

Annual Report 2011/12

State Emergency Management Committee



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INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 17 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* to describe the work and activities of the State Emergency Management Committee during the financial year 2011-2012.

FOREWORD BY STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr Philip Koperberg AO ASFM BEM

The State Emergency Management Committee is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* to ensure that NSW has comprehensive, yet flexible arrangements in place, to deal with any emergency that arises.

The Committee comprises agencies responsible for the many aspects of emergency management in NSW. Member agencies include the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and the NSW State Emergency Service, as well as other agencies, including NSW Health, the Department of Primary Industries and Transport for NSW, which all play an equally integral role.

The Committee has an important role in ensuring that member agencies have appropriate systems and process in place to ensure that NSW can prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. This reporting period tested those arrangements, with the extensive flooding that impacted approximately 75 per cent of the State from November 2011 to April 2012. The floods required a substantial operational commitment from all agencies, particularly in the Northwest and Southern areas of NSW.

The State's first Natural Disaster Risk Assessment was finalised during the reporting period. It assessed risks at Government level regardless of the specific type of natural event involved, and required input from all agencies. A public version of the document will be available from late 2012, and will provide advice to individuals and families on how to prepare and act to protect themselves from natural disasters.

A significant review of the State Disaster Plan (Displan) was progressed by a Working Group of Committee members. Displan is a key document setting out how NSW prepares for and responds to natural disasters and other emergencies. The revised Plan will give greater recognition to risk management, resilience and community engagement, and should be ready for publication in 2012-2013. Committee members also had the opportunity to provide input into amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

Finally, it is timely to recognise and pay tribute to all the volunteers and staff of the emergency management sector who rose to the challenges they were presented with in this period. It was often in difficult circumstances and required a high level of cross-agency cooperation. I would like to add my thanks to all involved, whose efforts were exceptional.

I would also like to thank Mr Les Tree, Mr Feergus O'Connor, Ms Natalie Marsic and the staff of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services for their invaluable advice and support.

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 Displan and to recommend alterations to it
- to endorse any sub plans or supporting plans established under Displan
- 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.

Eight Functional Area Committees coordinate functional support for emergency operations in accordance with section 16 of the *SERM Act*:

- a) Agriculture and Animal Services
- b) Communication Services
- c) Engineering Services
- d) Environmental Services
- e) Health Services
- f) Public Information Services
- g) Transport Services
- h) Welfare Services.

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

The 11 District Emergency Management Committees met regularly during the year. 136 Local Emergency Management Committees, covering the State's 151 Local Government Areas, the Unincorporated Area and Lord Howe Island, also met regularly.

State Emergency Management Committee Membership

Chair

Mr Philip Koperberg AO ASFM BEM

Members

State Emergency Operations Controller	Deputy Commissioner, Nick Kaldas APM
State Emergency Recovery Controller	Mr Les Tree AM
Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller	Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch APM
Ambulance Services of NSW	Acting Chief Executive Michael Willis
Fire & Rescue NSW	Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM
NSW Rural Fire Service	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
NSW State Emergency Service	Commissioner Murray Kear AFSM
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	Mr Russell Ashdown
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area	Mr Ross Burton (to February 2012) Mr Barry Kay (Acting Member)
Communications Services Functional Area	Mr Tony Gates ESM (to February 2012) Mr Peter Marks (Acting Member)
Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area	Mr Ralph Grimes
Engineering Services Functional Area	Mr Glenn Vardy (to February 2012) Mr Robert Siebert (Acting Member)
Environment Services Functional Area	Mr Greg Sullivan (to December 2011) Mr Craig Lamberton (Acting Member)
Health Services Functional Area	Dr Ron Manning
Public Information Services Functional Area	Mr Kevin Daley
Transport Services Functional Area	Mr Les Wielinga
Welfare Services Functional Area	Ms Wendy Graham (to December 2012) Dr Allison Rowlands (Acting Member)
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Ms Vicki D'Adam (Acting Member)
Department of Local Government	Ms Michelle Squire (to February 2011) Mr Steve Orr (Acting Member) Ms Corin Moffatt (Acting Member)
NSW Treasury	Mr Brian Cheney
Maritime Combat Agencies	Mr Shayne Wilde
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Dr Derek Mullins

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

State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support

Executive support to the State Emergency Management Committee is provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. The Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee was Ms Alison Francis from 1 June 2011 – 31 October 2011, and thereafter Ms Natalie Marsic.

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services is located at:

Level 2, Quad 1, 8 Parkview Drive

Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Telephone Phone: (02) 8247 5900

Facsimile: (02) 8247 5951

Website: www.mpes.nsw.gov.au

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON) Report

Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, APM, NSW Police Force

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

Deputy Commissioner David Owens was the SEOCON from December 2007 until 31 July 2011. From 1 August 2011, Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas assumed the role. Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch was the Deputy SEOCON during the reporting period.

The SEOCON 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 the emergency response

Further, the SEOCON is the authorised officer for seeking Commonwealth assistance through Emergency Management Australia.

The SEOCON is a member of both the State Emergency Management Committee and the State Rescue Board.

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

State Emergency Operations Centre

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

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

Response operations

During 2011-2012, the SEOCON and supporting staff controlled, assisted and monitored a number of emergency response operations. Significant events during this period included:

Date	Location	Event Type	Role
November 2011	Quakers Hill, Sydney, NSW	Structural Fire in an Aged Care Facility	Support, Disaster Victim Identification, Criminal Investigation
January-March 2012	NSW (Statewide)	Major Floods	Support, deployment

Other

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

- initiating the Major Hazard Facilities Working Group planning concept and deployment
- assisting in the review of the State Disaster Plan
- redevelopment of the Local Emergency Operations Controller Resource Guide
- deployment of the Incident and Emergency Standing Operating Procedures for all NSW Police
- drafting of the Executive Emergency Management Briefing

Chairing the Emergency Management Committees Working Group and implementing recommendations.

State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) Report

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

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

Mr Les Tree held the position of the State Emergency Recovery Controller throughout the reporting period. Mr Jason Collins held the position of Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller from July 2011 until May 2012. In May 2012, Ms Rachel Nibbs was appointed Director, Response and Recovery in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. She was subsequently appointed Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller.

State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group

The State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group (SDRAG) is an inter-departmental forum established to provide support and advice to the SERCON on NSW recovery arrangements, plans and policies. The Deputy SERCON chairs the SDRAG with membership drawn from Functional Areas, Central Agencies and the Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller.

During the reporting period, the SDRAG established an interagency Working Group to develop a strategic approach to Impact Assessment work in NSW. The SDRAG also oversaw interagency work on the Council of Australian Governments Review of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination.

Other priorities for the SDRAG include maintaining the NSW Recovery Plan, post disaster recovery review, evaluation of NSW recovery policies, plans and arrangements, and coordinating the NSW position on national recovery issues.

Recovery Funding Group

The Recovery Funding Group was established in support of the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, to provide advice on disaster relief and recovery funding policies and arrangements. Members of the Recovery Funding Group formed a Working Group to lead the NSW review of the NDRRA Category C Grant and to develop indicative activation criteria and guidelines. The review is looking specifically at perceived differences in the dollar amounts provided for Category C in NSW when compared with other states.

State Rescue Board (SRB) activities

During the reporting period, the Deputy SERCON provided Executive Officer and Secretariat support to the State Rescue Board, the State Rescue Board Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Working Groups including the Rescue Training Working Group, the Vertical Rescue Training Group and the Policy Advisory Committee.

Recovery Training

The *Recovery Training Framework* endorsed by the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group in 2010-2011 outlines 23 training units, in addition to a range of recovery training components for personnel involved in the delivery and management of recovery operations. The preliminary course, *Introduction to Recovery*, was finalised in late 2011 and the delivery of five pilot courses was undertaken in 2012. To evaluate the course content and suitability for audience, the training was jointly delivered by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and District Emergency Management Officers (DEMOs) in local government areas of Bankstown, Blacktown, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Coffs Harbour.

Participating agencies included representatives from 20 local councils, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Police Force, NSW Fire & Rescue, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Health, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Office of Communities (Aboriginal Affairs), Australian Red Cross, Public Works, Sydney Water and the Department of Family and Community Services.

