

New South Wales

State Emergency Management Committee

Annual Report 2010/2011

CONTENT

SECTION 1: STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	6
Role and Functions.....	6
State Emergency Management Committee Membership.....	7
State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support	8
State Emergency Operations Controller Report	9
State Emergency Recovery Controller Report	11
SECTION 2: AGENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS	15
Ambulance Service of NSW.....	15
Fire & Rescue NSW	17
NSW Police Force	19
NSW Rural Fire Service.....	21
NSW State Emergency Service.....	23
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.....	25
Department of Premier and Cabinet	27
NSW Maritime.....	28
SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL AREA AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	30
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area.....	30
Communications Functional Area.....	31
Energy and Utility Services Functional Area	33
Engineering Services Functional Area.....	35
Environmental Services Functional Area	37
Health Functional Area	39

Public Information Functional Area	41
Transport Functional Area	43
Welfare Services Functional Area	45
Capability Development Standing Committee	47
NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Steering Committee	48
NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee	50
Mitigation Standing Committee	52
ANNEXURE	54
Annexure 1: SEMC Meeting Attendance.	54
Annexure 2: NSW Emergency Management Districts	55

INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 17 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* to describe the work and activities of the State Emergency Management Committee during the financial year 2010/2011.

FOREWORD BY STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM

The State Emergency Management Committee is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

The Committee comprises agencies responsible for the multiple aspects of emergency management. This includes NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association, as well as significant other lead and supporting agencies such as Transport for NSW, NSW Maritime and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, which all play an equally vital role.

It is the Committee's role to coordinate the work of all member agencies to ensure NSW has appropriate systems and arrangements in place to prevent, prepare for and respond to and recover from the effects of hazards impacting on the community. In the past twelve months the specific legislative functions of the Committee have been refined from 19 to seven functions to enable the Committee to focus on high level strategic issues more closely.

From October 2010 until January 2011 NSW experienced severe flooding across the State. This resulted in a protracted period where response and recovery operations were being undertaken including responding to immediate requests for assistance and providing disaster welfare services.

NSW also provided support to Queensland and Victoria during severe floods in those States. Additionally, Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces were deployed to New Zealand and Japan following the devastating earthquakes in those regions.

Training again has been a focus of this year, with a number of key multi-agency exercises being conducted, including the National Counter Terrorism Committee Exercise Black Angus which was conducted at ANZ Stadium based on an active shooter scenario.

A number of plans were reviewed during the year including the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines, Major Evacuations Centre Policy and Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan. The Botany Bay Precinct Sub Plan was also developed and endorsed by the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to pay tribute to emergency services staff and volunteers who serve the community during emergencies often in confronting and challenging circumstances. Emergency services play a difficult role in these events and their efforts result in lives and properties being saved.

SECTION 1: STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Role and Functions

The State Emergency Management Committee is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and has the following functions:

- (a) to review, monitor and advise the Minister on the adequacy of the provisions of this Act relating to emergency management
- (b) to provide strategic policy advice to the Minister in relation to emergency management
- (c) to review, monitor and develop emergency management policy and practice at a State level and to disseminate information in relation to any such policy and practice
- (d) to review Displan and to recommend alterations to it
- (e) to endorse any subplans or supporting plans established under Displan
- (f) to facilitate strategic State level emergency management capability through inter-agency co-ordination, co-operation and information sharing arrangements
- (g) such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Committee by or under this Act or as are related to this Act and assigned to the Committee from time to time by the Minister.

Eight functional area committees coordinate functional support for emergency operations in accordance with section 16 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act*:

- Agriculture and Animal Services
- Communication Services
- Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Health Services
- Public Information Services
- Transport Services
- Welfare Services

The *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act* also establishes District and Local Emergency Management Committees whose primary role is to prepare emergency management plans for their district or local area. These Committees met regularly during the year.

In this reporting period the number of Districts was consolidated from 18 to 11 to more closely align the Districts with Department of Premier and Cabinet regional boundaries, while remaining consistent with the current NSW Police Force regional boundaries. This redistribution will maximise the use of available resources and improve coordination and consistency in regard to operational support, policy implementation and training.

State Emergency Management Committee Membership

Chair

Mr Alex Smith AM (to March 2011)

Mr Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM

Members

State Emergency Operations Controller	Deputy Commissioner David Owens APM
State Emergency Recovery Controller	Mr Stacey Tannos ESM (to March 2011) Mr Les Tree AM
Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller	Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli APM (to August 2010) Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch APM
Ambulance Services of NSW	Acting Chief Executive Michael Willis
Fire & Rescue NSW	Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM
NSW Rural Fire Service	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
NSW State Emergency Service	Commissioner Murray Kear AFSM
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	Mr Russell Ashdown
Agricultural & Animal Services Functional Area	Mr Ross Burton
Communications Functional Area	Mr Tony Gates ESM
Energy & Utility Services Functional Area	Mr Ralph Grimes
Engineering Functional Area	Mr Glenn Vardy
Environment Services Functional Area	Mr Greg Sullivan
Health Functional Area	Mr Greg Rochford PSM (to March 2011) Dr Ron Manning (Acting Member)
Maritime Functional Area	Mr Shayne Wilde
Public Information Functional Area	Mr Kevin Daley
Transport Functional Area	Mr Greg Nott (to September 2010) Mr Les Wielinga
Welfare Services Functional Area	Ms Wendy Graham
Department of Premier & Cabinet	Ms Vicki D'Adam (Acting Member)
The Division of Local Government	Ms Michelle Squire
NSW Treasury	Mr Brian Cheney
Department of Planning	Dr Derek Mullins

Details of committee membership and attendance during the reporting year are in Annexure A.

State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support

Executive support to the State Emergency Management Committee is provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. The Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee was Ms Veronica Lee to 27 September 2010, Mr Emil Wajs-Chaczko to 16 May 2011 and thereafter Ms Alison Francis.

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services is located at:

Level 2, Quad 1, 8 Parkview Drive

Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Telephone Phone: (02) 8247 5900

Facsimile: (02) 8247 5951

Homepage: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Operations Controller Report

Deputy Commissioner David Owens APM, NSW Police Force

The Governor may, on the recommendation of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, appoint a State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOC), who is a member of the NSW Police Force Senior Executive Service.

Deputy Commissioner David Owens was the SEOC during this reporting period. Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli was the Deputy SEOC for the period 1 July 2010 to 29 August 2010. From 30 August 2010 Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch assumed the role.

The SEOC is responsible for the:

- overall direction, control and coordination of emergency response at a State level where there is no combat agency
- coordinating support to combat agencies during emergencies
- provision of advice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on all aspects of emergency response.

Further, the SEOC is the authorised officer for seeking Commonwealth assistance through Australian Emergency Management.

The SEOC is also a member of the State Emergency Management Committee and State Rescue Board.

Senior officers within the NSW Police Force are also appointed as District and Local Emergency Operations Controllers. These officers support the work of the SEOC by controlling emergencies as appropriate and coordinating support within their respective areas.

State Emergency Operations Centre

The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) is situated in the Sydney Police Centre in Surry Hills to monitor, support and control events that impact upon the NSW community.

The centre supports the SEOC on a daily basis and also acts as the conduit to the Commonwealth Crisis Coordination Centre. The SEOC ensures members of the State Emergency Management Committee receive timely information regarding emergency situations and acts as a central point of coordination during such events.

Response operations

During 2010/2011, the SEOCON and supporting staff controlled, assisted and monitored a number of emergency response operations. Significant events during this period included:

Date	Location	Event Type	Role
July 2010	Mumbai Bombings	Terrorism	Repatriation support
August 2010	Paddington, NSW	Major water main burst	Control
September 2010	South East NSW	Major wind storms	Supporting
January 2011	Queensland	Major flooding	Support, deployment
February 2011	New Zealand	Earthquake	Support, deployment, Repatriation
February 2011	Queensland	Cyclone Yasi	Support, deployment
March 2011	Northern Japan	Earthquake/Tsunami	Support, deployment

Other

The SEOCON and Deputy SEOCON were responsible for the following projects /initiatives during the reporting period:

- completing the Botany Bay Precinct Sub Plan
- completing the Emergency Operations Centre Policy
- completing the Emergency Operations Controller Policy
- continuing the review of the Major Evacuations Supporting Plan
- completing the review of the Major Structure Collapse Sub Plan
- completing the Traffic Control Points Standard Operating Procedures
- initiating the State Heat Wave Sub Plan
- refurbishment and technical upgrade of the State Emergency Operations Centre
- drafting of the Executive Emergency Management Briefing
- chairing the Emergency Management Committees Working Group and implementing recommendations.

State Emergency Recovery Controller Report

Mr Les Tree AM Chief Executive Officer, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services

The statutory position of the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*. Under the NSW State Disaster Plan, the SERCON is responsible for overseeing the management and planning of emergency recovery in NSW, supporting communities affected by natural disaster and other disasters to recover effectively.

In April 2011, Mr Les Tree was appointed as the State Emergency Recovery Controller and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. This organisation replaces the former Emergency Management NSW.

State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group

The State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group is an inter-departmental forum established to provide support and advice to the SERCON on NSW recovery arrangements, plans and policies. In accordance with the *Government Information Public Access Act 2010*, the outcomes of the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group are made publically available within five working days of each meeting, to ensure that government administration is open, accountable, fair and effective.

During the 2010/2011 financial year, the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group finalised the *NSW Final Response to the Recovery Co-ordinators Report on the Mid North Coast and Far North Coast Recovery*, and endorsed the *Recovery Training Framework*. This framework outlines 23 training units, in addition to a range of recovery training components for those employees across the sector involved in the delivery and management of recovery operations. The development of the introductory component of this course is due for delivery in 2011/2012.

