NSW STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Contents

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 2013-2014.

FOREWORD BY STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr Philip Koperberg AO ASFM 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 2013-2014 once again brought about challenges to test the NSW emergency management arrangements, with significant bush fires occurring in September and October 2013. The October 2013 bush fires in the Blue Mountains resulted in the loss of close to 200 homes, and damage to 100 more, which required lengthy recovery operations in which SEMC Member-agencies were involved.

I was very pleased to be asked by the NSW Government to be appointed as the Blue Mountains Recovery Coordinator, starting in this role while the fires were still burning on 18 October 2013, and continuing until 14 February 2014.

The Blue Mountains bush fires again demonstrated the willingness of the NSW Government, and key agencies, to engage in innovative ways to aid community recovery. The Step by Step Bushfire Support Service was engaged in November 2013 to provide professional caseworkers to disaster affected families, and to help them in the individual decisions they had to make as part of their recovery.

The Blue Mountains bush fires also again demonstrated the issues that occur when dwellings are destroyed that had been built with asbestos materials. I am gratified to know that agencies are working together to develop an Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan, which I expect will be released in the latter part of 2014.

Despite the significant work that was required to combat and then recover from the bushfires, the SEMC progressed other key pieces of work. This included clarifying the interaction between the Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) at Land and Property Information NSW, oversighting the development of templates and guidelines for the preparation of Local Emergency Management Plans, and the development of a Major Evacuation Centre Guideline.

I would like to, once again, recognise and thank the volunteers and other personnel who work in emergency management. Disasters do not occur only in business hours, and their willingness to work, often for long periods in uncomfortable conditions, is a credit to themselves and a great benefit to the broader NSW community.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Vicki D'Adam and her staff, particularly Natalie Marsic, Jennifer Hastings, Cath Mackson and Sabrina Ippolito amongst others for the high level of professional administrative support given to the State Emergency Management Committee; to all of them I am very grateful.

Philip Koperberg AO ASFM 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* is the Minister for Police and Emergency Services from 1 July 2013 until 2 May2014 this was the Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC. The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, was responsible for administering the Act from 3 May 2014 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 ASFM BEM   6

Members

State Emergency Operations Controller	Deputy Commissioner, Nick Kaldas APM
State Emergency Recovery Controller	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	Acting Commissioner Jim Smith AFSM
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 Roger Davison (Acting)
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 (Acting)
Welfare Services Functional Area	Dr Allison Rowlands
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Department of Local Government	Ms Corin Moffatt
NSW Treasury	Mr Josh Shrubb
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 is provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. During the reporting period the Executive Officer was Ms Natalie Marsic, Director, Board and Committees.

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

GPO BOX 5434

Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9212 9200

Website: www.mpes.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support

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State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON) Report

Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, APM, NSW Police Force

The Governor may, on the recommendation of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, 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 for Police and Emergency Services 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.

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 2013-2014, 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
October 2013	Blue Mountains	Widespread bushfires	Support, Disaster Victim Registration, deployment, establish Emergency Operations Centre
Mid and late 2014	Sydney North Shore and Western NSW	Major heavy vehicle accidents with fatalities and DG heavy vehicle rollovers	Support, deployment, establish Emergency Operations Centre, criminal investigation

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:

- drafting of the Executive Emergency Management Briefing

- creation of various working parties for renewal of emergency response plans

- planning and coordination of major multi agency approaches for response to disease control

- attendance at critical state level incidents and provision of executive level advice to the Ministry and Government

- monitoring of the NSW Emergency Management Planning process

- Commence review of sub plans including State Heatwave sub plan

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 is the appointed State Emergency Recovery Controller.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The SERCON with her supporting staff:

- Supported the recovery operations in the Blue Mountains bush fires in October 2013.

- Led the review and finalisation of the NSW Recovery Plan and Arrangements

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Impact Assessments
The SERCON and supporting staff led development of the Impact Assessment Data Management Framework to produce a whole-of-government multi-agency approach to data collection, sharing and analysis spanning both response and recovery phases of an event.

Local Government Tool Kit
The SERCON and supporting staff led development of the Local Government Tool Kit providing Local Government with Fact Sheets and other information to assist in responding to and managing recovery related issues and challenges at the local level.

National Committees
The SERCON represented NSW on the National Recovery Sub-Committee to the ANZEMC to progress projects including the National Impact Assessment Model and the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The SERCON represented NSW on the National Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Stakeholders Group to progress NSW position on major policy issues including the Productivity Commission of Inquiry into Natural Disaster Expenditure.

Improving interagency operational capability – internal and external
The following resources have been developed:

- Internal Recovery Deployment Manual and Deployment Kit

- A Recovery Surge Training package for staff seconded to recovery operations.

- A Recovery Surge e-learning package in collaboration with the Training and Capability Branch.

NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines
A review of the Disaster Assistance Guidelines was undertaken during the reporting period to assist improving the communication and understanding of assistance available across local councils and other key stakeholders.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Blue Mountains Bushfires
- The SERCON coordinated and managed the 2013-2014 Blue Mountains Bushfires Recovery Operations with the Recovery Coordinator, Mr Phil Koperberg

- The NSW government relief and recovery operation lasted 5 months before handover to the Blue Mountains City Council for the longer-term recovery. 197 properties were destroyed and 110 properties were partially damaged.

- Over $13.6M in funding in a range of packages for people directly affected by the fires for clean up, disposal operations and support for the community's ongoing recovery.

- The Government continues to work with the Blue Mountains community as it recovers from the fires. A range of Government agencies are members of the Blue Mountains Local Recovery Steering Group chaired by the Council's Mayor.

NSW Natural Disaster Expenditure and Governance Review
Outcomes include significant state-wide projects being undertaken in Recovery including:

- the transfer of the Disaster Relief Account from NSW Treasury to MPES

- a review and re-write of the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines

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.

Achievements for 2013-2014

NSW Ambulance developed and launched the Ambulance Forward Commanders' Program consisting of 13 eLearning modules covering all facets of unplanned incident and planned event management. To date in excess of 11,000 hours of on-line command training has been delivered, supported by a rolling series of practical workshops across NSW.

NSW Ambulance has developed and rolled out the Command and Control Standard Operating Procedure. The Standing Operating Procedures clearly articulates responsibilities of responding paramedics, aeromedical crews, front line managers and control centres. The Standing Operating Procedures also addresses scalable notification and escalation of incidents up to Ambulance Executive.

The enhancement of medical Helicopter operations with the establishment of permanent medical crewing for helicopters across the state. This is ongoing with establishment of permanent crewing due for completion in the next financial year. Helicopter operations have also been incorporated into the Command and Control Standing Operating Procedures.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

NSW Ambulance has been involved in planning and participation for numerous exercises throughout the year including emergency management and counter terrorism exercise programs. NSW Ambulance has also participated in a number of exercises with the Australian Defence Force.

NSW Ambulance was also involved in planning for a major exercise with all emergency service agencies and the ADF that was conducted in early 2014.

NSW Ambulance has presented at Multiagency Incident Training (MAIT), counter terrorism commander training and other forums with the NSW Police Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command.

NSW Ambulance has continued to facilitate remote area first aid training for NSW Rural Fire Service Remote Area Fire Fighting teams and State Mitigation Support Service teams. 72 RFS members were trained in the last year.

NSW Ambulance facilitated first aid courses for specialist Police commands. A total of 44 Police were trained.

Bushfire planning for 2013/14 season included the development of a Medical Evacuation Response plan. This was jointly developed between NSW RFS and NSW Ambulance.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

NSW Ambulance assisted in multi agency operations including:

- International Fleet Review, Sydney Harbour - October 2013

- Provision of medical support to the Multiagency Search and Rescue exercise (SAREX) Barrington Tops, Gloucester - October 2013

- Medical Support at Venues for the G20 Finance Ministers Meeting, Sydney - February 2014

- Medical Support for the visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Sydney – April 2014

NSW Ambulance provided Ambulance resources and specialist paramedics in support of the NSW Rural Fire Service during major bushfires including:

- Blue Mountains S44 (October 2013) including assistance with evacuations of Health and Aged Care Facilities

- Eurobodalla S44 (October/November 2013)

- Singleton/Muswellbrook S44 (October/November 2013)

- Hawkesbury S44 (October/November 2013)

- Clarence Valley S44 (October/November 2013)

- Wingecarribee (October 2013)

- Holbrook S44 (January/February 2014)

- Tumut S44 (January/February 2014

- Bathurst S44 (January/February 2014)

NSW Ambulance specialist paramedics supported by NSW Rural Fire Service with interstate deployments to South Australia in January 2014 and Victoria in the first two months of 2014.

Fire & Rescue NSW

Fire & Rescue NSW's mission is to save lives and property, and to protect the environment from fires, emergencies and other disasters. Fire & Rescue NSW provides the majority of accredited land rescue units within NSW. It is the 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.

Fire & Rescue NSW is also responsible for the management, maintenance and deployment of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force within NSW, nationally and internationally. Fire & Rescue NSW responds beyond Fire Districts when requested to support the NSW Rural Fire Service, for example at major bushfires and structure fires, and supports other agencies, for example the NSW State Emergency Service at floods and storms, and the NSW Ambulance at medical emergencies.

Achievements for 2013-2014

Fire & Rescue NSW is in the final stages of completing a new Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) prop at the Ingleburn Disaster Training Centre. The prop will assist in developing and maintaining skills for the NSW multi-agency USAR capability. Fire & Rescue NSW, as the combat agency for USAR, has commenced planning to undertake the United Nations recertification scheduled for September 2017 for the NSW internationally deployable USAR Task Force.

During the October 2013 bushfires, 10 urban fire trucks and crews each from both the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service and the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade came to assist Fire & Rescue NSW. During the deployment Fire & Rescue NSW tested emergency disaster accommodation capability by establishing infrastructure to support up to 400 interstate and regional firefighters over a week. These deployments demonstrated that large scale deployments of urban firefighters and vehicles are achievable.

During February to April 2014, Fire & Rescue NSW deployed 10 urban fire trucks complete with 24/7 staffing to backfill Victorian CFA stations, whilst CFA firefighters responded to the Hazelwood mine fire. Fire & Rescue NSW also deployed a specialist firefighting truck and technicians to the Hazelwood Mine Fire to assist operations. After the event the Victorian Government asked the Fire & Rescue NSW Commissioner to be a member of an Expert Advisory Panel.

