

NSW STATE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013

Contents

Introduction	3
Foreword by State Emergency Management Committee Chair	4
Section 1: State Emergency Management Committee	5
State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOC) Report.....	8
Section 2: Agency and Organisational Reports	11
Ambulance Service of NSW	11
Fire & Rescue NSW.....	13
NSW Police Force	16
NSW Police Force	18
Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command	18
NSW Rural Fire Service	20
NSW State Emergency Service	22
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.....	25
Marine Rescue NSW	27
Maritime Combat Agencies	29
Ministry for Police and Emergency Services	31
Section 3: Functional Area and Standing Committee Reports	32
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area	32
Telecommunications Services Functional Area.....	36
Energy and Utility Services Functional Area	38
Engineering Services Functional Area.....	40
Environmental Services Functional Area	43
Health Functional Area.....	45
Public Information Functional Area	47
Transport Services Functional Area.....	49
Welfare Services Functional Area	51
NSW Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear/Hazardous Materials Steering Committee	53
NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee.....	54
Climate Change Working Group	55
State Emergency Management Training Advisory Group.....	57
Annexure 1 - SEMC Meeting Attendance	58
Annexure 2 –NSW Emergency Management REGIONS	59

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 2012-2013.

FOREWORD BY STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr Philip Koperberg AO ASFM BEM

The *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* establishes the State Emergency Management Committee to ensure NSW has comprehensive arrangements in place to respond to any emergencies that occur.

The Committee consists of the State Emergency Operations Controller, the State Emergency Recovery Controller and executive members of the emergency service organisations and senior officers from government agencies that are integral to service delivery. This includes agencies with responsibilities for health, environmental protection and transport.

Together, the Committee plays a lead role in coordinating efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The 2012-2013 reporting period again triggered these arrangements, with significant bushfires in Coonabarabran, Yass and Shoalhaven as well as extensive flooding in the Mid and Far North Coast of NSW, followed by severe storms which impacted Kiama and Mulwala (near the Victorian border).

The State Emergency Management Committee delivered a new NSW State Emergency Management Plan, which was released in December 2012. The NSW State Emergency Management Plan provides a strategic overview of the emergency management arrangements in New South Wales. It includes chapters on response and recovery, and recognises that each Combat Agency and Functional Area operates in its own unique context.

A review of the State Emergency Management Committee's own operations was undertaken. The broad theme of the review was to collectively consider "*Where do we want NSW to be with emergency management in five years time?*" The planning and consultations culminated in a Strategic Planning Day in late June 2013. During the day, Committee Members identified and considered what was working well, and areas where improvements could be made to ensure NSW remains at the forefront of emergency management in Australia.

The reporting year also saw negotiations for the new Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) to replace the Bushfire CRC. The BNHCRC commenced on 1 July 2013 and will expand research efforts into other natural hazards. I was pleased to be able to participate in the high level Working Group consisting of jurisdictional representatives to assist in the establishment of the new BNHCRC. I also look forward to seeing the work that comes out of the new Centre.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers and staff of emergency management agencies who work tirelessly to meet the challenges and tests of the disasters that were encountered this year. The agencies and personnel of New South Wales work tremendously well together, in what was a challenging disaster season.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Mr Les Tree AM, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services who retired after many years of public service and who has provided invaluable advice and support in that time.

Philip Koperberg AO ASFM BEM
Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

SECTION 1: STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Role and Functions

The State Emergency Management Committee is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (SERM Act)* and under section 15 has the following functions:

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

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

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

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

The 11 Regional 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 (to March 2013) Ms Mary-Louise Battilana (Acting)
Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller	Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke APM
Ambulance Service of NSW	A/Chief Executive Michael Willis (to March 2013) Commissioner Ray Creen ASM
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	Commissioner Russell Ashdown (to October 2012) Commissioner Mark Gibson ESM
Marine Rescue NSW	Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM
Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area	Mr Barry Kay
Telecommunications Services Functional Area	Mr Peter Marks
Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area	Mr Ralph Grimes
Engineering Services Functional Area	Mr Robert Siebert (to March 2013) Mr Roger Davison (Acting Member)
Environment Services Functional Area	Mr Craig Lamberton
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	Dr Allison Rowlands
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Ms Megan Kirchner
Department of Local Government	Ms Corin Moffatt
NSW Treasury	Mr Brian Cheney (to November 2012) Mr Enrico Sondalini
Maritime Combat Agencies	Mr Shayne Wilde
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Dr Derek Mullins <i>Agency ceased membership in September 2012</i>

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

State Emergency Management Committee Executive Support

Executive support to the State Emergency Management Committee is provided by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. The Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee is the Director, Boards and Committees, Ms Natalie Marsic.