A total of 91 people attended the courses. Feedback received has been widely supportive of the course and its value in enhancing recovery capability and awareness within agencies.

With completion of the pilots training, the course is under review with a view to being delivered to all locations throughout NSW.

Local Government Conference 2012

On 7 June 2012, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services hosted the second *Local Government in Emergency Management Conference 2012*. The conference engaged local councils from urban, regional and remote locations on issues specific to the portfolio. The conference was attended by over 150 delegates including Mayors, General Managers and Local Emergency Management Officers.

A key theme was Response and Recovery during the recent flood events and topics included the importance and use of local knowledge and expertise in response and recovery operations.

Recovery Operations - Far West and Southern NSW Flood and Storm Events – January – April 2012

Severe weather from January to April 2012 resulted in approximately 75 per cent of the State being impacted by storms and flooding, particularly in the far west and southern NSW. Approximately 3,000 homes were inundated. Road networks, public infrastructure and agricultural assets were also extensively damaged.

Disaster recovery advice and assistance was provided to communities, recovery coordinators and local and district emergency management recovery committees.

Grants

In addition to the grant assistance activated as a result of a Natural Disaster Declaration, Impact Assessments identified significant impacts upon primary producers warranting the activation of Category C grants in 17 Local government areas between 7 February and 27 April 2012. These included Coolamon, Forbes, Griffith, Gwydir, Gundagai, Leeton, Lockhart, Moree, Murrumbidgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, and Young.

Recovery Coordinator

The State Emergency Recovery Controller appointed **Mr Ross O'Shea, Senior Regional Coordinator**, Department of Premier and Cabinet, as the Recovery Coordinator for the far western and southern NSW flood and storm events. The Ministry provided support to Mr O'Shea throughout the duration of the recovery in undertaking this role.

Recovery Centres

Recovery Centres provided a one-stop shop for information, referral and disaster assistance following the floods. Three Recovery Centres were established in Moree, Wagga Wagga and Griffith. More than 3,500 people were provided assistance through these centres.

Disaster Recovery Officers who worked in the Recovery Centres represented agencies including, the Department of Family and Community Services (Community Services, Housing NSW, and ADHC), Red Cross, local Government Councils, Department of Primary Industries, Housing NSW, Community Health, Legal Aid NSW, St Vincent de Paul, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Save the Children (providing child minding in Wagga and Griffith), Centrelink and the NSW State Emergency Service.

Moree Recovery Centre

During its operation, the Moree Recovery Centre saw:

1,258 walk-in enquiries

404 phone-in enquiries

Wagga Wagga Recovery Centre

During its operation, the Wagga Wagga Recovery Centre saw:

508 walk-in enquiries

27 phone-in enquiries

Griffith Recovery Centre

During its operation, the Griffith Recovery Centre saw:

1,077 walk-in enquiries

104 phone-in enquiries

Recovery Outreach

Recovery Outreach Services were delivered to flood affected areas to provide information on disaster assistance and support. Recovery Outreach took place within eight local government areas in the vicinity of the Wagga Wagga and Griffith Recovery Centres.

SECTION 2: AGENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Ambulance Service of New South Wales

The role of the Ambulance Service of NSW is the pre-hospital treatment and transport of the sick and injured. The Ambulance Service of NSW supports the State emergency management arrangements through the provision of specialist staff and resources. In addition, specialist resources have been deployed throughout Australia and in the Asia-Pacific Region as required.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- In collaboration with the Sydney University Veterinary Hospital, the Ambulance Service Special Operations Unit developed a tailored course for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) paramedics, medical logisticians and doctors in the medical care of USAR search dogs. A requirement for successful accreditation of the NSW USAR Taskforce was the medical teams' ability to administer care to the search dogs in the absence of a veterinarian, such as may be the case in overseas deployments.
- Observation of international USAR taskforce accreditation by Ambulance Services NSW personnel in preparation for the NSW USAR international accreditation process.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Additional training of USAR Paramedics, medical logisticians and doctors in preparation for the USAR Taskforce international accreditation event
- Participation in State Emergency Management Committee Working Groups including the review of the NSW State Disaster Plan
- Active participation by Ambulance Service of NSW in multi-agency emergency management and counter terrorism exercises throughout the year.

Significant Operations/Activities

NSW Floods – 2012

Deployed a number of Ambulance Swift Water Rescue Technicians to numerous locations in NSW in support of the NSW State Emergency Service.

Operation Neath

Special operations paramedic support to NSW Police Force for three months.

Other

Successful provision of pre-hospital emergency care at numerous events including Mardi Gras, Bathurst Races, Sydney Telstra 500 and Sydney Running Festival.

Fire & Rescue NSW

Fire & Rescue NSW's mission is to save lives, property and the environment from fires, emergencies and other disasters. Fire & Rescue NSW core functions are emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. It delivers these functions through fire prevention and suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, community safety and community prevention. It supports other agencies during prolonged events and participates in terrorism consequence management arrangements.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- Fire & Rescue NSW worked with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and other agencies to implement legislative changes requiring compulsory and retrospective sprinkler installation in aged care facilities.
- In June 2012 a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system went live. The CAD uses the same system used by the NSW Police Force, Queensland Police and the ACT Emergency Services.
- In late 2011 and early 2012, Fire & Rescue NSW supported the NSW State Emergency Service and other agencies through the provision of extensive flood response and assistance in recovery operations.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Under Fire & Rescue NSW's **Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement (SABRE) programme**, local fire officers worked with local councils and community care organisations to install and maintain battery-operated smoke alarms in the homes of seniors. Fire officers visited more than 11,000 homes across the state throughout the year, installing alarms and checking previously installed alarms. Around 94 per cent of homes in NSW now have smoke alarms.
- Fire Prevention Week was launched on 28 April 2012, culminating in Fire Station Open Day on 5 May 2012 where 81,189 people visited local fire stations to observe fire demonstrations, fire safety presentations and receive safety advice and messages from fire officers.
- During 2011-2012, Fire & Rescue NSW continued to develop and implement initiatives to promote fire safety awareness among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities across NSW, in line with its Multicultural Polices and Service Programs.

Significant Operations/Activities

Harvey Norman Retail Centre at Jamisontown

On 24 February 2012, 30 fire units responded to a structural fire at the Harvey Norman retail centre at Jamisontown. The Centre comprised a combination of warehouses, offices and retail/showrooms.

Due to the high intensity of the fire, crews commenced an exterior attack with heavy hose streams and ladder units on the fire in the loading dock. Crews also directed cooling streams onto a bank of LPG and helium cylinders to reduce the chance of an explosion.

The quick response by fire officers enabled the businesses to recommence trading within a few days of the fire.

November 2011 – March 2012 - NSW Floods

Fire & Rescue NSW assisted by responding to hundreds of calls, filling sandbags, carrying out salvage operations and helping with evacuations and clearing debris. Fire officers rescued many people including a couple and their baby trapped in a car at Broken Hill.

Fierce storms also impacted Sydney and the South Coast on 8 March 2012. Fire Officers responded to numerous flooding incidents, damaged roofs and fallen trees and powerlines.

Quakers Hill Nursing Home Fire

On 18 November 2011, 15 fire crews responded to an automatic fire alarm at Quakers Hill Nursing Home, shortly after 5:00am.

Fire was located in two separate wings of the nursing home, with fire officers encountering hazards that included falling roof tiles and ceiling debris, severe fire and smoke conditions, oxygen tanks, medical supplies and zero visibility.

A total of 100 fire officers from 20 fire stations rescued 88 sick and frail residents, many of whom suffered dementia, were confined to beds and/or were connected to vital medical equipment. Paramedics, police and fire officers, care staff and neighbours worked together to provide comfort and first aid to the impacted residents as they were evacuated and triaged.

The NSW Government has since legislated mandatory sprinkler installation in all aged care facilities within NSW.

