established under EMPLAN
- Facilitate strategic State level emergency management capability through inter-agency coordination, cooperation and information sharing arrangements
- Other functions assigned to the Committee under or related to the SERM Act 1989 from time to time by the Minister

Representatives of relevant government and non-government agencies as determined by the Minister:

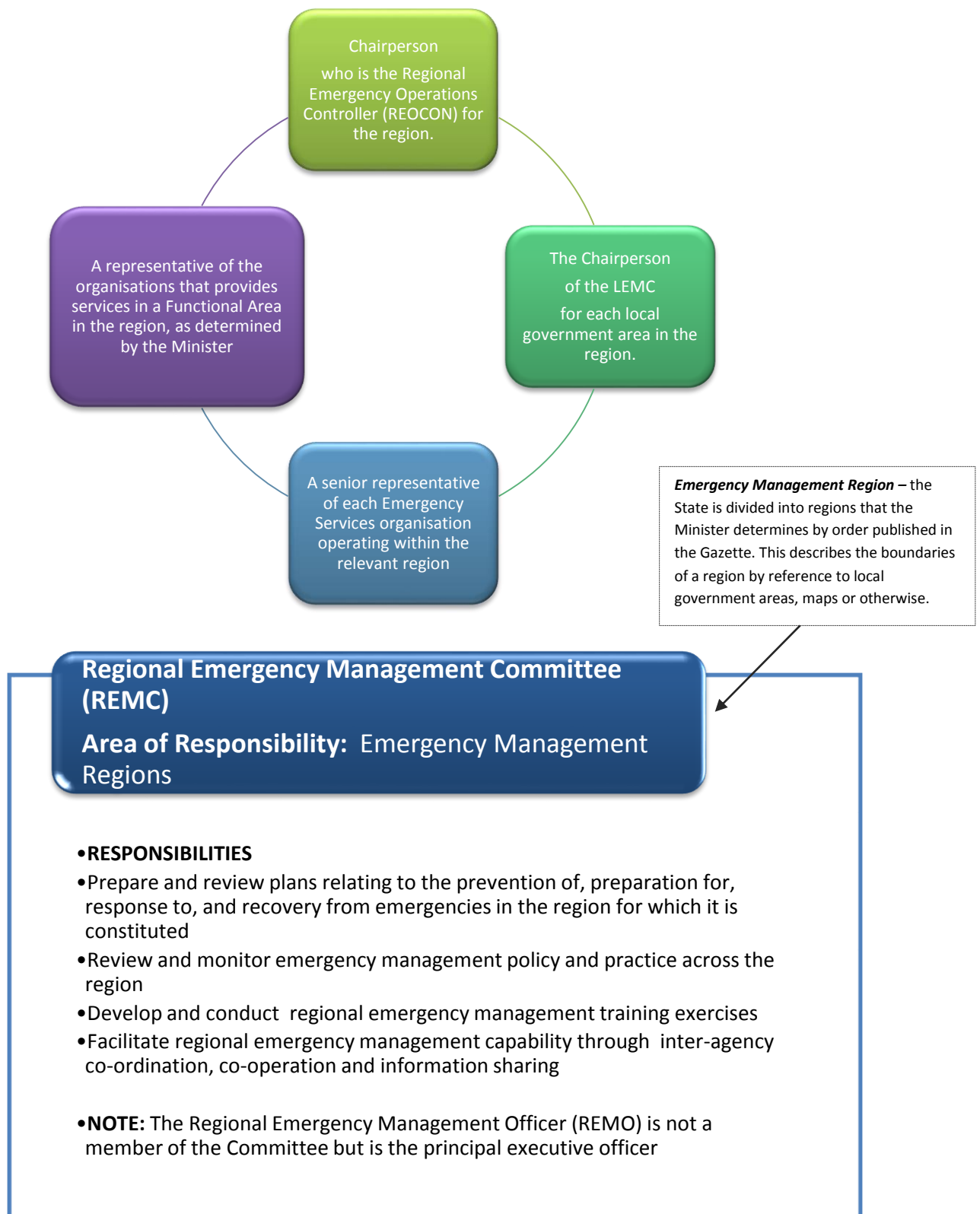
- NSW Ambulance
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Police Force
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW State Emergency Service
- NSW Volunteer Rescue Association
- Marine Rescue NSW
- Agriculture Functional Area
- Telecommunications Functional Area
- Energy & Utilities Functional Area
- Engineering Functional Area
- Environmental Functional Area
- Health Functional Area
- Public Information Functional Area
- Transport Functional Area
- Welfare Services Functional Area
- Department of Premier & Cabinet
- Division of Local Government
- NSW Treasury

The role and functions of the SEMC are translated as appropriate at Regional level through Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC) and at Local level through Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC).