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

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Redfern NSW 2016

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State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON) Report

Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, APM, NSW Police Force

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

On 1 August 2011, Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas was appointed to the role of State Emergency Operations Controller and on 1 July 2012, Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke was appointed to Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller role. Both officers held these positions throughout the reporting period.

The State Emergency Operations Controller is responsible for:

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

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

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

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

State Emergency Operations Centre

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

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

Response Operations

During 2012-2013, the State Emergency Operations Controller and supporting staff controlled, assisted and monitored a number of emergency response operations. Significant events during this period included:

Date	Location	Event Type	Role
January 2013	Northern NSW	Widespread Flooding	Support, Disaster Victim Registration, deployment
January 2013	NSW statewide	Bush fires	Support, deployment, Disaster Victim Registration, establish Emergency Operations Centres
March 2013	Kiama LGA	Tornado	Provision of specialist advice and support

Other

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

- completing the Major Hazard Facilities Working Group planning concept and deployment
- assistance in implementation of NSW State Emergency Management Plan
- redevelopment of the Local Emergency Operations Controller resource guide
- implementation of the Local Emergency Operations Controller training course
- drafting of the Executive Emergency Management Briefing

State Emergency Recovery Controller Report

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

Mr Les Tree held the position of the State Emergency Recovery Controller during the reporting period until his retirement in April 2013. Ms Mary-Louise Battilana was the State Emergency Recovery Controller and Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for the remainder of the time and Ms Rachel Nibbs, Director, Response and Recovery, holds the position of Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller.

State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group

The State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group is an inter-departmental forum established to provide support and advice to the State Emergency Recovery Controller on NSW recovery arrangements, plans and policies.

The Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller chairs the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group with membership drawn from functional areas, combat agencies and the Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller.

Due to the operational commitments of member agencies, the Group met twice in the 2012-2013 financial year on 7 November 2012 and 10 May 2013.

Key projects for the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group include the development of the NSW Recovery Strategy and other national projects such as the ongoing review and implementation of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, with the most recent Determination released in December 2012. The Determination contains increased requirements from states and territories in relation to reporting, and new definitions of Essential Public Assets and activation criteria for Category C Clean Up Grants.

Other priorities for the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group 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.

During the reporting period, the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group and Recovery Funding Group agreed to meet under a combined format due to the similarity of undertakings and membership.

State Rescue Board activities

During the reporting period, responsibility for the Executive Officer role and Secretariat support to the State Rescue Board, the State Rescue Board Policy Advisory Committee and Working Groups was transferred to the Boards and Committees Branch of Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

SECTION 2: AGENCY AND ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Ambulance Service of NSW

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

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

From 10–14 September 2012, the Ambulance Service of NSW Special Operations paramedics and doctors participated in the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group accreditation of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce. Ambulance Service of NSW supports this taskforce by providing 11 Paramedics and two Retrieval Specialist Doctors on all Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce deployments.

In collaboration with the University of Sydney Veterinary School, the Ambulance Service of NSW developed a comprehensive veterinary care package for search dogs used by Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce members during searches at incident sites. This is to ensure that Ambulance Special Operations paramedics and doctors continue to provide a sophisticated level of care to the search dogs when on deployment both inside and outside of Australia. This canine care package is a world first and has generated much interest internationally.

Ambulance Service of NSW successfully led a discussion exercise with the Australian Defence Force that examined the interaction and patient handover arrangements between Ambulance Service of NSW, Australian Defence Force and other NSW civilian agencies during emergencies, such as a terrorist incident. This initiative was a recommendation that came out of the National Counter Terrorism Committee's 'Black Angus' exercise.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

The position of Operational Support Manager, Volunteers and Community First Responders was established at the Coordination Centre in Bathurst. This position will assist in the ongoing planning and coordination of additional Ambulance Service of NSW volunteer units to work with other emergency service agencies.

The NSW Ambulance Education Centre developed a Certificate II in Emergency Medical Service First Response and skill maintenance program to support ambulance volunteers and community first responder units in carrying out their roles.

Extensive planning and participation was undertaken by the Ambulance Service of NSW for multi agency exercises throughout the reporting period. This included exercises with other state emergency service agencies, NSW Health and the Australian Defence Force for the Counter Terrorism Drill Style Exercise Program.

Ambulance Service of NSW has also presented and participated in programs such as the Multi Agency Incident Training and Regional Airport Security Program with the NSW

Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command, and continues to participate in state level planning for large events due to be held in 2013-2014.