Recovery Funding Group

The Recovery Funding Group was established, in support of the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, to provide advice on disaster relief and recovery funding policies and arrangements. At the recommendation of the *Recovery Co-ordinators Report on the Mid North Coast and Far North Coast Recovery May 2009*, the Recovery Funding Group's primary responsibility was the development of the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines. These guidelines were finalised in December 2010.

NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines

In December 2010, subject to the recommendations of the *Recovery Co-ordinators Report on the Mid-North Coast and Far North Coast Flood Recovery May 2009*, the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines were endorsed and made available on the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services website. These guidelines describe the disaster assistance measures available to individuals, households, local council, small business, primary producers and non government organisations through the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements, with reference to the eligibility criteria, application appeals process for each measure. The document is subject to ongoing review as assistance measures are developed and amended by the respective agencies.

In support of the NSW Recovery Plan, a number of additional guidelines and supporting tools have been developed to assist local council and agencies with recovery. These resources include:

- Recovery Communication Guidelines
- Recovery Action Plan Guidelines
- Recovery Newsletter Template
- Recovery Committee Guidelines
- Recovery Centre Guidelines

These documents are available on the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services website and will be complemented by a number of additional tools to be developed and endorsed in 2011/2012.

Local Government Conference 2011

On 2 June 2011, in recognition of local government's key role in disaster recovery efforts, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services held the first *Local Government in Emergency Management Conference 2011*. The conference was attended by over 100 representatives of council and provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss the enhanced NSW Recovery Arrangements, the provisions of the NSW Recovery Plan, the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines and the Recovery Centre Guidelines. The forum also provided an opportunity for the delegates to share their experiences and broach any issues or concerns with NSW Government Departments. Based on the positive response to the conference, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services will look to hold a similar forum in 2012.

Action Package for Significant Recovery Operations

Under the National Disaster Resilience Program – State Projects Program, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services secured funding to develop an Action Package for

Significant Disaster Recovery. This package will support the establishment of suitable governance structures critical to the long term efficacy of recovery, in the event that NSW is affected by a disaster on the scale of the Victorian Bushfires on 2009 and the Queensland Floods in 2011. The project is specifically geared to ensure that the NSW Government has the capacity to respond quickly and effectively to meet the immediate and long term needs of NSW residents. The project is due to be completed in 2012.

Recovery Operations

During 2010/2011, the SERCON and the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services provided support to local government and Recovery Coordinators on a number of recovery operations across the state.

South West Floods October 2010

On 14, 15 and 16 October 2010, the south western region of NSW was subject to heavy rainfall, resulting in widespread flooding of agricultural land, businesses and private premises. A natural disaster declaration was made for 18 local government areas.

To support the clean-up and restoration process, Mr Ross O'Shea, Regional Co-ordinator, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Riverina Murray and Western Region was appointed as the Regional Recovery Coordinator to oversee the recovery process. A Regional Recovery Committee was also established to support the area. Mr O'Shea was provided support by Ministry for Police and Emergency staff throughout this process.

NSW Floods (November 2010 – January 2011)

From November 2010 to January 2011, NSW was affected by significant and successive rainfall that resulted in widespread flooding. This rainfall was part of a larger sequence of weather events across eastern Australia during the summer period of 2010/2011 that resulted in the catastrophic floods across Queensland. The extreme weather caused extensive damage to local infrastructure, roads and culverts, agricultural production, homes and businesses. The NSW Government made a natural disaster declaration for 64 local government areas for the rainfall events in November and December 2010 and 13 local government areas for the severe weather in January 2011.

Due to the scale of the event, the NSW Premier sought agreement from the Prime Minister to activate Category C Recovery Grants under the provisions of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to supplement the assistance available to small business and primary producers. Following approval from the Prime Minister, recovery grants up to \$15,000 were made available to primary producers and small businesses to assist with the significant cost of clean-up and restoration.

Three Regional Recovery Coordinators were appointed to oversee the recovery effort in the affected regions and to work closely with government and non government agencies. These regions included:

1. North Coast - Ms Diane Crosdale, Department of Premier and Cabinet
2. Northern Tablelands - Ms Maureen Chapman, Department of Premier and Cabinet
3. Southern and Western NSW - Mr Ross O'Shea, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Recovery Operations in Boggabilla and Toomelah: The communities of Boggabilla and Toomelah are located in the Moree Plains Shire along the Queensland border. On 12 January, due to the threat of rising floodwaters posed by the saturation of the riverine systems in Queensland, the residents of Boggabilla and Toomelah were evacuated in a large scale operation to the township of Moree. To facilitate the recovery process, an information centre was established in Boggabilla to assist with the distribution of information on disaster assistance.

Resupply of Goodooga and Weilmoringle communities: In January 2011, the remote communities of Goodooga and Weilmoringle were isolated for a period of approximately six weeks due to the flood waters in the Brewarrina Shire. To ensure the community was appropriately serviced during this period, the State Emergency Service coordinated the resupply operations for the township of Goodooga and surrounding isolated properties (New Angledool, Coocoran Lake Opal Field, and Hebel), with the support and assistance of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

Recovery Centres: To oversee the recovery process across the North Coast and Mid North Coast regions in January 2011, local councils established a number of recovery committees. A recovery centre was opened in the Clarence Valley as a 'one-stop-shop' for information on disaster assistance schemes and non financial support. The Clarence Valley Recovery Centre was attended by more than 2,000 people from the affected region. The centre was attended by the SERCON and supported by staff from the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services throughout its operation.

Mid-North Coast Floods June 2011: On 12 June, a complex low pressure system commenced causing severe weather on the Mid North Coast of NSW. As a result of the damage sustained to local infrastructure, a natural disaster declaration was announced for 21 local government areas. To assist with the recovery operations, the Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC, appointed Mr Ron Mason BM APM as the Regional Recovery Coordinator. Mr Mason was supported throughout his work by staff from the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. In addition to this appointment, a recovery centre was established in the communities of Kempsey and Taree, to ensure the affected communities had adequate access to support, information and financial assistance.

SECTION 2: AGENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Ambulance Service of NSW

The role of the Ambulance Service of NSW is the pre hospital treatment and transport of the sick and injured. The Ambulance Service of NSW supports the State Emergency Management arrangements through the provision of specialist staff and resources. In addition, specialist resources have been deployed throughout Australia and into the Asia-Pacific area as requested.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- A number of paramedic teams were deployed to Queensland, Christchurch and Japan at the request of Government. Of particular note was the establishment of a Medical Logistics position within Urban Search and Rescue deployments.
- The Ambulance Service of NSW tested a number of objectives specific to the effective response and management of mass casualty incidents during the National Counter Terrorism Committee Counter Terrorism exercise Black Angus.
- The Ambulance Service of NSW actively participated in a number of State Emergency Management Committee working parties including the F3 Motorway planning, Queensland Flood working party and the NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Committee.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Extensive multi-agency training of Ambulance paramedics and retrieval specialists has enhanced the organisational preparedness and response capability for any emergency. This includes specialist training with NSW Health, Australian Defence Force specialist teams, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Services and NSW Rural Fire Service.
- A major incident training program has been introduced for Ambulance Volunteer personnel with a specific focus on rural and remote areas in preparation for response and management of major incidents in remote locations.
- Additional volunteer units in NSW in conjunction with other emergency agencies such as NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Services and Fire & Rescue NSW have been established for multi-skilling of groups as Ambulance Community First Responders in both metropolitan and regional areas.
- Emergotrain System Senior Instructor Training has been successfully completed by Ambulance personnel who ensure that Health/Pre hospital scenario exercises will continue to be facilitated.

- Ongoing recertification and training of Special Operations teams has occurred for the rapid deployment of specialist personnel. Increased awareness and safety training has been provided by the Ambulance Service of NSW to Marine Rescue NSW and NSW Police Force Marine Area Command as part of the Exercise SAREX in preparation for the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Significant Operations/Activities

Uninterrupted delivery of pre hospital care and patient transport to flood affected areas of western and southern NSW was successfully achieved. The Ambulance Commander was appointed to the position of Health Commander for the Western Floods to ensure the seamless coordination of health resources.

Ambulance and medical retrieval specialists were deployed to Queensland for the South Eastern Floods.

The Urban Search and Rescue deployment to Christchurch included specialist ambulance paramedics and doctors. Additionally, specialist ambulance paramedics were deployed with the Australian police contingent to Christchurch to provide expert pre hospital emergency care and public health monitoring. The Ambulance Service of NSW provided specialist personnel for the Urban Search and Rescue deployment to Japan.

During the Villawood Detention Centre incident, specialist paramedics were deployed to provide support to the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW and to establish a temporary medical centre within the Villawood Detention Centre.

During the May Floods on the North Coast the Ambulance Service of NSW provided extended care in the form of specialist paramedics and patient transport contingency plans to ensure that a pre hospital emergency response capability was maintained.

Liaison Officers from the Ambulance Service of NSW have been deployed for all major events at the request of the Police Operations Centre as well as out of ordinary incidents such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge closure.

The Ambulance Service of NSW also provided pre hospital care and emergency management response to 20 events including:

- World Rally in Coffs Harbour
- Sydney Running Festival
- Sydney Telstra 500
- Supercheap Bathurst 1000
- Red Bull Cockatoo Island

Fire & Rescue NSW

On 1 January 2011, NSW Fire Brigades changed its name to Fire & Rescue NSW. The name change conveys the wider scope of services provided to the community in the 21st century while symbolising and supporting the services' vision for the future.

Fire & Rescue NSW is the combat agency for fires in Fire Districts, hazardous materials emergencies state wide, for rescue from major building collapses and is the largest provider of non–fire rescue services across NSW.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- Participated in the Moroney Review into the F3 incident which has led to enhanced coordination, incident management and inter agency communication of incidents.
- Led the review of the Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan which resulted in Fire & Rescue NSW being designated the combat agency, rather than the lead agency, for incidents of this nature.
- Provided assistance to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and adopted recommendations flowing from the final Commission report.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Fire & Rescue NSW delivers targeted fire prevention and community engagement programs all year round, however, statistics show that the colder months from May to September are when most residential fires, fire fatalities and injuries occur.