NSW Police Force

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

Achievements in 2011-2012

- Finalised and disseminated the Kooragang Island Area Emergency Plan and also established and chaired a Working Group for the development of the NSW Major Hazard Facilities Concept of Operations to establish arrangements for use by all Emergency Management Districts throughout NSW.
- Responded, with other agencies, to a number of major emergencies, including the Quakers Hill Nursing Home Fire in November 2011 and major flooding throughout north west, south east and south west NSW from November 2011 to April 2012.
- Participated in a collegiate panel on the revision of the NSW State Disaster Plan and the development of amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Multi-agency exercises conducted:
 - Australian Defence Force at Richmond NSW and relevant agencies regarding an on-base incident impacting a flight returning from Afghanistan
 - 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, Kooragang Island (Orica) and conduct of regular training for all Commands with regard to Incident Control and Coordination (ICCS).
- Review and/or re-development of major initiatives including the Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan, Lucas Heights Emergency Plan, NSW Mines Rescue arrangements, NSW Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) policy, Major Hazard Facilities Reviews.

Significant Operations/Activities

- Coordination of Police resources during significant flooding in Northern, Southern and Western NSW between January and March 2012 in support of the NSW State Emergency Service.
- Coordination of Police resources in response to a major structural fire at Quaker's Hill Nursing Home on 18 November 2011.
- Responses to three major chemical spills on board various ships at Port Botany. On each occasion leaks were detected that were found to be substances that were hazardous and explosive.

NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the combat agency for bush fires in NSW. 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.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- **State Bush Fire Plan:** The NSW Rural Fire Service undertook a comprehensive review of the State Bush Fire Plan which was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in December 2011. The Plan sets out the arrangements for preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response to and recovery from bush fire events.
- **Major Evacuation Centre Working Group:** Following the significant support provided during the flood events in March and April 2012, the NSW Rural Fire Service was requested to chair the Major Evacuation Centres Working Group. The group will finalise the policy in the 2012-2013 period to inform and enhance emergency management arrangements for the activation and management of a Major Evacuation Centre.
- **Pre Season Briefings/Exercises:** Prior to the 2011-2012 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 to test coordinated fire fighting arrangements and emergency management support.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Hazard Reduction

The NSW Rural Fire Service and partner agencies contributed significantly to hazard reduction activities. During 2011-2012, the NSW Rural Fire Service undertook 2,292 hazard reduction works comprising approximately 28,748 hectares of hazard reduction work protecting a total number of 48,307 assets with a value of \$21.3 billion.

Neighbourhood Safer Places

A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a place of last resort for people to gather during the passage of a bush fire. It is typically a building or open space which is sign posted within the community to provide a higher level of protection from the immediate threat of fire.

A total of 849 sites have been assessed and established as Neighbourhood Safer Places across 118 Local Government Areas. Annual audits and inspections were also undertaken to identify new sites and to ensure standards for design and placement of NSP were upheld.

Hotspots Project

The NSW Rural Fire Service won a national award for the Hotspots Project. The 2011 Australian Safer Communities Award in Education, Training and Research section is an award that recognises innovative practices that help build safer, stronger and more disaster resilient communities that are better prepared to manage emergency situations.

The Hotspots Project has been in operation for several years and is designed to equip landholders and land managers with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage fire on their land. The NSW Rural Fire Service worked closely with the NSW Farmers Federation and Nature

Conservation Council to develop and conduct a number of workshops aimed at improving landholders' understanding of fire and environmental sustainability.

NSW 2021 – A Plan to Make NSW Number One

The NSW Rural Fire Service is responsible for ensuring that a number of goals contained in Goal 28 of the Government's *NSW 2021: A Plan to make NSW Number One* are achieved. Working with other agencies, these achievements include:

- Increase the number of properties protected by hazard reduction works across all bush fire prone land tenures by 20,000 per year by 2016. In the reporting period, more than 165,940 properties were protected which is in line with achieving the 2016 target.
- *Increase the annual average level of the area treated by hazard reduction activities by 45% by 2016.* Despite significant periods of unfavourable weather, more than 138,210 hectares were treated towards achieving the 2016 target
- *Increase the number of identified Neighbourhood Safer Places.* At the end of the reporting period, a total of 849 designated Neighbourhood Safer Places were in place.

Significant Operations/Activities

There were three section 44 Bush Fire emergencies declared by the NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner in accordance with the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. These included the Blue Mountains (20-23 September and 24-25 October 2011) and Cobar/Central Darling/ Unincorporated Area on 28-29 September 2011.

The NSW Rural Fire Service also contributed significant number of personnel and resources during widespread flooding that affected large parts of NSW, particularly in March and April 2012. Key assistance provided included:

- 2,258 volunteers were deployed, many for up to four days per deployment. This included response and recovery operations, planning and public liaison functions. Volunteers doorknocked thousands of homes and businesses
- the establishment and maintenance of base camps at Barellan, Hay, Coleambally and Deniliquin. These camps accommodated over 700 evacuees and 310 volunteers, providing some 15,000 meals
- NSW Rural Fire Service State Air Desk operated for 173 days, facilitating 740 aircraft deployments. 72 personnel established and managed air bases at Moree, Lightning Ridge, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Walgett, Bourke, Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Urana and Deniliquin.

NSW State Emergency Service

The NSW State Emergency Service is the combat agency responsible for the planning and control of rescue and response operations for flood, storm and tsunami events.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- Establishment of a Height Equipment Working Group to identify and evaluate new, efficient and safer height equipment, incorporating new techniques to support our Service, and further the volunteers within the NSW State Emergency Service.
- The NSW State Emergency Service completed a Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme State Project to develop guidelines for rapidly defining dam failure warning and evacuation areas for application in Emergency Alert. This has produced a pre-defined library of spatial areas for 25 high risk dams in NSW, and enables the production of warning areas for other dams on demand.
- The period saw the flood rescue capability mature. The number of Level 3 Flood Rescue Operations reached 254, Level 2 over 1,500 and Level 1 over 1,300 operators. A project to provide all flood rescue vessels and Level 3 operators with Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) was completed.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Flood Planning

Significant flood events in 2011-2012 led to the review of 28 additional plans to incorporate information gained as part of the post flood data collection and intelligence review process. Emergency Risk Management continues to streamline the review process, utilising quality assurance procedures, checklists, a suite of reporting tools, auditing and standard operating procedures.

Tsunami

The NSW State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage continued tsunami inundation modelling and risk assessment for NSW. Modelling of five sites in the Lake Macquarie, North and South Sydney, Wollongong and Bega Valley areas were completed. The results are being used to modify tsunami evacuation areas, and are being used by the Bureau of Meteorology to enhance tsunami warnings.

Post Flood Information Review

There are now 13 post flood data review and collection projects on major river catchments in NSW. The emergency risk-based information gained in these studies will be incorporated into Flood Intelligence Cards and Local Flood Sub Plans across those affected regions.

Floodplain and Coastal Risk Management

The NSW State Emergency Service continues to comment on many individual land use risk management matters including Local Environment Plans, Precinct Plans, State Significant Sites, Development Applications and Floodplain Risk Management Studies/Plans. Key relationships with other land use management agencies are actively maintained, with good inter-agency cooperation continuing.

Community Education

The NSW State Emergency Service explored opportunities to engage with culturally and linguistically diverse and at risk communities by:

- Collaborating with the Deaf Society of NSW and other agencies to enhance communication before and during natural disasters
- Working with other agencies to introduce new migrant communities in Coffs Harbour to local emergency services
- Involving indigenous communities in Goolooga and the Far West to enhance the flood response
- Engaging aged and disabled communities in the Tweed Area. This project won both the State and National Safer Communities Award within the volunteer/community category.

Significant Operations/Activities

During 2011-2012, NSW State Emergency Service volunteers contributed over 334,062 hours conducting flood and storm operations. Over 29,000 flood and storm related Requests for Assistance were received, including over 444 flood rescue activations. Approximately 3,604 aviation support tasks were undertaken within flood impacted areas.

From late November 2011, 58 flood Evacuation Orders were issued, as well as over 100 Emergency Alert activations, impacting over 13,000 properties. Approximately 31,000 residents were impacted by short or long term isolation.

Natural Disaster Declarations were made for 63 Local government Areas by the end of March 2012, which was more than in the floods of late 2010.

Volunteer Rescue Association

The Volunteer Rescue Association provides specialist support to all state emergency services in NSW, predominately in rural areas. The current membership of the Volunteer Rescue Association is 2,300, which are dispersed into forty seven (47) Road Rescue Squads operating across the state in the rural areas and seven (7) specialist groups operating across the state out of Sydney.