The SERM Act 1989 established Regions, as well as REMC roles, functions and relationships to SEMC. The local level is based on Local Government Areas (LGAs) or a combination of LGAs.

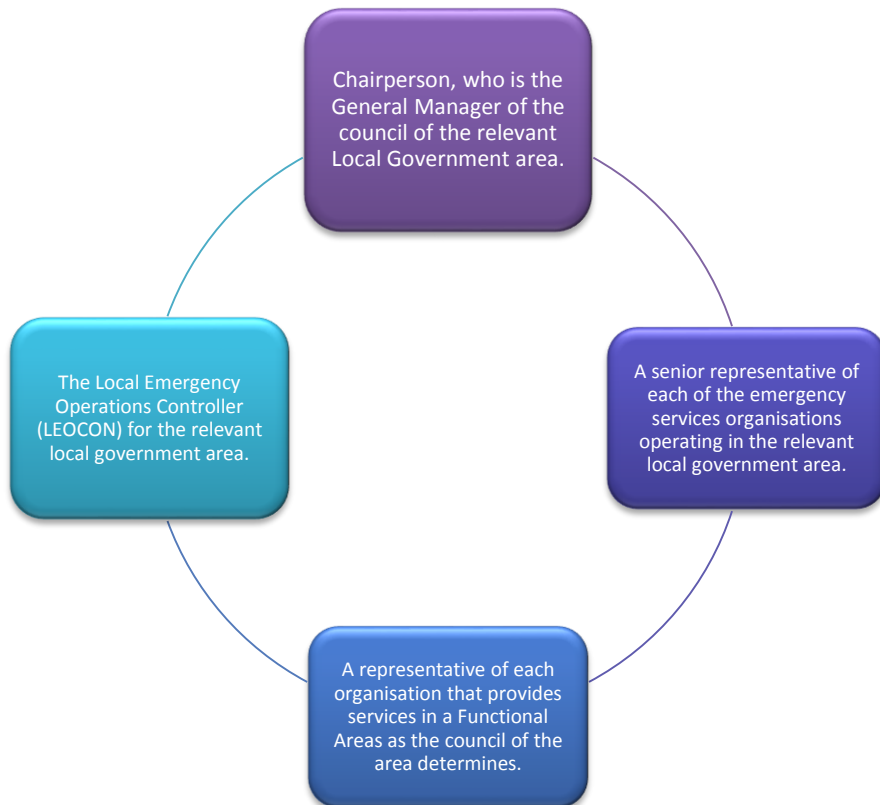
Emergencies need to be managed at the lowest effective level.

Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC)



In the exercise of its functions, the REMC is responsible to the State Emergency Management Committee

Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)



Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Area of Responsibility: Local Government Authority, or a combination of LGAs where the Minister agrees.

•RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare and review plans relating to the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies in the local government area for which it is constituted
- Give effect to and carry out emergency management policy and practice
- Review and monitor emergency management policy and practice across the region
- Develop and conduct local emergency management training exercises
- Facilitate local emergency management capability through inter-agency co-ordination, co-operation and information sharing

•**NOTE:** The Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) is not a member of the Committee but is the principal executive officer.


In the exercise of its functions, the LEMC is responsible to the Regional Emergency Management Committee

Roles and Responsibilities of EOCONs

As mentioned in the previous pages, the SEOCON, REOCON and LEOCON all sit on their respective Emergency Management Committees to contribute to planning for emergencies. The Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON) concept is a key part of the New South Wales approach. They are members of the NSW Police Force who are well versed in emergency management arrangements.

EOCON roles are appointed and performed at State, Regional and Local level. Emergency Operations Controllers assist the Combat Agency by coordinating support to them when requested to do so. EOCONs are supported by the relevant Emergency Operations Centre.

While Combat Agencies are authorised and equipped to control most emergencies, the Combat Agency may request that control or coordination is assigned to a designated authority. The SERM Act 1989 recognises that the EOCON will assume responsibility for operations where no specific Combat Agency is nominated, or where the Combat Agency requests the EOCON assume control.