The Winter Fire Safety Campaign centred on the use of Linda Buchan, a fire survivor, to push fire safety messages via mass media channels. Fire & Rescue NSW developed a partnership with GIO and Channel Nine to effectively deliver these messages throughout NSW.

The Winter Fire Safety campaign aimed to achieve the following:

1. 14,000 home fire safety audits carried out on line
2. Reduce the number of residential fires by 7% from 2010
3. Reduce fire injuries by 10%
4. Reduce fire fatalities by 100%.

The results showed a reduction in residential fires of 8.4% from 2010, a reduction in fire injuries of 7.7% from 2010 and a reduction in preventable fire fatalities (excluding murders, suicides, and motor vehicle collisions) from 15 fatalities in this period in the 2010 calendar year to 12 for the corresponding period in 2011.

Significant Operations/Activities

Urban Search and Rescue deployment to New Zealand

On 22 February 2011, NSW was requested by the Australian Government to deploy the heavy Urban Search and Rescue Task Force to Christchurch. Fire & Rescue NSW coordinated and led the deployment which comprised 52 of our officers and fire fighters, four fire fighters from the ACT Fire Brigade, nine ambulance paramedics, two doctors, four structural engineers, and two police officers. A second Task Force led by NSW was deployed on 10 March 2011.

Urban Search and Rescue deployment to Japan

On 11 March 2011, a heavy Urban Search and Rescue Task force managed by Fire & Rescue NSW, was deployed to Yokota US Air Force Base near Tokyo, Japan.

The Task Force travelled to the devastated area of Minamisanriku and worked with the Kyoto Fire Department, Swiss and New Zealand Task Forces. The area of operation was 139 km from the Fukushima nuclear plants and Fire & Rescue NSW Hazmat specialists monitored radiation levels, weather patterns and advanced plume monitoring throughout the deployment.

Clean up after 5th Alarm factory fire and hazmat at Kurnell

On 25 March 2011, fire crews responded to reports of a chemical fire burning in a building in Cook Street, Kurnell. The building contained 1000 litres of hydrogen peroxide, bulk acids and corrosives. NSW Police Force established an 800m exclusion zone around the site and several hundred householders were relocated until the fire was extinguished. Captain Cook Drive was closed to all traffic causing severe traffic disruption. A clean up operation of contaminated water continued throughout the weekend and the site was not declared safe until 28 March 2011.

7th Alarm response to the Villawood Detention Centre

On 20 April 2011 fire crews were dispatched to a fire at the Villawood Detention Centre in Western Sydney. Due to the disturbance within the centre, it was too dangerous to attempt a direct attack on the fire.

A 7th alarm, consisting of up to 20 fire trucks, fought the fire using ladder units and large water monitors positioned outside the perimeter of the detention centre in safe locations. Most fires were contained by morning.

NSW Police Force

The NSW Police Force is Australia's oldest and largest police organisation and one of the biggest in the English-speaking world. The organisation's role is to maintain law and order, protect life and property. Under the State Emergency Management Committee the NSW Police Force provides assistance and support to combat agencies, functional areas and other organisations as required.

These activities are largely co-ordinated by the Corporate Spokesperson, Emergency Management, NSWPF Emergency Management Unit and District Emergency Management Officers.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- Finalisation and dissemination of the NSW Emergency Operation Centre Policy and the revised NSW State Major Structure Collapse Sub Plan.
- Responded in co-ordination with other agencies, to a number of major emergencies locally and overseas including the Queensland floods, Cyclone Yasi, the Christchurch earthquake and the Japanese tsunami.
- Planned, designed and implemented a complete refurbishment of the State Emergency Operations Centre at the Sydney Police Centre.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Multi-agency exercises were conducted with:
 - the Sydney Banking and Finance Advisory Group regarding a major disaster within the Sydney CBD precinct and its impact on business continuity.
 - the South West District Emergency Management Committee regarding Exercise Capricorn – a simulated off-airport emergency involving an aircraft crash and the response of all related agencies.
 - the NSW Police Force also led a number of significant multi-agency exercises including Exercise Trigger (Simulated animal disease outbreak), Exercise Remus (simulated emergency using the Police "Hydra" facility).
- Review and/or development of major initiatives including the Heat Wave Sub Plan, Botany Bay Precinct Sub Plan, Major Evacuations Centre Policy, Sydney CBD

Emergency Sub Plan, Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan, NSW Mines Rescue arrangements and Emergency Operations Controller policy.

- Review of the Standard Operating Procedures for Traffic Control during emergencies as a response to the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission.
- Creation of Emergency Management Officer Positions:- Operations Support, Policy & Planning and Major Hazard Facilities.

Significant Operations/Activities

- Coordinated the deployment of 122 police officers to New Zealand regarding the Christchurch earth quake, following a request from New Zealand Police.
- Conducted reception arrangements for affected residents returning to Australia from Christchurch, following a request from Emergency Management Australia.
- Deployed police to Japan to assist the Urban Search and Rescue Team following the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.
- Coordination of police resources during severe weather event (windstorms, blackouts) in southern NSW during August 2010 in support of NSW State Emergency Services.
- Coordination of police resources in northern NSW and south east Queensland during major floods during January 2011 in support of NSW State Emergency Services.

NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the lead combat agency for bush fires in New South Wales.

Working closely with other agencies, the more than 70,000 members of the NSW Rural Fire Service respond to a range of emergencies including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and storms.

The NSW Rural Fire Service aims to reduce the likelihood and consequences of fires occurring. This involves comprehensive risk management programs to reduce bush fire hazards, reduce fire ignitions and development regulations for bush fire prone areas.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- Led the review of the State Bush Fire Plan.
- Conducted a state level multi agency exercise at the State Operations Centre in relation to strategic bush fire management.
- Led the NSW working group review of the final recommendations of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Introduction of a range of new measures as part of the NSW response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission including the enhancement of State Mitigation Crews, the establishment of a Vulnerable Communities Unit and new Rapid Aerial Response Teams which can provide an initial attack to fires in remote or inaccessible areas.
- Continued establishment of Neighbourhood Safer Places with some 783 sites identified across 111 Local Government Areas.
- Conducted an annual state-level multi-agency incident management exercise, designed to test operational procedures and warning mechanisms, in addition, four regionally based multi-agency incident management exercises were also conducted.
- Review of bush fire season messaging to ensure consistent delivery of information to the community.
- Delivery of the coordinated *Prepare. Act. Survive.* public awareness campaign, which aims to improve the community's awareness of Bush Fire Danger Ratings, Alert Levels and Bush Fire Survival Plans, which were introduced following the Victorian Black Saturday bush fires.

- The Operational & Mitigation Support Services Group has been further enhanced with:
 - additional crews providing support services in relation to hazard reduction preparation
 - the enhancement of remote area fire team capacity
 - the enhancement of base camp capacity to three
 - the development of the rapid area response team program.

- While the weather conditions brought some respite from the bush fire season, work continued to prepare the community for the inevitable return of fire conditions including enhancements to community engagement programs, bush fire mitigation and training.

- During the year 279,071 properties with a combined value of over \$132 billion were covered by completed bush fire protection works.

- Over the year, more than 3,500 new bush fire fighters were trained and 216 new or refurbished tankers were delivered for use by volunteer brigades.

- Under a memorandum of understanding between the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Bureau of Meteorology an agreement for the provision of fire weather briefing, training and forecasting services within the Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre has been established, providing for a fulltime meteorologist within the Centre.

- A memorandum of understanding between the Ambulance Service of NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service was finalised.

Significant Operations/Activities

- The 2010/2011 bush fire season was dominated by one of the most significant La Nina events in history, resulting in significant rainfall across much of NSW. While this reduced the level of fire activity, NSW Rural Fire Service members attended more than 18,000 incidents across the State.

- In NSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service provided extensive assistance to the NSW State Emergency Service with flooding across large parts of the state.

- During the Queensland floods, the NSW Rural Fire Service provided personnel and resources including vehicles and aircraft to assist with emergency response and recovery operations. This included the deployment of aircraft to the Lockyer Valley where crew members participated in a number of dramatic rescues of people trapped in rising and fast-moving floodwaters.

- NSW Rural Fire Service members were also deployed to Victoria during significant flooding events.

NSW State Emergency Service

The NSW State Emergency Service is the combat agency responsible for the planning and control of rescue and response operations for flood, storm and tsunami events. The service comprises some 10,000 volunteers in 228 units across the State. The volunteers are supported by 300 staff located at 17 Regional Headquarters and the State Headquarters in Wollongong.

The Service also provides assistance to other emergency services including NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and the Ambulance Service of NSW.

Achievements in 2010/2011

The NSW State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage continued to undertake preliminary tsunami inundation modelling and risk assessment for NSW. The modelling of the first two sites (funded through the Australian Attorney-General's Department) in the Gosford and Eurobodalla Council areas was completed this year and subsequent funding through the National Disaster Mitigation Program has enabled the modelling of additional locations. The modelling project produced innovative modelling procedures and the results will be used to validate tsunami evacuation areas. It will also be used by the Bureau of Meteorology to validate and enhance tsunami warnings in the Australian region.

The NSW State Emergency Service has established an Urban Search and Rescue Canine Unit with Fire & Rescue NSW which will be fully operational in September 2012.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Flood Sub Plans: Two new Local Flood Sub Plans were created and six fully revised Local Flood Sub-plans were endorsed by the relevant Local Emergency Management Committees.

Flood Event Data & Intelligence: The NSW State Emergency Services commenced an unprecedented number of detailed post flood data collection initiatives.

Warning Systems: The Flood Gauges Working Group developed background documents on the gauge network, funding, ownership and legal advice about the authority of State agencies to influence gauge management in respect to the flood warning function.

