

**NSW STATE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015**

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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 2014-2015.

FOREWORD BY STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM

The State Emergency Management Committee is established by the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. Included in its functions is to facilitate strategic state level emergency management capability through inter-agency coordination, cooperation and information sharing arrangements.

The Committee consists of executive members of the NSW emergency service organisations, the State Emergency Operations Controller, the State Emergency Recovery Controller and senior officers from government agencies with responsibilities for the delivery of functional services in an emergency.

The reporting period of 2014-2015 once again brought about challenges to test the NSW emergency arrangements, with severe storms and floods impacting the Hunter, Central Coast and Sydney Metropolitan areas of NSW in April 2015 and the Martin Place Siege in Sydney in December 2014.

The April Storms impacted a number of areas of NSW, and caused significant damage including flooding and prolonged power outages across the Hunter and Central Coast regions. The two week period in late April into early May resulted in over 21,600 request for assistance, making it the biggest storm response in NSW State Emergency Service history and one of the most severe event to have impacted these regions in the last decade.

We all know the horrific details of the barbaric behaviour that happened in Martin Place in December 2014. Two innocent people lost their lives that day. The day following the end of the Siege a review jointly commissioned by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of New South Wales was announced. The State Emergency Management Committee contributed to finalising some of the recommendations in the report. The Joint Commonwealth and New South Wales Review report was published in January 2015.

The State Emergency Management Committee undertook a strategic planning session for the second time in June 2015. The arrangements in NSW are working well, however, the session was conducted to prepare for future challenges and make improvements to ensure NSW remains at the forefront of emergency management in Australia.

Despite the significant work that has been achieved and the ongoing work various agencies are still involved in, the SEMC progressed other key pieces of work. This included the endorsement and publication of the Mine Sub Plan, NSW State Flood Plan, Tsunami Emergency Sub Plan and the Sydney and North Sydney CBD Evacuation Management Sub Plan as well as finalising the templates and guidelines for the preparation of Local Emergency Management Plans.

The State Emergency Management Committee is a vital component of what I believe to be Australia's foremost Emergency Management framework. NSW enjoys the reputation for having a well-developed clearly defined emergency response and planning system. I would like to thank all Members for their significant contributions during the year.

I want to pay particular thanks to staff of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and pay tribute to the former Chief Executive Officer, of Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, Vicki D'Adam for her support and guidance and particularly Sabrina Ippolito, Cath Mackson and Jennifer Hastings for their contribution to the smooth administration of State Emergency Management Committee.

Finally I would conclude with expressing my appreciation of the support of the Hon Stuart Ayres, Minister for Police and Emergency Services from 1 July 2014 until 28 March 2015 (State Election) and the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Hon Troy Grant MP, and the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon David Elliott MP.

Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM
Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

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 (SERM Act)* and, under section 15, has the following functions:

- to review, monitor and advise the Minister on the adequacy of the provisions of this Act relating to emergency management
- to provide strategic policy advice to the Minister in relation to emergency management
- 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
- to review the NSW State Emergency Management Plan and to recommend alterations to it
- to endorse any sub plans or supporting plans established under the NSW State Emergency Management Plan
- to facilitate strategic State level emergency management capability through inter-agency coordination, cooperation and information sharing arrangements
- such other functions are conferred or imposed on the Committee by or under this Act or are related to this Act and assigned to the Committee from time to time by the Minister.

The Minister responsible for administering the *State Emergency Rescue Management Act 1989* was the Minister for Police and Emergency Services from 1 July 2014 until 28 March 2015, was the Hon Stuart Ayres MP. The Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Emergency Services was allocated responsibility for administering the Act on 2 April 2015 until 26 May 2015. The Act was then allocated to the Hon Troy Grant, Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police from 27 May 2015 until current.

Nine Functional Area Committees coordinate functional support for emergency operations in accordance with section 16 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*:

- a) Agriculture and Animal Services
- b) Telecommunications Services
- c) Energy & Utilities Services
- d) Engineering Services
- e) Environmental Services
- f) Health Services
- g) Public Information Services
- h) Transport Services
- i) Welfare Services

The Act also establishes Regional and Local Emergency Management Committees whose primary role is to prepare emergency management plans for their region or local area.

State Emergency Management Committee Membership

Chair

Mr Philip Koperberg AO AFSM BEM

Members

State Emergency Operations Controller	Deputy Commissioner, Nick Kaldas APM
State Emergency Recovery Controller	Ms Vicki D'Adam
Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller	Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke APM
Ambulance Service of NSW	Commissioner Ray Creen ASM
Fire & Rescue NSW	Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM
NSW Rural Fire Service	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
NSW State Emergency Service	A/Commissioner Jim Smith AFSM Commissioner Adam Dent (January 2014)
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	Commissioner Mark Gibson ESM
Marine Rescue NSW	Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area	Mr Barry Kay
Telecommunications Services Functional Area	Mr Peter Marks
Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area	Mr Ralph Grimes
Engineering Services Functional Area	Mr Martin Dwyer
Environment Services Functional Area	Mr Craig Lamberton
Health Services Functional Area	Dr Ron Manning
Public Information Services Functional Area	Sergeant Kevin Daley
Transport Services Functional Area	Mr Greg Nott
Welfare Services Functional Area	Dr Allison Rowlands
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Ms Danielle Woolley
Department of Local Government	Ms Corin Moffatt
NSW Treasury	Mr Josh Shrubbs
Maritime Combat Agencies	Mr Shayne Wilde
Local Government NSW	Mr Shane McBride

Details of committee membership and attendance during the reporting year are in Annexure 1.

State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support

Executive support to the State Emergency Management Committee was provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. During the reporting period the Executive Officer was Ms Cath Mackson and then Mr Sam Toohey, Director, Counter Terrorism Policy and Emergency Management Support from May 2015 and into the next period.

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services can be contacted at:

GPO BOX 5434

Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9212 9200

Website: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON) Report

Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, APM, NSW Police Force

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

The State Emergency Operations Controller is responsible for:

- 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
- providing advice to the Minister on all aspects of emergency response.

The State Emergency Operations Controller is also the authorised officer for seeking Commonwealth assistance through Emergency Management Australia and is a member of both the State Emergency Management Committee and State Rescue Board.

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

The State Emergency Operations Controller is supported by a Staff Officer and the NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit. This Unit is responsible for developing the corporate emergency management capability of the NSW Police Force.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The State Emergency Operations Controller:

- Led the review and finalisation of the NSW Mines Sub Plan
- Assisted in the delivery of operational support to major fires across NSW
- Responded to the Martin Place Siege

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The State Emergency Operations Controller led the development of the Local Emergency Operations Controller training and policy review as well as the development of a bush fire kit including Personal Protective Equipment for the NSW Police Force.

During the 2014-2015 reporting period, the NSW Police Force provided training in:

- Emergency Alert for identified NSW Police Force personnel
- Incident Command and Control System
- Enhancement for State Emergency Operations Controller Staff Officer and Emergency Management Unit personnel

State Emergency Operations Centre

The State Emergency Operations Centre 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 State Emergency Operations Controller on a daily basis and also acts as the conduit to the Commonwealth Crisis Coordination Centre. The State Emergency

Operations Centre 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 2014-2015, the State Emergency Operations Controller and supporting staff controlled, assisted and monitored a number of emergency response operations.

Significant events during this period included:

Date	Location	Event Type	Role
December 2014	Martin Place, Sydney	Siege	Support, establishment of site control, operation of SEOC, facilitated CBD evacuations.
April 2015	Hunter/Central Coast	Severe Storms & Floods	Support

Other Activities

The State Emergency Operations Controller and Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller were responsible for the following projects and initiatives during the reporting period:

- Review of NSW Police Force Incident and Emergency Management Standing Operating Procedures
- Participated in the review of the NSW Police Force Incident Command and Control System
- Development of bush fire concept of operations

State Emergency Recovery Controller Report

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

Ms Vicki D'Adam, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services was the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) during the reporting period.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The SERCON with her supporting staff:

- Implemented a range of activities aimed at strengthening NSW recovery arrangements including a state recovery exercise to test arrangements using the scenario of a Hawkesbury-Nepean flooding.
- Implemented and tested the NSW Recovery Plan, Arrangements and Operations Manual following the Hunter and Central Coast Storm and for aspects of the Martin Place Siege.
- Piloted multi-agency Impact Assessment Arrangements and activated an External Surge Program during the April 2015 Hunter and Central Coast Storm Event.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Impact Assessments

The SERCON developed Impact Assessment Data Sharing Arrangements to produce a whole-of-government multi-agency approach to data collection, sharing and analysis spanning both response and recovery phases of an event. The Arrangements were activated for the first time during the April 2015 Hunter Central Coast Storm Event.

External Surge Program

The SERCON established the External Surge Program involving induction, training and deployment of officers from other state government departments to assist in operational roles to supplement the Ministry for Police and Emergency Service front-line teams.

The program was activated in April 2015, with a total of 19 personnel mobilised from across NSW, providing a total of 100 days of additional resources. External Surge staff were engaged to undertake administrative and coordination functions at the Dungog, Raymond Terrace, Cessnock and Wyong Recovery Centres.

Recovery Planning for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley

The SERCON coordinated the Hawkesbury Nepean Taskforce objective of developing an inter-agency draft Recovery Strategy and arrangements supplementary to the NSW Recovery Plan needed for a flood event in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

National Committees

The SERCON was represented on:

- the National Recovery Sub-Committee to the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee to progress projects including the National Impact Assessment Model and the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Stakeholders Group to progress the NSW position on major policy issues including the Productivity Commissions Inquiry into Natural Disaster Expenditure

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Hunter and Central Coast Storm and Flood Recovery

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services staff managed the State Emergency Operations Centre in support of the State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN) during the Response phase of the emergency. On 26 April 2015, the Premier of NSW, the Hon Mike Baird MP appointed retired Brigadier Darren Naumann as the Regional Recovery Coordinator for the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

The SERCON assisted in the establishment of four Recovery Centres in Dungog, Raymond Terrace, Cessnock and Wyong. The Recovery Centres provided direct support to the affected communities, operating for a cumulative total of 46 days and providing assistance to 1,466 individuals. Throughout the event and following the closure of the Recovery Centres, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services coordinated delivery of recovery outreach services and continued to support the isolated locality of Torryburn.

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services facilitated Natural Disaster Declarations in 22 local government areas.

Formal recovery activities wound up shortly after the final Regional Recovery Committee meeting was held on 24 June 2015, and while some recovery services continued in Dungog, the Response and Recovery Branch provided remote support as required.

Martin Place Siege

In December 2014, following the Martin Place Siege, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services coordinated recovery activities. The Government Coordination Committee was convened on Wednesday 17 December 2014 and comprised membership from across Government and representatives from City of Sydney Council.

The purpose of the Group was to:

- identify needs of the victims and families, the community and small business
- provide a forum for information exchange between all agencies
- coordinate activities between agencies to address emerging needs and
- ensure public communications were consistent and coordinated.

A major piece of work involved the management of floral tributes which amassed in Martin Place and emerged as a community focus in the aftermath of the Siege. Liaising across multiple stakeholders and with the wishes of hostages and families at the fore, arrangements were made for the tributes to be respectfully removed with cards and notes to be preserved.

Blue Mountains Bush Fire Recovery

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services continue to attend the Blue Mountains Local Community Recovery Steering Group on a monthly basis.

Natural Disaster Declarations

During the 2014-2015 reporting period, the NSW Government declared 7 events as being "eligible Natural Disasters" in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

These 7 declared Natural Disasters related to 75 Local Government Areas. (62 individual LGAs were declared on at least one occasion, and total LGAs declared was 75 due to some LGAs being declared for more than one event).

SECTION 2: AGENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

NSW Ambulance

The role of NSW Ambulance during emergencies is the pre hospital triage, treatment and transport of the sick and injured.

NSW Ambulance participates in all aspects of emergency management to support state arrangements and ensure that excellence in care and pre-hospital service delivery to the community of NSW is continually implemented.