<p>At STATE level</p> <p>the SEOCON:</p> <p>Is a member of the NSW Police Force senior executive service and provides advice to the Minister regarding emergencies, including whether or not a declaration of a 'State of Emergency' may be necessary.</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON) is responsible for the following at either State, Regional or Local level for which they are the designated controller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls operations for which no combat agency has been identified and coordinates resources at the level (state, regional or local) Carries out functions at the request of the combat agency responsible for controlling the response to an emergency or assumes control if required to do so Activates the Emergency Operations Centre to an appropriate level whenever there is an emergency operation and resources and support are required Ensures Impact Assessments are conducted to inform recovery arrangements 
<p>At REGIONAL level,</p> <p>the REOCON:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is appointed by the Commissioner of Police and is a police officer holding the position of Region Commander (Assistant Commissioner). 	
<p>At the LOCAL level,</p> <p>the LEOCON:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is appointed by the Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON) Is a police officer stationed within the region in which the local government area is located, and, in the opinion of the REOCON, must have experience in emergency management. 	

Joe Smith

Emergency Operations Controller



Joe Smith is the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) supported by the Local Emergency Operations Centre (LEOC). Following a catastrophic Fire Danger Rating forecast, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) placed all emergency services and support agencies on stand-by. A fire that had started in a locality breached containment lines within 24 hours. LEOCON Smith initially placed the EOC on stand by. Within 24 hours he activated the EOC and fully staffed the centre in order to receive requests from and coordinate support to the Combat Agency, the Rural Fire Service. As the bush fire situation escalated, communities in the immediate and potential path of the fire were in danger. LEOCON Smith with the support of the EOC and in conjunction with the RFS:

- *Acted on RFS requests to control road closures and liaised with NSW Police Force to coordinate road closures*
- *Prepared Evacuation Plans and coordinated evacuations and activation of evacuation centres*
- *Facilitated initial Impact Assessment and reported to the REOCON on status.*
- *Co-ordinated out of area specialist resources to be obtained*

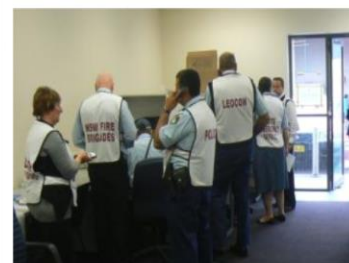
Emergency Operation Centres

An emergency Operations Centre (EOC) can be established at State, Region or Local level by the relevant Emergency Operations Controller. It is the established centre of communication from which the Emergency Operations Controller either coordinates support to the Combat Agency or Functional Area or controls an emergency operation.

The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) is the centre from which the SEOCON monitors the emergency management environment in NSW and either controls an emergency operation, or coordinates recovery arrangements to the Combat Agency or Functional Area.

An Emergency Operations Centre:

- Monitors emergency management activity and commitment of resources
- Coordinates operational support requirements
- Processes requests for assistance from Combat Agencies, Functional Areas
- Coordinates the provision of external resources to support emergency operations as requested



- Disseminates information to relevant levels of Government, Emergency Management Committees and relevant stakeholders.

When supporting an EOCON controlled operation, the EOC is also the focal point for operational planning, allocating response priorities by the Combat Agency, Emergency Service Organisations, Functional Areas and other Organisations. The centre collects, interprets and disseminates information and intelligence to stakeholders involved in the response.

Local and Regional Emergency Operation Centres are expected to keep the SEOC informed of their activities.



State of Emergency

You may have heard the term 'State of Emergency' announced in the media. Did you know, though, that the vast majority of emergencies are actually managed without any declaration at all, and a 'State of Emergency' is extremely rare.

The SERM Act 1989 provides for the Premier of New South Wales to declare a 'State of Emergency' for up to 30 days over parts of, or the whole State when significant and widespread danger to life and/or property exists.



Declarations are rare because many of the Combat Agencies already have sufficient powers under their own specific legislation to enable them to perform their role. When it is in place however, it affords additional powers to emergency services officers.

Recovery Arrangements in NSW

“Disaster Recovery is the coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.”

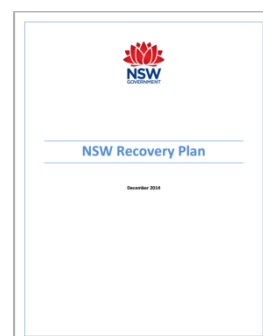
Australian Emergency Management Handbook 2: Community Recovery, 2011

Disaster recovery is part of emergency management. Planning for recovery is integral to emergency preparation and mitigation actions may often be initiated as part of recovery.