An autodial telephone warning system was commissioned at NSW State Emergency Services State Headquarters. The system alerts other emergency services, critical infrastructure and other key stakeholders of flood, tsunami and dam-failure warnings.

Exercises: The NSW State Emergency Service coordinated and participated in many Unit, Region and State based exercises.

Flash Flood Decision Making: Work commenced this year on the development of a national guideline for a nationally consistent approach to considering flash flood risk.

Pedestrian & Motorist Safety Research: A literature review was commissioned to better understand the reasons people drive, ride, walk or play in flooded areas.

GIS and Spatial Information: State-wide production was completed for Topographic Mapbooks. GIS continued research and development into near-to-real-time satellite imagery for use in major flood events.

Situational Awareness Unit: The establishment of the Situational Awareness Unit has provided an additional capability to monitor and report on operational response.

132500: The centralisation of Flood/Storm assistance calls made to 132500 was implemented during 2010/2011.

Community Education: A FloodSafe Guide was developed for the Aged and People with Disability.

Significant Operations/Activities

2010/2011 was one of the busiest and most protracted operational periods in the history of the NSW State Emergency Services. NSW State Emergency Services responded to approximately 20,000 flood/storm related requests for assistance (RFA) during this period, including but not limited to the following significant events:

July 2010/August 2010 – Severe Weather – Sydney/Illawarra – 1524 RFAs

September 2010 – Damaging Winds – Illawarra/Hunter/Sydney – 3651 RFAs

November 2010/March 2011 – Severe Weather/Flooding – various Regions – 8810 RFAs

June 2011 – Flooding – North eastern NSW – 2207 RFAs

Support Operations

January 2011 – Flooding – Queensland – 86 members deployed

January 2011 – Flooding – Victoria – 18 members deployed

February 2011 – Cyclone – Queensland – 433 members deployed

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association functional role is to provide specialist support to all state emergency services in NSW, predominately in rural NSW. The current membership of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association is 2,300 members which are dispersed into 47 Road Rescue Squads which operate across the state in the rural areas with seven specialist groups operating across the state out of Sydney.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association's functional area role is "Primary Response" rescues which includes first and foremost motor vehicle rescue. Rescue from aircraft, trains, caves, ski fields, bush wilderness areas and inland waters are also "Primary Response" responsibilities. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association operates three Air Search and Rescue units and three communication squads. Training, recruitment, membership retention and succession planning are our underlining commitment. During the 2010/2011, period new NSW Volunteer Rescue Association rescue vehicles were commissioned at Casino, Bega and Taree Rescue Squads.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has performed rescue services to the community and assisted other emergency services in NSW for 42 years.

Rolling statistics for the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association for 2010/2011 are:

- 9,115 operational tasks
- 135,282 operational volunteer hours
- 168,528 non-operational hours
- 303,810 total volunteer hours
- 43,849 were rescue assisted
- 47,877 hours assisting other emergency services and functional areas
- 3,936 person were rescued for the period

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has been involved in significant number of recoveries of deceased persons totalling 102.

Achievements in 2010/2011

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has this year formally adopted the establishment of its own Registered Training Organisation which will enable the NSW

Volunteer Rescue Association to meet the Australian Quality Training Framework 2007 (AQTF 2007) standards. This initiative will allow the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association to provide State Rescue Board specific rescue training modules for our members upgrading and maintaining personal qualification into the future.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

During 2010/2011 the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has prepared and implemented its own operational “Disaster Response Plan”. The plan has introduced operational procedures and the realisation and location of assets in preparedness for natural and man-made disasters in the future.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association is represented by the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Commissioner on the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum a nationally recognise working group

Significant Operations/Activities

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association as in 2009 provided vital “Primary Rescue Response” in conjunction with the World Class Rally held at Coffs Harbour in September this year. This event was a significant multi-agency rescue activity. Seven NSW Volunteer Rescue Association squads were involved providing heavy and light rescue vehicles capability, our Radio Unit provided essential communications. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association provided operational personnel for the Police Operational Centre across the board to rescue operators in the field.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet is a member of the State Emergency Management Committee.
- Prior to 1 April 2011, the Department of Premier and Cabinet led whole of government initiatives and contributed to the support for planning, response and recovery activities as required. This function transferred to Ministry for Police and Emergency Services from 1 April 2011. The Department of Premier and Cabinet is still represented on the State Emergency Management Committee and contributes to whole of government emergency management issues.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Following endorsement of the NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan by the State Emergency Management Committee and the Cabinet Standing Committee on Counter Terrorism in June 2010, the Human Influenza Pandemic Plan was approved by Cabinet on 10 August 2010. The Department of Premier and Cabinet and Ministry for Police and Emergency Services also led other related activities to ensure NSW's capability to respond to a pandemic emergency.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet coordinated the work resulting in the Cabinet Standing Committee on Counter Terrorism approving that terrorist incidents requiring a significant and coordinated multi-agency and community response be eligible events for the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements. This was agreed at their meeting on 7 October 2010.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Prior to the transfer of the Counter Terrorism Branch to the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services in April 2011, the Department of Premier and Cabinet participated in numerous national committees including the National Emergency Management Committee, the Emergency Alert Implementation Committee and the COAG National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Writing Group.

NSW Maritime

NSW Maritime is the agency responsible for ensuring that NSW is prepared to respond to marine oil or chemical spills and shipping incidents in NSW State waters that could lead to an oil or chemical spill. Under the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (the National Plan) arrangements NSW Maritime is the statutory authority for marine pollution matters in its jurisdiction.

Combat agency roles for responding to marine oil and chemical spills and shipping incidents are divided between NSW Maritime and the Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla Port Corporations as follows:

- Queensland border to Fingal Head – NSW Maritime
- Fingal Head to Catherine Hill Bay - Newcastle Port Corporation
- Catherine Hill Bay to Garie Beach - Sydney Ports Corporation
- Garie Beach to Gerroa - Port Kembla Port Corporation
- Gerroa to the Victorian border – NSW Maritime.

Achievements in 2010/2011

NSW Maritime led a significant multi-agency exercise, involving NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, Fire & Rescue NSW and functional areas as part of the annual State maritime incident exercise. The exercise was held in Port Kembla on 13 and 14 October 2010. It was conducted in two parts, which included a desk-top exercise and an equipment deployment and activation of the local Incident Control Centre. The scenario was based on a potential grounding of a cruise ship and resultant oil spill, which also involved testing of the National Place of Refuge Guidelines and related decision making processes.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

A memorandum of understanding was finalised between NSW Maritime, Fire & Rescue NSW and the three port corporations for mutual assistance in responding to incidents across State and inland waters.

NSW Maritime held a Senior Executive Maritime Incident and Crisis Management Workshop on 1 and 2 March 2011. Attendance included members of the State National Plan Executive Committee, the State Emergency Operations Controller and senior maritime personnel from the Commonwealth, all the States and Northern Territory. The program included presentations on subjects such as salvage, insurance and a private sector crisis management perspective presented by Qantas on the A380 incident.

The following contingency plans were updated during the year:

- Port of Eden (Twofold Bay) Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan
- Port of Yamba Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan
- Port of Newcastle Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan

All the major and regional port contingency plans were exercised during the year. The exercises included representation from across the NSW emergency service agencies and functional areas.

The migration of the NSW Oil Spill Response Atlas continued as part of a larger project within NSW Maritime to migrate all of the agencies spatial data to a new geodatabase. The project is due for completion in the latter half of 2011.

NSW Maritime represented NSW as a member of the National Plan Management Committee, National Plan Operations Group (NPOG) and a Chair of NPOG's Environment Working Group, whilst Sydney Ports Corporation represented NSW on the NPOG Oil Operations Working Group and Chemical Operations Working Group.

Significant Operations/Activities

There was one significant incident in NSW during the year. Approximately 12 tonnes of fuel oil was discharged at Kooragang Basin in the port of Newcastle. The area was boomed, however, due to a combination of strong winds and a flood tide a quantity of oil escaped from the containment area and entered the North Arm of the Hunter River.

Consequently, an area of mangroves and saltmarsh, which was inhabited by migratory birds, was lightly oiled. The shoreline cleanup of this area continued for four weeks and thirty pelicans were treated for minor oiling.

NSW Maritime deployed a number of personnel to Brisbane at the request of Maritime Safety Queensland to assist in the recovery operations to the Brisbane Floods. This included recovery of sunken vessels, removal of navigational hazards and general assistance to local personnel.

SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL AREA AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area

NSW Department of Primary Industries sponsors the functional area and is also the combat agency for animal and plant pest and disease emergencies. The purpose of the functional area is to coordinate the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of emergencies involving agriculture and all animals.

With support of Participating and Supporting Organisations, the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area provides animal care services for wildlife, domestic animals and companion pets of victims evacuated from an area affected by an emergency.

Achievements in 2010/2011

The Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area's achievements were:

- significant response to the 2010/2011 Plague Locust outbreak across two thirds of NSW.
- response to several flood events across NSW.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Incident Management Team workshops (61 participants)
- Emergency Management Basic Training workshops (54 participants)
- Oiled Wildlife Coordinator Training with Office of the Environment and Heritage/NSW Maritime
- Prepared recommendations for eight Agricultural Natural Disasters
- Coordinated aircraft safety training workshops (111 participants)
- Managing Spontaneous Volunteers Workshop
- Participated in Oil Spill Exercise 'Flamingo'
- Updated the State Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
- Contribution to reviews of various emergency plans.

Significant Operations/Activities

The Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area had a full 12 months responding to emergency events:

- 2010/2011 Plague Locust outbreak across two thirds of NSW.
- Central north, southern central, western and north coast floods (stock lifts, fodder drops, provision of emergency supplies, movement of mustering teams, assessment & stock destruction, coordinating care for evacuated pets)
- Myrtle Rust outbreak on the Central Coast (exotic plant disease).