The Roles and Responsibilities of NSW Ambulance include:

- Ensure a pre-hospital emergency incident management capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any event
- Assistance to NSW Health teams with provision of transport to an incident site and communications
- Provision of Specialist support with Special Operations Teams (SOT) for USAR; Police tactical, Public Order and bomb disposal units; Hazmat/CBRN incidents; RFS support for RAFT and Task Force medical support
- Provision of fixed and rotary wing aeromedical retrieval
- Provision of Ambulance and/or Health Commander to Multiagency Incident Management teams utilising AIIMS 4 principles.
- Participation in recovery committees as required

Achievements for 2014-2015

In March 2015, following Cyclone Pam, six NSW Ambulance paramedics and two Doctors were deployed to Vanuatu as part of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Task force (AUS2).

In August 2014, NSW Ambulance led Exercise Southern Reins (DisceX and Field Deployment) and was involved in a multi-agency exercise held outside of Wagga Wagga.

Throughout 2014-2015, NSW Ambulance continued coordination and participation in multi-agency emergency response exercises.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

NSW Ambulance have been involved in the implementation of SMART Triage Tags designed to manage mass casualty incidents.

NSW Ambulance conducted 13 workshops on the elevated counter terrorism public alert level and other related security matters pertaining to terrorism awareness.

NSW Ambulance participated in the State Emergency Management Committee Multi-agency and functional area projects or programs relating to issues such as communications, community education or mitigation.

NSW Ambulance also participated in the State Emergency Management Committee working groups such as the Major Evacuation Centre Working Group, Wires Down Sub-Plan Review Group and the Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

During the reporting period, NSW Ambulance facilitated two Volunteer and Community First Responder Conferences.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

In September and October 2014, NSW Ambulance deployed a significant number of Special Operations Paramedics in support of the NSW Police Force during Operation Appleby and Operation Hammerhead.

During the Martin Place Siege, NSW Ambulance provided a number of Ambulance crews and support resources to treat and transport the injured to various Sydney hospitals. The NSW Ambulance Special Operations Team (SOT) paramedics provided support to the NSW Police Tactical Operations Unit (TOU) and Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit (RBDU) during the operation.

NSW Ambulance deployed special operations paramedics as part of NSW Rural Fire Service Taskforces to Victoria, South Australia and West Australia. At the request of the South Australia Ambulance Service, NSW Ambulance also deployed Ambulance Commanders and general duties Paramedics to South Australia during their bush fire emergency.

In April 2015, NSW Ambulance deployed a team of Special Operations swift water technicians to Dungog and other flood affected areas during the Hunter Storms. Alongside the other emergency services, NSW Ambulance facilitated a number of swift water rescues during this incident as well as maintaining pre-hospital response capability within the storm effected areas. NSW Ambulance also deployed Liaison Officers to a number of emergency operations centres in support of the combat agency.

In June 2015, NSW Ambulance responded to the liquid sodium fire at Jemalong near Forbes. The NSW Ambulance response included local Ambulance crews, Commanders and Special Operations Team (SOT) paramedics in support of Fire and Rescue NSW.

Fire & Rescue NSW

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is responsible for all fires within Fire Districts established under the *Fire Brigades Act 1989* and provides the majority of accredited rescue units in NSW. It is the sole Combat Agency for hazardous material emergencies throughout NSW and for major structural collapse rescue under the Major Structure Collapse Sub Plan of the State Emergency Management Plan. FRNSW is also responsible for the management, maintenance and deployment of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force within NSW, nationally and internationally. The Task Force is accredited by the United Nations as a Heavy Rescue Task Force suitable for international deployment following earthquakes and other disasters. FRNSW responds beyond Fire Districts when requested to support the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS), for example at major bushfires and fires involving buildings, and supports other agencies, for example the NSW State Emergency Service (NSWSES) at floods and storms, and the Ambulance Service of NSW at some medical emergencies.

FRNSW is about the 4th largest urban fire service in the world. There are 338 fire stations in major metropolitan areas, regional centres and large towns throughout NSW. They are staffed by approximately 3,400 career firefighters and approximately 3,300 retained (on-call) firefighters who operate a fleet of fire engines, tankers, rescue units, ladder / platform units, hazardous materials units, and Hazmat boats. In addition there are around 6,000 Community Fire Unit volunteers attached to about 600 units established in bushfire prone areas of NSW.

In 2014-2015 FRNSW firefighters responded to 128,076 emergency incidents, including structure fires, bush and grass fires, rescue incidents, chemical spills, flood and storm damage and medical assistance calls. An analysis of FRNSW responses over a 10 year period showed that there has been a significant increase in the number of "real" emergencies attended, a reduction in false alarms, that average time spent at emergency scenes has increased, and the number of community engagement / prevention activities carried out has significantly increased. Today's firefighters are more likely to be called upon to attend a rescue, chemical spill or storm damage call than a structure fire.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Urban Search & Rescue training and Prop

In February 2015, a new transportable USAR structural collapse training prop was commissioned. Based on the dimensions of an ISO shipping container, the prop is transportable and resettable. It simulates a structural collapse where trainees must locate and rescue trapped victims. The prop has been used in skills maintenance sessions and received the Patrons Award at the 2015 Good Design Awards. A second transportable prop was completed in June, and includes a trench collapse and progressive pancake collapse scenario.

Lowest number of Fire Deaths in a calendar year

The overall number of fire deaths per year is a rolling average over a 6 year period and has consistently averaged 21 per year since the introduction of new smoke alarm legislation in 2006. With the implementation of FRNSW targeted community engagement programs, including "Home Fire Safety Check Program", "Keep Looking Whilst Cooking" and "Winter Fire Safety Campaign" a significant reduction in fire deaths in the 2014 calendar year was achieved with 11 fire related deaths recorded. This is a 48% reduction against previous years. FRNSW believes these targeted programs have been a contributing factor to achieving these positive results. Introduction nationally of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes, a FRNSW initiative, is also thought to have been a contributory factor.

New technologies

FRNSW's innovation program involves tapping into the creativity and ideas of all employees. Major changes in rostering practices have seen a lowering of absenteeism and improved morale, new diversity strategies are seeing more women and Indigenous people being employed as firefighters, and changes in the technology are improving operational capabilities and the safety of firefighters. Some of the most recent technological innovations include:

- Large-scale roll out of compressed air foam system fire engines, tankers and bulk tankers enabling faster fire knockdown, reduced emissions (smoke) and reduced water use
- Dispatch of fire engines using real-time satellite tracking, resulting in reduced response times
- Development of the most technologically advanced Mobile Command Centres in Australia
- Trial of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- Fitting of Mobile Data Terminals to 182 fire engines with chemical databases, operational guidelines, weather data, and real time tracking and display of locations of nearby fire crews
- An Australian first, and only the 3rd in the world, a Turbine Aided Firefighting robot (TAF 20) which can be operated remotely from 500m away. It can project water mist for 60 metres, a strong water jet for 90 metres, and can clear smoke from tunnels and buildings blowing air at 150kmh
- A HyTrans bulk water supply system that can pump large volumes of water from static supplies through 1.5km of 150mm hose.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Fire Prevention activities

Fire Station Open Day this year was our biggest ever. A Home Fire Safety Task Force initiative has continued to be trialled. Metropolitan and regional areas identified as being of high fire risk saw intensive intervention by FRNSW staff who checked smoke alarms and offered general fire safety advice. Despite the approaching 10-year anniversary of legislation mandating home smoke alarms, the Home Fire Safety deployments are finding around 60% of homes in the targeted at-risk communities do not have working smoke alarms.

To combat a worrying spate of house fires, in July we ran a special two-week safety blitz called 'Operation Cold Snap', where crews made more than 660 visits to shopping centres, sporting venues, transport hubs, schools and clubs to promote key winter fire safety messages to their local communities.

Station Risk Profile Tool

In March 2015, FRNSW launched the new Station Risk Profile (STRP) tool designed to assist with profiling communities and to help local crews to better understand community needs. The STRP maps community segmentation data and incident data to identify households which are at greatest risk from accidental fires in the home. These households can then be targeted with community engagement activities, including Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC).

Community segmentation classifies all Australian households and neighbourhoods into 49 unique types and 13 overarching groups, providing a 360-degree view of household choices, preferences and habits. It is built using Australian demographic data from the 2011 Census and other best available data sources (a total of 238 variables). FRNSW is now using Mosaic data to target community engagement activities at the top 10 'at-risk'

groups which represent 21% of households in NSW, 37% of fires over six years, and 43% of injuries over six years.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

This year was a busy but fulfilling operational one for FRNSW, bringing many challenges. In April severe storms battered many areas of the State. FRNSW and other emergency services immediately swung into action, responding to thousands of incidents and assisting with recovery efforts. This was one of our busiest periods on record – between 20 April and 23 April, our Communication Centres received 7,107 000 calls and crews responded to 3,042 storm-related incidents, including powerlines down, roofs damaged or blown off, fallen trees, flooding, fires, rescues and hazmat incidents.

Tropical Cyclone Pam - Vanuatu

FRNSW's expertise in disaster management is recognised by the United Nations and is regularly called upon. This was demonstrated in March this year when Tropical Cyclone Pam swept across Vanuatu's chain of islands, causing widespread devastation. Emergency Management Australia and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade asked FRNSW, as the on-call international USAR Task Force, to deploy a medium USAR Task Force to Port Vila. In response, 56 emergency services personnel led by FRNSW assisted with the disaster relief efforts. The team comprised 45 FRNSW rescue, hazmat and command specialists, 6 NSW Ambulance Paramedics, 2 doctors, 2 engineers and 1 Police officer. The team completed 50 rapid damage assessments on a range of health, education and government buildings that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Pam. Some of the team's work included repairs to the Port Vila Hospital, public schools in and around Port Vila and a maternity centre.

Factory fire Smithfield

On the morning of Saturday 26 March the one of the largest industrial fires for some years occurred at Smithfield. A large fire in a car wrecking yard spread to a nearby furniture factory then continued to spread to other buildings. A 13th Alarm response saw 42 fire appliances and 160 firefighters respond to the scene, and the Commissioner took charge of operations at the height of the fire. Two yet to be commissioned bulk Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) tankers were deployed with instructors and proved to be decisive. The appliances carry 9500 litres of water, 200 litres of class A foam and a remote controlled nozzle. They were deployed on either side of a building that was under threat, with the CAFS immediately reducing fire intensity.

Chemical fire at a renewable energy solar power plant at Jemalong

On Saturday 13 June FRNSW firefighters from Condobolin and Forbes responded to a chemical fire at a renewable energy solar power plant at Jemalong, about 35 kilometres west of Forbes in NSW RFS area.

En-route firefighters were informed of the presence of liquid sodium which reacts very violently with water. RFS crews already on scene were advised of the danger of using water and withdrew to safe positions.

On arrival FRNSW crews found a tank containing 120,000 litres of liquid sodium leaking, with the resulting spill igniting on contact with the air. Soda ash was used to assist in smothering the fire with additional supplies having to be sourced from other parts of NSW and the ACT. Rain added to the complexity of the operation.

The incident continued for 5 days until the temperature of the tank could be reduced to help solidify the liquid and stop the leak. FRNSW fire and hazmat crews from as far away as Culcairn, Young, Dubbo, Temora, Orange, Cowra, Wentworth, Wagga Wagga, Kelso, Bathurst and Sydney attended the incident.

NSW Police Force

The NSW Police Force's role is to maintain law and order and protect life and property for the people of NSW. Under the NSW State Emergency Management Plan, the NSW Police Force provides assistance and support to combat agencies, functional areas and other organisations as required.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The NSW Police Force has been engaged in a period of intense operational activity with a number of counter terrorist operations, major crime search warrants and operations, and an increased focus on providing safety to public transport users. The NSW Police Force continued to provide operational support to combat agencies and functional areas, including in response to the East Coast Low in April 2015.

During the year the NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit continued to develop the NSW Police Force's capability in emergency management and business continuity. The 18 Region Emergency Management Officers provided executive, training and planning support within the 11 emergency management districts and were focused on implementing SEMC projects such as the roll out of Local Emergency Management Committee planning templates.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

During 2014-2015 the Testing of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System continued to occur on the last Friday of each month with the support of Roads and Maritime Services and the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator. The Emergency Management Unit of the NSW Police Force were involved in the testing of the Sydney Alert System (SMS) to notify building managers within the Sydney CBD. This testing is now managed concurrently with the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System.