Following the devastating 2013 bushfires Fire & Rescue NSW deployed around 100 Rapid Impact Assessment teams to affected Local Government Areas to collect information for local governments. Each team consisted of a structural collapse specialist and hazmat specialist. This assisted in prompt deployment of response agencies and efficient identification of recovery requirements. Fire & Rescue NSW personnel were also able to provide prompt advice on structural integrity of fire damaged buildings and any hazardous materials concerns (such as asbestos). The Fire & Rescue NSW Rapid Impact Assessment Tool was developed primarily for use on Urban Search and Rescue deployments, however as evidenced, it can be used domestically after major incidents such as fires and storms.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Mosaic Data Collection and Analysis Tool
Mosaic is a data collection and analysis tool that analyses socio-economic, statistical and demographic data used in tandem with Fire & Rescue NSW fire incident data, it provides targeted information on 'at risk' groups, their exact locations and informs methodologies to communicate fire safety messages and advice. A Home Fire Safety Checks Program

has commenced that involves targeting an area of high fire risk and conducting home visits to check and advice on domestic fire safety preparedness.

Changes to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB)
Fire & Rescue NSW represents national fire services as the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) representative on the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) Building Codes Committee. The COAG National Adaptation Framework recommended that the ABCB consider climate change as part of its periodic reviews of the building code. It proposed that information used to determine vulnerability of settlements to climate related hazards (such as floods, bushfires, cyclones and coastal inundation) should be reviewed. This review will promote safer communities through improvements to the built environment with consideration to both internal and external risk factors.

FRNSW Community Engagement
The Fire & Rescue NSW Community Engagement Unit partnered with the Department of Family & Community Services (FACS) and the Deaf Society NSW to develop and deliver the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme (SASS). This joint initiative between FRNSW and DSNSW is funded by FACS, with Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) providing the deaf and hard of hearing community of NSW with free specialised smoke alarms, which Fire & Rescue NSW then installs. Fire & Rescue NSW has also partnered with the NSW RFS and Red Cross in the 'Vulnerable Communities Resilience Project' using existing Red Cross programs, such as TeleCross and TeleConnect, to enhance vulnerable community resilience and emergency preparedness by promoting Fire & Rescue NSW's Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement Program (SABRE) and home fire safety campaigns as well as partnering with Home Care NSW (FACS) to strengthen fire safety awareness amongst the frail, aged and people with disabilities who are clients or carers of Home Care. Fire & Rescue NSW Community Safety Coordinators meet with Home Care Directorate staff on a quarterly basis to review partnership outcomes, update information on campaigns and explore new ways to meet fire safety goals.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Paper mill fire at Matraville
On 19 December 2013, Fire & Rescue NSW was alerted to large volumes of smoke issuing from the rear of a paper mill on Botany Road, Matraville. A decision was made by the first arriving crew to upgrade the incident to a 2nd Alarm (5 Fire Trucks). As the fire progressed, strong winds pushed flames through bales of compacted paper, three metres high and five metres wide, and penetrated the walls of the adjacent 5 storey structure. Over the next two hours the incident was upgraded to a 10th Alarm (22 Fire Trucks). In addition, 6 ladder/platform units were responded to project large streams of water onto the burning paper and into upper levels of the burning building.

The incident management team was concerned that drifting smoke could affect residents and flight operations at nearby Sydney Airport. At the height of the fire, more than 100 firefighters from 20 stations were on scene.

The joint FRNSW/Police helicopter was used to provide commanders on the ground with intelligence regarding fire spread and location, fire size, air quality and over view of firefighting operations. The extinguishment of the fire was achieved on 24 December 2013. The fire burnt through more than 1,000 tonnes of waste paper and more than 90% of the building.

7th Alarm fire at Barangaroo halts Sydney CBD traffic
On 12 March 2014, a fire took hold in an underground carpark under construction at the Barangaroo building site in Hickson Rd The Rocks, and threatened to bring down a 60-metre construction crane.

The Rocks Fire Station arrived first on scene and sent a priority request for further assistance. Site managers informed Police that all workers had been successfully evacuated from the site without injury. Temperature readings from the two level basement area were in excess of 1000 degrees, preventing any chance of an internal attack by the firefighters. Directly above the basement area was a large construction crane which was subject to direct flame impingement around its base. Engineers from Lend Lease declared the crane was at risk of collapse and a 100-metre exclusion zone was immediately established. This resulted in evacuation of over 2,000 people from the adjoining KPMG building and Sussex Hotel, and closing of the Western Distributor to all traffic, causing peak hour chaos.

The Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW requested the opening of the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) to assist with multiagency emergency contingency planning in case the crane collapsed, impacting surrounding office buildings or the Western Distributor. An outcome of the planning was that all buses in the evening peak were re-routed to avoid the incident area.

At around 2300hrs, site engineers and a NSW Public Works engineer declared that the firefighting strategies had successfully protected the base of the crane and there was no further risk of collapse. Just prior to midnight the adjoining Western Distributor was re-opened to traffic. Firefighting operations continued throughout the night and next day to extinguish large amounts of burning timbers and other construction materials.

Two silo fires within two days
Fire crews were confronted with two major silo fire incidents in two days. Silo fires are particularly dangerous as they can explode with great force.

The first occurred on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at a food processing plant on Epping Road at Lane Cove North. Investigations indicated that spontaneous combustion occurred within a large canvas silo containing 9 tonnes of gluten powder inside a large shed.

A dust explosion was a real possibility and crews were deployed on either side of the silo in an attempt to cool the fuel and extinguish the fire. Roads and Maritime Service crews and numerous Police were deployed into the area in preparation for large scale evacuations and to shut down Epping Road and close the busy Lane Cove Tunnel if required. The product was carefully and successfully removed through the base of the silo and extinguished over a period of about four hours with no damage to the silo structure.

The next day, Wednesday 9 April 2014, Newcastle fire crews were called to a silo fire in a Bulk Facility at Kooragang Island. Management advised that welding had taken place on top of the bulk facility which was 35m in height and 20m in diameter and contained 12,500 tons of carbon powder.

The site was immediately evacuated as fire crews and an incident management team responded. The John Hunter Hospital was placed on standby and Fire & Rescue NSW's Scientific Officer, together with Hazmat crews, responded to assist with managing the situation. Atmospheric monitoring, together with thermal imaging detection determined that the fire was in fact in the void space above the carbon powder product. Firefighters performed a delicate operation involving the drilling of several holes through the roof of the silo above the heated area and then introducing fine water mist into the void to successfully extinguish the fire. It took crews about seven hours to finally extinguish the fire.

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 2013-2014

During 2013-2014, the State Emergency Operations Controller and Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller were responsible for the following projects and initiatives:

- responded in coordination with other agencies, to a number of major emergencies locally including the Blue Mountains bush fires, various significant storm events, fuel tanker explosion/fire Mona Vale and Dee Why, APM Paper Mill fire Banksmeadow; major fire at a recycling depot at Chester Hill

- worked as part of a collegiate panel on the re-development of the Sydney Harbour Marine Disaster Plan, exercise of same and endorsement by Regional Emergency Management Committee; the Major Evacuation Working Group and the NSW Mines Sub Plan

- Worked as part of a collegiate panel on various projects including the Sydney CBD Evacuation Sub Plan, NSW Health related projects involving response to issues in Western Africa and exercises at Sydney International Airport.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Multi-agency exercises conducted:

- Sydney Harbour Marine Disaster Exercise FRANK, Sydney International Airport Exercise SOTERIA, Exercise NIGHTBIRD, Bushfire exercise on South Coast NSW Exercise IGNIS

- Mines Rescue NSW regarding a mine incident and the response from all relevant agencies

- Attended a number of significant multi-agency exercises for various facilities including the Port of Botany (Botany Industrial Park), Shell and Caltex refineries and Terminals

- Review and/or re-development of major initiatives including the Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan, Lucas Heights Emergency Plan, NSW Mines Rescue arrangements

- Testing of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System is continuing on the last Friday of each month in conjunction with the NSW Roads and Maritime Services. This now includes the SydneyALERT SMS contact database for CBD Building Managers.

- Incident Command Courses had been conducted at the Police Leadership College in Richmond. These courses are targeted at senior Police, particularly those who perform the role of Emergency Operations Controllers. The NSW Police Force thanks all emergency service organisations and functional areas for their continued support.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

- response to a multiple major fires in the areas of Lithgow, Winmalee, Yellow Rock, Chain Valley Bay. Over 200 homes lost to fire and significant financial and evacuation centre activity

- response to many bushfires throughout other areas within NSW including evacuations to places of safety

- response to major traffic accidents including hazardous substances including incidents at Dubbo, Mona Vale and Dee Why

NSW Police Force

Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command

The role of the Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command of the NSW Police Force 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 and 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 2013-2014

- Continued coordination and participation in multi agency emergency response exercises

- Multi Agency Development of NSW State Emergency Management Committee Exercise Policy & Framework 2014

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

- Multi-Agency Incident Training (MAIT) conducted in the Southern, North West Metropolitan, South West Metropolitan and Central Metropolitan Regions, involving Ambulance NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, State Emergency Service, and the Victorian equivalents

- Regional Airport Security Program (RASP) at 25 Regional Airports in NSW involving local emergency services and airport personnel

- Maritime Ports Security Program (PSP) was conducted at the Port of Newcastle and Yamba involving Roads and Maritime Services and other emergency response agencies

- 2014 NAVEX with participation from Rescue & Bomb Disposal Unit, TOU, & Police Officers Retirement System. Remote Logistics & Base Camp accommodation

- Multi-Agency Incident Training, Regional Airport Security Program and Ports Security Program included presentations from functional areas within the

emergency services and discussion exercises to stimulate audience involvement. The feedback from the training programs was very positive

- 2014 Multi Agency Land Search & Rescue Conference held at the Rescue Bomb Disposal Unit at Alexandria focusing on Lost Person Behaviour

- Development of CBRNE Operators Course

- Acquisition of Flood Rescue Vessels for Level 3 Flood Swift Water Operations

- SAREX Multi Agency activity Barrington Tops

- Acquisition of prime mover & trailer retro fitting for heavy lift and emergency logistics across NSW

- Police Rescue Operational Support Trailer positioned in Far Western Region NSW to support NSWPF operations

- Conduct of Drill Style Exercise Program involving Policing Units and encompassing Emergency Service Providers.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

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

- Operational Support to NSW Police Force during High Bush Fire Danger periods and operations

- 255 Land Search and Rescue operations conducted across NSW from January 2013 to November 2014.

NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) 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 Rural Fire Service is widely acknowledged as the largest volunteer fire service in the world, made up of more than 70,000 volunteers, operating in over 2,000 brigades and supported by more than 900 staff.

Achievements for 2013-2014

Pre Season Briefings/Exercise
Prior to the 2013/14 season, the NSW Rural Fire Service conducted a number of regional multi-agency briefings across the State. These briefings culminated in a State level multi agency exercise (Exercise Krulak) involving members of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) to test coordinated fire fighting arrangements and emergency management support.

Evacuations Working Group
The NSW Rural Fire Service co-chair 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 Evacuation Management Guideline and Major Evacuation Centre Guideline were both completed and endorsed by the SEMC in March and June 2014.

Review of the State Bush Fire Plan
The State Bush Fire Plan is sponsored by the NSW Rural Fire Service and describes the arrangements for the control and co-ordination of the response to Class 2 and 3 fires, including those managed under the provisions of Section 44 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, and the provisions for emergency warnings at all classes of fires.

The State Bush Fire Plan was last reviewed and endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in December 2011. A review of the plan was initiated following significant bush fire activity during 2013-2014 and to ensure planning requirements were maintained. This review included consultation with both internal and external agencies, including SEMC members. The revised plan was considered and endorsed by the SEMC in June 2014.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

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 2013-2014, the NSW RFS undertook 1,222 hazard reduction works comprising approximately 40,278 hectares of hazard reduction work protecting a total number of 34,826 assets with a value of $15.3 billion.

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 959 sites have now been assessed and established as Neighbourhood Safer Places, well above the NSW 2021 target. 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 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. The Community Protection Plan guidelines were approved by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee subject to Asset Protection Zone policy being finalised.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

During September 2013, significant bush fire activity was experienced in areas including Winmalee, Marsden Park, Londonderry, Windsor Downs, Barrenjoey Headland, Port Stephens and Taree.

Conditions deteriorated further, peaking in October with above average temperatures and dry conditions affecting large areas of the State. During the period 13-26 October 2013, 627 bush/grass fires were recorded resulting in over 164,054 hectares burnt. Eleven days of Total Fire Ban were enforced and nineteen Section 44 Bush Fire Emergencies declared by the NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner.

Recognising the seriousness of the event unfolding and to ensure emergency service personnel had adequate safety powers, the Premier declared a State of Emergency which remained in place for ten days until revoked on 30 October 2013.

Over 1300 fire fighters from all agencies were deployed each day in addition to the numerous Strike Teams formed. Over 1400 interstate fire fighters were deployed from all jurisdictions (with the exception of Northern Territory) to assist with efforts and the NSW RFS State Air Desk coordinated over 630 aircraft taskings during this period.

Public Information and social media statistics far exceeded statistics recorded during January 2013. Of note, the Bush Fire Information Line received 46,545 calls, NSW Rural; Fire Service website recorded 5.7m visitors, NSW Rural Fire Service Facebook page recorded 108.4m impressions and the NSW Rural Fire Service Twitter site 24.2m impressions. Emergency Alert was successfully used on 72 occasions with over 418,000 messages sent to threatened communities.

Sadly, over 200 homes were destroyed and 120 damaged. The worst affected areas being Winmalee and Springwood.

Two people tragically died during the October 2013 fires; a resident who is believed to have sustained a heart attack whilst protecting his property on the Central Coast and a pilot killed during fire fighting operations on the South Coast.

2013/14 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Total bush and grass fires	7,887
Area burnt	574,557 hectares
Total fire ban declarations	42
Section 44 declarations	49
Personnel deployments	68,767
Aircraft taskings	2,161
Loss and Damage	216 habitable structures destroyed
	102 sheds/outbuildings destroyed
	129 habitable structures damaged
	46 sheds/outbuildings damaged

Interstate Assistance

As a result of significant bush fire activity, personnel and resources were deployed to South Australia in January 2014 following a formal request from the South Australia Country Fire Service (SA CFS):

- 3 Interstate Liaison Officer at the SA CFS Headquarters in Adelaide

- 20 Incident Management Team personnel in Berri and Eden Valley

- 346 fire fighters

- 4 Response Team Co-ordinators

- 2 Air Attack Supervisors

- 2 Fire Behaviour Analysts

- 2 Mechanics.

The NSW Rural Fire Service also facilitated the provision of two fixed wing aircraft to South Australia.

As a result of significant bush fire activity, the total personnel and resources were deployed to Victoria in January and February 2014 following a formal request from the Victorian Country Fire Authority (VIC CFA):

- 3 Interstate Liaison Officer at the VIC CFA Headquarters in Melbourne

- 100 Incident Management Team personnel

- 538 fire fighters

- the provision of nine fixed wing aircraft to Victoria.

NSW State Emergency Service

The New South Wales State Emergency Service (NSW SES) is the combat agency responsible for the planning and control of rescue and response operations for flood, storm and tsunami events. The Service comprises some 10,000 volunteers in 230 Units across the State. The volunteers are supported by 300 staff located at the Service's 17 Regional Headquarters and the State Headquarters in Wollongong.

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

Achievements for 2013-2014

The NSW State Emergency Services hosted a full day exercise in June 2014 to practice strategic level response arrangements to major flooding in the Hawkesbury Nepean River Valley. The response arrangements are detailed in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Emergency Sub Plan (HNFESP) which is a Sub Plan of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (NSW EMPlan). The exercise participants included representatives from the NSW State Emergency Services, NSW Emergency Service Organisations, the nine Functional Areas, and other NSW Government agencies. The exercise enabled participants to practice both their designated responsibilities and also their interaction with other participants, in order to confirm the knowledge, relationships and capabilities required to manage a flood crisis.

The NSW State Storm Emergency Sub Plan was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in September 2013. The Storm Plan sets out the prevention, preparation, response and initial recovery arrangements for storms, and covers arrangements relating to severe weather events which may cause strong winds, hail, snow, heavy rain, coastal flooding or erosion resulting from large waves and storm surges .

The NSW State Emergency Service holds a State Disaster Rescue Competition (SDRC) every two years, to exercise teams in the skills associated with General Rescue, Storm Damage, Flood Rescue and other skills from the Public Safety Training Package. This provides a unique opportunity for volunteer units across NSW. The best participating team is selected to represent the NSW State Emergency Services at the National Disaster Rescue Competition.

In August 2013, after being successful at the SDRC in August 2013, the NSW State Emergency Service Port Macquarie team represented NSW and competed in Victoria at the biennial National Disaster Rescue Competition event. During the event, the team was faced with seven emergency scenarios where they were judged on how they responded to each situation including a simulated earthquake. The simulated events were based around an earthquake that had resulted in a train derailment, collapsed buildings, minor flooding, an aviation accident and a mass casualty incident.

The team from NSW State Emergency Service showed the professionalism and high skill level in defeating a strong contingent from the other states and territories to score their first victory at the prestigious National Disaster Rescue Competition 2013.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

At-risk Community Programs
NSW State Emergency Service continued its commitment to delivering preparedness and safety messages to culturally and linguistically diverse and at risk communities by exploring opportunities to engage with these groups including projects such as:

- collaborating with the Deaf Society of NSW, the University of NSW and other agencies to deliver a report entitled Increasing the resilience of the Deaf Community in NSW to natural hazards

- ongoing engagement with community reference groups in high flood risk areas

- working with people that are blind or with low vision to explore appropriate communication methods before, during and after natural disasters

- community preparedness training piloted in North Western NSW targeting indigenous community members and encouraging participants to develop capabilities that allow them to prepare their properties and be more resilient in a disaster.

FloodSafe Program
This program has benefitted from resource delivery across a variety of State-wide media including community service announcements on key radio stations and Prime TV, plus online enhancements including targeted advertising of the Business FloodSafe Toolkit, campaigns on social media and delivery of a new website. New hard copy resources such as 8 tips postcards, Caravan Park Guides for Owners and Managers provide targeted communication collateral for our members based in Regions and Units. The NSW State Emergency Service FloodSafe Business Program continues to be held throughout the State, often in partnership with local business chambers, and Local FloodSafe Guides were also produced to communicate local risks in key risk areas.

StormSafe Program
The StormSafe media launch took place on Sunday 1 September 2013, with oversized fans placed in a park in Kogarah, blowing around typical backyard items to highlight the impacts associated with high winds. Over 90 StormSafe events from around the State took place.

TsunamiSafe Program
The NSW State Emergency Services conducted TsunamiSafe month in January 2014. This involved a range of services cooperating in activities involved in a launch at Cronulla Beach and has resulted in the preparation of a new social media campaign and new TsunamiSafe Website.

Multi-Hazard Programs
An online Emergency Plan for households is being developed to assist them to prepare for flood, storm and tsunami. The online plan tailors specific safety advice to the individual's situation and locality. A Recovery Guide has been developed to assist with the transition to recovery for community members following a request for assistance. The recovery guide provides important information for people on the next steps they can take following a natural disaster and important referrals for people during an emergency.

Best Practice and Collaboration
NSW State Emergency Services continues to represent on the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review Taskforce and participate in working groups focussing on community engagement. The Manager Community Engagement is also a lead end-user for the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre Communications and Warnings Cluster and represents NSW State Emergency Services across a number of different resilience focused projects.

NSW Flood Database Project
Stage 3 of the NSW Flood Database project has been completed in partnership with NSW State Emergency Services and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The State project is identified as a priority action of the NSW Government 2021 Plan. The NSW Flood Database Project aims to aggregate flood risk information from local flood studies for strategic decision making at both local and state government levels.

Flood Extent Mapping
Flood extent mapping from air photography taken during the 2012 western NSW flooding has been published into the public domain for community access and research purposes. The data set was presented at the 2013 NSW Open Data Forum and supports both community safety goals and open government initiatives.