Communications Functional Area

The NSW Government Telecommunications Authority or NSW Telco Authority is a statutory authority created under the *NSW Government Telecommunications Act (1991)*. It is a related entity of the Department of Finance and Services. The Telco Authority will be governed by a board (Telco Board) of part-time members. The Telco Board reports to the Minister for Finance and Services generally as well as a Cabinet subcommittee on matters requiring cross portfolio consideration.

The role of the NSW Telco Authority is to:

- undertake a comprehensive audit of existing mobile radio infrastructure and an operational needs assessment and, in consultation with agency users of the network, develop a state-wide implementation plan for government mobile radio services.
- develop a sector-wide policy framework for mobile radio and related services, including spectrum acquisition and allocation, completed in consultation with agencies using the existing Government assets and infrastructure.
- provide mobile radio network services. Currently these services are provided via the agency specific networks, the Government Radio Network (GRN) and the Mobile Data Radio Network (MDRN).
- Negotiate with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on behalf of NSW Government agencies, all matters pertaining to mobile radio frequency allocations and spectrum.

The Communications Functional Area of the NSW Telco Authority:

- coordinates advice to and from commercial telecommunications carriers in emergency situations
- coordinates the provision of telecommunications services during the response and recovery phases of operations
- coordinates the input of NSW telecommunications policy into national forums.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- The establishment of the NSW Telco Authority.
- The substantial completion of the \$33.4 million upgrade of the Government Radio Network.
- Co-ordination of the NSW Response to the Senate Inquiry into Emergency Communications.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

As a member of the Communications Sector Group, the Communications Functional Area works with other members from the public sector and industry to identify, analyse and share information on security issues which may affect Australia's critical

communications infrastructure. The Communications Sector Group met bi-monthly during the reporting year.

The Communications Functional Area contributed to the further development of the Emergency Alert community warning system through participation in the NSW Emergency Alert Implementation Group Committee.

Significant Operations/Activities

The Communications Functional Area coordinated the deployment of emergency communications infrastructure in support of the response and recovery efforts in Grafton in January 2011 and in Taree and Kempsey in June 2011.

The Communications Functional Area provided coordination and support of telecommunication and Government Radio Network service restorations during the severe storms in the coastal areas of NSW in September/October 2010 and in again in January and June 2011.

Energy and Utility Services Functional Area

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area is responsible under the NSW Displan for coordinating the prevention of, preparation for and response to emergencies and incidents involving energy and utility services, where a significant and coordinated response is required.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator's role is to coordinate support from participating organisations to combat agencies, other functional areas and organisations involved in an emergency or incident, advice to the State Emergency Operations Controller and to coordinate functional area support to recovery operations.

Achievements in 2010/2011

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area:

- Raised the significant issue of liability and risk exposure arising from 2010 amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, which removed the preparedness and prevention roles from the State Emergency Management Committee
- Participated in State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment process
- Participated in the Heatwave Sub Plan Working Group.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator was represented on key working groups such as the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC) and National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC), whose activities included the following:

- NOSEC: participated in the International Energy Agency's review of the national liquid fuel emergency response preparedness; review and revision of the National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response Plan
- NGERAC: participated in a market test of the Short Term Trading Market provisions to manage a sudden gas supply emergency response.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator and team participated in:

- the submission to the Senate Inquiry into Emergency Communications
- the Sydney DownUnder project to improve spatial mapping for emergency reporting and risk mitigation of third party disruptions to utilities infrastructure
- the development of a Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator's utilities working group under the Sydney Metropolitan Area District Emergency Management Committee. The objective is to improve the emergency response

planning and coordination of utility services with emergency service organisations at district level. This initiative is in partnership with the Sydney Metropolitan Area District Emergency Management Officer.

Agency emergency exercises and briefing sessions, namely:

- Sydney Water Emergency Management Forum – 30 August 2010
- Sydney Water Exercise Black Christmas – 20 September 2010
- Rural Fire Service annual pre-season briefing - 21 September 2010
- AEMO system restart workshop – 9-10 November 2010
- TransGrid Exercise Mole – 29 November 2010
- Jemena gas networks exercise – 30 November 2010
- Shell Gore Bay briefing – 7 December 2010
- IEA review of national liquid fuel emergency preparedness – 24-25 February 2011
- Sydney Catchment Authority / Bureau of Meteorology/ State Emergency Service
- Flood workshop – 8 April 2011
- Sydney Water Exercise Q – 10 May 2011
- Commonwealth Bank CBD emergency workshop – 6 June 2011
- NOSEC Exercise Catalyst 2011 – test National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response
- Plan and processes – June 2011

Significant Operations/Activities

- The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator assisted with the coordination of electricity, gas and water industry responses to the northern NSW and Queensland floods, Tropical Cyclone Yasi and the recovery operation following the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.

Engineering Services Functional Area

The Engineering Services Functional Area directs and coordinates the State's engineering resources for emergency response and recovery operations. It provides engineering services support to combat agencies and other functional areas involved in emergencies.

Activities include: clearance and re-establishment of roads and bridges; structural and geotechnical assessments; demolition and shoring up of buildings; construction of emergency levees; maintenance of essential services; re-establishment of water and sewerage services; establishment of recovery centres.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- *NSW Floodwaters:* Engineering Services was activated on numerous occasions from October 2010 to February 2011 to provide specialist and critical engineering inspection, advice, recommendations and reporting to the NSW State Emergency Services for nine levees and two dams.
- *Recovery Centres:* NSW Public Works is responsible for physically establishing Recovery Centres as one-stop shops for provision of services to disaster affected people. During the year Recovery Centres were established at Grafton and at Taree and Kempsey.
- *Urban Search and Rescue Deployments:* The Engineering Services Functional Area provides the specialist engineering input to the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. In an eight week period a Task Force was deployed interstate and overseas on three occasions: Queensland, Christchurch New Zealand and Japan.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- The Engineering Emergency Management team held their twice yearly training conferences in November 2010 and May 2011
- Bush fire Awareness Training of Engineering Emergency Management team at RFS Headquarters
- Exercise *Flamingo* conducted by NSW Maritime
- Review of *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and DISPLAN relating to Recovery
- Review and input to NSW Recovery Plan, Recovery Centre Guidelines, and Disaster Assistance Scheme Guidelines
- Review and input to Major Evacuations Centres Concept of Operations
- Review and input to the State Risk Assessment
- Briefing at RFS Headquarters for upcoming fire season

Significant Operations/Activities

- *South Coast Storms September 2010*: Engineering Services managed a contract for the maintenance of roof tarpaulins and provided a structural engineer to assess damage to Ulladulla High School.
- *Southern NSW Floods October 2010*: Engineering Services provided a liaison officer in the Wagga Wagga Emergency Operations Centre to provide engineering advice and inspect the town levee.
- *Inland Flooding December 2010*: Engineering Services provided specialist engineering inspection and advice for six levees and two dams impacted by heavy rain and flooding throughout inland NSW.
- *Weillmoringle and Bourke Levees January 2011*: Engineering Services assessed levees at Weillmoringle and the Alice Edwards Village at Bourke.
- *Boggabilla Evacuation January 2011*: Engineering Services arranged the establishment and disestablishment of portable toilet and shower blocks for the evacuation centre.
- *Urban Search and Rescue Deployment to Queensland January 2011*: Engineering Services provided two structural engineers as part of this task force.
- *Grafton Levee January 2011*: Engineering Services provided specialist engineering advice to Clarence Valley Council regarding sink hole issues at Grafton Levee.
- *Grafton Recovery Centre January 2011*: NSW Public Works fitted out the Recovery Centre and coordinated the disestablishment.
- *Bourke Flooding Preparations January 2011*: Engineering Services located suitable pumping equipment for Bourke in case of heavy rain impacting on the sewage system.
- *Victorian Flooding - Windy Hill Community January 2011*: Engineering Services located relevant plant and facilities to assist a self evacuated group from Swan Hill (Victoria) to Windy Hill (NSW).
- *Urban Search and Rescue Deployment to New Zealand Earthquake February 2011*: Engineering Services and NSW Public Works deployed a total of eight engineers to Christchurch between 22 February 2011 and 4 March 2011.
- *Urban Search and Rescue Deployment to Japan March 2011*: Engineering Services provided two structural engineers as part of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force to assist Japanese authorities to respond to the earthquake and tsunami in north east Japan.
- *Taree Emergency Operations Centre June 2011*: Engineering Services arranged temporary sewerage facilities for Manning Point as well as assisted Transport Functional Area with movement of Aged Care Facility beds.
- *Taree and Kempsey Recovery Centres June 2011*: NSW Public Works coordinated the establishment of Recovery Centres at Taree and Kempsey in June.

Environmental Services Functional Area

The Environmental Services Functional Area provides advice to the State Emergency Management Committee on environmental issues. It prepares and maintains the Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (Enviroplan) to the State Disaster Plan. In addition, the Environmental Services Functional Area contributes to the preparation and maintenance of the sub-plans and coordinates the provision of the Environmental Services Functional Area support for emergency response and recovery operations.

Achievements in 2010/2011

The Environmental Services Functional Area oversaw the multi-agency Hazmat Incident Review Group. The group analyses/reviews hazmat incidents to identify:

- the cause(s) and recommended actions to prevent future incidents
- response resources (expertise and equipment) and gaps in capability
- improvements to response plans, protocols or procedures
- training needs
- trends and emerging issues.

The Environmental Services Functional Area chaired the multi-agency Climate Change Working Group which will report on the impact of climate change on emergency management and make recommendations on resource allocation for research, planning and mitigation to address climate change related risks.

In October 2010, the functional area was part of a multi-agency team that planned and participated in a marine oil spill exercise (Flamingo 2010) entailing 'Place of Refuge', State waters oil spill Incident Control Centre and Deployment phases at Port Kembla.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

The Environmental Services Functional Area participated in a number of State level emergency management planning groups, including the Climate Change Working Group, the NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Steering Committee and the Botany Precinct Emergency Sub Plan Working Group.