Incident Command Courses using Incident Command and Control System continue to be conducted at the NSW Police Force Leadership Centre, Richmond. These courses are provided to senior police, particularly those engaged in emergency operations.

The NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit participates in a number of working groups, including Wires Down Sub Group; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Working Group; Register Find Reunite Working Group; SEMC Exercise Management Working Group; Emergency Operations Centre Review Working Group; Evacuation Decision Making Guidelines Project; Environmental Services Functional Area Committee; and the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group.

Other important activities conducted by the NSW Police Force during the year included the counter terrorism preparation, Exercise Hermes Castle, the reviews of the Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan and the Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan (which now includes North Sydney CBD) and the Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan major exercise.

The NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit participated in the Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan and Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Group. The Unit has commenced the following projects; reviews of the Disaster Victim Registration process and the Local Emergency Operation Controller training, policy and doctrine, and has formalized the Site Controller policy, training and implementation. The Unit also developed Major Hazard Facility preparation for disaster process, the Education package, designed in consultation

with Senior Mines Safety Inspectors, for Mines Sub Plan and took part in Regional Emergency Management Committee meeting visits.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Some of the Emergency response and recovery activities for the year included the provision of a Security Liaison Officer, Senior Sergeant Tim Fairservice, within the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce deployment to Vanuatu for Cyclone Pam. Operational support in the form of Liaison Officers and the SEOCON was also provided to the NSW State Emergency Service during the April East Coast Low. The NSW Police Force also provided support with the recovery operation throughout the Central Hunter.

In addition, the NSW Police Force have been involved in the ongoing support to the Animal & Agriculture Functional Area Coordinator with the Red Fire Ant infestation at Botany Airport.

The NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit manages all NSW Police Force Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) requests. Operational support was provided to Fire & Rescue NSW for several major building fires including the Harvey Norman factory at Yennora. The NSW Police Force also responded to hail damaged buildings in Huntingwood.

The NSW Emergency Management Unit and Regional Emergency Management Officers continued to attend Regional Emergency Management Committee meetings. The State Emergency Operations Controller was responsible for coordinating the Regional Emergency Management Officer review which will commence concurrent with Region Emergency Management Committee Review.

NSW Police Force

Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command

The role of the Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command is to provide a comprehensive and coordinated response to acts of terrorism or politically motivated violence through intelligence collection, analysis, investigation, dignitary protection, security of national icons, business interests and critical infrastructure, and supporting policing operations through tactical response services, including:

- provide specialised bomb, canine, field intelligence, negotiation, rescue and tactical capabilities, and munitions, armourer and engineering services to support an operational response
- coordinate security operations for dignitaries, witnesses considered to be at risk and Internationally Protected Persons
- provide timely and relevant intelligence and information to assist in the prosecutions of terrorist-related activity
- work cooperatively to provide security services to a range of State Government complexes and critical infrastructure, community and businesses, to discourage acts of terrorism
- coordinate and liaise within the NSW Police Force and with those external agencies to undertake contingency planning in the event of a terrorist related incident

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command continued to coordinate and participate in multi-agency emergency response exercises in relation to the business of the State Emergency Management Committee.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command conducted Multi-Agency Incident Training involving NSW Ambulance, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW State Emergency Service. The Multi-Agency Incident Training, Regional Airport Security Program and Port Security Program included presentations from functional areas within the emergency services and discussion exercises to stimulate audience involvement. The Regional Airport Security Program was conducted at Regional Airports in NSW involving local emergency services and airport personnel. The feedback from the training programs was very positive.

Other activities conducted by the Command included:

- The 2015 NSW Emergency Wilderness Navigation Shield (NAVSHIELD)
- The SAREX a Multi-Agency Land Search & Rescue Coordination exercise conducted at Bendethra National Park
- The development and implementation of the POLSAR Mapping Program across NSW Police Force for Land Search and Rescue (LANDSAR) Coordination.

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command also took part in the National Search & Rescue Managers, NSW State LANDSAR Coordinators and Advanced Vertical Rescue Skills Enhancement Courses including conducting a Drill Style Exercise Program involving Policing Units and Emergency Service providers.

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command is involved in the following Committees and Working Groups, including:

- Membership of the State Rescue Board Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

- Membership of State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Exercise Sub Committee
- Membership of the State Rescue Policy Working Group
- Chair of State Rescue Board Capability Matrix Working Group
- Police Rescue Squad Committee Meetings (Chair) held quarterly
- National Search & Rescue Council Meeting
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority LANDSAR COORD Working Group

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command was involved in several significant operations during the year, including the Mid North Coast and Far South Coast Flood Rescue Deployments and the International Deployment of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit personnel to Canada for the 2015 Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Capability Exercise (CAPEX). There was 133 Land Search and Rescue operations conducted across NSW from December 2014 to September 2015.

Other significant activities included the visit by the Emergency Service Unit (ESU) within the New York Police Department (NYPD), which involved a valuable exchange of information about current Rescue and Vertical Rescue techniques. During the reporting period the Command also developed and implemented Remotely Piloted Aircraft for Rescue & LANDSAR deployments.

NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the combat agency for bush fires in New South Wales. Working closely with other agencies, the NSW Rural Fire Service responds to a range of other emergencies including structural fires, motor vehicle accidents, storms and floods.

The NSW RFS is widely acknowledged as the largest volunteer fire service in the world, made up of more than 74,000 volunteers, operating in over 2,000 brigades and supported by around 900 staff.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Emergency Management Operations System

The Emergency Management Operations System (EMOS) project was jointly sponsored by the Ministry for Police & Emergency Services (MPES) and NSW Rural Fire Service having been endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in March 2014.

This system is based on the NSW Rural Fire Service Incident Control Online (ICON) functionality with Phase 1 of the project completed and released on 01 April 2015. EMOS has been made available at no cost to Local Councils, emergency services and other Government agencies. The system will significantly enhance the preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies anywhere across the State.

Evacuations Working Group

The NSW Rural Fire Service co-chaired the Evacuations Working Group first established by the State Emergency Management Committee in 2007 to provide advice and enhance existing emergency management arrangements regarding evacuations. The NSW Rural Fire Service facilitated and hosted the Greater Sydney Mass Evacuation tabletop exercise in June 2015 which involved State Emergency Management Committee members and venue operators within Sydney Olympic Park.

Incident Controller Major Incident (ICMI) Program

The Incident Controller Major Incident (ICMI) course developed by the NSW Rural Fire Service remain ongoing involving NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Ambulance, NSW State Emergency Service and South Australia Country Fire Service personnel.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Hazard Reduction

Members of the NSW Rural Fire Service and partner agencies contribute significantly to hazard reduction activities in support of land management agencies and private property owners. During 2014-2015 reporting period, the NSW Rural Fire Service undertook 1,711 hazard reduction works comprising approximately 25,957 hectares of hazard reduction work protecting a total number of 30,797 assets with a value of \$13.6 billion.

Neighbourhood Safer Places

A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a place of last resort for people to gather during the passage of a bush fire. It is typically a building or open space which is sign posted within the community to provide a higher level of protection from the immediate threat of fire. A total of 983 sites have now been assessed and established as Neighbourhood Safer Places. Annual audits and inspections were also undertaken to identify new sites and to ensure standards for design and placement of Neighbourhood Safer Places were upheld.

Community Protection Plans

Community Protection Plans are detailed, practical, community level documents that provide the public, land management agencies and fire authorities easy to understand information on the bush fire threat for a community, current and proposed risk treatment

works, access and egress issues, the location of vulnerable members of the community (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centres) and available protection options.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Significant bush fire activity was experienced in August, November and March with declarations under S44 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* made in the Clarence Valley, Blue Mountains and Narrabri Local Government Areas.

During April and May 2015, the NSW Rural Fire Service provided significant support to the NSW State Emergency Service completing over 5,500 tasks. Over 7,400 shifts were completed by NSW Rural Fire Service members supported by over 55 Incident Management Team personnel. Additionally, the NSW Rural Fire Service State Air Desk facilitated 19 taskings during this event.

2014-2015 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Total bush and grass fires	12,262
Total Incidents	23,148
Area Burnt	183,677
Total Fire Ban Declaration	19
Section 44 Declaration	5
Personnel Deployments	68,787
Aircraft Taskings	1,095
Loss and Damage	6 habitable structures destroyed 23 sheds/outbuildings destroyed 9 habitable structures damaged 6 sheds/outbuildings damaged

Interstate Deployments

The NSW Rural Fire Service provided and coordinated significant support to other jurisdictions during the 2014-2015 reporting period. The deployments to Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia were co-ordinated by the NSW Rural Fire Service comprising of 800 personnel from NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Services, ACT Emergency Services Authority and NSW Ambulance.

As a result of the impact of Tropical Cyclone Lam, the Northern Territory Government requested support from the NSW Rural Fire Service to establish emergency accommodation on for the Galiwinku community on Elcho Island. With the assistance of the Australian Defence Force, the NSW Rural Fire Service deployed and established a 'Base Camp' for 300 residents which remained in operation between February and July 2015.

International Deployments

The NSW Rural Fire Service provided and co-ordinated support to British Columbia, Canada during September 2014 as a result of significant wildfire activity. This deployment comprised of 14 personnel that included personnel from NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Services.

NSW State Emergency Service

The functions of the NSW State Emergency Service are to be exercised in accordance with the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, the *State Emergency Service Act 1989* and, in particular, with the requirements under the State Emergency Management Plan or any state of emergency under that Act.

As a legislated combat agency, NSW State Emergency Service is responsible for planning and conducting the emergency response for flood (including Flood Rescue), storm and tsunami within NSW. However, it frequently assists the NSW Police Force with searches for evidence and missing people, supports NSW Ambulance with Community First Responder volunteers in rural locations around the state and provides logistics support to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Lead agency roles include:

- community engagement/resilience building including engagement with councils, community groups and public to build self-protection into communities
- storm operations including roof protection, storm flood and snow assistance and 'making safe' generally
- flood rescue including life threatening rescue from water being riverine, fast flowing or inland water way rescue
- flood operations including evacuation, sandbagging, protection of key infrastructure, re-supply and transition to recovery.

The NSW SES's inter-agency support roles include:

- general Land Rescue (GLR) including road crash rescue (76 units currently operating)
- search and Rescue Support
- Urban Search and Rescue (USR) and Alpine Search and Rescue (ASR)
- vertical Rescue (30 units) including rescue from cliffs/shafts/buildings/heights and depths
- community First Responder (CFR) services performed on behalf of ambulance in remote areas (12 units currently operating)
- bushfire support, which is usually logistics support for door knocking, catering and evacuations
- departmental assistance when required, for example, the NSW SES assisted the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) during the outbreak of Equine influenza
- functions to support the State Emergency Management Plan's commitment to an all-hazards, all agencies approach which includes maximum coordination and information sharing across the full spectrum of prevention, preparation, response and recovery.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The NSW State Emergency Service led the review of NSW Flood and Tsunami Sub plans. These plans were endorsed at the SEMC in March 2015. The review included implementing a public - 'Have your say' program to encourage community participation.

As the combat agency for Tsunami, the NSW SES participated in the National Tsunami Exercise - PACWAVE 2015. Whilst led by the Bureau of Meteorology this exercise provided an opportunity to assess the NSW State Emergency Service strategic operational and incident management practices relating to Tsunami.

The NSW State Emergency Service developed and implemented a 'bespoke' operational management system beacon to provide improved information management, situational awareness and dispatch capabilities during emergency response.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The NSW State Emergency Service modified existing planning paradigm focused on the inclusion of the community role. The role of the community has been defined within the Flood and Tsunami sub plans to encourage partnering with emergency services and to promote resilience behaviours.

In June 2015, the NSW State Emergency Service participated in the Multi-Agency Remote Area Land Search Exercise (SAREX) located at Bendethra Valley, Deua National Park. NSW State Emergency Service utilised this exercise to review existing capability in remote area land search.

NSW State Emergency Service was integral to the development and implementation of the Level 2 course on Multiagency Incident Management Logistics. The agencies involved in the development of this course are the NSW Rural Fire Service, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance. NSW State Emergency Service has developed Incident Management Guidelines and Accreditation processes. These guidelines are aligned to the AFAC accreditation process.

The NSW State Emergency Service is represented on multiple national working groups including being the end users on 13 research projects being conducted through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards co-operative research centre (BNHCRC).