The NSW Recovery Plan is a Supporting Plan of the EMPLAN. It outlines the strategies, authorities and the mechanisms for disaster recovery in NSW.

Recovery aims, as far as possible, to assist the affected community to manage its own recovery, while recognising that there may be a need for external technical, physical and financial assistance.

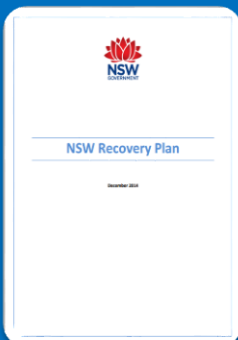




PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Successful Recovery is based on

- Understanding the community **CONTEXT**
- Recognising **COMPLEXITY** in the dynamic nature of emergencies and communities
- Using **COMMUNITY**-led approaches. It is responsive and flexible, engaging communities and empowering them to move forward
- Ensuring **COORDINATION** of activities
- Built on effective **COMMUNICATION** with affected communities and stakeholders
- Recognises, supports and builds on community, individual and organisational **CAPACITY**



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** is responsible for preparing and coordinating recovery functions including disaster welfare.
- The **STATE EMERGENCY RECOVERY CONTROLLER (SERCON)** is responsible for the overall coordination and for controlling recovery operations at State level (unless otherwise prescribed in hazard specific plans).
- **THE RECOVERY COORDINATOR** is the public face of the recovery operation, providing leadership to the Recovery Committee and coordinating the recovery effort
- Local Government is a key player and provides recovery services and community development
- Recovery Consultation Groups may be formed to represent community groups



A RECOVERY COMMITTEE

- Is formed when a formal recovery operation is required.
- A strategic decision making body for the recovery. This can be set up at the local or regional level
- Provides *visible and strong leadership*
- Represents and meets local needs
- Has a key role in restoring confidence to the community
- Determines priorities, resource allocation & management



EXAMPLES OF RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- Community Information Points in affected areas
- Outreach programs
- Disaster Recovery Centres
- Grants and assistance for individuals, families, communities, small business, primary producers, personal hardship, local tourism industry
- Appeal funds e.g. Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund raised \$392M