The Environmental Services Functional Area was also involved in:

- the ongoing review of the State Disaster Plan
- the review of the Hazardous Materials / Chemical, Biological, Radiological Emergency Sub Plan
- the review of the Dangerous Goods Road Transport legislation as recommended in the Moroney Inquiry Report into the F3 accident at Joll's Bridge in April 2010

- developing the memorandum of understanding between Transport NSW, Road Transport Authority, the Office of Environment & Heritage, Police and all emergency services in relation to the management of road and traffic accidents
- developing a State-wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment. This is being coordinated by the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services
- developing the State Heat Wave Sub Plan.

The Office of the Environment and Heritage, as the Environmental Services Functional Area coordinating agency, was a participant in the National Counter Terrorism Committee Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Workshop. The Office of the Environment and Heritage continues to be involved in the implementation of the National Chemical Security Management Framework and the review of the recommendations contained within the NSW Preparedness to undertake decontamination of a chemical biological radiological incident.

Office of the Environment and Heritage presented at a number of courses including, the Public Health Emergency Management training and the Multi-Agency Incident Training course.

Significant Operations/Activities

The functional area was involved in a number of operations during the year including dangerous goods transport at Bonville, Glencoe, Marulan, Moree, Mt Boyce and Pine Creek. The functional area attended the site and provided advice on the cleanup, waste disposal and recovery of site in the following incidents:

- *Kooragang Island, 25 August 2010*: A spill of more than 1 tonne of bunker fuel from ship resulted in the contamination of Kooragang Nature Reserve, a Ramsar wetlands.
- *Merriwa, 22 September 2010*: A motor vehicle accident occurred on the Golden Highway and resulted in the loss of 7,000L of diesel.
- *Weismantels, 4 November 2010*: A milk tanker overturned resulting in the loss of 7,000L into a stormwater culvert.
- *Tintenbar, 31 December 2010*: A B-double fuel tanker crashed and burned. Firewater and burning fuel entered a nearby wetland causing local environmental damage.
- *Toormina, 10 January 2011*: 8,000L of sodium hypochlorite solution was lost from a sewage treatment plant to a nearby creek.
- *Kurnell, 25 March 2011*: A factory fire involving a large quantity of hydrogen peroxide and other chemicals resulted in the evacuation of residents.
- *Macquarie Pass, 18 April 2011*: Truck accident resulting in the loss of approximately 12 tonnes of quicklime into a road reserve and a National Park.

Health Functional Area

NSW Health coordinates and controls the mobilisation of health responses to emergencies. This includes ambulance, medical, mental and public health and health communication.

NSW Health is the combat agency for health emergencies, particularly human infectious disease emergencies. There are five major contributing health service components are medical services, ambulance services, mental health services, public health services, health communications.

Achievements in 2010/2011

- The project “Renal Enable” identifying vulnerable (home haemodialysis & ventilated patients) communities through GIS mapping was awarded a highly commended in the NSW Safer Communities Award.
- Production of a Human Influenza Response Management Emergo Train System exercise management tool for Pandemic Influenza planning and training across Australia. A hypothetical patient bank was created with patients presenting with symptoms consistent with a possible Pandemic Influenza case definition and a small number of patients who would not meet that case definition. This tool is available internationally.
- Providing expert advice on risk management to the NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Committee to facilitate the production of the Draft guidelines.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- NSW Health and the Ambulance Service of NSW maintain a calendar of educational events delivering Health Emergency Management training.
- In NSW, Health has participated in a number of exercises including Kyaneous (Multi-agency), Flamingo, Trigger, Black Angus and multiple surge exercises.
- Nationally NSW Health has participated in Exercise Mercury 2010 which focused on the strategic management (and prevention) of terrorist attacks in multiple jurisdictions across Australia.
- This year NSW Health finalised the following plans:
 - Medical Services Standard Operating Procedure
 - Policy Directive – Use and implementation of the CLD500 (CBR)
 - Policy Directive SMART Triage Tags
 - Major Evacuation Centres: Public Health Considerations
 - NSW Pandemic Influenza Implementation Strategy

- NSW Health representatives have been on national groups developing plans and frameworks to ensure nationally consistent approaches to major health emergencies.
- The Health Emergency Management unit has established closer communication links with the Department of Health & Ageing (NSW) to advise aged care facilities of appropriate emergency management planning requirements.
- The NSW Health Emergency Management Unit in the Ambulance Service of NSW provides support for the Health Emergency Management Committee and Health Services Functional Area committee groups, develops performance standards for health entities, coordinates planning for major events, develops educational strategies and provides administrative support for major operations and exercises.

Significant Operations/Activities

NSW Health coordinated the maintenance of service delivery to remote and isolated locations during the Western NSW Floods. NSW Health provided assistance to Queensland, Victoria, Christchurch and Japan.

NSW Health planned for the 20 regular annual events held in NSW. NSW Health provided liaison officers at the Government Coordination Centre for New Year's Eve, Mardi Gras, ANZAC Day and City to Surf.

In addition to the regular events held around NSW, this year NSW Health also provided advice and assistance for an additional 20 events including World Rally in Coffs Harbour.

Operationally NSW Health and the Ambulance Service of NSW played significant roles in the response to:

- *Flooding in Western NSW:* Local Health Services worked closely with community groups to identify vulnerable persons affected by isolation and inundation.
- *Victorian Flooding:* Local Southern Health facilities provided access to hospital beds.
- *Queensland Floods:* NSW Health deployed mental health teams to support services.
- *Cyclone Yasi:* NSW Health was placed on alert before the cyclone hit Queensland.
- *Christchurch earthquake:* medical officers formed part of the Urban Search and Rescue team that was deployed to Christchurch.
- *Japanese earthquake and tsunami:* Medical officers formed part of the Urban Search and Rescue team that was deployed to Japan.
- *Hendra virus:* NSW Health responded to the Hendra virus in Queensland and Northern NSW.
- *Murray Valley encephalitis:* NSW Health provided information health messaging, surveillance, and close communication with key stakeholders.

Public Information Functional Area

The Public Information Functional Area coordinates public information during an emergency and the development of media and public information strategies and plans in support of the State Displan and agencies when required.

The coordination of public information complies with the Public Information Functional Area Supporting Plan which has been developed to reflect the changing needs of public information and the way emergency management organisations broadcast important information to the community in a timely and co-ordinated manner.

The Public Information Functional Area provides strategic public information advice to the State Emergency Management Committee, State/District/Local Emergency Operations Controllers and to other functional area coordinators. The Public Information Functional Area also provides strategic media and public information advice in relation to operations and exercises.

Achievements in 2010/2011

Exercise Black Angus 12/13 June: Developed and co-ordinated the media and public information strategy for this National Counter Terrorism Committee Exercise.

Emergency Media Centre Memorandum of Understanding: With the Department of Premier and Cabinet commenced the review of the Emergency Media Centre Memorandum of Understanding with Technology Park at Redfern.

Social Media support to agencies: Provided social media support to those agencies which do not as yet have Facebook or Twitter.

Prevention and Preparedness Activities

Monthly Test of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System: Media advisories and releases are issued prior to each monthly test. The releases are also posted on Facebook and Twitter.

State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Workshops: Participated in the State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Workshops.

Exercise Capricorn: A Sydney Airport and Sydney Mid West Emergency Management District field and airport exercise was held to test response protocols for a crash by an aircraft. A media and public information strategy was implemented.

Royal Easter Show Discussion Exercise: An exercise was conducted in the lead up to the Royal Easter Show. A communications protocol was developed for agencies.

National Counter Terrorism Committee: Coordinated the Public Information Sub Committee Public Information Arrangements training session.

NSW Aviation Emergency Sub Plan Review: Participated in the working group which conducted a review of the NSW Aviation Emergency Sub Plan.

Operation Monument: A joint media and public information strategy was developed about the scuttling of Ex HMAS Adelaide.

Joint Railcorp exercise: RailCorp conducted a joint emergency services exercise. A media plan was developed for Railcorp, NSW Police Force and the exercise director.

Exercise Tak'sis February 15 : A National Workshop about the recovery from a terrorist was conducted. Public information related advice was provided.

Emergency Alert Steering Committee: Issues covered issues included current 2010/2011 advertising campaign and location based capability.

Exercise Black Christmas – Discussion Exercise for Sydney Water: Sydney Water conducted a pre bush fire season exercise for the three primary water agencies.

Significant Operations/Activities

- *Memorandum of understanding with ABC Radio and Commercial Radio Australia – update:* The draft memorandum of understanding was distributed to the State Emergency Management Committee for endorsement.
- *Replacement of (Information) Disseminators – ongoing:* Fire & Rescue NSW completed installation of the 'CHUMBY' in newsrooms on their original disseminator list.

Significant multi-agency/functional area response and/or recovery activities

Northern NSW Floods January 2011: Media advisories were issued about road closures and safety messages. Releases and advisories were posted on Facebook and agency messages retweeted.

Western NSW Floods (Wagga Wagga, Coonamble and Dubbo) December 2010: The Public Information Inquiry Centre received a record number of calls. Media releases were issued about road closures, evacuation centres and health and safety advice. Media releases and advisories were posted on Facebook and agency messages retweeted.

Floods in Southern NSW (Tarcutta, Talbingo, Adelong): The Public Information Inquiry Centre received a record number of calls. Media advisories were issued about road closures, evacuation centres and safety messages. Media releases and advisories were posted on Facebook and agency messages retweeted.

Transport Functional Area

The Transport Services Functional Area is responsible for the coordination of the State's air, land and sea emergency transport resources that may be needed by a combat agency or other functional area.