The Volunteer Rescue Associations role is to provide **"Primary Response" rescues which includes** first and foremost motor vehicle rescue. Rescue from aircraft, trains, caves, ski fields, bush **wilderness areas and inland waters are also "Primary Response" responsibilities.** The Volunteer Rescue Association operates three Air Search and Rescue units and three communication squads. Training, recruitment, membership retention and succession planning are our underlying commitment.

The Volunteer Rescue Association has performed rescue services to the community and assisted other emergency services in NSW for 43 years.

Rolling statistics for the Volunteer Rescue Association for 2011-2012 are:

- 9,884 operational tasks
- 134,661 operational volunteer hours
- 157,734 non-operational hours
- 292,395 total volunteer hours
- 41,586 were rescue assisted
- 44,515 hours assisting other emergency services and functional areas
- 2,848 person were rescued in the period

The Volunteer Rescue Association was also involved in the recovery of 81 deceased persons.

Achievements in 2011-2012

This year the VRA established its own Registered Training Organisation (RTO) enabling the Volunteer Rescue Association to meet the Australian Quality Training Framework 2007 (AQTF 2007) standards. The Association can provide State Rescue Board specific rescue training modules for members upgrading and maintaining personal qualification for the future.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

During 2011-2012 the Volunteer Rescue Association **hosted 'NAVSHIELD 2012' at Colo Heights** located north of Sydney. This event was held over two days, and is a rugged bush navigational event for individuals and teams. This annual event was well attended by members of all emergency services, some travelling from interstate.

This year the Volunteer Rescue Association conducted ongoing multiple Regional and Local Training workshops across the state many of which were attended by local emergency service representatives. Rescue Training is considered an essential part of our training and is a traditional **requisite in providing our "Primary Response" preparedness.**

During 2011-2012 the Volunteer Rescue Association further implemented its own operational **"Disaster Response Plan"**. The plan introduces operational procedures and the realisation and location of assets in preparedness for natural and man-made disasters in the future.

Significant Operations/Activities

This reporting period was the first time the Volunteer Rescue Association has in place a 24 hour **"Call Centre" to service** its operational needs. The Call Centre is located at Goonellabah in northern NSW and can be activated by the NSW Police Force and other emergency services by a single telephone call, resulting in the activation of local Volunteer Rescue Association units to respond to the emergency situation.

Maritime Combat Agencies

With the establishment of *Transport for NSW* and the *Roads and Maritime Services* on 1 November 2011, the management of the state maritime incident response arrangements moved to *Transport for NSW*. This also includes the role of the state Marine Pollution Controller, with the Deputy Director-General, Freight and Regional Development fulfilling this role, along with two deputies.

The combat agency functions remain relatively unchanged and are undertaken in accordance with the State Waters Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan. Combat agencies include Roads and Maritime (areas previously covered by NSW Maritime) and the NSW Port Corporations for incidents in their port areas and adjacent state waters. Sydney Ports Corporation (as port manager) is also responsible for responses in the Port of Yamba (Clarence River) and the Port of Eden (Twofold Bay).

Achievements in 2011-2012

State Exercise

Transport for NSW led the annual State maritime incident exercise on 20 September 2011. It consisted of a desktop discussion and equipment deployment exercise based on a significant oil spill in the Naval Waters of Sydney Harbour. The exercise involved all the agencies involved in such a response.

Marine Pollution Act

The *Marine Pollution Act 1987* was amended to include additional components (Annexes) of the International Marine Pollution Convention. This included annexes relating to chemicals in packaged form, garbage and sewage. Additional amendments related to strengthening intervention powers, clarifying the jurisdiction of State waters, access to private land for response purposes and amendments relating to transfer operations.

Assistance to New Zealand – Rena Grounding

NSW provided significant assistance following the grounding of the *Rena* off the coast of New Zealand on 5 October 2011. Assistance was provided in the form of personnel on a rotational basis, along with a limited amount of equipment. Responding agencies included NSW Maritime, Sydney Ports Corporation, Newcastle Ports Corporation and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Oil Spill Response Atlas

The migration of NSW Maritime data to a new geodatabase continued, including Oil Spill Response Atlas specific data. The Office of Environment and Heritage received funding for the creation of a marine habitats data layer. Stage one of the project has been completed and the data migrated.

Participation in National Working Groups

Transport for NSW (Maritime Combat Agencies) is represented on the Environmental Services Functional Area Sub Committee and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Steering Committee.

Transport for NSW (Maritime Combat Agencies) also represents NSW on the National Plan Management Committee and the related National Plan Operations Group.

Significant Operations/Activities

There were no significant spills during the reporting period in NSW, although there were numerous minor incidents or reports of oil on the water or ashore.

This included a number of leaking containers at Port Botany, whereby packaged chemicals had leaked in the container and then onto the vessel deck. Fire & Rescue NSW (Hazmat) secured the leaking containers, supporting the Port Authority, along with additional support from local emergency management arrangements.

Island Trader Grounding – Lord Howe Island

The vessel *MV Island Trader* ran aground on 17 October 2011 in the lagoon at Lord Howe Island after offloading its cargo. There were no reported injuries or structural damage.

The vessel carries fuel in both elevated and double bottom tanks, with a total of 20 tonnes of marine diesel being on board at the time. Although no bunker or cargo fuel had been released, a boom was deployed around the vessel as a precaution. Most of the bunker fuels were moved to bulk portable containers on board, which was completed on 21 October. Following discussions between NSW Maritime, the State Emergency Operations Controller, Marine Area Command and the Lord Howe Island Board, it was agreed that the Police vessel *Nemesis* would be tasked in providing assistance with the re-float, in addition to transporting additional spill response equipment to the island.

The *Island Trader* was refloated on the high tide of 24 October 2011. It was moved and secured **alongside the island's wharf and boomed as a precaution. Following assessment by the Classification Society Surveyor**, the vessel was declared seaworthy and able to resume operations.

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 holds the position of the State Emergency Recovery Controller and the Director, Response and Recovery holds the position of Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller. The Welfare Functional Area is also part of the Ministry. 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.

Review of the State Disaster Plan

The Ministry coordinated the review of the State Disaster Plan, which will be renamed the State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). EMPLAN will maintain the key features of the State Disaster Plan, including the legislative context and the response framework. However, it will be a more strategic, high level document providing a policy overview of the emergency management arrangements in NSW.

Amendments to the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989

In consultation with stakeholders the Ministry coordinated the development of amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act*. The key features of the amendments include:

- the renaming of emergency managements 'districts' to 'regions' and the correlating name changes (eg Regional Emergency Management Committees)
- renaming the State Disaster Plan as the State Emergency Management Plan
- the recognition of the Energy and Utilities Functional Area in legislation
- the definition of functional areas being broadened to reflect their involvement in the prevention of, responses to and recovery from emergencies
- amendments to the definition of 'employee' to ensure volunteers working for emergency service organisations employed within the private sector are covered by existing anti-discrimination protections

State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

The Commonwealth provided NSW with funding under the National Partnerships Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience to undertake a state wide prioritized natural disaster risk assessment in accordance with the relevant Australian standards. The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services was responsible for coordinating the development of the State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment which was endorsed by the NSW Cabinet on 12 December 2011.

Emergency Management Training and Exercises

The Resilience and Planning Branch coordinates the delivery of nationally recognized emergency management training. The Branch funded and coordinated 107 training courses, attended by approximately 1,800 participants from across government and non-government organizations with a role in NSW emergency management arrangements. The Branch also funded nine district and local level multi-agency exercises to test emergency management arrangements.

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) Grants

The NDRP is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments under the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Resilience. In 2011-2012, the Grants Unit administered 189 projects totaling \$12.8 million. The projects were approved under programs addressing resilience relating to bushfires, floods, emergency volunteers and other issues of state significance.

SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL AREA AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area

NSW Department of Primary Industries coordinates the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area 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 in 2011-2012

- Support to the NSW State Emergency Service in the state wide flood events
- Integration of NSW Department of Primary Industries "Emergency Management Aviation Call **When Needed Expression of Interest**" into the NSW Rural Fire Service "NSW & ACT State Air Desk Expression of **Interest for Call When Needed**"
- Continued training of staff in emergency management (preparedness, prevention, response and recovery)

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Emergency Management Basic Training workshops
- Incident Management Team workshops
- Operational Planning workshops
- Planning workshops
- Logistics systems workshop
- Systems workflow workshop (integrating systems) for more efficient control centre and field management of information and activities
- 17 NSW Department of Primary Industries and Livestock Health & Pest Authority staff achieved an Advanced Diploma in Public Safety Emergency Management
- Work Safely Around Aircraft and Crew Resource Management workshops
- Representation on the State Emergency Management Committee and working groups
- Prepared recommendations for 12 Agricultural Natural Disasters

- Development of policies, plans, standard operating procedures for Oil and Chemical spills and the NSW Department of Primary Industries Emergency Management Aviation Management System
- Participation in national working groups
 - Attended the National Animal Health Training Steering Committee meeting. The new Biosecurity Incident Management System (BIMS) was endorsed, which **is an "all hazards"** approach to the management of biosecurity incidents that complements current, sector specific and jurisdictional response arrangements and can be applied to all biosecurity incidents at national, state/territory, local and field levels
- National Rapid Response Team (NRRT):
 - **South Australia hosted "Phantom Fox" an exercise scenario** based around a simulated outbreak of Bluetongue Virus. Six NSW Livestock Health and Pest Authorities staff attended the exercise as members of the NRRT
 - NSW has nominated six staff from the NSW emergency response team to participate in the NRRT for a three year commitment.

Significant Operations/Activities

Over 160 staff from the Department of Primary Industries and supporting agencies assisted in the 2011-2012 response to the floods that affected 75 per cent of NSW. Over 1,500 primary industries related tasks were completed (stock lifts, fodder drops, provision of emergency supplies, movement of mustering teams, assessment and stock destruction, coordinating care for evacuated pets).

After action reviews have been conducted at four regional Local Coordination Centres and at the State Coordination Centre in Orange.

Communications Functional Area

The NSW Government Telecommunications (Telco) Authority is responsible for the overall coordination of radio telecommunication services for the NSW Government. The Telco Authority is working to improve the quality and efficiency of radio services for NSW Government agencies.

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

- coordinating the deployment of emergency telecommunications for NSW emergency service organisations in an emergency or major incident
- providing coordination (information, planning and intelligence) between telecommunication carriers and NSW emergency service organisations and the NSW State Emergency Operations Centre during an emergency
- facilitating and assisting telecommunications carriers with access to failed critical telecommunications infrastructure in emergencies, such as arranging NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service or NSW Rural Fire Service escort or transport for telecommunication **carriers' technicians**
- providing specialist advice, where appropriate, to Government agencies on telecommunications availability and effectiveness in an emergency context, and contributing to the development of the emergency management policy in the prevention, preparation, response and recovery phases of emergency management

Achievements in 2011-2012

- CSFA coordinated the effort to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure and restore services during the NSW Floods of November 2011 to April 2012
- CSFA contributed to the review and revision of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and the State Disaster Plan
- CSFA Participated in the working group chaired by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services to develop the State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

CSFA Participated in the Flood Events Familiarisation Workshop convened by Energy and Utilities Functional Area.

Significant Operations/Activities

Response to NSW Floods

CSFA provided support to the NSW State Emergency Service and other Functional Areas during the large flood operation. From November 2011 to April 2012, CSFA provided coordination and support for a number of service restorations of carrier telecommunications or Government Radio Services in Northern and North West NSW, the Murrumbidgee Valley, the South Coast and the

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley. The Functional Area also facilitated and coordinated the protection of critical telecommunications infrastructure during the period.

Response to Severe Weather

In early July 2011, CSFA coordinated the response to the impact of severe weather on telecommunications services on the South Coast, Southern Highlands and the Blue Mountains working in partnership with the Energy and Utilities Functional Area.

Recovery Operations

During the NSW Floods, CSFA coordinated the deployment of emergency communications services for Recovery Centres at Moree, Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

Energy and Utilities Functional Area

Under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (SERM Act), the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area is responsible for providing coordinated support for the prevention, preparation, response to and recovery from emergencies and incidents, where a significant and coordinated response is required.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area comprises a Functional Area Coordinator (EUSFAC) that is sponsored by the NSW Department of Trade & Investment and public and private owners and operators of electricity, gas, petroleum, and water infrastructure. EUSFAC coordinates support for these utility providers during significant events.

EUSFAC regularly undertakes planning for the coordination of national level emergencies in the electricity, natural gas and liquid fuel markets under respective plans, Memoranda of Understanding, Intergovernmental Agreements and coordination framework instruments for the use of emergency powers.

Members of the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area that conduct supply chain operations within NSW and are also participants in nationally coordinated markets, manage supply chain disruptions, coordinated by EUSFAC where required. Water utility members of the Functional Area manage their supply chains, with coordination by EUSFAC where required during significant events.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- participated in the development of amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*
- participated in the review and revision of the State Disaster Plan
- participated in the development of NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and subsequent implementation strategies.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

Flood Events Familiarisation Workshop

EUSFAC convened a Flood Events Familiarisation Workshop at Sydney Water's Potts Hill facility in November 2011, attended by Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members, Emergency Service Organisations and other relevant agencies. The Bureau of Meteorology provided a flood season prognosis and participants gave presentations on their roles and responsibilities.

EUSFAC Flood Concept of Operations

In anticipation of predicted high rainfall events related to the forecast floods season, a EUSFAC Flood Concept of Operations was circulated to the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members in December 2011.

Exercise Poseidon

EUSFAC team members participated as Exercise Control staff in Hunter Water Corporation's Exercise Poseidon, held in Newcastle in December 2011. An earthquake scenario isolated water and sewerage services in Stockton and tested Hunter Water staff, who successfully resolved a range of service continuity issues.

Exercise Exceed

EUSFAC and team assisted Sydney Water in the scoping of, and participation in, a high-level discussion exercise in March 2012. The Exercise Exceed scenario was a significant flood event impacting the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area, with particular focus on the loss of water supply and sewerage services with the flooding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system.

EUSFAC Bush Fire Concept of Operations

Following the release of the NSW State Bush Fire Plan 2011, a EUSFAC Bush Fire Concept of Operations was drafted and circulated to the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members in December 2011.

Significant Operations/Activities

Protracted Operational Response

Severe weather and flooding from November 2011 to April 2012 resulted in a significant operation led by NSW State Emergency Service. It was characterised by major flood events across 75 per cent of the State and all major river systems. This included the spill of Warragamba Dam and most other major dams across the State. A key challenge addressed by EUSFAC was the implementation of liquid fuel rationing in Lightning Ridge for a short period in the early stages of the flooding. EUSFAC attended and contributed to the After Action Review for the floods campaign.

Severe Weather Response

EUSFAC team coordinated the response to the severe weather events impacting the Blue Mountains, South Coast, Southern Highlands and Snowy Mountains regions between 5 and 10 July 2011. Trees fell on power lines, interrupting the power supply and telecommunication services to these communities. This also threatened the water supply and sewerage services in the Blue Mountains.

Engineering Functional Area

The Engineering Services Functional Area is provided by NSW Public Works. The Engineering Services Functional Area directs and coordinates the State's engineering resources for emergency response and recovery operations. It provides engineering support to Combat Agencies and other Functional Areas in response to and recovery from natural disasters and emergencies. It also provides engineers for the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces for operations both within Australia and internationally and coordinates the supply of goods and services in response to and recovery from natural disasters and emergencies.

Activities carried out by the Engineering Services Functional Area include works for the protection of critical infrastructure, risk assessments of levees protecting towns including identification of works required to mitigate flooding impacts, assessment of critical assets subject to attack by explosives, advice on the maintenance of, and immediate repair of essential services such as water and sewerage impacted by emergencies, structural assessment of buildings impacted by fire or other destructive forces, assessment of damage to assets after a natural disaster, establishment of recovery centres and make safe and clean up after a natural disaster.

Achievements in 2011-2012

Establishment of three Recovery Centres

Recovery Centres were established in Griffiths, Wagga Wagga and Moree during the NSW Flood Event. The Engineering Functional Area was instrumental in getting these Centres resourced and operational following the flood events.