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

NSW State Emergency Service led three level 3 emergency responses within the 2014-2015 financial year. The most significant multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency response occurring in April/May 2015 throughout the lower Mid North Coast, Hunter, Central Coast, Sydney Metropolitan and Illawarra South Coast.

The impact of the Severe Weather led to significant flash flooding and storm response operations resulting in 25,106 requests for assistance (RFAs), 171 flood rescues and the requirement to engage multiple agencies and jurisdiction as per the Australian Emergency Management Arrangements.

The NSW State Emergency Service conducted 13 internal After Action Reviews (AARs) including 8 centrally managed by Knowledge and Lessons management branch. An interagency AAR was conducted by the Knowledge and Lessons management branch to which all State Emergency Management Committee members were invited including representatives from Victoria, South Australia and ACT State Emergency Services.

A summary of the activities conducted by the NSW State Emergency Service in Table 1,

Table 1

Summary of NSW SES Jobs

Incident	Number
Storms and Cyclones	45,490
Flood	2,952
Road Crash Rescue	575
Vertical Rescue	44
Other Search and Rescue	299
Community First Response	468
Other Emergency Incidents	908

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has performed rescue services to the community of NSW for 46 years. The Volunteer Rescue Association's primary role is to provide rescue support to all emergency services within NSW.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has 42 General Land Rescue Units of which 39 have primary response capabilities; including 3 specialist units and 13 support units. It also has Vertical Rescue capability for 22 locations in regional NSW.

During 2014-2015 reporting year the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association completed:

- 6,979 Operational Tasks (incidents)
- 106,646 Operational Hours totalled hours and
- 138,619 Non-operational Hours ie. Training, Maintenance, Exercises, Fundraising etc.

The 6,979 incidents attended by the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association included rescues involving aircraft, domestic, industrial, inland water, motor vehicle accidents, road & rail accidents, vertical/cliff rescues, land searches, body recoveries, animal rescues, incident scene lighting, welfare and assist other emergency services.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association acknowledges the support of the NSW State Government and our major sponsor NRMA. The support given by these two organisations is invaluable and very much appreciated by volunteers in the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Following a restructure, the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association reduced their regions from 11 to 7 in NSW. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association commenced a review of all policies including Work, Health and Safety.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 reporting period the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association initiated a confined space awareness program to train all registered operators on the difficulties of working in any confined space.

The Volunteer Rescue Association participated in the SAREX a Multi-Agency Land Search & Rescue Coordination exercise conducted at Bendethra National Park.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association participated in Project OTIS organised by the local Regional Emergency Management Officer in conjunction with the Grain Handling Authority at the Narromine Railway facility. The exercise involved all emergency services from the local area plus the NSW Police Force Rescue and Bomb Disposal unit and members of the Emergency Management Unit.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association was involved in a search for a missing person in the Kanangra Walls. The agencies involved included the Bushwalkers Wilderness, WICEN, CREST and Cave Rescue Squad.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association volunteers assisted in the major storm and flood events in NSW during April and May 2015. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association volunteers completed 407 jobs and worked a total of 1,697 hours.

Marine Rescue NSW

Marine Rescue NSW is the State's official volunteer marine rescue service. The organisation marked its fifth anniversary on July 1, 2014. It has 3,141 members, based in 45 units along the NSW coastline, from Point Danger to Eden and inland on the Alpine Lakes and the Murray River, at Moama. Its core functions are:

- swift, coordinated marine emergency Search and Rescue response
- operating the State's only Log On and vessel tracking service for recreational boaters
- monitoring marine radio traffic along the NSW coastline around the clock
- public boating safety education, including marine driver's licence and radio courses

Achievements for 2014-2015

Saving lives on the water

Marine Rescue NSW rescue crews responded to 3,001 vessels in trouble on the water, including 775 in life-threatening (notifiable) emergencies. In addition, radio operators handled 310,342 radio transmissions and Logged On 70,243 vessels. Units also supported the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command in a number of multi-agency Search and Rescue operations.

MarineRescue Smartphone App

Marine Rescue NSW launched the new MarineRescue Smartphone App on 7 March 2015. The App was developed with the assistance of a grant from the NSW Government Water Safety Black Spots Fund. The App makes boating on NSW waters safer by giving boaters the ability to Log On and Log Off directly using their mobile phone and the choice of an extra live safety tracking option, updating their position in the Marine Rescue NSW tracking system every 30 minutes. The App also provides a range of boating safety tools and information that help build boater capability and responsibility and could help save lives in an emergency. The App was downloaded more than 7,300 times and used for 3,146 Log Ons between 7 March and 30 June 2015.

Contribution to the NSW Tsunami Sub Plan, Storm Sub Plan and Flood Sub Plan

Marine Rescue NSW contributed to the review by the NSW State Emergency Service, of the NSW Tsunami Sub-Plan, Storm Sub-Plan and Flood Sub-Plan. The enhancements relevant to Marine Rescue NSW include greater recognition and potential engagement of Marine Rescue NSW assets and services in a supporting role during aquatic/marine-based emergencies. Marine Rescue NSW provide a significant service through their public marine radio network in disseminating warnings and information to the boating public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the preparation, response and recovery phases.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Marine Rescue NSW participated in a series of coordinated multi-agency regional marine Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX) in 2014-2015 including Monaro Region (Batemans Bay, October), Northern Rivers Region (Ballina, November), Hunter/Central Coast Region (Newcastle, March) and Mid North Coast Region (Port Macquarie, June). Marine Rescue NSW crews also took part in other training activities with agencies including the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Ambulance helicopter crews.

Marine Rescue NSW continued to build capability. Members completed a range of training courses delivered by the Marine Rescue NSW Registered Training Organisation, including:

- Provide first aid (725)
- Provide advanced resuscitation (689)
- Marine Rescue NSW Radio Operator (420)

- Marine Rescue NSW Crew (202)
- Marine Rescue NSW Watch Officer (107)
- Marine Rescue NSW Leading Crew (71)
- Marine Rescue NSW Coxswain (43)
- Marine Rescue NSW Rescue Water Craft Operator (11)
- Marine Rescue NSW Search and Rescue Support Officer (6)

Marine Rescue NSW allocated more than \$1.7 million towards new rescue vessels and vessel capital equipment during the reporting period of 2014-2015, including eight Seadoo Rescue Water Craft and associated sleds, helmets and other personal protective equipment.

As part of Marine Rescue NSW's commitment to preventing marine emergencies through boater education, a number of units conducted Safe Boating and Personal Water Craft (jet-ski) licence courses for the public.

Marine Rescue NSW continued to work with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and other jurisdictions to ensure new national commercial vessel laws and regulations meet the needs of the volunteer marine rescue sector around Australia.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

East Coast Low

Marine Rescue NSW crews battled cyclonic conditions resulting from an East Coast Low in April 2015 to assist the boating community. Marine Rescue Port Stephens' members fought through driving rain and wind gusts of up to 140km/h to rescue two men who had abandoned their catamaran, which was smashed on to rocks in Fame Cove. Marine Rescue Hawkesbury crews ferried a diabetic casualty to safety, retrieved a large pontoon and loose boats posing navigation hazards and, along with a crew from Marine Rescue Cottage Point, joined a search for a missing lone sailor. Sydney Region volunteers supported the storm response and recovery operations, answering public calls for information and assistance at the Public Inquiry and Information Centre (PIIC) and to the Disaster Welfare Information Line.

Safety support

Marine Rescue NSW crews provided spectator craft control, safety boats and logistical and communications support for a range of events, including the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, New Year's Eve fireworks, Australia Day festivities, Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament, Easter Fishing Classic, Australian Offshore Superboat Series, Mullum2Brunns Paddle, Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and Ulladulla Blessing of the Fleet.

Maritime Combat Agencies

Transport for NSW is the overall managing (statutory) agency for marine oil/chemical spills and ship accident emergencies in NSW state waters. This also includes the role of the state Marine Pollution Controller.

Combat agency roles are undertaken in accordance with the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan. Combat agencies include Roads and Maritime Services and the Port Authority of New South Wales for incidents in port areas and designated adjacent State waters. This includes the Port of Yamba (Clarence River) and Port of Eden (Twofold Bay).

Following the sale of the land-side components of Port Botany, Port Kembla and Newcastle Port, the three NSW Port Corporations (Newcastle Port Corporation, Sydney Ports Corporation and the Port Kembla Port Corporations) have been amalgamated in to a single Port Corporation. The Port Corporation now trades as the "Port Authority of New South Wales" and continues to have the same Combat Agency roles and areas of responsibility.

Achievements for 2014-2015

NSW and Victoria Cross-border Exercise

An annual South Coast Exercise, incorporating a cross-border scenario, was held at Eden on 30 – 31 July 2014. This was a facilitated discussion and desktop exercise designed to examine cross border coordination issues and test the NSW South Coast Marine Oil & Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and the Gippsland Region Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. This exercise was attended by 32 individuals from 12 agencies and industry. The Exercise outcomes are being used to develop a protocol for dealing with marine pollution that impacts both NSW and Victorian jurisdictions.

Oil Spill Response Atlas

The Exercise outcomes are being used to develop a protocol for dealing with marine pollution that impacts both NSW and Victorian jurisdictions. A similar Exercise with Queensland is scheduled for July 2015.

Transport for NSW is continuing to progress the ongoing development of GIS based Oil Spill Response Atlas (OSRA).

The Spatial Systems Team at Transport for NSW is currently finalising Phase II of the OSRA web based application development. This involves incorporating live AIS data from AMSA, weather reports and links to web based cameras, and importantly the ability to overlay oil spill trajectory modelling (OSTM) outputs over environmental sensitivity data layers.

Once Phase II is complete, it is intended that the Transport for NSW Spatial Systems Team will progress Phase III with delivery of OSRA as a tablet based application allowing responders to enter and upload data from the field. This will also include photos and an enhanced draw function.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Training and Exercises

Transport for NSW delivered a range of operational and management training for over 365 state personnel during 2014-2015. A further 150 people from across a range of agencies participated in seven (7) exercises conducted by Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services and the Port Authority of New South Wales. Additionally 33 personnel from across the sector attended national courses delivered by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Participation in national working groups

Transport for NSW continued to be a member of the State Emergency Management Committee as the representative of the Maritime Combat agencies. This also included being a member of the Environmental Services Functional Area and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear & Hazardous Materials Steering Committee.

NSW is represented on a number of National Committee's including the National Plan Strategic Coordination Committee (NPSCC) and related Technical Working Groups and is the chair of the related Research and Development Group. The NPSCC has undertaken significant work in implementing the outcomes of the 2012 National Plan.

Regional Exercises

On 3 July 2014, the annual North Coast Exercise was held at Port Macquarie. The exercise concentrated on multi agency response in the Hastings River with the aim of familiarisation of Roads and Maritime Services personnel and other stakeholders within the NSW State waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan, the North Coast Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan. This exercise specifically concentrated on a change to agency responsibilities with the impending introduction of the Marine Pollution Regulation 2014 and revised State waters.

On 15 September 2014, the annual Lord Howe Island marine oil spill equipment exercise was held. The exercise incorporated deployment of local pollution response equipment in conjunction with the supply vessel, MV Island Trader, being at the Island. This was followed by exercising incident management, including roles and responsibilities, in conjunction with the Lord Howe Island Board and supporting organisations. Training was also conducted in shoreline response for new personnel.

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

The *Marine Pollution Act 2012* and Marine Pollution Regulation 2014 commenced on 1 September 2014. The amended legislation incorporates Annexes III, IV and V of MARPOL into NSW law. Other changes include specifically limiting State waters to three (3) nautical miles, provision for directions to be given verbally, clarification of technical details for transfer operations and increased powers of entry and provision for issuing Penalty Notices. The Bill for the *Marine Pollution Act 2012* passed through both Houses of Parliament in February 2012.