Transport tasks include the movement of emergency equipment and personnel and emergency supplies and goods, including water, fuel and food. Other tasks include the evacuation of people and animals and assistance for medical transport and the movement of infectious material/dangerous goods.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Coordinated the initial development of transport and traffic plans in support of the draft Port Botany Precinct Emergency Sub Plan. The Botany Bay Precinct Emergency Sub Plan has been developed to provide warning of, and response to, major incidents or emergencies that may affect the key infrastructure within the Precinct. The transport plans cater for the safe mass movement of pedestrians to transport nodes or safety sites (if necessary), effective traffic and alternative travel arrangements.
- The development of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Transport, the Roads and Traffic Authority, the Department of Conservation Climate Change and Water, NSW Police Force and all Emergency Services for the management of major road and traffic incidents. This memorandum of understanding describes the police role in taking command and control at incidents and outlines the arrangements for coordination and communication between all agencies.
- Upgraded the functionality of the Transport Operational Incident System to improve the management of information and incident response coordination. The system is used for day-to-day operations as well as major events and during emergencies. The Transport Operational Incident System has the capability to share operational information with systems in the State Emergency Operations Centre and the State Crisis Centre.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Throughout the year, the Transport Services Functional Area undertook a range of activities to enhance emergency preparedness and prevention arrangements in NSW. This included active participation in State Emergency Management Committee working groups to develop/review plans for heat waves, major evacuations centres and Sydney

CBD emergencies. The functional area also contributed to the State level Natural Disasters Risk Assessment and the Floods Inquiry Working Group.

RailCorp conducted an ongoing series of train and corridor exercises to give emergency services personnel the opportunity to become familiar with accessing the rail corridors safely and using emergency equipment. RailCorp also provided a series of pre bush fire briefings for Rural Fire Service personnel to ensure a coordinated safety management arrangements within the rail corridor.

Four field exercises were conducted with police and emergency services to test and refine plans for rail incidents in the Sydney CBD and the underground rail system.

The Roads and Traffic Authority developed a number of emergency plans for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel and implemented additional traffic and public information arrangements for the F3 Freeway.

Significant Operations/Activities

The Transport Services Functional Area provided assistance and expertise in emergency planning, response and recovery arrangements to the:

- South West and Western NSW floods from October to December 2010
- Evacuation of isolated communities in the State's North West during floods in January 2010
- Tropical Cyclone Yasi in Queensland in February 2011: provided air logistical support for the deployment of the NSW State Emergency Services personnel and several tonnes of equipment
- January/February 2011 Queensland floods: developed logistical support options for the movement of essential personnel, equipment and expertise to assist in the disaster recovery operations
- February 2011 Christchurch earthquake: provided air transport for Police, emergency workers and equipment to assist in the rescue operation
- March 2011 South Coast floods that caused significant road and rail disruptions, extended journey times and transport infrastructure damage.

Welfare Services Functional Area

In April 2011, the Disaster Welfare Services Unit of the Department of Family and Community Services was transferred to the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services who is now the coordinating agency responsible for the Welfare Services Functional Area. The Department of Family and Community Services is responsible for managing local level provision of welfare services in response to disaster events. The Ministry is also supported by five non-government partner agencies: the Australian Red Cross, St Vincent De Paul Society, Adventist Disaster Relief Agency, Salvation Army and Anglicare.

Disaster welfare services coordinated by the Ministry include management of evacuation centres and provision of immediate assistance, including emergency accommodation, food and clothing. Welfare services are also provided at recovery centres and through community outreach programs.

As part of its state level coordination role, the Ministry's Disaster Welfare Services unit undertakes overarching management of disaster welfare preparedness activities and operational responses to disaster events. The unit administers the Personal Hardship and Distress component of the NSW Disaster Relief Scheme, including the provision of grants for essential home contents and structural repairs. The unit also operates the Disaster Welfare Assistance 1800 Line.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- The State Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting plan was reviewed in consultation with the State Welfare Services Committee and other key stakeholders. The plan was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in September 2010.
- A disaster welfare response was provided to 42 natural and other disasters across NSW, including major floods and severe storms.
- Financial assistance to over 660 disaster affected people was provided in 2010-2011. Information, referrals and advice was provided to many more through evacuation centres, information and assistance points and the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Delivered disaster welfare (evacuation centre/recovery) interagency training to over 160 people, including staff from the Department of Family and Community Services and other government and volunteers from the non-government organisations.

- Produced two self paced disaster welfare training modules for inclusion on the Department of Family and Community Services intranet site.
- Developed and piloted Department of Family and Community Services Team Leader modules in assessment and registration.
- Conducted Department of Family and Community Services Team Leader training on request across Department of Family and Community Services regions.
- Worked in partnership with State Emergency Operations Centre and combat agencies to focus on pre-planning and pre-deployment to ensure resources are strategically placed and welfare services are provided appropriately.
- Participation in a range of State and Commonwealth working groups.

Significant Operations/Activities

Welfare services were provided in response to 42 events in 2010/2011. For example:

Mid North Coast Severe Weather event – June 2011: Disaster Welfare staff and volunteers operated 15 evacuation centres and assisted more than 270 people. Welfare services were also provided at recovery centres established in Kempsey and Taree. Over \$91,000 in immediate cash assistance and grants for household contents and structural repairs was provided.

NSW Disaster Welfare deployment to Queensland – Tropical Cyclone Yasi - February 2011: The Disaster Welfare Services unit coordinated the deployment of a team of 24 Family and Community Services Disaster Welfare staff to the Far North Queensland to assist in the community recovery effort following Tropical Cyclone Yasi.

Grafton flooding January 2011: The Grafton Recovery Centre was established. The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line received over 600 requests for assistance. Over \$53,000 in immediate assistance and grants for household contents and structural repairs were provided.

Far West Flooding January 2011: The flood affected communities of Weilmoringle and Goodooga in the far west of the State were isolated and/or evacuated from their homes for six weeks. Welfare Services implemented a telephone outreach strategy, with support from Red Cross, to provide personal support and information for the evacuated residents of Weilmoringle. Red Cross contacted evacuated individuals and families on a weekly basis to offer welfare support and assist in addressing needs as they arose.

Due to the extended period of evacuation, Housing NSW supported Welfare Services in the provision temporary accommodation.

Capability Development Standing Committee

The Capability Development Standing Committee was established to coordinate development, implementation and review of broader emergency management capability development strategies, policies and arrangements in NSW.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Developed and endorsed the resourcing strategy for the implementation of the Capability Development Strategic Plan 2011-2014. The strategy allocates responsibilities of the new Ministry for Police and Emergency Services staff and recommendations of resourcing requirements from member agencies.
- Approve the Capability Development Standing Committee Annual Work Plan. This has been developed to provide the committee with direction in meeting the objectives which are set out in the capability development strategic plan.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Liaising with and providing input to the National Integrated Exercise Management Agenda which includes registering all State exercise for the National Capability Development Sub-Committee.
- Providing input into the Development of the National Emergency Management Knowledge Hub

Significant Operations/Activities for 2010/2011

- Develop and endorse Terms of Reference for Capability Development Standing Committee and State Training Advisory Group
- Monitoring and Prioritisation of the National Projects of Significance.

NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Steering Committee

The NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material Steering Committee is responsible for the development, maintenance and review of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material multi agency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities within NSW.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Review of the Chemical Biological Radiological/Hazardous Materials Plan – members endorsed the increased scope of the plan to include nuclear and agreed to recast the plan in the ‘Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery’ format. The Writing Group is expected to meet with the aim of more accurately reflecting the roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders with particular reference to the functional agencies that provide a supporting role during and post a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear event.
- The National Counter Terrorism Committee approved formalising the linkage between NCTC CBRN Security Sun Committee (CBRNSSC) and National Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material Working Group (NCBRN WG), including reallocating existing CBRNSSC funds (\$27,000) to support the activities of the NCBRN WG.
- Updates were provided on the implementation of the National Chemical Security Management Framework and the review of the of the recommendations contained within the “*NSW Preparedness to Undertake Decontamination of a CBR Incident/Emergency Site*” that was considered by the Chief Executives Counter Terrorism Coordinating Group in May 2008.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- A National Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material Working Group Annual Operating Plan was developed for 2010/2011. It is aligned to priorities identified at a National Workshop attended by NSW in October 2010.
- Representatives from Fire & Rescue NSW presented to the committee regarding the new Raman Spectrometer and Infrared detection equipment that is now part of the Hazmat suite of detectors. These detectors assist in the accurate identification of chemical compounds that are in either a liquid or solid form. With over ten thousand chemicals stored in the detector’s library the capacity to accurately identify and properly respond to chemical incidents as been significantly enhanced.

Significant Operations/Activities

- Two members of the NSW State Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material Steering committee attended a Department of Defence sponsored Counter Terrorism exercise in March 2011. The task force consisted of Department of Defence person from the Incident Response Regiment and police force members from jurisdictions across Australia. The exercise was conducted at the Morton-in-Marsh Fire Training Academy in the United Kingdom, with participants from the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada joining the Australian contingent.
- Botany Bay Precinct Working Group: members endorsed the activities of the working group, including the development of a Strategic Plan and nominated a representative.
- A Working Group of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Material Steering Committee has conducted a range of desktop response planning scenarios for decontamination of three chemical, biological, radiological incidents. One scenario of biological agent, one of industrial chemical and one radiological release was reviewed and the response planned.
- The incident scenarios that were chosen were those that indicated typical issues that would need to be considered for decontamination and recovery. The review of the scenarios resulted in draft tables of possible resources and materiel required for decontamination and these were aggregated for the three scenarios to identify commonalities.

NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

The NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee is a sub committee of the State Emergency Management Committee established to provide advice on Urban Search and Rescue. The NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee also provides the NSW State representative on the National Urban Search and Rescue Working Group.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Fire & Rescue NSW developed a Training Resource Kit for *Undertake USAR Category 2(PUASARxxxA)*. The program will be piloted on 9 August 2010 on a now four week Urban Search and Rescue 2 training course involving 24 trainees (21 Fire & Rescue NSW and three Ambulance Service of NSW). Two further courses were conducted in October 2010 and March 2011 resulting in an additional 40 fire fighters and eight ambulance service personnel being accredited as Urban Search and Rescue Category 2 qualified.
- The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is preparing to be assessed by the United Nations so it can be classified as an internationally deployable Urban Search and Rescue Team. This International External Classification will be conducted in September 2012.
- Urban Search and Rescue Teams deployed to Queensland, New Zealand (twice) and Japan in early 2011 in response to natural disasters.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- The Committee is upgrading the equipment on Urban Search and Rescue vehicles at Wollongong and Newcastle with acoustic search equipment (Delsar), Thermal Imaging cameras and confined space positive pressure ventilators.
- Fire & Rescue NSW Volunteer Canine Search Working Group was formed and initially met on Friday 9 July 2010 to progress search dogs for heavy Urban Search and Rescue teams. NSW State Emergency Services has begun training in conjunction with Fire & Rescue NSW to develop this capability.
- Urban Search and Rescue awareness training has been delivered on Multi Agency Incident Training courses throughout Regional NSW.
- A current key priority is to validate the new Urban Search and Rescue 2 competency training at the Fire & Rescue NSW new Disaster and Education Centre.

Significant Operations/Activities

- On 23 February 2011 an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force was deployed to Christchurch, New Zealand to assist with rescue tasks following the Christchurch

earthquake. Fire & Rescue NSW coordinated and led the deployment which comprised 52 Fire & Rescue NSW officers and fire fighters, four fire fighters from the ACT Fire Brigade, nine ambulance paramedics, two doctors, four structural engineers and two police officers.

- A second Urban Search and Rescue Task Force was deployed on 10 March 2011. The second deployment focused on community support and carrying out damage and risk assessments.
- On 11 March 2011 following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force was deployed to the Yokota US Air Base near Tokyo and worked with the Kyoto Fire Department.
- The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force has been advised that international classification as a Heavy Rescue Team will be undertaken in 2012. An initial meeting has been held with AusAID and mentor, Trevor Glass.
- The Urban Search and Rescue Canine Working Group is continuing with training that commenced in March this year to provide a search capability. NSW State Emergency Services personnel provide the personnel and canines and the program is being coordinated by Fire & Rescue NSW Rescue Section staff and the RSPCA.

Mitigation Standing Committee

The Mitigation Standing Committee was established to coordinate the development of policy, programs and tools to mitigate natural disaster risks in NSW. The committee develops strategic policy and provides advice to the State Emergency Management Committee on the area of natural disaster mitigation and emergency risk management. The two key activities in these areas are to provide direction for the Natural Disaster Resilience Program in NSW and develop and maintain an Emergency Risk Management Framework.

Achievements for 2010/2011

- Developed and endorsed the 2012/2013 Implementation Plan for the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience. The Implementation Plan continues to take full advantage of the flexibility of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and contains six programs designed to address the key natural disaster resilience priorities for NSW. This Implementation Plan will address these risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs.
- Provided high level guidance for the State Projects Program, a component of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program. This included:
 - Developing and endorsing a program guide outlining the objectives of the program and the eligibility and assessment criteria.
 - Assessed applications and recommended projects for two funding rounds of the State Projects Program. The 22 projects recommended cover a wide range of topics and agencies and are worth \$6.5 million in State and Commonwealth funding.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Successful applications for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Schemes were announced. 96 projects worth a total of \$19.6 million were approved by the Minister for Emergency Services and funding agreements with successful applicants are currently being prepared.
- Successful applications for 2010/2011 Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme were approved. 74 projects worth a total of \$1.8 million were approved by the Minister for Emergency Services and funding agreements with successful applicants are currently being prepared.
- The State Projects Program is established under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program 2011/2012 NSW Implementation Plan to fund significant natural disaster risk management projects, primarily research and pilot programs, to be conducted

by state agencies. Applications for the 2011/2012 funding round were called on 9 February 2011 and closed 1 April 2011. The Mitigation Standing Committee met on 4 May 2011 and reviewed 21 applications for a total of \$10.1million funding over two years. The Committee recommended 14 projects worth approximately \$4.04 million in combined State and Commonwealth funding across the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 financial years. The recommended projects cover a broad range of activities and cross multiple NSW Government and other agencies. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified once the NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services has approved the projects.

Significant Operations/Activities

The Mitigation Standing Committee supported the State Emergency Management Committee by providing input into responses on the following:

- National Strategy on Disaster Resilience
- Natural Disaster Insurance Review
- Emergency Risk Management Framework.

ANNEXURE

Annexure 1: SEMC Meeting Attendance.

Member	Role	Possible	Attended	Represented
Mr Alex Smith AM (to March 2010)	Chair	3	2	1
Mr Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM		1	1	
Deputy Commissioner David Owens APM	SEOCON	4	3	1
Mr Stacey Tannos ESM (to March 2010)	SERCON	3	3	
Mr Les Tree AM		1	1	
Mr Mike Willis ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		4	4	
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM, Fire & Rescue NSW	Deputy Chair	4	4	
Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch APM, NSW Police Force		4	3	1
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service		4	3	1
Commissioner Murray Kear AFSM, NSW State Emergency Service		4	4	
Mr Russell Ashdown, Volunteer Rescue Association		4	2	2
Mr Ross Burton, Agriculture & Animal Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Tony Gates ESM, Communications Functional Area (to March 2011)		4	2	2
Mr Ralph Grimes, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Mr Glen Vardy, Engineering Services Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Greg Sullivan, Environmental Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Mr Greg Rochford PSM, Health Functional Area (to March 2011)		3	3	
Dr Ron Manning (Acting Member)		1	1	
Senior Sergeant Kevin Daley, Public Information Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Greg Nott, Transport Functional Area (to September 2010)		1	1	
Mr Les Wielinga		3	1	2
Ms Wendy Graham, Welfare Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Ms Michelle Squire, the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet		4	4	4
Dr Derek Mullins, Department of Planning		4		4
Mr Shayne Wilde, NSW Maritime		4	3	1
Mr Les Tree, Department of Premier and Cabinet		3	2	1
Mr Brian Cheney, NSW Treasury		4	3	1
Ms Veronica Lee Executive Officer		1	1	
Mr Emil Wajs-Chaczko Executive Officer		2	2	
Ms Alison Francis Executive Officer		1	1	

Annexure 2: NSW Emergency Management Districts

Sydney Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the City of Sydney, City of Botany Bay, Hurstville City Council, Kogarah Municipal Council, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Mosman Municipal Council, North Sydney Council, Randwick City Council, Rockdale City Council, Sutherland Council Waverley Council, Woollahra Municipal Council and the waters of Botany Bay, Port Hacking, Port Jackson and Parramatta River up to the Parramatta Weir.

North West Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the Shire of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Holroyd City Council, Council of the Shire of Hornsby, Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai Council, Lane Cove Municipal Council, Manly Council, Parramatta City Council, Penrith City Council, Pittwater Council, Ryde City Council, Warringah Council, Willoughby City Council, and the waters of Broken Bay, Pittwater and the Hawkesbury River upstream to Wisemans Vehicle Ferry.

South West Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Auburn Council, Council of the Municipality of Ashfield, Bankstown City Council, Burwood Council, Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, Canterbury City Council, City of Canada Bay Council, Fairfield City Council, Liverpool City Council, Marrickville Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Wingecarribee Council and Wollondilly Council.

Hunter / Central Coast Emergency management District comprises the areas of Cessnock City Council, Dungog Council, Gosford City Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Maitland City Council, Muswellbrook Council, Newcastle City Council, Port Stephens Council, Singleton Council, Upper Hunter Council, Wyong Council and the waters of Brisbane Water, Port Stephens and Port Hunter.

North Coast Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Ballina Council, Bellingen Council, Byron Council, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour City Council, Gloucester Council, Greater Taree City Council, Great Lakes Council, Hastings Council, Kempsey Council, Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Lord Howe Island, Nambucca Council, Richmond Valley Council and Tweed Council.

Illarwarra / South Coast Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the Municipality of Kiama, Shellharbour City Council, Shoalhaven City Council, Wollongong City Council and the waters of Jervis Bay.

South East Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bega Valley Council, Bombala Council, Boorowa Council, Cooma-Monaro Council, Cootamundra Council, Eurobodalla Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Gundagai

Council, Harden Council, Palerang Council, Queanbeyan City Council, Snowy River Council, Tumut Council, Upper Lachlan Council, Weddin Council, Yass Valley Council and Young Council.

South West Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of City of Albury Council, Balranald Council, Berrigan Council, Bland Council, Carrathool Council, Conargo Council, Coolamon Council, Corowa Council, Deniliquin Council, Greater Hume Council, Griffith City Council, Hay Council, Jerilderie Council, Junee Council, Leeton Council, Lockhart Council, Murray Council, Murrumbidgee Council, Narrandera Council, Temora Council, Tumbarumba Council, Urana Council, Wagga Wagga City Council and Council of the Shire of Wakool.

Far West Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bogan Council, Bourke Council, Brewarrina Council, Broken Hill City Council, Central Darling Council, Cobar Council, Wentworth Shire and the Unincorporated Area of NSW.

Central West Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney Council, Cabonne Council, Coonamble Council, Cowra Council, Dubbo City Council, Forbes Council, Gilgandra Council, Lachlan Council, City of Lithgow Council, Mid Western Regional Council, Narromine Council, Oberon Council, Orange City Council, Parkes Council, Walgett Council, Warren Council, Warrumbungle Council and Wellington Council.

New England Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Armidale Dumaresq Council, Glen Innes Severn Council, Gunnedah Council, Guyra Council, Gwydir Council, Inverell Council, Liverpool Plains Council, Moree Plains Council, Narrabri Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Tenterfield Council, Uralla Council and Walcha Council.