NSW Tsunami Inundation Modelling and Risk Assessment
The NSW State Emergency Services has finalised the NSW Tsunami Inundation Modeling and Risk Assessment project (funded under Natural Disaster Mitigation Program) and has begun to integrate the results into NSW Tsunami Preparedness activities. This has included:
- undertaking sensitivity analysis of proposed and future evacuation areas

- coordinating community engagement activities

- increasing the capability and awareness of NSW State Emergency Services members and Councils in known risk areas (via a series of presentations and workshops)

- update of the State Tsunami Plan and tsunami warnings in NSW

- presenting tsunami modelling results at the 22nd Annual NSW Coastal Conference, and

- making the results of the work available to the community (via the NSW State Emergency Services website).

NSW SES Alpine Search and Survival Operators Training
The NSW State Emergency Service Alpine Search and Survival operators are tasked to assist Police in searches and recoveries in Australian Alpine areas. Six NSW State Emergency Service Alpine Search and Survival operators successfully took part in a ten day course in New Zealand in February 2014. The International Federation of Mountain Guides provided two instructors to facilitate the course, with the purpose of the training to increase skills in operating, travelling and rescue in alpine areas.

Large Animal Rescue Conference
In November 2013 the NSW State Emergency Service attended the International Large Animal Rescue Conference in Adelaide. The NSW SES have been involved in a number of large animal workshops over the years attended and two members gave a demonstration on a number of large animal rescue techniques utilised by the NSW SES to international delegates. Large animal rescue is predominately associated with rescues within Flood Operations and Land Rescue. Requests for Large Animal rescue are increasing which highlights the need for further development of this role.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

In support of NSW communities, the NSW State Emergency Service undertook 21,632 activities and recorded over 259,000 member hours during 2013-14. Our Storm response remained the most significant operational response with 15,902 activities and over 166,000 member hours being recorded.

As the combat agency for flooding across the State, the Service has a strong flood rescue capability. There are currently 80 NSW State Emergency Service units accredited for Level 3 Flood Rescue by the State Rescue Board. The service now holds 376 in service flood rescue boats and has the largest flood rescue fleet nationally. There were 86 Flood Rescue activities during 2013/14, taking 367 volunteer hours to complete.

Severe Weather – 15–19 November 2013
A slow-moving low pressure trough and associated low pressure system resulted in unstable weather conditions which caused a series of Severe Thunderstorms Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings to be issued for forecast districts across eastern NSW. The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 1,987 Requests for Assistance within the Sydney Metropolitan, Clarence-Nambucca, Hunter and Richmond-Tweed Regions. Fourteen Flood Rescues were also completed by the NSW SES and a tornado occurred in Hornsby, causing significant damage and media interest, but fortunately no casualties.

Severe Weather – 16 March 2014
A number of thunderstorm cells moved through the Northern Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter and Namoi regions producing damaging winds, heavy rain and small hailstones. The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 1,186 Requests for Assistance within the Sydney Northern, Hunter, Mid North Coast and Namoi Regions.

Severe Weather – 24-28 March 2014
A low pressure trough and embedded small-scale low off the coast of Sydney produced locally heavy rainfall and thunderstorms over parts of the Metropolitan, Illawarra and South Coast forecast districts. The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 905 Requests for Assistance including 27 Flood Rescues. The South Coast Train Line and the Illawarra Highway were partially closed due to flooding. Bulli High School sustained significant water damage, with Fire & Rescue NSW providing support to the NSW SES to clear out debris and silt within the school.

Severe Weather – 22-30 June 2014
Two strong cold fronts crossed southeast NSW, bringing low temperatures, strong to gale force winds to eastern NSW, as well as snow to the southern and central ranges. The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 2,329 Requests for Assistance. NSW Rural Fire Service and Out Of Area NSW State Emergency Service personnel were deployed to the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama areas to assist local NSW State Emergency Service personnel.

Community First Responder Activities
The NSW State Emergency Service has a total of 11 Community First Responder Units and 62 Community First Responder Operators. During 2013-2014 the NSW State Emergency Service participated in 431 Community First Responder activities.

Bush Fire Support Activities
During 2013-2014 the NSW State Emergency Service participated in 854 Bush Fire Support activities in support of NSW Rural Fire Service. These activities included both Incident Management Team and Field Operations support. During the year a total of 928 volunteer members participated in and contributed over 16,000 hours to these activities.

In late October 2013, the NSW State Emergency Service participated in Operation 'Make Safe'. This operation involved completing tasks outstanding for making trees safe in the Blue Mountains following the Bush Fires. In total approximately 355 trees were assessed and felled.

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has performed rescue services to the community of NSW for 45 years. The Volunteer Rescue Association's primary role is to provide rescue support to all emergency services within NSW. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association is also the Primary Response General Land Rescue Unit for 41 regional areas in NSW. It also has Vertical Rescue capability for 22 regions in regional NSW.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has 42 General Land Rescue Squads, 3 Specialist Squads and 13 Support Squads. Our Specialist Squads are located within the Sydney basin and one being located in the snowfields of NSW. Our General Land Rescue squads are based primarily in regional NSW.

During 2013-2014 reporting year the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association completed:

- 9,856 Operational Tasks (incidents)

- 107,220 Operational Hours

- 110,350 Non-operational Hours ie Training, Maintenance, Fundraising, etc

- 594 Road Accident Rescue completed - 594, extrications - 173, General assists – 278 & removed Deceased – 30.

The 9,856 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 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 the members of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association added some $33,000 to the NRMA donation of $117,000 and made the total amount of $150,000 available for equipment grants or replacement of equipment.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The Governance of 'Project Raven' within the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association reduced the regions from 11 to 7. This will reduce the executive expenses and allow funds to be diverted into other areas of the budget.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Registered Training Organisation completed:

- 115 x Inductions

- 92 x PUA21312 Certificate II in Public Safety (SES)

- 84 x PUA30412 Certificate III in Public Safety (SES Rescue)

- 8 x PUA40212 Certificate IV in Public Safety SES Leadership)

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association set up a Professional Standards & Ethics Committee and became a member of the Emergency Services Consultative Committee Work Health & Safety.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Exercise "Otis"
This regional exercise involved all emergency services & Grain corp at the Graincorp Narromine Silo facility. It involved Vertical Rescue, Confined Space, Explosive gases & General Rescue. This was the first exercise of its kind in NSW.

Confined Space Awareness Program
This program has commenced and another 10 of these will be rolled out through the state over the coming year.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association assisted other emergency services at the Lithgow Fires during October 2013. They rotated 9 squads through the Lithgow Volunteer Rescue Association facility over 12 days. This operation consumed approximately 2,100 man hours.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association formed part of the team of Emergency Service Personnel who were part of Project Search and Rescue Exercise during October 2013. This operation involved searching for the missing plane VH-MDX.

Marine Rescue NSW

Marine Rescue NSW is the State's official volunteer marine rescue service. It has 3,301 members 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 volunteers provide:

- Swift, coordinated marine emergency response

- The State's only Log On and vessel tracking service for recreational boaters

- Boating safety education, including boat licence and marine radio courses

- Around-the-clock monitoring of marine radio traffic along the NSW coastline

Achievements for 2013-2014

Saving lives on the water
Marine Rescue NSW rescue crews responded to 3,046 vessels in trouble on the water, including 749 caught in life-threatening (notifiable) emergencies. In addition, its radio operators handled 364,368 radio transmissions and Logged On 79,696 vessels. Units also supported NSW Police Force Marine Area Command in a number of multi-agency Search and Rescue operations.

Support provided to Bushfire Operations in October 2013
Marine Rescue NSW provided operational and communications support to the State's major coordinated bushfire operations in October 2013.

Royal Australian Navy International Fleet Review
Nine units provided operational support and spectator control for the Royal Australian Navy International Fleet Review on Jervis Bay and Sydney Harbour in October 2013.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

A series of coordinated multi-agency marine Search and Rescue exercises (SAREX) was staged throughout 2013-14. Exercises were held at Bermagui (July), Port Macquarie (September), Yamba (November), Greenwell Point (February) and Sydney (May).

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

Marine Rescue NSW participated in the National Emergency Management Volunteers Forum and on the National Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Committee to strengthen inter-jurisdictional operational and training cooperation and support. Marine Rescue NSW member Marcus Collignon was appointed the National Emergency Management Volunteer Forum National Youth Representative.

Marine Rescue NSW worked 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.

Marine Rescue NSW implemented its new web-based secure vessel tracking system, Seahawk, enabling units to more quickly and easily Log On and track recreational vessels. Seahawk was developed with the assistance of a $230,000 Water Safety Black Spots Fund grant.

Marine Rescue NSW undertook a $25,000 study, also funded through a Water Safety Black Spots Fund grant, to improve boating safety by identifying any necessary improvements to internal and public radio communications infrastructure and planning.

As part of the organisation's commitment to preventing marine emergencies through boater education, a number of Marine Rescue NSW units conduct Safe Boating and Personal Water Craft (jet ski) licence courses for members of the public. In the 2013 calendar year, 25 units conducted 238 courses and boat licence tests for 950 adults and 166 young adults and PWC licence upgrades for 110 adults and 10 young adults.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Bushfire support
In October 2013, Marine Rescue NSW provided operational and communications support to the State's major coordinated bushfire operations. Three vessels and crews from Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie, supported by radio operators and other unit personnel, were deployed at Murrays Beach overnight on 17 October and through the next day to assist firefighters and conduct any necessary evacuations. More than 80 volunteers from 11 units also joined personnel in the call centres at the Rural Fire Service Headquarters and the Public Information and Inquiry Centre. These members gave more than 1000 hours of their time over 140 shifts to answer public calls for information.

Royal Australian Navy International Fleet Review
In October 2013, Marine Rescue NSW provided operational assistance and event support for the Royal Australian Navy International Fleet Review on Jervis Bay and Sydney Harbour. Marine Rescue Eden coordinated assistance to a tall ship that suffered engine failure; Marine Rescue Batemans Bay transported a seriously ill naval cadet on board another tall ship safely to shore for transfer to hospital; and Marine Rescue Jervis Bay rescued five people on board a spectator craft in need of assistance in gale force conditions on Jervis Bay. Six vessels from the Botany Port Hacking, Port Jackson, Middle Harbour, Cottage Point and Broken Bay units, supported by radio operators at Marine Rescue Terrey Hills, provided spectator craft control and logistical support during the Fleet Review celebrations on Sydney Harbour.