Pursuant to provisions within the Marine Pollution Act, other waters within the State can be prescribed by regulation to be State waters. Whilst the 2009 Regulation prescribed the major and regional Port waters to be State waters, the 2014 regulation also prescribes four (4) additional waters. This includes Jervis Bay (excluding Commonwealth waters), part of Port Stephens, Hastings River (Port Macquarie) and Coffs Harbour. This has also resulted in Combat Agency responsibility for incidents in these areas transferring from Fire & Rescue NSW to Roads and Maritime Services.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

There have been no significant spills during the last 12 months in NSW. Combat Agencies (the Port Authority of New South Wales and Roads and Maritime Services) have responded to numerous minor incidents or reports of oil on the water or ashore. This included a number of grounded or sunken fishing and recreational vessels. These incidents either resulted in the vessel breaking up and small amounts of pollution entering the water or salvage of the vessel without a pollution incident.

Agencies have also responded to a number of leaking containers at Port Botany, whereby packaged chemicals have leaked in the container and then onto the vessel deck. Fire & Rescue NSW secured the leaking containers, supporting the Combat Agency (Port Authority) along with additional support of the local emergency management arrangements.

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services provides executive and policy support to the State Emergency Management Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services also holds the position of State Emergency Recovery Controller. The Welfare Services Functional Area is also part of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, and is a member of the State Emergency Management Committee. These roles and functions are described in other parts of this report.

Administrative Arrangements (Administrative Changes – Public Service Agencies) Order 2015 was issued by the Premier on 2 April 2015 announcing the abolition of the Ministry commencing 1 July 2015 with the transfer of staff and functions to the Department of Justice. The Secretary of the Department of Justice from 1 July 2015 will hold the position of State Emergency Recovery Controller.

During the reporting period the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services worked on a number of significant policy projects.

Natural Disaster Resilience Program Grants

Funding for the Natural Disaster Resilience Program is made available under the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Resilience.

The Minister approved 336 projects totaling \$16.56m for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 funding rounds of the Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme, State Emergency Management Projects, Community Resilience Innovation Program, Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme and the Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme.

\$13.1 million was expended during 2014-2015 on projects funded from the 2009-2013 and 2013-2015 National Partnership Agreements.

Emergency Management Training and Exercises

The Resilience and Planning Branch coordinates the delivery of nationally recognised emergency management training. There are eight courses on offer as multi-agency emergency management training. Six of these are face to face training programs and two are in eLearning format.

In total, 3,297 participants from across government and non-government organisations, with a role in NSW emergency management arrangements undertook multi agency emergency management training. This is a 37 per cent increase from the previous year.

The training evaluation had a high response rate of 45 per cent and of these responses, 97 per cent reported very high levels of satisfaction with the training they received.

Two eLearning modules, Disaster Recovery Overview and Community Engagement Overview are also currently under development with an expected release in late 2015.

The Branch also funded 10 multi-agency exercises to test emergency management arrangements, comprising:

- 1 State level exercise (Exercise Poseidon)
- 3 Regional level exercises (2 metro and 1 non metro)
- 6 Local level exercises (non-metro) with over 600 participants

State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services works closely with the Chair and respective members of the State Emergency Management Committee to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Committee.

The Secretariat developed papers for the State Emergency Management Committee which met four times during the reporting period. The Committee is established under section 14 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, and brings together agencies responsible for the response and recovery of emergencies in New South Wales.

It is the Secretariat's role to support the committee in its management of State level emergency management capability through inter-agency coordination, cooperation and information sharing arrangements.

Get Ready NSW

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services has been involved in the delivery of the Get Ready key messages approved by NSW Cabinet in July 2014. The Get Ready key messages are designed to complement and strengthen hazard specific public awareness and preparedness messaging delivered by the different NSW Emergency Services agencies. They provide a set of standard key messages for disaster preparedness that summarise actions for household preparedness that are common for all hazard types.

Get Ready messages present five clear, concise actions grouped under the catchphrases:

- Know your risk
- Plan for what to do
- Get your home ready
- Be informed
- Look out for each other

The key messages reinforce the personal responsibility of community members to reduce their risk of property damage and loss and to protect their family. They have been developed to appeal to 'motivating triggers' identified in research evidence, such as orientating messages toward the individual's desire to protect family member and safety of pets.

State and Commonwealth Natural Disaster Funding Reforms

On 1 May 2015, the Commonwealth Government tabled the Productivity Commission's *Inquiry Report: Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements* and a report on current Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements conducted by the Australian National Audit Office.

Following the release of the Final Report, on 1 May 2015 the Disaster Funding Policy Branch coordinated a strategic statewide approach to the consideration of disaster funding policy reforms proposed by the Commonwealth Government. This included briefing the relevant Ministers, the Ministry's Chief Executive Officer, NSW Treasury and other key stakeholders.

This work is continuing into the next reporting period.

SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL AREA AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) coordinates the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) and is 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 the support of Participating and Supporting Organisations provide animal care services for wildlife, domestic animals and companion pets of victims evacuated from an area affected by an emergency.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Red Imported Fire Ants

In November, exotic Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) were detected at a site at Port Botany in Sydney. This first incursion of RIFA into NSW was discovered by officers from the Australian Government. The multi-agency NSW response to the incursion is being led by the Department of Primary Industries, with support from Local Land Services, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, the NSW State Emergency Service and NSW Police Force.

A highlight was the use of NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service volunteers to assist in the intensive residential surveys. The only known nest site has been eradicated and surveillance and precautionary treatment of the Port Botany area is continuing. A control order remains in place which prohibits movement of high risk materials such as soil and plants from the control area of approximately 2 kilometres around the site where the red imported fire ants were discovered. The disruption to business in the Port Botany area is being minimised by issuing conditional permits to those businesses that undertake high risk activities that might lead to the spread of red imported fire ants.

Severe Weather Event in April

In April 2015, Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area supported the NSW State Emergency Service in responding to the severe weather event in the Hunter and Central Coast region.

Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area received 148 requests for assistance with a total of 2,358 animals being assisted. 14 tonnes of emergency fodder was delivered and disposal advice and assistance was provided to landholders to manage approximately 36,900 animal losses (including 417 cattle, 36,000 chickens, as well as horses and domestic pets). NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services staff provided ongoing recovery advice for landholders following the event. On 11 June 2015, an Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area After Action Review was conducted.

Exercise Odysseus

In November and December 2014, the NSW Department of Primary Industries led the NSW component of the National Livestock Standstill Exercise Programme 'Exercise Odysseus'. NSW conducted four exercises involving approximately 160 participants. These exercises were multi-agency activities involving a range of government departments and included broad industry representation.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

- Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area staff attended the NSW Rural Fire Service pre-season briefing and exercise at Homebush.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries conducted four multi-agency/industry exercises based on managing a livestock standstill in response to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease – Exercise Odysseus.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services staff, as members of the National Rapid Response Team (RRT), participated in a professional development exercise at Toowoomba, Queensland as part of the national Exercise Odysseus program.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries staff participated in the state recovery exercise – 'Exercise Deluvio'. NSW Department of Primary Industries staff fulfilled planning roles as well as exercise participant roles.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services and industry representatives participated in 'Exercise Yellow Dragon' facilitated by Plant Health Australia based on managing a plant pest incursion.
- Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area staff from the Emergency Management Unit have attended training conducted by Australian Emergency Management Institute and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.
- Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area staff from the Emergency Management Unit have participated in community engagement at local events.
- Emergency management training workshops were conducted by NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services. These included Introduction to Emergency Management and Applied Emergency Management.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries and supporting organisations personnel participated in the Introduction to Oiled Wildlife Response courses and other Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Transport for NSW marine pollution courses.
- Review and development of policies, plans, procedures, particularly for Plague Locust management, including the review of internet pages.
- Participation in national working groups by Emergency Management Unit personnel for Biosecurity Training and Emergency Animal Disease Disposal.
- Two animal evacuation first response trailers funded to be located at high risk regions for Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area response and community engagement.

Significant Operations /Activities for 2014-2015

Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Bushfires

In October 2014, the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area provided animal support at three evacuations centres and two Emergency Operation Centres during the Wollondilly (Hall Road fire) and Wingecarribee bushfires.

Red Imported Fire Ant

In December 2014 and January 2015, the incursion and response to the Red Imported Fire Ant commenced. In January – June 2015 the program was led by Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

Locust Response

In October 2014 to April 2015, the commencement of monitoring and management of the Locust response occurred in the North West, Western, Central West and the Riverina.

Severe Weather Event in Sydney and Hunter/Central Coast

In April 2015, the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area provided animal and agricultural support at evacuation centres and Emergency Operations Centres, responded to 148 requests for assistance including fodder supply for around 2300 stock and removal of more than 500 dead livestock, conducted aerial surveys, assisted with missing and found stock, assessment and reporting of agricultural damage and recovery activities.

QLD Panama Disease & NT Banana Freckle Response

In 2015, Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area sent 23 personnel to assist in Queensland Panama disease response and 20 personnel assisted with the Banana Freckle response in the Northern Territory.

Telecommunications Services Functional Area

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area (TELCOFAC) within the NSW Telco Authority is responsible for coordinating the preparation, response and recovery from emergencies and incidents where a significant and coordinated response involving the telecommunications sector is required.

Other functions include:

- Providing co-ordination (information, planning and intelligence) via telecommunication carriers, Combat Agency State Operations Centres and the NSW State Emergency Operations Centre during an emergency: acting as a link between telecommunications carriers and emergency services agencies.
- Facilitating and assisting telecommunications carriers with access to failed critical telecommunications infrastructure in emergencies, through collaboration with NSW Police, NSW SES or NSW RFS, to escort or transport telecommunication carriers' technicians to failed infrastructure.
- Coordinating the deployment of telecommunications carrier network augmentation infrastructure in an emergency or major incident.
- Providing specialist advice, where appropriate, to Government agencies on telecommunications availability and effectiveness in an emergency context, and contributing to the development of the emergency management policy in the prevention, preparation, response and recovery phases of emergency management.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area:

- Secured carrier cooperation for operational support during the Martin Place Siege.
- Coordinated the telecommunications response to the April 2015 storms, which impacted the Hunter, Central Coast and Metropolitan Sydney.
- All TELCOFAC staff completed the Advanced Diploma of Emergency Management in the 2014-2015 reporting period.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The Telecommunications Functional Area Coordinator attended the North West Metro REMC conference in March.

The Telecommunications Functional Area Coordinator participated in a number of workshops, emergency management exercises and working groups including:

- The SERM Act review working group led by the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services in April, May and June.
- The CBD emergency exercise in May.
- The multi-agency exercise on Recovery, based on a Hawkesbury Nepean flood scenario.
- The AIES Emergency Management Resilience Forum conference in May
- The Greater Sydney Mass Care Exercise in June.

- Three Emergency Information Coordination Unit "Sydney Down Under" working group meetings in the reporting period.
- The Emergency Management Spatial Information Working Group
- TELCOFAC staff training in March, April, May and June
- The Infrastructure Functional Areas coordination forum
- The Sydney Down Under Working Group and the Wires Down Working Group

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

The current membership of the TELCOFAC subcommittee is Telstra Corporation, SingTel Optus Pty Ltd, Vodafone Hutchison Australia, NBN Co, NSW Government Radio Network NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, State Emergency Operations Centre, Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area, Engineering Services Functional Area, Health Services Functional Area and Public Information Services Functional Area.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Martin Place Siege, Sydney

On 15 December 2014, the Telecommunications Services Functional Area staff were deployed to the State Emergency Operations Centre in the role of TELCOFAC Liaison Officer at the request of the Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller.

The Liaison Officers established contact with the participating telecommunication carriers including Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and NBN in order to coordinate the exchange of operational intelligence between the carriers and the State Emergency Operations Centre as well as coordinate the carriers' response role.

The Managing Director of the Authority coordinated the exchange of intelligence between the TELCOFAC and the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation Crisis Management Team.

April 2015 Storms

During the period from 19 April to 25 April 2015 NSW experienced extreme weather conditions, which resulted in severe flooding, particularly in the Hunter region.

The adverse weather conditions and associated power failures and access issues caused a number of operational issues for the commercial mobile carriers as well as the Government Radio Network.

Staff from the TELCOFAC were deployed to the State Emergency Operations Centre as Liaison Officers to coordinate the exchange of operational intelligence between the telecommunication carriers, NSW State Emergency Services and NSW Police Force as well as the effort to assist carriers to access and restore critical infrastructure cut off by floods waters.