State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

Engineering Functional Area participated in the development of the State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and the development of amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

The Engineering Functional Area undertook a number of activities in preparedness in 2011-2012. They were:

- Participation in multi agency project team meeting on 21 November 2011 for NSW Urban Search and Rescue Task Force bid for International Search and Rescue Advisory Group External Classification
- Attended the USAR International External Classification exercise by Spanish USAR teams in Madrid, Spain from 25 November to 2 December 2011.
- A training session including major exercise, Golden Guitar, run 23-25 November 2011 in Tamworth. The major exercise was based on a flood scenario and involved the District Emergency Management Officers as scrutineers.
- A training session, including breathing apparatus training provided by Fire & Rescue NSW, held on 20-22 June 2012 in Sydney.
- Engineering Services attended a Sydney Water Exercise dealing with greater than 1:100 year flooding in the Hawkesbury Nepean. Lessons learnt included the need to identify critical infrastructure and have critical infrastructure protection plans.

- Review and input to Recovery Centre Guidelines, Major Evacuation Centres Concept of Operations, State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and Disaster Assistance Scheme Guidelines.

Engineering Functional Area also participated in a range of working groups including the DISPLAN Working Group and State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group.

Significant Operations/Activities

Lightning Ridge Water Supply September 2011

Engineering Services undertook emergency repairs to the water supply to Lightning Ridge. Repairs were carried out under water and with no visibility.

Flood events Western and Southern NSW 2012

Engineering Services managed the establishment of Recovery Centres at Moree, Griffith and Wagga Wagga. Engineering Services also undertook the inspection and reporting, including risk assessments and recommendations for works on over 20 levees and provided advice on the maintenance of critical infrastructure such as water supplies and sewerage. Engineering Services assessed critical communications infrastructure and identified the works required to protect that infrastructure.

Tweed Water Supply January 2012

Engineering Services assisted Tweed Shire Council in the acquisition of Variable Speed Drive to repair the clear water pump station at Bray Park Water Treatment Plant. The pump station which supplies water to the Tweed Region, with a population in excess of 70,000 persons, had failed due to a power surge.

Fire Incidents

Engineering Services supported Fire & Rescue NSW in a range of fire related incidents throughout the reporting period, including fires at Wetherill Park, Canterbury, Petersham, Dulwich Hill and Turella.

Land Slip Middle Cove 8 March 2012

Engineering Services assessed a landslip at Middle Cove. Recommendations on how to make the property safe were provided.

Dam Failure Mangrove Mountain June 2012

Engineering Services was requested to provide advice to Office of Water on a dam at Mangrove Mountain at risk of collapse.

Environment Services Functional Area

The Environmental Services Functional Area is led by the Environment Protection Authority, and provides advice to the State Emergency Management Committee on matters relating to the protecting the environment during an incident or emergency.

The Environmental Services Functional Area prepares and maintains the Environmental Supporting Plan (Enviroplan). The Functional Area also contributes to the preparation and maintenance of sub plans and coordinates the provision of environmental support for emergency response and recovery operations.

Achievements in 2011-2012

The formation of the Environment Protection Authority on 29 February 2012 as a modern, independent environmental regulator with strengthened legislative powers including:

- requirements for the immediate notification by industry of pollution incidents
- requirements for licensed premises to prepare, keep, test and implement Pollution Incident Response Management Plans
- the capacity for the Environment Protection Authority to direct companies, where appropriate to fund an independent analysis of association health risks
- increased penalties for failure to notify incidents.

The Environmental Services Functional Area participated in multi-agency emergency management initiatives including Chairing the Climate Change Working Group which reviews the impacts of climate change on emergency management. The Functional Area also participated in the Dangerous Goods Working Group (formed to improve the coordination of dangerous goods transport regulation in NSW) and updated the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Protection Authority and Fire & Rescue NSW.

The Environmental Services Functional Area continued to lead a multi-agency Hazmat Incident Review Group to analyse and review Hazardous Materials incidents as a basis for improving **incident prevention and response capabilities**. **The Group's focus this year was on dangerous goods transport.**

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

The Environmental Services Functional Area:

- participated in the State Emergency Management Committee, the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group and the NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Hazardous Materials Steering Group.
- contributed to the development and review of plans and policies including the State Disaster Plan; the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan and the Major Hazard Facilities Concept of Operations.
- was part of the multi-agency team that planned and participated in the marine oil spill **exercise "Crossbow 2011"** focusing on the inter-jurisdictional issues of a significant oil spill affecting Commonwealth and State waters

- continued its involvement in the implementation of the National Chemical Security Management Framework and the review of recommendations contained within the *NSW Preparedness to Undertake Decontamination of a CBR Incident/Emergency Site*
- continued to build capacity through presentations to groups such as the National Bulk Tankers Association, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council and the Regional Networks for Effective Waste Management
- provided training to staff at the Environment Protection Authority and other agencies in areas such as Hazmat Incident and Response and Dangerous Good Transport.

Significant Operations/Activities

Participated in multi-agency incident response and recovery activities, such as:

- Orica, Kooragang Island on 8 August 2011 that resulted in the release of hexavalent chromium on site and to neighbouring residential areas
- a fire and multiple explosions at Mitchell, ACT on 16 September 2011 at a factory that treats transformer oil containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Advice and assistance was provided, including the analysis of samples taken from the affected area
- leaking nitric acid from a shipping container at Port Botany on 12 May 2012 resulting in the release of ammonia gas
- a rollover of a truck carrying infectious substances and other dangerous goods in Bankstown on 6 July 2011.

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. Five major contributing health service components constitute the whole of health response incorporating all-hazards approach. They are:

- Medical Services
- Ambulance Services
- Mental Health Services
- Public Health Services
- Health Communications.

Achievements in 2011-2012

- Led the review of HEALTHPLAN incorporating partner agencies
- Conducted exercise Ceres a multi-agency exercise focusing on a major structural collapse resulting in a mass casualty situation in a rural area. The exercise was designed to test surge capacity across trauma and burns services in NSW.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- NSW Health maintains a calendar of educational events delivering Health Emergency Management training inclusive of Major Incident Medical Management & Support training, Incident Command Team training and exercise based training for surge capacity in NSW Hospitals
- In NSW, Health has conducted a number of exercises within the reporting period including, Exercise HUS, Arthur Philip, John Hunter, Febris, Tangiers Stardust, Surry, String of Pearls, Ceres and other local exercises to test a variety of functions
- Health has also participated in a number of multi-agency exercises including, Crossbow (Maritime), Flare III (FRNSW/ADF) and Inimical (Transport)
- Health has reviewed and provided input to a number of state documents including Concept of Operations for Reception of Australian Citizens evacuated from overseas into Sydney Airport, Major Evacuation Centres and the State Heatwave Sub Plan
- Health also provided input into the NSW response to the recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry
- NSW Health representatives are active on national groups developing plans and frameworks to ensure nationally consistent approaches to major health emergencies. These groups include the Australian Health Principal Policy Committee, the National Health Emergency Management Subcommittee (DOHA) and Aeromedical Transport Coordinating Group

- The Health Emergency Management unit has facilitated a review of HEALTHPLAN, Emergency Management Arrangements, Disaster Risk Management policies and the Health Liaison policy to implement a standard level of response.

Significant Operations/Activities

- NSW Health contributed to health protection of the community through planning for the 20 regular annual events held across NSW. Health provided liaison officers at the Government Coordination Centre for New Years Eve, Mardi Gras, ANZAC Day and the City to Surf.
- Operationally NSW Health played a significant role in the response to:
 - July 2011 – Orica chemical spill at Kooragang Island
 - July 2011 – response to the Hendra Virus outbreak and particularly lab testing of results
 - September 2011 – coordinated public health advice in response to the toxic cloud plume from the ACT Mitchell fire
 - September 2011 – Coordinate local response to interrupted water supply at Lightning Ridge due to ruptured water main.
 - November 2011 – Respond to flooding across the Hunter & New England districts with impacts to Health Services
 - November 2011 – Coordinate the management of acutely injured clients of Quakers Hill Nursing Home and the relocation of displaced patients.
 - December 2011 – Coordinate the health response to flooding in Western NSW
 - January – April 2012 - Actively participated in the NSW flood operations including the evacuation of 16 aged care facilities and a Multipurpose Hospital Service.

Public Information Functional Area

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

The Public Information Functional Area Supporting Plan has been developed to reflect the changing needs of public information and the way emergency management organisations broadcast important information to the community in a timely and coordinated manner.