Maritime Combat Agencies

Transport for NSW is the overall managing (statutory) agency for marine oil / chemical spills and ship accident emergencies in State waters. 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, the NSW Port Corporations and Transport for NSW.

Achievements for 2013-2014

State Exercise

Transport for NSW led the annual State maritime incident exercise "Sooty Tern" which was held in October 2013 at Port Macquarie. The exercise was attended by over 80 participants and observers from Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, NSW port corporations, emergency services, local government and volunteer organisations.

The tabletop exercise was based on a scenario involving approximately 30 tonnes of heavy fuel oil impacting the north east coastline of Lord Howe Island. The exercise focused on development of an Incident Action Plan by an Incident Management Team (IMT) and then the logistics and planning on how an Incident Action Plan would be implemented on a remote location such as Lord Howe Island.

The exercise addressed critical areas such as shoreline and wildlife response, waste management and communications with the Incident Management Team and regional staging areas, and response termination.

The exercise highlighted a number of challenges in responding to such an incident in the remote Lord Howe Island. Overall the exercise was successful and met the intended aims. It confirmed that:

- a response to this level of incident could be adequately mounted and carried out using local and state resources

- Functional Area support to the response was timely, planned and effective in supporting a response carried out under both the local and state level contingency plans.

Gore Cove Exercise

In November 2013, Sydney Ports in conjunction with Shell Australia held an annual exercise at Gore Cove. The exercise was based on a fire on a product tanker at the berth and then a loading arm failure resulting in 7000 litres of unleaded petrol entering the water. As part of the Exercise, Fire & Rescue NSW assumed the Combat Agency role until both the fire and spill were made safe. The exercise involved representatives from across the emergency management sector and will help inform future responses at the Shell Gove Cove facility and risk assessments given the move from import of crude oil to refined products.

Oil Spill Response Atlas (OSRA) Development

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 progressing Phase II of the oil spill response atlas web based application development. This involves incorporating live data, 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 oil spill response atlas 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.

- As part of the annual National Plan oil spill response atlas funding program the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is collecting seabird and shoreline classification data sets for the NSW South Coast.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

The following plans were updated during the year:

- North Coast and South Coast Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plans were endorsed by the relevant Regional Emergency Management Committee's (REMC)

- Lord Howe Island State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan was finalised and endorsed by the Lord Howe Island Board and related emergency management committees.

Operational and Management Training
Transport for NSW delivered a range of operational and management training for over 300 state personnel during 2013-2014. Additionally over 20 personnel from across agencies attended national courses delivered by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Participation in national working groups
Transport for NSW continues 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.

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

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

There have been no significant spills during the last 12 months in NSW. Combat Agencies (the Port Corporations 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) 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 also holds the position of State Emergency Recovery Controller and the Director, Response and Recovery holds the position of Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller. The Welfare Services Functional Area is also part of the Ministry, and is a member of the State Emergency Management Committee. These roles and functions are described in other parts of this report.

During the reporting period the Ministry worked on a number of significant policy projects.

NSW Natural Disaster Resilience Program
In NSW, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program is administered by the Resilience and Planning Branch, and funds mitigation and resilience projects relating to all types of natural disaster hazards.

Under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program there are dedicated initiatives that support the management of significant risks from specific hazards. For example, in the case of floods, the Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme is available, and for bush fires, the Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme is provided.

During 2013-2014, $7.4 million was expended on mitigation and resilience projects. Examples of such projects include the development of flood studies and flood management plans, maintenance of fire trails and fire towers, guidelines for evacuating aged care facilities, strategies to engage Aboriginal communities in bush fire preparedness, and recruitment and training of emergency volunteers.

New eLearning Training Modules and Increased Student Participation
The Resilience and Planning Branch continued to fund and coordinate the development and delivery of multi agency emergency management training to NSW Government and non government agencies with a role in emergency management.

A strategic training review resulted in the reconsideration of the emergency management multi agency training program. A new eLearning strategy was launched in October 2013; Emergency Management Overview was assessed by over 100 students per month which resulted in a total of 1150 participants accessing on-line training. A further 1,258 participants attended 72 face to face training programs including two new face to face courses; Introduction to Emergency Management and Emergency Operations Centre Concepts.

In total, 2,408 participants from across government and non-government organizations, with a role in NSW emergency management arrangements undertook multi agency emergency management training. This was a 40 percent increase from the previous year.

Review of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
In April 2014, a discussion paper in support of the statutory review of the State Emergency Rescue Management Act was released. Submissions closed on 1 May 2014. The Ministry is currently analysing submissions with a view to presenting the State Emergency Management Committee with a package of amendments in 2014-15 for approval.

State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat
The Ministry works closely with the Chairs 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. Member agencies include the emergency services organisations as well as supporting agencies including NSW Health, Transport for NSW and NSW Treasury.

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.

The Ministry also develops the Annual Report for the State Emergency Management Committee.

Annual pre-season briefing with Emergency Management Australia
Each year Emergency Management Australia provides a half day briefing to NSW on preparedness for the disaster season ahead. The session includes presentations from Emergency Management Australia, Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, the Australian Defence Force and NSW emergency service agencies.

The 2013 briefing was held on 17 September. The Ministry worked with Emergency Management Australia on the coordination of the briefing and provided secretariat support for the session as well as dissemination of the information as required.

Pre-season briefings from NSW agencies to Government or other organisations are coordinated from the Boards and Committees Branch as required.

SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL AREA AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area

NSW Department of Primary Industries (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 2013-2014

Bushfire Support
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area responded to numerous fires across the state in support of NSW Rural Fire Service. The main responses were to the three Blue Mountains fires, the State Mine Fire, Springwood fire and the Mount Victoria Fire. In the Blue Mountains alone, more than 800 animals were evacuated, accommodated and cared for by Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area staff at Lithgow, Penrith, Richmond and Hawkesbury. Numerous injured native animals were assisted. Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area also provided emergency assistance such as fodder and water to fire affected primary producers in other parts of the state and carried out damage assessments. Recovery information was provided to the Springwood recovery centre.

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza
A High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H7N2) response commenced in October 2013 at Young, NSW involving 2 infected premises. Approximately 450,000 poultry and contaminated products/items on both infected premises were destroyed and disposed. Decontamination of both properties and surveillance was conducted and Proof of Freedom gained. Staff from interstate (WA, SA, Tas, Vic) and New Zealand participated in the response.

Emergency Management Training
Continued training of staff in emergency management (preparedness, prevention, response & recovery). There has been a particular focus on training of Local Lands Services staff. All training programs are aligned with Public Safety qualification levels.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

- Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area staff attended the NSW Rural Fire Service pre-season briefing and exercise at Homebush

- seven emergency management training workshops were held. These included Introduction to Emergency Management, Applied Emergency, Logistics Basic, Incident Management Teams and Planning.

- Emergency information sessions were run for Catchment Management Authority personnel across the state prior to integration to the new Local Land Services organisation in January 2014.

- During April members of the Emergency Management Unit and Emergency Response Team delivered the Introduction to Emergency Management and Applied Emergency Management Workshops in Western Australia.

- Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area and the NSW Rural Fire Service coordinated Crew Resource Management and Work Safely around Aircraft training sessions for staff conducting aerial surveillance activities. Approximately 55 staff attended.

- NSW Department of Primary Industries including Marine Parks, Office of Environment Heritage and Australian Seabird Rescue personnel participated in the NSW marine incident exercise with Transport for NSW and other agencies. Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area personnel have attended a range of Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Transport for NSW marine pollution courses. NSW Department of Primary Industries also worked with Office of Environment & Heritage (National Parks & Wildlife Services), Transport for NSW Australian Seabird Rescue and Sydney Ports to put together and deliver the new Introduction to Oiled Wildlife course.

- NSW Department of Primary Industries staff are participating in Exercise Odysseus, a National Livestock Standstill exercise based on a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. It is running as a series of small exercises across all States over 2014.

- NSW Department of Primary Industries and South East Local Land Service in conjunction with the Illawarra and South Coast Regional Emergency Management Committee assisted Port Kembla Copper with the demolition of the 197m stack. An evacuation centre for evacuated residents was set up at Port Kembla Leagues Club and NSW Department of Primary Industries and South East Local Land Service were there to support evacuated pets.

- Staff from the Emergency Management Unit attended the REMO Conference at Richmond to explain the functions of the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area and the role of the new Local Land Service organisation.

- A North Coast Agriculture Natural Disaster Advisory Group was established as a pilot group to establish agreed protocols for industry input to and arrangements for damage reporting after a natural disaster. It consists of 20 industry nominated representatives from agriculture, commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors.

- Staff from the Emergency Management Unit visited the NSW Mounted Police at Surry Hills regarding potential roles during emergencies under the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area. Discussion was around potential assistance with the management of large/diverse groups of animal owners who have evacuated to single evacuation centres.

- State Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Sub-Committee meeting held in December 2013.

- Fulfilled representation on SEMC and various SEMC working groups.

- Funding from the Ministry was received for two projects: "Building resilience in rural, residential and regional communities – a community engagement project that promotes resilience in animal welfare" and "Pathways Agriculture Resilience floodplain model". Both nearing completion.

- Prepared recommendations for seven Agricultural Natural Disasters.

- Continued DPI representation on the Animal Biosecurity National Rapid Response Team.

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas
- Memorandum of Understands (MoUs) - 26 current MoUs with participating and supporting organisations.
- Current membership of the AASFA includes:-
  o Functional Area Coordinator/Chair: Barry Kay
  o Deputy: Simon Oliver / Kevin Cooper
  o Executive Officer: Karen Roberts

Significant Operations /Activities for 2013-2014

Fire in the East Gippsland
In February 2014, a significant fire in the East Gippsland burnt more than 165,000Ha and ran through properties on the NSW border. Local Lands Services staff coordinated the donation, delivery and allocation of 21 tons of baled hay to affected properties in the localities of Cabanandra, Deddick and Tubbut.