Energy and Utility Services Functional Area

Under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (SERM Act), the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area is a category of services whose sub-committee coordinates the provision of functional area support for activities carried out to prevent, prepare for, respond to or recover from an emergency.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area comprises a Functional Area Coordinator (EUSFAC), who is sponsored by the NSW Department of Industry, plus representatives of owners and operators of public and private electricity, gas, liquid fuel, and water infrastructure. At The State level, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area coordinates support from or to these organisations during significant events.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area regularly undertakes planning for the coordination of national level emergencies in the electricity, natural gas and liquid fuel supply chains under respective plans, Memoranda of Understanding, Intergovernmental Agreements and other established coordination arrangements.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area:

- Commenced a "Reset 2015" Project to revise the Functional Area Coordination function, which followed on from the 2013 review into the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator Program
- Participated in significant sector exercise activity
- Engaged functional area members in planning and preparedness for the 2014 - 2015 bush fire, floods and storms season, which was comprehensively tested during the April 2015 storms.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Bushfire pre-season activities

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area coordinated familiarisation training for functional area member ICON users; participated in the pre-season briefing and State Operations Exercise Krulak on 7 August 2014. The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area disseminated pre-season NSW Rural Fire Service briefings and Bureau of Meteorology fire season prognosis briefings to Functional Area members.

EUSFAC Bush Fire Concept of Operations

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Bush Fire Concept of Operations was updated and circulated to the Energy & Utility Services Functional Area members in August 2014.

Floods and Storm pre-season activities

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area attended annual pre-season briefings by NSW State Emergency Services in September 2014. The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area distributed seasonal outlook briefing information to Members.

EUSFAC Floods and Storms Concept of Operations

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Flood and Storm Concept of Operations was revised and circulated to Members in November 2014.

Significant exercise engagement

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area and members participated in a number of exercises during the 2014-2015 period, exercising communication and coordination arrangements at all levels. These included:

- **Electricity Network Exercise**
The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area and the NSW Rural Fire Service Emergency Management Coordinator participated in the Essential Energy incident management exercise held 30 September 2014, at Essential Energy's headquarters, Port Macquarie. The exercise scenario was bushfire crossing an electricity distribution franchise area boundary near Oberon NSW.
- **National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee - Exercise Volition**
On 25 March 2015, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area participated in exercise Volition, the exercise focused on a simulated gas supply shortages in NSW and south eastern Australia.
- **Sydney CBD Evacuation Exercise**
On the 24 May 2015, the Sydney CBD Evacuation Exercise was conducted and included participants from sector utilities Jemena Gas Networks, Ausgrid, and Sydney Water Corporation. Endeavour Energy was an observer.
- **National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee - Exercise Catalyst 15**
On 17-18 June 2015, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area hosted Exercise Catalyst at the NSW Rural Fire Service Headquarters. The multi-dimensional exercise focused on cross jurisdictional coordination during a national liquid fuel emergency.

National Terrorism Alert Level change

On 12 September 2014, the Government announced the increase in the Terrorism alert level to High. On 16 September 2014, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area attended a workshop convened by NSW Police Force Counter Terrorism Standing Committee for owners and operators of the energy and utilities critical infrastructure. Participants were provided with briefings, revised security postures for the High alert and workshopped issues.

EUSFAC and NSW DPI Water

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area and NSW Department of Primary Industries jointly facilitated engagement between State Emergency Management Committee members and industry stakeholders in planning for Broken Hill water supply options.

Regional Directors Forum

On 22 May 2015, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area presented at the Bureau of Meteorology NSW Regional Directors Forum. The topic was the interaction between the energy and utilities sector and the Bureau of Meteorology.

Functional Area Committee

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area held Functional Area Committee meetings on 16 September 2014 and 16 April 2015.

Participation in national working groups

As the NSW Representative on the National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee and the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area participated in regular meetings and policy development activities.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Protracted Operational Response

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area provided coordination and support for the three East Coast Low events in late April early May 2015. The events resulted in the most significant electricity network damage ever sustained in NSW with up to 235,000 customers without power at the peak.

Martin Place Siege

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area provided coordination and support for utilities to the NSW Police Force during the Martin Place siege in December 2014.

Engineering Services Functional Area

The Engineering Services Functions Area identifies the necessary arrangements at state level to effectively and efficiently coordinate the mobilisation of all engineering resources available within the State for emergency response and initial recovery operations and to support Combat Agencies and other Functional Areas and asset owners to prevent and prepare for emergency events. Public Works also maintain the capability to support the urban search and rescue (USAR) function of Fire and Rescue NSW and we are available for deployment to missions outside NSW and Australia. Public Works have over 60 staff involved in Engineering Emergency Management drawn from across the state.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Engineering Services Functional Area:

- provided support during the April 2015 East Coast Low event involving simultaneous response and recovery activities across multiple sites drawing expertise from all Regions and Business Units of NSW Public Works.
- involved in major structural collapse exercise based at NSW Fire & Rescue's Ingleburn training facility.
- Provided support for the Urban Search and Rescue mission to Vanuatu.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 reporting period, the Engineering Services Functional Area undertook the following preparedness activities during the reporting period:

- state wide study of flood levee system
- participated in a multi-agency exercise on oil spill and wildlife contamination
- participated in a multi-agency Recovery exercise based on a Hawkesbury Nepean flood scenario
- all of Electrical Engineering Managers training through 2 conferences
- participated in Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce training
- participated in Heads of Asbestos Coordinating Agencies, the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities working party
- assisted in the development of training material for asbestos emergency management
- participated in the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group
- participated in the Emergency Management Spatial Information Working Group
- participated in the Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Group
- participated in the Infrastructure Functional Areas coordination meeting

- participated in the review of *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* led by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services
- participation in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services Productivity Commission Report Working Group.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Statistical Summary of Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Emergencies	19
< 1 day	12
> 1 day	7
Structural assessments	15
Geotech assessment	5

Environmental Services Functional Area

The Environmental Services Functional Area is led by the Environment Protection Authority. The Functional Area's role includes determining measures to prepare for and aid in preventing incidents and emergencies that may impact on public health and the environment, and coordinate the protection of the environment during emergency response and recovery operations.

The Environment Protection Authority has over 120 staff across NSW who are trained in incident response and have regulatory powers under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. The Environment Protection Authority supports the combat agency in hazardous materials incidents and significant pollution events.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Environmental Services Functional Area:

- Chaired the Asbestos Working Group established by the State Emergency Management Committee to progress emergency preparedness for significant asbestos incidents with a focus on developing a common baseline training in asbestos awareness for emergency services personnel.
- Led the development of the Asbestos Emergency Plan for endorsement by the State Emergency Management Committee in September 2014.
- Provided environmental support to recovery operations for the East Coast Low event in April 2015.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Training of EPA Staff in Incident Management

The Environment Protection Authority has adopted a modified AIIMS structure so as to more efficiently and effectively respond to incidents. Incident management training was provided to 144 Environment Protection Authority and Office of Environment and Heritage staff during the 2014-2015 financial year.

Participation in national working groups

A new national working group for environmental emergency response has been initiated through the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement Network. It will initially focus on harmonisation, interoperability and access to knowledge and expertise. Meetings were held on 12 February and 20 May 2015.

Multi Agency Training and Exercises

The Environmental Services Functional Area participated in significant multi-agency training and exercises, including:

- Operations Hastings – 3 July 2014
- Exercise Ignis – 9 September 2014
- Exercise Deluvio – 15 September 2014
- Exercise Puffing Billy – 12 November 2014
- Exercise Castlereagh – 5 December 2014
- Annual Bulk Tanker Emergency Response Exercise – 22 January 2015
- Exercise Kembla Dolphin – 25 June 2015

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

The Environmental Services Functional Area attended:

- The Environmental Services Functional Area Committee on 8 December 2014 and 10 June 2015.
- The Hazmat Incident Review Group on 29 July 2014, 27 November 2014 and 31 March 2015.
- The Asbestos Working Group on 21 August 2014, 24 November 2014, and 27 February 2015.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

The following incidents requiring Environmental Services Functional Area input and attendance were of special note:

- Port Kembla, 13 October 2014 - Stack at Bluescope Steel caught alight and collapsed. Issues around impact on the community from the smoke plume.
- Singleton, 27 October 2014 - The main ash slurry pumps failed at Liddell Power Station. Unknown quantity of ash and supernatant entered Tinders Creek.
- Federal, 1 December 2014 - A tanker containing 2,000 litres of a pesticide mix containing Orthene and Spin crashed onto the bank of an unnamed creek.
- St Marys, 26 January 2015 - Factory fire resulted in a fish kill in South Creek that caused significant community concern.
- Liverpool, 14 February 2015 - Fish kill in the Georges River near the Liverpool weir requiring four tonnes of fish to be removed from the river.
- Bellingen, 16 February 2015 - Turtle biosecurity incident in the Bellinger River.
- Hunter region, April 2015 - East Coast Low event requiring significant coordinated waste management and assessment of potential asbestos risks.
- Jemalong, 13 June 2015 - Sodium fire at a pilot solar thermal power station near Forbes.

Health Functional Area

The role of NSW Health is to coordinate and control the mobilisation of all health responses to emergencies. This includes ambulance, medical, mental and public health and health communication services.

NSW Health is the Combat Agency for all Health Emergencies within NSW. This particularly applies to human infectious disease emergencies from whatever cause. The major contributing health service components constitute the whole of health response incorporating all-hazards approach and are:

- Medical Services
- Ambulance Services
- Mental Health Services
- Public Health Services
- Health Communications
- HealthShare NSW (Logistics)
- NSW Pathology
- The Sydney Children's Hospital Network (under 15yrs).

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Health Services Functional Area:

- supported community needs in the response and recovery to the Martin Place Siege.
- enhanced the capability of NSW to respond to a Viral Infectious Haemorrhagic Fever (Ebola).

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The Health Functional Area participated in a number of workshops, training exercises and working groups including:

- A state-wide course for Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS) was conducted to train Health personnel to be a team member in a pre-hospital response to a mass casualty incident and an advanced MIMMS course was conducted to train Health personnel likely to take on command and control functions in a pre-hospital response to a mass casualty incident.
- EmergoTrain Senior Instructor Courses conducted to train Health personnel to facilitate EmergoTrain Exercises. This training enables these personnel to run exercises within their Local Health Districts and Hospital settings to practice hospital and pre-hospital responses to major incidents.
- Australian Medical Assistance Team (AusMAT) Team Member Course conducted by NSW Health in November 2014 to train personnel to be a member of a NSW AusMAT team deployed intrastate, interstate or internationally following an incident.

- Two personnel trained on the AusMAT Surgical and Anaesthetists Course to deploy in as a part of an AusMAT contingent.
- Airport Familiarisation Day conducted for Mental Health personnel. This day provides an orientation of the airport and the procedures personnel will need to follow when required to be a part of a reception team at the airport following an incident.
- NSW Health has been an active participant in a number of multiagency exercises at the State and Commonwealth levels.
- NSW HEALTHPLAN was formally signed off at the end of 2014 with work commencing on a suite of supporting internal health policy.
- NSW Health worked closely with the Energy & Utilities Functional Area Coordinator and providers to review power supply across NSW Hospitals. Public Hospitals were prioritised on the basis of criticality for delivery of service, for priority restoration in times of mass power failure.
- NSW Health is an active participant on a number of national committees/working groups including: Deployment Working Group (DWG), Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT), National Health Emergency Management Committee (NHEMC's), Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC), and National Medical Stockpile Advisory Group (NMSAG).

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

The State Health Services Functional Area Coordinator held four meetings of the State Health Emergency Management Committee in the reporting period. All Local Health Districts and the eight key specialties areas participated in the ongoing management and development of Emergency Management Strategies within NSW Health.

Professional development opportunities designed and facilitated for all Local Health Districts & Network Disaster Managers.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Martin Place Siege

NSW Health involvement in the response and recovery to the Martin Place Siege. A liaison officer was provided to the State Crisis Centre, and Health operations were coordinated through the State Health Emergency Operations Centre. NSW Health provided assistance to NSW Police Force providing guidance and advice on personal responses to the situation including providing Mental Health teams to assist at the scene.

Solomon Islands

NSW Health provided Doctors to the AUSMAT & NZMAT teams that responded to the Solomon Islands following significant flooding. The teams spent a month assisting local medical facilities dealing with increased presentations associated with injury and illness following the breakdown of infrastructure.