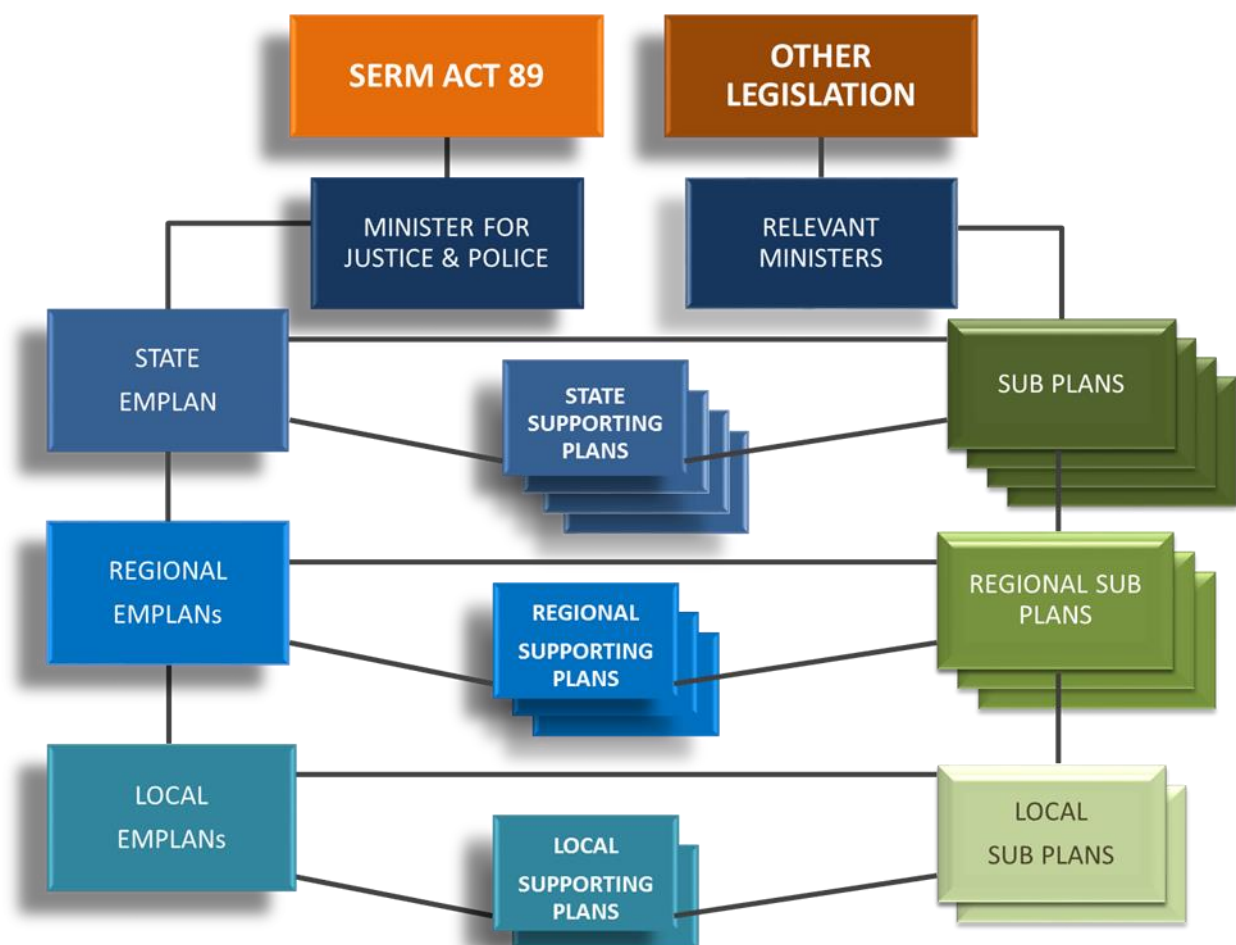
Section 4: The Planning Framework

Policies and plans

Emergency management plans are put into place to ensure that appropriate services are provided in a timely and coordinated manner.

The SERM Act 1989 establishes the Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).

Emergency management planning within the state is a structured process that comprises three types of plans at state, regional and local levels where appropriate:



This topic explains each of these types of plans in detail.

EMPLAN

EMPLAN ensures a coordinated approach to emergencies. Agencies are authorised to undertake their responsibilities and functions under EMPLAN in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Management Plans are also prepared and reviewed for the regional and local areas.

State EMPLAN means the New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan. It describes the NSW emergency, management approach, governance and coordination arrangements and roles and responsibilities of agencies. Its objective is to ensure the coordinated response to emergencies by responsible agencies.

This is supported by hazard-specific sub plans, functional area supporting plans, related policy instruments and guidelines at regional and local levels.

Emergency Management Plans are also prepared and reviewed for the regional and local areas.



AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Identifies '**combat agencies**' responsible for controlling the response to particular emergencies
- Describes how other agencies should **support** the combat agency
- Specifies **tasks** to be undertaken by agencies in an emergency, and
- Outlines responsibilities of the Minister, EOCON and the SERCON.

Sub Plans

Specific Hazards Plans, also known as Sub Plans, are prepared to deal with specific hazards.

Sub Plans. A sub plan is an action plan for a specific hazard, critical task, or special event. Sub plans are prepared when the management arrangements necessary to deal with the effects of the hazard, or the requirements due to an event, differ from the general coordination arrangements in the main or supporting plans for the area. A sub plan may be required where the planning is more specialised or detailed than can be provided for in EMPLAN. E.g. Bushfire Sub, Flood Sub plan, Storm Sub plan, Counter Terrorism Sub plan.

Plans for emergency management are risk-focused. That is, they are developed by considering potential hazards, and the likelihood of occurrence.

RISK: HIGH



For example, the most common emergencies in NSW are floods, storms and bushfires. The risk of floods, storms and bushfires occurring is very high, and NSW needs special arrangements to deal with them because they differ from the general coordination arrangements set out in the supporting plans for the area.

For this reason, specific Sub Plans to deal with floods, storms and bushfires are in place to deal with the effects of these in the community.

State Sub Plans

There are many Sub Plans to cater for a wide range of hazards, from natural disasters through to emergencies caused by humans.