Outbreak of the Disease Banana Freckle
There was an outbreak of the disease Banana Freckle (Phyllosticta cavendishii) on Cavendish bananas in an isolated area near Darwin in the Northern Territory during August 2013. NSW Department of Primary Industries staff participated in the nation-wide emergency response to the disease.

Support to RFS for Bushfires in October 2013
In October Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area responded to numerous fires across the state in support of NSW Rural Fire Service. The main response was to the three Blue Mountains fires, the State Mine Fire, Springwood fire and the Mount Victoria Fire. Animals were assisted by around 300 Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area staff. In the Blue Mountains alone, more than 800 animals were evacuated, accommodated and cared for by Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area at Lithgow, Penrith, Richmond and Hawkesbury centres. Recovery information was provided to the Springwood recovery centre. The Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area also provided emergency assistance such as fodder and water to fire affected primary producers in other parts of the state and carried out damage assessments.

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza
In October 2013, the High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H7N2) response at Young involved 2 infected premises. Approximately 450,000 poultry and contaminated products/items on both infected premises have been destroyed and disposed of. Decontamination of both properties and surveillance is continuing working towards Proof of Freedom. DPI and LLS personnel are working with government, industry and contractors. Staff from interstate (WA, SA, Tas, Vic) and New Zealand have participated in the response to learn how emergency animal diseases are managed in NSW.

Hendra Virus Cases on Mid North Coast
Department of Primary Industries biosecurity staff have responded to a number of Hendra virus cases on the mid north coast.

Telecommunications Services Functional Area

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area (TELCOFAC) within the NSW Telco Authority is responsible for co-ordinating 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 Force, NSW Rural Fire Service or NSW State Emergency Service to escort or transport telecommunication carriers' technicians to failed infrastructure.

- Co-ordinating the deployment of telecommunications carrier network augmentation infrastructure in an emergency.

- Providing specialist advice, where appropriate, to Government agencies on telecommunications availability and effectiveness in an emergency context.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area:

- Coordinated the effort to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure and restore services in the Blue Mountains, the Greater Hunter, the Central Coast and the Southern Highlands during the October 2013 Bush Fires

- The TELCOFAC established its subcommittee and the TELCOPLAN in September 2013

- The TELCOFAC extended its participating organisations to include Vodafone Hutchison and NBN Co in April 2014.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Telecommunications Services Functional Area staff participated in emergency management training in February, April and May 2014.

TELCOFAC participated in a number of workshops and working groups during the reporting period with telecommunication carriers, industry groups, other Functional areas and the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

The Functional Area subcommittee met in September 2013 and April 2014. The Subcommittee's work during the year included the endorsement of the committee constitution and the TELCOPLAN and the development of concepts of operations for bushfire and flood. Vodafone Hutchison and NBN Co joined the Functional Area as participating organisations in April 2014.

The current membership of the TELCOFAC subcommittee is Telstra Corporation, SingTel Optus Pty Ltd, Vodafone Hutchison Australia, NBN Co, NSW Government Radio Network,

NSW Police Force, State Emergency Operations Centre, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area, Engineering Services Functional Area, Transport Services Functional Area, Health Services Functional Area and Public Information Services Functional Area.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

The response to the October 2013 bushfires
In October 2013 the Telecommunications Services Functional Area was involved in the response to the bushfires in the Blue Mountains, the Greater Hunter, the Central Coast and the Southern Highlands.

The TELCOFAC coordinated the effort by telecommunication carriers and public safety agencies to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure, restore telecommunication services affected by the severe bushfires and coordinate the augmentation of telecommunication services to support responders in the field and the community.

Recovery Operations
In October 2013 the TELCOFAC coordinated the deployment of emergency communications services for the Recovery Centre and recovery operations at Springwood.

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, who is sponsored by NSW Trade & Investment; plus representatives of public and private owners and operators of 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, Memorandum of Understanding, Intergovernmental Agreements and other established coordination arrangements.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area:

- Completed a program review of the Functional Area Coordination function for the Secretary of Trade & Investment

- Participated in the further review of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and made a submission that had been endorsed by the Secretary

- Engaged functional area members in planning and preparedness for the 2013-2014 bush fire, floods and storms season, which was comprehensively tested during the October 2013 bush fires.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

EUSFAC Emergency Management Concept of Operations
Following the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area program review, a Concept of Operations for emergency management arrangements was developed within the Functional Area in January 2014. The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area distributed this Concept of Operations to Functional Area members in March 2014.

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 in August 2013. 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 and coordinated training for new ICON users.

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 September 2013 and again in January 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 2013. The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area distributed seasonal outlook briefing information to the Energy & Utility Services Functional Area 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 the Energy & Utility Services Functional Area members in September 2013 and again in February 2014.

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review (HNVFMR)
The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area continued to participate in the Steering Group for this review, which included the updated flood damages assessment, flood emergency planning and the HNVFMR Summary Report, which was endorsed by the Government in March 2014.

Health facility electricity supply continuity project
The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area engaged NSW Health Services Functional Area and electricity network operators on improving the management of power supply disruptions at NSW hospitals.

Functional Area Committee
The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area held a Functional Area Committee meeting, hosted by NSW Rural Fire Service at State Headquarters in March 2014.

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 supply disruption exercises and policy development activities.

Participation in dam safety plan trials
The Deputy Coordinator from Energy and Utility Services Functional Area participated in the four-day multi-agency trials of Dam Safety Emergency Plans for the Wingecarribee, Woronora, Prospect and Warragamba Dams, coordinated by Sydney Catchment Authority in June 2014.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Protracted Operational Response
The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area attended the NSW Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre for the duration of the NSW October 2013 bush fire events. Regular Energy and Utility Services Functional Area and functional area support continued for the remainder of the season up to February 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 NSW Fire and Rescue 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 2013-2014

During the October 2013 bushfires, Engineering Services assisted the Emergency Recovery Centre in the Blue Mountains including providing assistance with asbestos make safe works and the coordination insurance industry clean-up effort. During the reporting period, Engineering Services were involved in the review of the Engineering Supporting Plan (EngPLAN). An Emergency Engineering Pocket Book was prepared.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

During the 2013-2014 reporting period, the Engineering Services Functional Area undertook the following preparedness activities during the reporting period:

- Conducted a State wide study of flood levee system

- Participated in multi-agency exercise on oil spill and wildlife contamination

- Participated in multi-agency exercise on livestock epidemic

- Participated in multi-agency exercise of Hawkesbury Nepean flood scenario

- Undertook all of Engineering Emergency Management training through 2 conferences.

- Participated in Heads of Asbestos Coordinating Agencies (HACA) working party

- Participated in State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group

- Participated in Emergency Management Spatial Information Working Group

Engineering Emergency Management Administration
Martin Dwyer commenced as Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator in June 2014.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Statistical Summary of Operations/Activities for 2013-14

Emergencies	15
< 1 day	13
> 1 day	2
Structural assessments	9

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.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The Environment Services Functional Area supporting plan was revised and updated with the input of the functional area committee and approved by the State Emergency Management Committee in September 2013.

Following several events in 2012 and 2013 with prolonged recovery operations due to widespread asbestos debris in the community, an Asbestos Working Group was formed in August 2013 and commenced two tasks to improve the management of asbestos in emergencies. Revised funding arrangements under the Disaster Assistance Guidelines were in place in time for the response and recovery following the Blue Mountains bushfires in October 2013. A concept of operations, the "NSW Asbestos Emergency Plan", was drafted and at June 2014 was under consultation with relevant agencies.

In the context of the East Lynne 2009 and Mona Vale 2013 fuel tanker incidents, a Determination was made under the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail) Regulation 2009*, prohibiting the use of dangerous goods tank trailers manufactured on or after 1 July 2014, that are not fitted with electronic stability control. Retrofitting of electronic stability control will be required on all tank trailers by 1 January 2019. The Determination applies to all tank trailers that are classified as heavy vehicles (GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes) and includes semi-trailers, B-Double trailers and dog trailers.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

The Environment Services Functional Area have conducted or participated in significant multi-agency training and exercises:

- Gore Bay – marine pollution – 8 October 2013

- ACT-NSW Cross border Emergency Services Exercise – 14 October 2013

- Sooty Tern – marine pollution – 15/16 October 2013

- Flipped Out – airport emergency – 5 February 2014

- Aeolous – inland flooding – 19 March 2014

- Silver Bullet – train derailment – 27 March 2014

- Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Exercise – 3 June 2014

The Environmental Services Functional Area Committee met on 16 September 2013 and 7 May 2014.

The Hazmat Incident Review Group is a subcommittee of the Environment Services Functional Area Committee and met on 2 September 2013, 28 November 2013 and 17 March 2014.

The Asbestos Working Group met on 29 August 2013, 10 September 2013, 20 September 2013, 21 October 2013, 9 April 2014 and 22 May 2014.

The Environment Protection Authority has adopted a modified Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System structure so as to more efficiently and effectively respond to incidents. Incident management training was provided to 201 EPA and OEH staff over the 2013-14 financial year.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

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

- Banksmeadow, 12 July 2013 – Loss of 130,000L unleaded petrol into a bunded area at Caltex terminal. The Environment Protection Authority was in attendance to ensure that adequate measures were put in place to ensure the incident is cleaned up and investigate the cause of the incident.

- Mona Vale, 1 October 2013 – Petrol tanker rollover lost 20,000L fuel in subsequent fire. The Environment Protection Authority issued a written clean up direction to Cootes and assisted Pittwater Council with the clean-up. Approximately 1.5 km of a small creek north of the site was impacted by firewater contaminated with hydrocarbons.

- Blue Mountains, Port Stephens and Wyong, October 2013 – The Environment Protection Authority was involved in asbestos related issues associated with NSW Bushfires.

- Glenfield, 22 November 2013 – Glenfield Sewage Treatment Plant failure due to storm activity resulting in raw sewage discharging into the Georges River. Aerators were installed in Georges River to improve the water quality and health alerts were issues to avoid the area.

- Herons Creek, 10 April 2014 – The incident involved a B-double truck catching fire on the Pacific Highway near Herons Creek. The truck was carrying dangerous goods including paint, solvents and degreasers. The contaminated fire water escaped the containment contaminating areas further downstream.

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

- NSW Pathology

- Health Share (supply)

- Paediatric network

- Health Communications.