Ebola Planning

NSW was one of the first states to obtain ISOPods for the transfer and treatment of infectious patients. The Ebola planning phase saw the development of risk assessment tools, protocols and a suite of training to support the safe management of a potential presentation of Ebola within NSW.

Public Information Functional Area

The Public Information Functional Area is responsible for the co-ordination of public information during an emergency which is under the control of an emergency operations controller, and the development of media and public information strategies and plans in support of the Emergency Plan and agencies when required.

Co-ordination of public information recognises the changing needs of the public in the way they receive information and the way emergency management organisations broadcast important information to the community in a timely and co-ordinated manner, and on a variety of platforms.

The Public Information Functional Area Co-ordinator also provides strategic public information advice to the State Emergency Management Committee, SECON/DEOCONS/LEOCONS, and to other Functional Area Co-ordinators and agencies as requested.

The Public Information Functional Area also provides strategic media and public information advice in relation to operations and exercises, to the development of public information material for emergency management policies and guidelines, as well as counter terrorism issues.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Martin Place Siege Response

In December 2014, significant public information arrangements were put in place during the Martin Place Siege. The Public Information arrangements included the developments of Talking Points and Key Messages and key media officers being deployed to specific locations.

During the incident the NSW Police Force posted information on their Facebook site relating to mental health advice and traffic and transport information. The release of information relating to the victims was co-ordinated with the Director Media NSW Health and the Health Services Functional Area Co-ordinator to ensure a controlled release of updates. Social Media officers operating from the Police Media Unit and the Police Operations Centre were tasked with posting updated information as well sharing agency information, moderating posts and myth busting.

On 23 December 2014, Public Information Support was provided in relation to critical issues management surrounding the removal of the floral and written tributes left at Martin Place.

Review of the Warning and Public Information Arrangements

As part of the Sydney CBD Emergency Plan Working Group, the Warning and Public Information Arrangements were reviewed to include combining the tests of the warning systems (Sydney Alert and the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System) to be conducted on the same day so as to provide greater awareness of the systems for the general public, building managers and CBD residents. As well as greater use of social media platforms for disseminating key messages, including safety messages and displaying the various CBD sectors and maps.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

Exercise Nightbird

On 3 September 2014, a multi-agency exercise was conducted, involving more than 200 emergency service and Sydney Airport personnel. Exercise Nightbird was conducted during the night to test Sydney Airport's emergency response plan. The exercise tested aspects activation of the various facilities and resources available to support agencies that would be involved in managing an emergency at Sydney Airport. The exercise scenario involved

the crash landing of a domestic 737 service at the perimeter fence following a mechanical issue on board. The agencies involved in the exercise included the NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, Airservices Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting and Virgin Australia.

Exercise 'Sydney CBD'

On 24 May 2015, the Sydney CBD Management Arrangements were tested. Exercise 'Sydney CBD' was a multi-agency emergency management exercise and was one of the largest exercises of its type. The exercise provided police and emergency service organisations with the guidance required in a range of events, including the need to move large numbers of people out of the city. More than 500 personnel were involved in the exercise including 300 volunteers who role played workers being evacuated.

The agencies involved included the NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Ambulance, Transport Management Centre, Transport for NSW, City of Sydney Council, NSW Health (Disaster/Crisis), the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and approximately 300 volunteers from the NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service and Surf Life Saving Australia.

Exercise Hermes Castle – Counter Terrorism Public Information Discussion

On 11 March 2015, a multi-agency Public Information discussion exercise was conducted to explore the whole of government national security public information arrangements in response to a mass casualty terrorism incident committed on an Australian Defence Force Base. The exercise also covered the strategic communication and public information arrangements associated with a changing threat environment and the subsequent impact on the National Terrorism Public Alert Levels, as well as the public information arrangements associated with the consequence management and recovery from a mass casualty terrorism incident. Additionally, the exercise explored the social media capturing and response arrangements associated with this type of incident.

Exercise Hermes Castle - Deployment Exercise

On 7 May 2015, more than 450 personnel from the NSW Police Force, emergency services and Defence Force participated in a major national counter-terrorism exercise conducted at the Holsworthy Army Barracks. The multi-agency counter terrorism exercise was designed to test state and national capabilities to respond to a national security incident of this type. The exercise included officers and resources from the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance Service, Australian Federal Police, Defence, and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

ACT/NSW Cross Border Emergency Media Working Group

On 23 March 2015, the Public Information Functional Area, with NSW Ambulance and NSW State Emergency Service, attended the ACT/NSW Cross Border Emergency Media Working Group. The purpose of the working group is to examine ways and procedures of enhancing media and public information co-ordination and dissemination for emergencies in the cross border areas of ACT and NSW.

NSW Health Department Public Information Workshop

On 25 November 2014, the Public Information Functional Area, with representatives of the Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command, conducted a Counter Terrorism Public information Arrangements workshop with the Local Area Health Services Media Officers in relation to the Counter Terrorism Public Information Arrangements and how best to manage media and public information during critical and high risk incidents.

The Public Information Functional Area Sub-Committee membership includes the NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Health, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Security and Recovery Co-ordination), Community Services, Defence Force, Sydney Airports, Communities NSW, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, State Rail, Sydney Ferries, Industry and Investment, City of Sydney, Transport Management Centre, Roads and Maritime NSW.

To provide the Public Information Functional Area Sub-Committee with a broader appreciation of the SEMC Functional Areas, the role they play and the support they can provide, it is the intention to invite the functional Area Co-ordinators to attend future meetings.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

Regional Emergency Management Officers Conference

On 11 November 2014, the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator attended the Regional Emergency Management Officers Conference and discussed recent emergencies, current Public Information Activities, future developments and what this means for them as Regional Emergency Management Officers.

Shop Explosion and Fire at Rozelle

On 4 September 2014, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred at a shop and unit in Darling Street, Rozelle. As a result Darling Street was closed for a considerable period.

The NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance, Council under the direction of the Leichhardt Local Emergency Operations Controller and supported by the Police Media Unit, was provided with Public information co-ordination support in relation to road closures and exclusion zones and health updates.

Operation WEIR – ICC Cricket World Cup 2015

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 was held in Australia between 9 February 2015 and 26 March 2015, and required a comprehensive media and public information strategy to cover a range of contingencies. The strategy was developed based on existing plans and procedures for terrorism and emergency management related incidents.

Operation Trader - AFC Asian Cup 2015

The AFC Asian Cup 2015 was held between 9-31 January 2015, in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, and required a comprehensive media and public information strategy to cover a range of contingencies. The strategy was developed based on existing plans and procedures for terrorism and emergency management related incidents.

Hunter Region floods

During April 2015, the Hunter and Central Coast suffered significant flood activity which necessitated public information support for the NSW State Emergency Service response. A range of issues were covered with messaging concerning; road closures/safety, evacuation centre information, disaster welfare assistance and flood safety, and safety advice for when the cleanup begins.

secureNSW Working Group

The secureNSW Working Group is reviewing the look, feel and functionality of the secureNSW website to ensure it remains recent and relevant in terms of counter terrorism information. As part of the look and feel of the site, a number of photo shoots have been conducted with the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance to obtain the most recent images of the agencies.

Transport Services Functional Area

Transport for NSW provides the Transport Services Functional Area (TSFA) function within the NSW Emergency Management Plan. The Transport Services Functional Area Coordinator contributes within the NSW emergency management framework by coordinating the provision of land, sea and air transport support as required by a Combat Agency, an emergency services organisation or other functional area.

Specific examples of support include:

- movement of emergency equipment and personnel
- movement of emergency supplies and goods, including water, fuel and food
- evacuation of people and animals
- assistance for medical transport and transport of medical supplies
- transportation of animals and infectious material/dangerous goods
- advice on logistical considerations surrounding food and fuel resupply issues for isolated communities
- maintaining and operating a transport route advisory service to the Combat Agencies, emergency services organisations, other Functional Areas and members of the public.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Transport Services Functional Area led the development of traffic and transport plans in support of finalising the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Emergency Sub Plan. Revised evacuation traffic and transport plans were built to cater for increased population and vehicle ownership in the area. For some areas, these changes means there will be reduced evacuation time for road users due to increased traffic volumes that need to be managed within the existing road infrastructure.

The Transport Functional Area provided significant contribution to the development of the Sydney and North Sydney CBD Evacuation Management Sub Plan and updated Transport and Traffic arrangements.

Following the Martin Place Siege in December 2014, a series of evaluations and reviews internally resulted in improvements to Transport Planning during any Emergency Management event. Technology enhancements have been made to the Transport Management Centre's Joint Operations Centre and exercised during Exercise CBD in May 2015.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

The Transport Services Functional Area led and/or participated in a range of exercise during 2014-2015 including:

Month	Exercise	Comment
August 2014	Exercise KRULAK	A desktop exercise to provide a state-wide response to simulated bushfire incidents. TfNSW activated an Incident Management Team to support Transport Liaison Officers at the RFS State Emergency Operations Centre.
August 2014	Exercise PILGRIMS PROGRESS	A discussion and process mapping exercise to consider responses to a terrorist incident on the Sydney Trains network.
September 2014	Exercise SWITCH	A discussion exercise to examine response to a rail accident involving passenger casualties and fatalities.
September 2014	Exercise DELUVIO	A State Recovery Centre Exercise following a major flood of the Hawkesbury Nepean River.
October 2014	Exercise CONSILIUM	No/Low notice activation of the State Crisis Centre and related EM arrangements following a terrorist attack in the Sydney CBD at a major transport hub.
October 2014	Exercise LOGJAM	Establishment of a TfNSW Crisis Management Team and Centre following a rail construction accident that significantly impacts the Sydney Trains network.
November 2014	South West Rail Link commissioning exercise	Response to a rail incident on this newly built rail infrastructure.
January 2015	Exercise MAKERS MARK 1	A combined Facilitated Debrief and Discussion Exercise exploring Lessons Identified from the Martin Place Siege, and TfNSW Executive roles and responsibilities under EM arrangements and the TfNSW Executive Major Incident Management Plan (EMIMP) for business continuity outcomes.
April 2015	Exercise MAKERS MARK 2	A Discussion Exercise exploring detailed public communications roles and responsibilities under the TfNSW Crisis Communications Plan, including the role of the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator (PIFAC).
May 2015	Exercise HERMES CASTLE	A large scale field deployment counter terrorism exercise, as part of the ongoing Australia New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) series. The scenario involved live field responses to a major security incident at the Holsworthy Army Barracks, and explored State and Commonwealth interoperability and a range of responses, including EM arrangements.
May 2015	Exercise SYDNEY CBD	A major multiagency field deployment to test Emergency Management arrangements in case of a major incident in the city. The Exercise Scenario responded to a gas explosion at the Law Courts at St James, resulting in structural failure of buildings, road impacts and collapse of the City Circle railway tunnels, and tested both the Sydney CBD Evacuation Sub Plan and the Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan.

Sydney Trains maintained its year-round exercise program series known as "Exercise Join Forces" consisting of field exercises, as well as familiarisation sessions for emergency services in relation to various new rolling stock, and desk top exercises.

State-wide emergency management training for Regional Transport Coordinators and Volunteers was conducted.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 bush fire season, the Transport Services Functional Area coordinated transport support. This was particularly the case during the November 2014 fires in the Blue Mountains. Plans were implemented for the evacuation of transport dependent people, alternative traffic and transport arrangements activated. Transport Liaison Officers were required at several Emergency Operations Centres and Fire Control Centres. The fires caused significant damage to rail infrastructure in the Blue Mountains and saw a closure of part of the main western rail line to both passenger and freight services.

The Transport Services Functional Area coordinated transport support during the major storms and floods experienced in a series of Severe Weather Events in October and December 2014, and in March and April 2015 associated with East Coast Low pressure systems.

Welfare Services Functional Area

The Welfare Services Functional Area Coordinates the provision of welfare services to disaster affected individuals and families to meet the immediate needs (e.g. food, clothing, shelter and psychological first aid), and relieve personal hardship and distress.