Visit the OEM website <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/> for the full list of Sub Plans. A few of these plans are listed below:

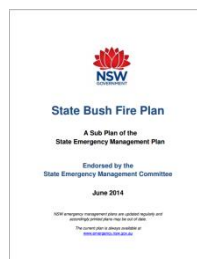
NSW State Flood Plan



Details the mitigation, preparation, warning, response and recovery arrangements for flooding in New South Wales and the responsibilities of agencies and organisations with regard to these functions.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/flood.html>

State Bush Fire Plan



Details the arrangements for the control and coordination of the response to bush fires and the provision of emergency warnings.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/bush-fire.html>

NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan



Identifies measures and mitigating strategies to protect the community and minimise the impact of an influenza pandemic on NSW.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/human-influenza-pandemic.html>

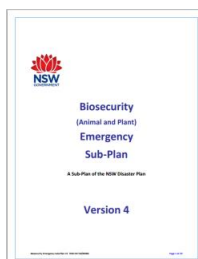
NSW State Storm Plan



Details the damage mitigation, warning, preparedness, response and initial recovery arrangements for severe storm activity in New South Wales and the responsibilities of agencies and organisations with regard to these functions.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/storm.html>

Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Emergency Sub-Plan



Details the arrangements for mobilising the resources of the State for the purposes of response and initial recovery operations during an animal health emergency in NSW.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/biosecurity.html>

Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan



Provides for both the Government and non-Government organisations to co-operate in a coordinated manner during a food industry emergency within NSW.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/food-industry.html>

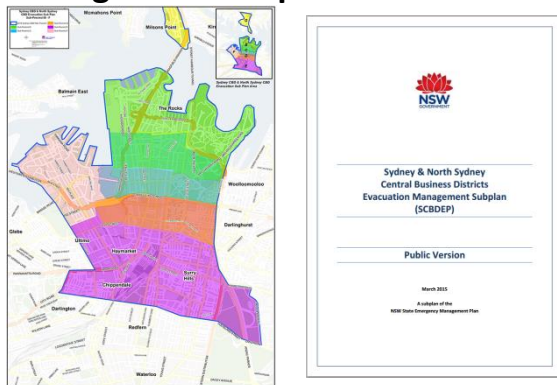
Major Structure Collapse Sub Plan



Details the special arrangements for major structure collapse emergencies that may occur in NSW.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/major-structure-collapse.html>

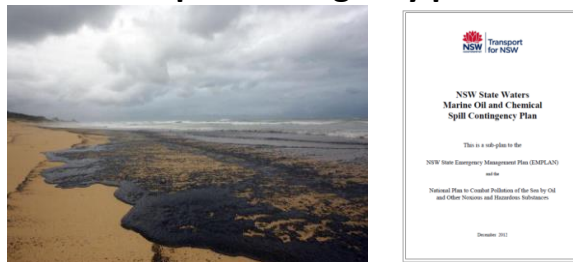
Sydney & North Sydney Central Business Districts Evacuation Management Subplan



Has been developed to manage a large evacuation of people from the Sydney CBD area. The plan is an overarching document which sets the management framework and provides a basis for specific management plans, public education, warning systems, training and testing.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/sydney-cbd.html>

NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency plan



The NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency plan details the arrangements to deal with marine oil or chemical spills and marine incidents such as groundings, collisions, disabled vessel, fire on a vessel etc. that could result in an oil or chemical spill into State waters of NSW. More information on the State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency plan.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/sub-plans/state-waters-marine-oil-chemical-spill.html>

Supporting plans

Supporting Plans are prepared by a NSW Government agency or Functional Area. It outlines arrangements by which Functional Areas coordinates support to the controlling or coordinating authority during emergency operations.

It is an action plan describing how the agency/organisation or Functional Area is to operate in order to fulfil the roles and responsibilities allocated. For example, Supporting Plans are prepared by Health Services, Welfare Services, Engineering Services, Transport Services. These may also exist at the regional and local levels.

Supporting plans outline the arrangements by which the Functional Area will coordinate the support services (as allocated in the EMPLAN). A full list of the latest Supporting Plans are available at the OEM website: <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/publications/plans/supporting-plans/>

FUNCTIONAL AREA	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	PLAN
Agriculture and Animal Services	Department of Primary Industries	Agriculture and Animal Services Supporting Plan
Energy and Utilities Services	Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, Division of Resources and Energy.	Energy and Utilities Services Supporting Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Gas Supply Disruption sub plan • Wires down sub plan
Engineering Services	Department of Finance and Services, NSW Public Works.	Engineering Services Supporting Plan
Environmental Services	Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Environment and Heritage.	Environmental Services Supporting Plan
Health Services	NSW Health	Health Services Supporting Plan
Public Information Services	Public Information Coordinator, Public Affairs Branch, NSW Police Force	Public Information Services Supporting Plan
Telecommunication Services	Department of Finance and Services, NSW Telecommunications Authority,	Telecommunications Services (TELCOPLAN) supporting plan
Transport Services	Department of Transport	Transport Services Supporting Plan
Welfare Services	Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management	Welfare Services Supporting Plan