Achievements for 2013-2014

The first Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT), Team Members course was conducted in NSW in December 2013. This course is designed to prepare Health personnel for the challenge of deployment to areas affected by disaster. The course has been run with the assistance of Fire & Rescue NSW to enable participants to live in a fully self-sustainable environment.

A two day course for Mental Health workers to orientate them to the emergency management arrangements and specialty needs for people following disasters was conducted in October. This session was well attended by Local Health Districts across the state and will become an ongoing event.

Construction of the new Australian Medical Assistance Team Medical Cache which meets the Foreign Medical Team Standards to ensure that NSW Health and Ambulance staff have the requisite equipment, both medical and habitat, to support a fully self-sufficient deployment to work in austere environments. This also ensures that in the event of a disaster the residents of NSW, other Australian States and internationally effected communities will receive emergency and Public Health care that meet international standards and requirements. The skills, expertise and medical equipment will reduce and alleviate the suffering of those affected by a disaster where health infrastructure has been compromised.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

The NSW Health Services Functional Area Supporting Plan was rewritten, endorsed and distributed. Distribution included the development of an eLearning package which was placed on the Health Education Training Institute learning management system. Additionally, discs were developed and distributed to our supporting and partnering agencies.

The Director of the Health Emergency Management Unit was selected to participate in the Emergency Management Assistance Team training which was hosted by the Commonwealth.

NSW Health was invited to join the Commonwealth Deployment Working Group due to our work in AUSMAT. This has enabled us to guide standards for the development of systems to support deployments.

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

- The State Health Services Function Area Coordinator convened regular meetings of the Health Controllers and Health Service Functional Area Coordinators for NSW Local Health Districts to coordinate local emergency planning with the state framework and the emergency response exercise programs for hospitals and local health services.

- The NSW Health Emergency Management Unit operates from within the Ambulance Service of NSW and provides support for the State HSFAC group and develops performance standards for health entities, coordinates planning for major events, develops educational strategies through the Health Disaster Education Advisory Groups as well as providing administrative support for major operations and exercises.

- Report on functional Area Committee major outcomes including current membership and number of meetings held in 2013-14.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

In February 2013 the Upper Coopers Creek landslide saw significant weather result in a landslide isolating the township of Upper Coopers Creek. As there was no quick fix to the problem, health in conjunction with other agencies redefined our service delivery model to offer a health service to residents while isolated.

In October 2013, the Blue Mountains bushfires event saw the state HEALTHPLAN elevated from ALERT phase to Standby phase. The Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District was supported by the State in the response to the emergency with the movement of more than 500 elderly residents from aged care facilities and the evacuation of the Springwood hospital.

Australia deployed two AUSMAT teams to the Philippines to provide medical support following the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan. NSW was not on-call for AUSMAT deployments; however a request for staff to support the deployment was received from the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre. NSW provided a member to participate on both Alpha & Bravo teams.

NSW Health provided Doctors to assist the New Zealand Medical Assistance Team with a response to the Soloman Islands following significant flooding.

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 is in line with the Public Information Functional Area Supporting Plan which is currently under review to reflect the changing needs of public information and the way emergency management organisations broadcast important information to the community in a timely and coordinated 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, Emergency Operations Controllers at State, Regional & Local levels, 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, and the provision of advice in relation to the development of public information material for emergency management policies and guidelines.

Achievements for 2013-2014

Channel 7 Sunday Night Program – Missing Plane in the Barrington Tops
Coordinated the Ch 7 Sunday Night Program feature on VH MDX – the plane went missing 32 years ago in the Barrington Tops.   The Ch 7 Sunday Night program produced a two segment story on the search for the missing plane which went missing on the 9 August 1981, believed to have crashed in the Barrington Tops. A major search operation was conducted in 2013 involving a range of emergency service organisations including NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Volunteer Rescue Association, NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance, and Volunteer Bushwalking Association.

The story featured footage from the search showing all emergency service organisations involved. Part of the segment was filmed at the NSW Police Rescue Squad base at Alexandria, interviews have also been conducted with family members. Images from the original 1981 search were provided to the program.

ANZCTC Public Information Arrangements Training Session 13 May
The annual Australia New Zealand Counter Terrorism Public Information Guidelines and State CT Public Information Arrangements Briefing Session was conducted on 13 May at NSW Police Executive Offices.

Media and Public Information Officers from all emergency service organisations were invited. Topics covered included the National Counter Terrorism Public Information Arrangements, NSW Government Counter Terrorism Public Information response and Recovery Arrangements, and an overview of the State Crisis Centre arrangements. A discussion exercise was conducted to re-enforce understanding of the arrangements.

Blue Mountains and Hunter Bushfires 2013
Public information was provided to support the NSW Rural Fire Service during the October bushfires in the Blue Mountains and Hunter Regions. NSW Rural Fire Service was supported through the provision of Public Information Officers at the NSW Rural Fire Service Headquarters and substantial social media support. Assistance was provided in the co-ordination and dissemination of Health, Welfare, and Evacuation and Recovery Centre information.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

The Public Information Functional Area participated in the following activities over the reporting period:

- Exercise OTIS - Central West Region Rescue Committee multi-agency exercise specifically designed to increase knowledge and understanding within the emergency agencies of the risks during emergency responses to grain silo incidents.

- ANZCTC Active Shooter Forum and Launch of Guidelines - 29 July

- ACT/NSW Cross Border Emergency Media Working Group – 26 September - The purpose of the working group meeting was 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.

- Emergency Alert - National Media and Awareness Working Group Teleconference conducted to provide an update on campaign arrangements and ongoing developments in relation to the additional carriers coming joining the system and the test of the location based enhancements.

- Significant Disasters Recovery Workshop - participated in the workshop to develop a framework for the activation and implementation of recovery arrangements following large scale events in New South Wales.

- International Fleet Review 3 – 11 October 2013 - Attended and provided media and public information advice in relation to established multi agency practices to the International Fleet Review Risk Management Exercise – Nowra 28 August 2013. Agency Media and Public Information officers provided with overview of arrangements.

- Airport Rail Link Multi Agency Discussion Exercise – 8 April 2014 - Attended discussion exercise and provided strategic public information advice based on existing emergency arrangements

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

Public Information Functional Area Sub-Committee membership includes NSW Police Force, NSW Ambulance Service, Fire & 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 PR, Sydney Airport Corporation Limited, Community Relations Commission, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, State Rail, Sydney Ferries, Industry and Investment, City of Sydney, Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime NSW.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Blue Mountains and Hunter Bushfires 2013
Public information support was provided to the NSW Rural Fire Service during the October bushfires in the Blue Mountains and Hunter Regions. Support was given to the NSW Rural Fire Service through the provision of Public Information Officers at the NSW Rural Fire Service Headquarters and substantial social media support. Assistance was provided in the co-ordination and dissemination of Health, Welfare, Evacuation and Recovery Centre information. Some of the information coordinated across agencies for release included Donations, Looting, Pets/Livestock, Potential Asbestos Hazards, and Returning Home safety messages.

Transport Services Functional Area

Transport for NSW provides the Transport Services Functional Area 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 2013-2014

The Transport Services Functional Area led the development of traffic and transport plans in support of the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Plan. Revised evacuation traffic and transport plans were needed to cater for increased population and vehicle ownership in the area. For some areas, these changes mean 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 Services Functional Area developed transport Concepts of Operations for initial responses involving incidents at major hazard facilities in NSW. The Concepts of Operations outline strategies for coordinated multi-modal responses, where incidents at major hazard facilities pose local impacts for transport networks including road, rail bus and ferry operations.

A significant multi-agency exercise, Exercise Hilltop, was conducted in August 2013. The exercise saw participation from transport operators, emergency services, NSW Health and the Environment Protection Agency. The exercise examined the evacuation of a community affected by an incident involving a major hazard facility on the Sydney Harbour foreshore.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Transport Services Functional Area personnel participated in the following exercises and training activities:

Month	Exercise	Comment
July 2013	Exercise Hilltop	Examined community evacuation arrangements in relation to an incident at a major hazard facility.
August 2013	RFS State Operations Exercise	Exercised TSFA bush fire coordination arrangements and Liaison Officer Training
September 2013	Naval Fleet Review Exercise Markus II	Examined coordination and contingency arrangements.
October 2013	Exercises Joint Forces X111 - 2013	A Field exercise to examine responses to an incident in the Airport Line rail tunnel.
October 2013	NSW Oil and Chemical Spill exercise "Sooty Tern"	Examined response arrangements for a marine oil.
November 2013	Exercise Inimical III	Examined Recovery Arrangements following a terrorist attack on transport.
November 2013	Exercise Hades	Examined issues relating to a human influenza pandemic
March 2014	Exercise Forward Look III	Examined operational responses to a significant disruptive rail incident.
March 2014	Media discussion exercise	Examined the role of the TSFA within the NSW public information arrangements.
May 2014	Exercise Forward Look IV	A TfNSW Executive exercise in relation to significant business disruptive event.
May 2014	Exercise Frank	Examined response arrangements to a ferry accident on Sydney Harbour.
June 2014	M1 Motorway Exercise	Exercised operational response plans in relation to the partial closure of the M1.

Sydney Trains maintained its year-round exercise program known as "Exercise Join Forces" 2013-2014 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 2012-2013

The Transport Services Functional Area coordinated transport support during the 2013-2014 bush fire season. This was particularly the case during the October 2013 fires. 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 protracted closure of part of the main western line to both passenger and freight services.

Welfare Services Functional Area

The Welfare Services Functional Area Coordinates the provision of welfare services to disaster affected individuals and families to meet their 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 in response to disaster events. DWS Branch coordinates 18 participating and supporting organisations, including Australian Red Cross, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Salvation Army and Anglicare, to assist in 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 Family and Community Services 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 home contents or structural repairs under eligibility criteria

- Initial psychosocial impact assessment of communities to inform the recovery process

- Participation in recovery committees and relevant programs

- Support community sector agencies in interagency service planning for impacted communities and link to preparedness and resilience initiatives via emergency management arrangements

- 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 2013-2014

The revised Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan, Community Evacuation, and Major Evacuation Centre Guidelines progressed to State Emergency Management Committee endorsement.