Disaster Welfare Services Branch (DWS) is the dedicated unit for managing the functional area, located within the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. The functional area is supported by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) in managing local level provision of welfare services. DWS Branch coordinates 18 participating and supporting organisations, including Australian Red Cross, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Salvation Army, Anglicare and the Uniting Church of Australia, to assist in the delivery of welfare services.

Types of activities carried out include:

- ongoing preparedness planning across partner agencies to ensure capability and capacity
- provision of training and policy guidance to FACS and other agency staff and volunteers
- management of Evacuation Centres to provide key welfare services to affected people
- provision of immediate basic services and psychological support in evacuation centres, recovery centres and through community outreach programs
- operation of the 1800 Disaster Welfare Assistance Line
- administration of the Personal Hardship and Distress Scheme grants for essential household contents or structural repairs to the home under eligibility criteria
- initial psychosocial impact assessment of communities to inform the recovery process
- participation in recovery committees and relevant programs
- policy development regarding financial assistance to affected individuals
- support to a range of related specific incident plans for example resupply to isolated or quarantined communities.

Achievements for 2014-2015

The Welfare Services Functional Area further progressed elements of the whole of sector Mass Evacuation Centre strategy and Co-ordinated the engagement of major providers in the Sydney Olympic Park Precinct with the signing of Memorandum of Understandings.

The Welfare Services Functional Area worked with other agencies to establish the Dungog Community Support Worker Project to assist household affected by the severe weather event in April 2015.

The Welfare Services Functional Area continue to assess capability and capacity within all facets of the WSFA including DWS, Alumni, Community Partners, FACS and other stakeholders.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

- In partnership with Australian Red Cross, sponsored 17 interagency exercises across the state, focusing on establishment of evacuation centres and various internal processes
- Continued to provide training to new FACS staff where requested in FACS Districts
- Continued to support 70 District level FACS WelfACS and Deputies; providing guidelines for Evacuation Centre Managers; holding bi-annual forums
- Maintained the DWS Alumni Program and held annual alumni forum
- Supported the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services external and internal surge program to enhance the capacity of WSFA
- Continued to progress the multi-agency planning for Sydney Olympic Park as a major evacuation centre and WSFA panning for operationalisation
- Participated in the SEMC Hawkesbury-Nepean flood exercises and Sydney Airport exercises
- Participation in State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, Social Recovery Reference Group to ANZEMC Recovery Sub Committee, and Community Evaluation Technical Reference Group (National level)
- Conducted welfare services state level co-ordination structures discussion exercise with key stakeholders

During the reporting period the State Welfare Services Functional Area Committee met on three occasions. The Committee focus has included response and recovery interventions following 2014 Martin Place Siege; review of Welfare Services Functional Area response after various events; planning for catastrophic events such as the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood; major evacuation centre planning; and evaluation of recovery support services.

Welfare Services Functional Area membership includes, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (Chair and Secretariat); Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA); Anglicare; Australian Red Cross (NSW); Department of Aboriginal Affairs; NSW Department of Family and Community Services; Australian Government.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 reporting period, the Disaster Welfare Branch responded to 17 discrete events. These were three bushfires, seven storms and seven non-natural events, including the Martin Place Siege. Evacuation centres were required at two of the bushfires.

The largest deployment for the year was from 21 April to 26 June 2015 when the Welfare Services Functional Area responded to severe storms and floods impacting from the mid north coast to Sydney, generating most damage in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

The Welfare Services Functional Area:

- received approximately 31,900 calls to the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line
- assisted with over 700 damaged homes significantly more with damage to contents
- assisted communities with significant isolation and power and communications outages.
- established 10 evacuation centres providing services for up to 7 days

- provided three additional assistance points
- assisted 2,863 people
- provided extraordinary resupply arrangements for isolated communities
- approved 300 Personal Hardship Grants with over 100 undergoing assessment as at 30 June 2015.

NSW Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear/Hazardous Materials Steering Committee

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

Achievements for 2014-2015

Updated NSW Multi-Agency Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for response to Suspicious Substances

Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance and NSW Police Force Counter Terrorism Planning and Preparedness staff have conducted a review of the Multiagency Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) for response to Suspicious Substance incidents. The revised SOP has resulted in some minor formatting and editing changes as well as changes to the colour coded response matrix.

Asbestos Management

Following on from the Bushfires in NSW in late 2013, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services led a recovery effort to manage the growing issue of asbestos management. A review of funding arrangements under the current Disaster Assistance Guidelines led by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has resulted in a more streamlined process to access funding in the initial stages of the incident.

Quadrilateral Partnership – CAPEX 15

Representatives from the NSW Ambulance Service and NSW Police Force participated in CAPEX 15. CAPEX exercises are specifically designed to support first responders, primarily police, fire and ambulance, Canada conducted a mass gathering themed exercise in early 2015. Australia is due to host CAPEX in 2017.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2014-2015

CBRNe Operator and CBRNe Incident Controller Skills Enhancement courses

The CBRNe Operator and CBRNe Incident Controller Skills Enhancement courses were held in Victoria during March 2015, the Commonwealth's Attorney-General's Department as the Secretariat of the CBRNSSC assisted with the coordination of the NSW nominations for these courses.

National CBRN Operational Capability Group

Chief Superintendent Paul McGuiggan from Fire and Rescue NSW has been appointed by the Australia-New-Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) CBRN Security Sub-Committee (CBRNSSC) as Chair of the Operational Capability Group (OCG). The OCG will provide advice to the CBRNSSC on a range of national CBRN operational and technical capability and capacity issues. This role will contribute to Australia's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the threat of, or incidents involving the use of CBRN materials.

CBRN Capability Gap Analysis Working Group

In accordance with the ANZCTC Business Model, a capability gap analysis was conducted in December as part of the ANZCTC CGAP 2014-2015 cycle. NSW is represented on the working group by Fire and Rescue NSW. The working group conducted an analysis of gaps in CBRN capability and the development of treatment options to address them. The four key themes and subsequent areas requiring immediate attention were identified as:

1. national and domestic CBRN capability and capacity
2. CBRN detection capability
3. decontamination capability
4. information sharing (domestic and international)

As a consequence CBRNSSC members will be asked to consider four proposals to address some of the key areas that required attention as part of the ANZCTC Capability Gap Analysis Process (CGAP).

- Proposal 1 – CBR contaminated site restoration
- Proposal 2 – The origin of substances for security concern
- Proposal 3 – CBRN multi-agency diagnostic workshops
- Proposal 4 – CBRN national capability audit

State Emergency Management Training Advisory Group

The State Emergency Management Training Advisory Group comprises key representatives from a range of Emergency Management Organisations and Functional Areas in NSW. The group provides advice and strategic guidance to the NSW State Emergency Management Committee and its member agencies to ensure that multi-agency emergency management training and exercises developed, delivered and evaluated by all agencies aligns with NSW Emergency Management Arrangements and reflects the principles of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Over the 2014-2015 reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:

- A second eLearning module was released - Welfare Services Functional Area Overview which has been accessed by over 400 participants in 12 months.
- Two major face-to-face courses were reviewed and piloted. Evacuation Management and Managing Emergencies are both higher level courses targeted at managers and decision makers from a variety of emergency management organisations. Again both trainers and participants reported an increased satisfaction with the design and delivery of these renewed courses.
- Recognition of Prior Learning Kits were developed and published on the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services website for the four principle Units of Competency delivered.
- Final training figures for this financial year: 86 face-to-face courses delivered to 1205 participants. 2073 students enrolled in eLearning for a total of 3278 learners. A 30% increase in training figures.
- 10 exercises attracted over 400 participants in local and regional exercises.

Climate Change Working Group

The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) is the central point of contact for the NSW emergency management system on climate change issues and, through the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), to advise the Minister for Emergency Services and NSW Government on the impacts of climate change on the emergency management system. The role of the CCWG includes:

- providing reports to the SEMC on the impacts of climate change on emergency management;
- ensuring current and future climate change research is shared between SEMC Agencies;
- providing recommendations to the SEMC on resource allocation for research, planning and mitigation to address climate change related risks;
- educating emergency management committees on the impact of climate change;
- providing emergency management sector input into NSW Government climate change initiatives; and
- undertaking other Climate Change projects as delegated by the SEMC.

Achievements for 2014-2015

Over the 2014-2015 reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:

- Ongoing development of heatwave guidance for local government to allow local government to better understand and minimise the impacts of extreme heat events on local communities.
- Provision of advice and comment on NSW Government project to "Assess NSW Government Agency Preparedness for Climate Change Risks".
- Conducted a preliminary review of completed regional climate change vulnerability assessments for multi-regional Emergency Management vulnerabilities.

The CCWG met once in the 2014-2015 reporting period.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2014-2015

The Office of Environment and Heritage released high resolution climate projections in December 2014, the CCWG has been engaged on the results and ongoing work is occurring to develop products for the use of the Emergency Management sector in NSW.

ANNEXURE 1 - SEMC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Member	Role	Possible	Attended	Represented
Mr Phil Koperberg, AO AFSM BEM	Chair	4	3	1
Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM	SEOCN	4	3	1
Ms Vicki D'Adam	SERCON	4	4	
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM, Fire & Rescue NSW	Deputy Chair	4	3	1
Commissioner Ray Creen ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		4	2	2
Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke APM, NSW Police Force		4	4	
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service		4	3	1
A/Commissioner Jim Smith AFSM, NSW State Emergency Service		2	2	
Commissioner Adam Dent, NSW State Emergency Service (January 2015)		2	2	
Commissioner Mark Gibson ESM, NSW Volunteer Rescue Association		4	4	
Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM, Marine Rescue NSW		4	1	3
Mr Barry Kay, Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Mr Peter Marks, Telecommunications Functional Area		4	2	2
Mr Ralph Grimes, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Mr Martin Dwyer, Engineering Services Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Craig Lamberton, Environmental Services Functional Area		4	4	
Dr Ron Manning, Health Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Senior Sergeant Kevin Daley, Public Information Functional Area		4	1	3
Mr Greg Nott, Transport Services Functional Area		4	2	2
Dr Allison Rowlands, Welfare Services Functional Area		4	4	
Ms Corin Moffatt, Division of Local Government		4	1	3
Mr Shayne Wilde, (Maritime Combat Agencies), Transport for NSW		4	3	1
Mr Shaun McBride, Local Government NSW		4	1	3
Ms Danielle Woolley, Department of Premier and Cabinet		3	3	
Ms Rebecca Falkingham, Department of Premier and Cabinet		1		1
Mr Josh Schrubbs, NSW Treasury		1		1
Mr Brian Cheney, NSW Treasury		3	2	1
Mr Greg Prior, Department of Education & Communities (March 2015)		2	2	
Ms Cath Mackson, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services		3	3	
Mr Sam Toohey, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (May 2015)		1	1	

ANNEXURE 2 – NSW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REGIONS

Sydney Metropolitan Emergency Management Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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 Region 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.

ANNEXURE 3 - ANNUAL ATTESTATION STATEMENT (ANNUAL REPORT)

Digital Information Security Annual Attestation Statement for the 2014-2015 Financial Year for the State Emergency Management Committee

Each NSW Government Department and Statutory Body must include a Digital Information Security Annual Attestation Statement in its Annual Report under the section dealing with risk management and insurance activities.

The State Emergency Management Committee's secretariat support is provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. The State Emergency Management Committee's is included in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services information security management system and information security policy.

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services has implemented an information security management system and initial security policy based on ISO 27001. A minimum security control baseline based on NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy, M2012-15 guidelines has been put in place.

The Ministry had an independent third party review of its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategy and governance controls in 2014-2015. Several risks were identified, and the Ministry has been working to address those issues.

I, Philip Koperberg, am of the opinion that the State Emergency Management Committee had an Information Security Management System in place during the financial year being reported on consistent with the Core Requirements set out in the Digital Information Security Policy for the NSW Public Sector.

I, Philip Koperberg, am of the opinion that the security controls in place to mitigate many of the identified risks to the digital information and digital information systems.

I, Philip Koperberg, am of the opinion that there are no other Public Sector Agencies, or parts thereof, under the control of the State Emergency Management Committee with a risk profile sufficient to warrant an independent Information Security Management System.

The State Emergency Management Committee has also adopted the NSW Government Information Classification and Labelling Guidelines.

The State Emergency Management Committee will continue to address digital information security issues as the Ministry is integrated into the Department of Justice in 2015-2016.