The Public Information Functional Area provides strategic public information advice to the State Emergency Management Committee, Emergency Operations Controllers at State, District and Local level, and to other Functional Area Coordinators 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 material for emergency management policies and guidelines.

Achievements in 2011–2012

- Co-chaired the working group that developed the public document arising out of the State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment – *'Government, you and what to do' – A Guide to Natural Disasters in NSW*. The publication incorporates information that is consistent across hazards and will provide links to agency websites where more detailed information can be located.
- Coordinated the development of the National Chemical Security DVD for First Responders – *'Things aren't always as they seem'*. The content was developed with input from Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Police Force.
- Introduced a Social Media image to the advisories for the monthly testing of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System to stimulate greater awareness of the system.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

M2 Annual Emergency Management Discussion Exercise

Attended the M2 discussion exercise at Macquarie Park and provided public information advice.

National Counter Terrorism Committee – Public Information Sub-Committee Media Officer Training

Twenty-two representatives from key NSW agencies attended the training, covering the National Security Public Information Guidelines and the NSW Government Public Information Response and Recovery Arrangements.

State Crisis Public Information Workshop

Focusing on issues including Operational and Leadership public information requirements.

Counter Terrorism Command and Media (TV) Discussion Exercise

Involving NSW Police Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command Team and senior television news representatives to discuss public information response arrangements in the event of a terrorism related incident.

Exercise Inimical – Transport Discussion Exercise

Transport for NSW and the NSW Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command facilitated a Counter Terrorism discussion exercise to test and practice threat management and incident response arrangements.

Significant Operations/Activities

Floods – North Western and South Western NSW, January – March 2012

In conjunction with NSW State Emergency Service, coordinated public information for the State Emergency Operations Controller in relation to flood activity impacting NSW. The Public Information and Inquiry Centre was activated and received more than 13,000 calls.

Social Media Support to Agencies

Coordinated the Social Media support for agencies without Facebook or Twitter accounts. Support was also provided through the regular posting or retweeting of updates and warnings where required.

Report into the ORICA Incident at Kooragang Island

Responded to the recommendations contained within the O'Reilly Report in relation to activating the Public Information arrangements when a hazardous spill occurs.

Flood Inquiries Working Group - Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Recommendations

As part of the working group consulted relevant agencies and provided coordinated response in relation to detailed public information actions contained within the Queensland recommendations.

Transport Services Functional Area

Transport for NSW provides the Transport Services Functional Area (TSFA) function within the NSW emergency management context. The TSFA Coordinator contributes within the emergency management framework in NSW by coordinating the provision of land, sea and air transport support as required by a Combat Agency, 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 2011-2012

- Led a transport working group to produce traffic and transport plans in support of the Port Botany and Sydney Airport Precinct Emergency Sub Plan.
- Contributed to the development of the NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.
- Contributed to the development of enhanced off site emergency plans for Major Hazard Facilities.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- A field exercise was conducted on 23 July 2011 involving RailCorp, NSW Police Force and emergency services personnel to test response arrangement to an incident in the underground Airport Line.
- Conducted state-wide emergency management training for Regional Transport Coordinators.
- Ongoing Station/Train & Rail Corridor Familiarisation exercises, conducted by RailCorp for emergency Services.
- Train Lifting & Emergency Trolley Assembly training sessions conducted by RailCorp for Fire & Rescue NSW.
- Facilitated and participated in a series of national Emergency Management Transport Exercise that examined transport impacts of a major CBD earthquake.
- Transport Emergency Management Committee established a review of the existing Incident Command Systems as employed by various Transport operators. The Committee comprises representatives from RailCorp, Transport for NSW, State Transit, Sydney Ports and Sydney Ferries.

Significant Operations/Activities

The TSFA contributed to the effectiveness of whole of government arrangements throughout the flood events that dominated the first quarter of 2012. Significant assistance was provided in the evacuation of individuals and communities impacted by the floods. Assistance was provided to the NSW State Emergency Service in the resupply of flood isolated towns and remote communities by chartered aircraft and transport of essential goods and equipment by road and rail.

The Functional Area also coordinated alternative bus and rail services that were needed due to the impacts of the flood and conveyed people suffering hardship out of the towns, and into evacuation centres at major regional centres in NSW.

Welfare Services Functional Area

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services is the coordinating agency responsible for the Welfare Services Functional Area. The Ministry's **Disaster Welfare Services Unit** undertakes overarching management of disaster welfare preparedness activities and operational responses to disaster events. The Department of Family and Community Services is responsible for managing local level provision of welfare services in response to disaster events. The Ministry is also supported in the delivery of welfare services by five non-government partner agencies: Australian Red Cross – NSW, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society and Anglicare.

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

As part of its state level coordination role, **the Ministry's** Disaster Welfare Services Unit administers the Personal Hardship and Distress component of the NSW Disaster Relief Scheme, including the provision of grants for essential home contents and structural repairs. The Unit also operates the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line.

Achievements for 2011-2012

- A full review of Disaster Welfare Services provided by Community Partner Agencies in NSW was undertaken and a report published in June 2012.
- A disaster welfare response was provided to 28 natural and other disasters across NSW, including major floods and severe storms.
- Financial assistance to over 3000 disaster affected people was provided in 2011-2012.
- Information, referral and advice were provided to many more through evacuation centres, information and assistance points, and the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- Developed a training package to be delivered jointly to and by Welfare Services Community Partners. The package was developed to assist with the recruitment and retention of Community Partner Volunteers.
- Conducted Department of Family and Community Services Team Leader training across Department of Family and Community Services regions.
- Worked in partnership with the State Emergency Operations Centre and combat agencies to focus on pre-planning and pre-deployment to ensure resources are strategically placed and welfare services are provided appropriately.
- Participated in a range of State and national working groups including the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, Recovery Funding Group (NSW), NDRRA Stakeholders Group, and National Disaster Recovery Sub Committee (national).

Significant Operations/Activities

Welfare services were provided in response to 28 events in 2011-2012. From January to April 2012, unprecedented flooding occurred across NSW, in the Far North and Mid North Coasts, North West, Western, Southern Tablelands, Illawarra and Metro West areas of the state.

A total of 31 evacuation centres were established (over 6,300 people registered), over 2,200 people were accommodated in commercial accommodation in 26 locations, and Disaster Welfare teams were based at three recovery centres. A total of 830 staff were deployed, comprising 272 Family and Community Services, four Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, 22 Ministry Alumni and 536 non-government volunteers across Community Partner agencies and the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network. Multiple debriefs were held across the sector and interagency networks.

Over the financial year, 232 applications for contents and 24 applications for structural repairs to homes were granted.

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

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

Achievements for 2011-2012

- Review and rewrite of the State Hazmat Plan to more accurately reflect the roles of the member's agencies
- Provide significant contribution to the Federal government's initiative for research into site decontamination post a major hazmat event
- Assist with the development and delivery of National Counter Terrorism Committee sponsored multi-agency training in the management of contaminated crimes scenes.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- The Chair of the Committee represented NSW at the National CBRN committee meeting and the multi-national quadrilateral meetings between United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America and Australia held in Canberra in September. At these meetings representatives from each country shared research findings into various aspects of the CBRN detection, incident management and post incident management. This quadrilateral arrangement deepens the research and response of each country as interdependencies and networks are established. It is further envisaged that this arrangement will assist in the planning for the next CAPEX multi-agency CBRN exercise in 2013
- NSW Police Force from the Counter Terrorism Command, in conjunction with NSW Emergency Services and Police and Emergency Services from other jurisdictions, have developed a multi-agency training course designed to provide first responders and crime scene investigators with the knowledge, skills and experience to successfully manage and then forensically exploit a contaminated crime scene. The course was piloted in Western Australia and has since been delivered in Victoria with a course to be conducted in NSW in late 2012
- The State Committee has supported a literature research project developed and funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department into the topic of site decontamination following a major contamination. The project was undertaken by the West Australian Chem Centre and focused on the probable contaminants within the CBRN sphere and the capacity of agencies to manage such an event. It is envisaged that this report will inform the Federal and State governments of the next steps to assist the effective management of these events.

Practical Training Exercises

Operation Mars Canary

In May 2011 the State Committee supported personnel from NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW, and Fire & Rescue NSW to undertake training activities with the Department of Defence Incident Response Regiment and two Commando Units. This training focused on the

interoperability of the services to manage a hostile terrorist situation within a chemically contaminated environment. Similar activities with these same agencies are on-going.