The Welfare Services Functional Area Delivered 41 training courses to approximately 545 multi-agency staff/volunteers.

The Welfare Services Functional Area initiated and oversighted the Step by Step Blue Mountains Bushfire Support Service, which assisted 523 households between 8 November 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

- Re-design of a suite of training programs with a focus on new Family and Community Services staff and e-learning approaches

- Memoranda of Understanding progressed with the Department of Family and Community Services, Community Partner Participating Agencies, Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network and NSW Police Force Public Information and Inquiry Centre

- 70 district level WelFACs and Deputies established and trained throughout 15 Family and Community Services Districts in NSW; development of Evacuation Manager Kits and bi-annual forums

- Development of Disaster Welfare Services Alumni Program to reach 40 Alumni and annual training and development forum established

- Development of a suite of products for management of 1800 Disaster Welfare Assistance Line

- Participation in multi-agency planning regarding Sydney Olympic Park as a major evacuation centre and Welfare Services Functional Area planning for operationalisation

- Interagency planning within Welfare and Health Functional Areas and supporting agencies regarding needs of vulnerable groups in evacuation

- Participation in State Emergency Management Committee Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Exercise and Sydney Airport Exercise

- Community Engagement Project working with community services sector to integrate internal emergency management planning with emergency management arrangements

- Participation in State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, Social Recovery Reference Group to Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee Recovery Sub Committee, and Community Evacuation Technical Reference Group (national level).

The State Welfare Services Functional Area Committee met on three occasions in 2013-2014. Committee focus has included response and recovery interventions following 2013 Bushfires (panel); review of WSFA response after Hazelwood Fire, Morwell, Victoria; Chaplaincy services in disasters; international major evacuation centre planning; and evaluation of recovery support services.

The following agencies and organisations are members of the Committee:

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (Chair and Secretariat); Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA); Anglicare; Australian Red Cross – NSW; NSW Department of Family and Community Services; Australian Government Department of Human Services; Community Relations Commission; Department of Social Services; NSW Department of Commerce (Office of Fair Trading); NSW Department of Education and Training; NSW Department of Primary Industries; NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet; NSW Health; Rural Fire Service; State Emergency Service; The Salvation Army; Uniting Church Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

- The Step by Step Blue Mountains Bushfire Support Service continues to operate throughout the Blue Mountains.

- The Development of Access Database for current and future application in support services.

- Evaluation of the service through The University of Newcastle has commenced with ethics approval, sampling and recruitment of participants.

- Warrumbungle Bushfire Support Coordination Service Evaluation – data collection is complete and data analysis is underway.

Table 1: Step by Step Current Client Statistics (as at 30 June 2014)

TOTAL No OF CURRENT ACTIVE CLIENT HOUSEHOLDS	405
TOTAL No OF CURRENT INACTIVE CLIENT HOUSEHOLDS (CLOSED)	109
TOTAL No OF REFERRALS MADE (Nov 2013-June 2014)	5,387
TOTAL No OF CLIENT CONTACTS (Nov 2013-June 2014)	5,766
TOTAL No OF CLIENT HOUSEHOLDS (Nov 8 2013-June 30 2014)	523

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 New South Wales.

Achievements for 2013-2014

In December 2013, Fire & Rescue NSW took on the role of Secretariat support for the NSW Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear & Hazardous Material Steering Committee a role previously undertaken by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

Fire & Rescue NSW continues to improve the capability to detect substances in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear environment through the upgrading of its transportable Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry equipment. This equipment augments the New South Wales capability for laboratories that can analyse Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear chemicals and greatly enhances the field capability in New South Wales as most other Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry units are not transportable, as they are laboratory based.

Fire & Rescue NSW continues to improve the states Hazardous Materials detection capability through the installation of new Raman - Infra Red detection equipment at Berkley Vale and Wollongong Fire Stations, thus enhancing the capability to accurately indentify solid and liquids, not just gases and vapours at Hazmat incidents.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2013-2014

Operation Mars Canary - 2014
New South Wales resources have commenced assisting the Department of Defence in the Mars series of exercises for end of 2014. These exercises provide training to on-coming counter terrorist personnel to allow them to operate under NSW emergency management arrangements and to liaise with emergency management organisations.

Quadrilateral Partnership – CAPEX 15
NSW is assisting the Commonwealth in developing a funding bid for Australian participation in CAPEX 15 to be held in Canada in 2015. Australian participation ensures a national inter-operability approach, as personnel from each jurisdiction plus a limited number of experts and Commonwealth representatives attend. CAPEX exercises are specifically designed to support first responders, primarily police, fire and ambulance, Canada has proposed a mass gathering theme for CAPEX 15. The exercises enable direct and practical comparison of skills and operating procedures between partner countries; identify equipment and capability shortfalls; and initiate collaborations to address shortfalls and priorities. Australia is due to host CAPEX in 2017.

National Crime Scene Investigator and Incident Manager Courses
The Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Security Sub-Committee facilitated the National Chemical Biological Radiological Incident Managers Skills Enhancement Course and the Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee Chemical Biological Radiological Crime Scene Investigation Skills Enhancement Course in Victoria.

The Incident Management programs aim is to ensure NSW representatives are provided with skills enhancement training to perform the role of an Incident Manager responsible

for managing a multi-agency response to a Chemical Biological Radiological incident and resulting crime scene.

The course addresses key elements of the Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee's objectives through focusing on the knowledge and skills of Commanders with specific emphasis on the challenges that Chemical Biological Radiological incidents present to multi-agency and cross-jurisdictional incident response teams.

The Crime Scene Investigation Skills Enhancement program aim is to ensure NSW representatives are provided with skills enhancement training to perform the role of a member or team leader of a multi-agency team during a Chemical Biological Radiological crime scene investigation.

The course addresses key elements of the Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee's objectives through focusing on effective command, control and coordination, multi-jurisdictional interoperability and establishing standardised functions and processes to support effective Chemical Biological Radiological capabilities during counter-terrorism investigations involving a Chemical Biological Radiological scene.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2013-2014

Following on from the Bushfires in NSW in late 2013, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Service led a recovery effort to manage the growing issue of asbestos management. A review of funding arrangements under the current Disaster Assistance Guidelines lead by the NSW Environment Protection Authority has resulted in a more streamlined process to access funding in the initial stages of the incident. An Asbestos Management subplan is currently under development.

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 2013-2014

Over the 2013-2014 reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:

- The review and redesign of the multi-agency emergency management training commenced in NSW

- Two new face-to-face courses; Introduction to Emergency Management and Emergency Operations Centre Concepts are now being delivered across the state

- Two further courses; Manager Emergency Operation and Manage an Evacuation also under review and will be launched in 2014/15.

The eLearning Emergency Management Overview module was launched in April 2014

In total 2,408 participants from across government and non-government organisations, with a role in NSW emergency management arrangements undertook multi agency emergency management training through the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. This is a 40 per cent increase from the previous year.

ANNEXURE 1 - SEMC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Member	Role	Possible	Attended	Represented
Mr Phil Koperberg, AO AFSM BEM	Chair	4	4	
Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM	SEOCON	4	2	2
Ms Vicki D'Adam	SERCON	4	3	1
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM, Fire & Rescue NSW	Deputy Chair	4	2	2
Commissioner Ray Creen ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		4	4	0
Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke APM, NSW Police Force		4	3	1
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service		4	4	0
Commissioner Murray Kear, NSW State Emergency Service		1	1	
A/Commissioner Jim Smith, NSW State Emergency Service		3	2	1
Commissioner Mark Gibson		4	4	
Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM, Marine Rescue NSW		4	3	1
Mr Barry Kay, Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Peter Marks, Telecommunications Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Ralph Grimes, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Roger Davison, Engineering Services Functional Area (to March 2013)		4	4	
Mr Craig Lamberton, Environmental Services Functional Area		4	4	
Dr Ron Manning, Health Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Senior Sergeant Kevin Daley, Public Information Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Les Wielinga, Transport Services Functional Area		4	0	1
Mr Greg Nott, Transport Services Functional Area		3	3	
Dr Allison Rowlands, Welfare Services Functional Area		4	4	
Ms Corin Moffatt, Division of Local Government		2	0	1
Ms Danielle Heubush		2		
Mr Shayne Wilde, (Maritime Combat Agencies), Transport for NSW		4	4	
Mr Shaun McBride, Local Government NSW		3	2	1
Ms Georgina Harrison, Department of Premier and Cabinet		2	1	1
Ms Mandy Young		1	1	
Ms Rebecca Falkingham		1	1	
Mr Josh Schrubb, NSW Treasury		4	0	4
Ms Natalie Marsic, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services		4	3	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.

Annual Attestation Statement (Annual Report)

Annexure A:

Digital Information Security Annual Attestation Statement for the 2013-2014 Financial Year for the State Emergency Management Committee

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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 <u>risk management and insurance activities.</u>

The State Emergency Management Committee (information managed and stored by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services) has implemented an ISMS and initial security policy based on ISO 27001. A minimum security control baseline based on NSW Government Digital information security policy, M2012-15 (DISP) guidelines has been put in place. The Agency has conducted an independent third party review of the ISMS current state and is tracking satisfactorily to meet the DISP compliance requirements. The ISMS is being operationalised and will be progressively improved through threat and risk assessments and treatment plans to address identified control gaps.
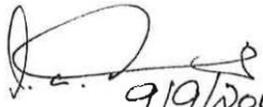
I, Phillip Koperberg, am of the opinion that the State Emergency Management Committee had an Information Security Management System in place during the financial year being reported on consistent with the Core Requirements set out in the Digital Information Security Policy for the NSW Public Sector.

I, Phillip Koperberg, am of the opinion that the security controls in place to mitigate identified risks to the digital information and digital information systems of the State Emergency Management Committee are adequate for the foreseeable future.

I, Phillip 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.

I, Phillip Koperberg, am of the opinion that, where necessary in accordance with the Digital Information Security Policy for the NSW Public Sector, certified compliance with AS/NZS ISO/IEC 27001 Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems - Requirements had been maintained by all or part of the State Emergency Management Committee .

The State Emergency Management Committee has also adopted the "NSW Government Information Classification and Labelling Guidelines" and continues to incorporate requirements and changes into information systems and business processes.

9/9/2014.