Operation Flare III

Operational Flare III was undertaken under the National Counter Terrorism Committee drill style program and tested the NSW agencies in the management of a contaminated crime scene following a terrorist style incident. The event used a live radiological source and involved all member agencies and the Department of Defence. Observers from interstate also attended the exercise.

Operation Pavilion

Operation Pavilion was a NSW Police Force led exercise designed to test the capability of the Public Order and Riot Squad to manage a riot that resulted in the release of a biological agent. This exercise utilised the resources of the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance Service of NSW and the Environmental Protection Agency.

NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

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

Achievements for 2011-2012

- Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) continued to conduct Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training including *Undertake USAR Category 1 (PUASAR023A)* and *Undertake USAR Category 2 (PUASAR031A)* as well as Taskforce Specialist courses throughout the year. A skills maintenance program for USAR Cat 2 operators was developed and implemented throughout 2012. An additional 40 FRNSW firefighters and 8 Ambulance Service paramedics were accredited as Category 2 USAR qualified over 2 courses conducted in late 2011.
- Members of the NSW USAR Task Force were involved in significant training and exercises in preparation for classification by the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in September 2012.
- Throughout the year FRNSW and partner agencies continued to develop the cache of equipment and skill base of the NSW Task Force including provision of a second air deployable cache of equipment and continued growth of the USAR canine detection capability.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities

- The committee continues to upgrade equipment on the USAR vehicles located at Newcastle and Wollongong in order to have the capabilities at both these locations mirror that of the Sydney CBD
- Three FRNSW Senior Officers completed the multi jurisdictional, nationally accredited Category 3 USAR Management course bringing the number of Team Leaders to five.
- Developments in training USAR throughout 2011-2012 included FRNSW hosting a national USAR Instructors Workshop under the auspices of AFAC, commencement of a USAR cat 2 Skills Maintenance program and a number of specific USAR related training courses involving personnel from partner agencies within NSW in order to adequately prepare for the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) in September 2012.
- The NSW State Emergency Services, in conjunction with FRNSW continued to develop the USAR canine search capability of the USAR Task Force through regular training and exercises.

Significant Operations/Activities

- FRNSW and staff from our partner agencies conducted several exercises to test, enhance and improve the ability of the NSW Task Force to successfully load the USAR air deployable cache aboard a Royal Australian Air Force aircraft for transport to a remote or interstate/ international destination. The cache of transportable equipment provides the tools and resources to sustain a 72 person taskforce for a period of 10 days of operation in the field.
- Three separate 48 hour deployment exercises were carried out throughout the year involving attendance by personnel from all agencies involved in USAR within NSW and firefighters from

the ACT. Such exercises test the skills of personnel in both operations and self sustainability in the field.

- The NSW USAR Task Force engaged the services of Battalion Chief Pat Rohaley from Los Angeles County Fire Department to act as mentor throughout preparations for the INSARAG External Classification (IEC).
- In preparation for the IEC a number of personnel from FRNSW and partner agencies travelled interstate and overseas to observe other USAR Task Forces undertake the IEC. FRNSW USAR personnel were also invited to facilitate at the reclassification of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

ANNEXURE 1 - SEMC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Member	Role	Possible	Attended	Represented
Mr Phil Koperberg, AO AFSM BEM	Chair	4	4	
Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM	SEOCN	4	3	1
Mr Les Tree AM	SERCON	4	4	
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM, Fire & Rescue NSW	Deputy Chair	4	2	2
Mr Mike Willis ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		4	3	1
Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch APM, NSW Police Force		4	3	1
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service		4	3	1
Commissioner Murray Kear AFSM, NSW State Emergency Service		4	1	3
Commissioner Russell Ashdown, Volunteer Rescue Association		4	3	1
Mr Ross Burton, Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (to February 2012)		2	1	1
Ms Suzanne Robinson		1	1	
Mr Barry Kay		1	0	1
Mr Tony Gates ESM, Communications Functional Area (to February 2012)		2	1	1
Mr Peter Marks		2	2	
Mr Ralph Grimes, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Glen Vardy, Engineering Services Functional Area (to February 2012)		3	1	2
Mr Robert Siebert		1	1	
Mr Greg Sullivan, Environmental Services Functional Area (to December 2011)		2	1	1
Mr Craig Lamberton		2	2	
Dr Ron Manning, Health Services Functional Area		3	1	1
Senior Sergeant Kevin Daley, Public Information Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Les Wielinga, Transport Services Functional Area		4	0	4
Ms Wendy Graham, Welfare Services Functional Area (to December 2011)		2	2	
Dr Allison Rowlands		2	2	
Ms Michelle Squire, Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet (to February 2011)		2	2	
Mr Steve Orr		1	0	
Ms Corin Moffatt		1	0	
Dr Derek Mullins, Department of Planning & Infrastructure		4	0	3
Mr Shayne Wilde, (Maritime Combat Agencies), Transport for NSW		4	3	
Ms Vicki D'Adam, Department of Premier and Cabinet		4	1	
Mr Brian Cheney, NSW Treasury		4	4	
Ms Alison Francis, Executive Officer		2	2	
Ms Natalie Marsic		2	2	

ANNEXURE 2 – NSW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

South East Metropolitan Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bega Valley Council, Bombala Council, Boorowa Council, Cooma-Monaro Council, Cootamundra Council, Eurobodalla Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Gundagai Council, Harden Council, Palerang Council, Queanbeyan City Council, Snowy River Council, Tumut Council, Upper Lachlan Council, Weddin Council, Yass Valley Council and Young Council.

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

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

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

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

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Central West Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney Council, Cabonne Council, Cowra Council, Forbes Council, City of Lithgow Council, Lachlan Council, Oberon Council, Orange City Council and Parkes Council.

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

Georges River Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the City of Botany Bay, Hurstville City Council, Kogarah Municipal Council, Randwick City Council, Rockdale City Council, Sutherland Council and the waters of Botany Bay and Port Hacking.

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

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

Mid North Coast Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bellingen Council, Coffs Harbour City Council, Gloucester Council, Greater Taree City Council, Great Lakes Council, Hastings Council, Kempsey Council, Nambucca Council and Lord Howe Island.

Monaro Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bega Valley Council, Bombala Council, Cooma-Monaro Council, Eurobodalla Council, Palerang Council, Queanbeyan City Council and Snowy River Council.

Murray Emergency Management District comprises the areas of City of Albury Council, Balranald Council, Berrigan Council, Conargo Council, Corowa Council, Deniliquin Council, Greater

Hume Council, Jerilderie Council, Murray Council, Tumbarumba Council, Urana Council, and Council of the Shire of Wakool.

Northern Rivers Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Ballina Council, Byron Council, Clarence Valley Council, Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council and Tweed Council.

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

Riverina Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bland Council, Carrathool Council, Coolamon Council, Griffith City Council, Hay Council, Junee Council, Leeton Council, Lockhart Council, Murrumbidgee Council, Narrandera Council, Temora Council and Wagga Wagga City Council.

Southern Highlands Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Boorowa Council, Cootamundra Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Gundagai Council, Harden Council, Tumut Council, Upper Lachlan Council, Weddin Council, Yass Valley Council and Young Council.

Sydney East Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the City of Sydney, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Mosman Municipal Council, North Sydney Council, Waverley Council, Woollahra Municipal Council and the waters of Port Jackson and Parramatta River up to the Parramatta Weir.

Sydney Mid West Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Auburn Council, Council of the Municipality of Ashfield, Burwood Council, Canterbury City Council, City of Canada Bay Council, Marrickville Council and Strathfield Municipal Council.

Sydney North Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the Shire of Hornsby, Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai Council, Lane Cove Municipal Council, Manly 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.

Sydney South West Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Bankstown City Council, Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, Fairfield City Council, Liverpool City Council, Wingecarribee Council and Wollondilly Council.

Western Slopes Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Coonamble Council, Dubbo City Council, Gilgandra Council, Mid Western Regional Council, Narromine Council, Walgett Council, Warren Council, Warrumbungle Council and Wellington Council.

Western Sydney Emergency Management District comprises the areas of Council of the Shire of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Holroyd City Council, Parramatta City Council and Penrith City Council.