During 2012-2013, the Ambulance Service of NSW Special Operations Unit developed and implemented an on-line training course for Ambulance Forward Commanders to better prepare them for incident management roles. This training has now been made accessible to all 4,700 Ambulance employees, including operational and corporate support staff.

Ambulance Service of NSW facilitated Remote Area First Aid courses for approximately 58 NSW Rural Fire Service members. For the second year running, the Ambulance Service of NSW Special Operations Unit facilitated a first aid scenario for NSW Rural Fire Service members at the NSW Rural Fire Service Region North's exercise in March 2013.

Ongoing training and recertification of Special Operations Paramedics has occurred throughout the year ensuring that Ambulance Service of NSW maintains a specialist paramedic capability in support of the NSW emergency services, functional areas and federal agencies.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Ambulance Service of NSW assisted in the multi agency search Operation Hibberti for the clandestine drug lab in remote bush land in early 2013.

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

- Gloucester Section 44 Bushfire (October - December 2012)
- Coonabarabran Section 44 Bushfire (December 2012)
- Wagga Section 44 Bushfire (January 2013)
- Goulburn Section 44 Bushfire (January 2013)
- Nowra Section 44 Bushfire (January 2013)
- Bega Section 44 Bushfire (January 2013)
- Cooma Section 44 Bushfire (January 2013)

The Ambulance Service of NSW Special Operations swift water technicians supplemented the NSW State Emergency Service response capability during significant flood events including in Port Macquarie and Taree in January 2013, and Coffs Harbour and the Northern Region during February and March 2013.

Fire & Rescue NSW

Fire & Rescue NSW's mission is to save lives and property, and to protect the environment from fires, emergencies and other disasters. Fire & Rescue NSW's 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 emergency events, and participates in terrorism consequence management arrangements.

Achievements for 2012-2013

In September 2012, the United Nations announced that the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Task Force had successfully achieved accreditation, following a three-day International Search and Rescue Advisory Group External Classification exercise held in Whyte Island, Queensland. There are only three countries in the world that have two accredited Heavy Task Forces – the USA, Japan, and now Australia (Fire & Rescue NSW and Queensland Fire and Rescue Services).

In July 2013, the roll out of the Automatic Vehicle Location system commenced so that by June 2014 the whole of the appliance fleet will be dispatched using this system. The Automatic Vehicle Location system ensures that the fastest appliance is always selected and dispatched, rather than basing decisions on the street address of fire stations.

Collaboration between agencies of the NSW emergency services has led to the creation of one of Australia's largest government Enterprise Resource Systems. The system provides financial, human resource and volunteer management information and is a single source of truth for other systems. The emergency services agencies have used this system to not only move into the modern era of emergency management, but to become a leader in the NSW Public Sector. More than 100,000 staff and volunteers across NSW are supported by the system, providing efficiency and capability to make a safer state.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Sydney Airport exercise

On Wednesday 28 November 2012, Fire and Rescue NSW was involved in a multi agency simulated 4th alarm response (eight pumpers and an incident management team) to Exercise Soteria, a six hour emergency exercise designed to test the Sydney Airport Emergency Plan's response to an aviation crisis. The scenario was a plane crash caused by mechanical problems on landing with 180 volunteers playing the role of injured passengers and grieving relatives. As well as assisting aviation crews with the delivery of fire suppression medium, the Fire & Rescue NSW team also assisted in triaging and removing passengers and casualties to the casualty clearance areas. Hazmat capability was also tested at the exercise.

Winter Fire Safety Campaign

The 2013 Winter Fire Safety Campaign was launched at the CSIRO facility at Macquarie Park. Receiving widespread media coverage, fire researchers constructed and furnished a "lounge room" and then demonstrated how easily a fire can start (clothes too close to a heater), and how quickly it can spread (flashover occurred after four minutes). The campaign theme this year was "Don't leave your family's fire safety to chance this winter", with a television advertisement featuring an unreliable character called 'Chance' highlighting how home fires can start due to owner complacency.

Disaster and Urban Search and Rescue equipment upgrade

Fire & Rescue NSW is in the process of upgrading its disaster and urban search and rescue equipment in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The upgraded equipment will

not only enhance the United Nations accredited urban search and rescue response capability in the Asia-Pacific area, but will greatly assist with large scale local incidents and day to day technical rescues. The equipment upgrades include search and rescue gear, communications systems and remote area field living capabilities. As Fire & Rescue NSW have a major role to play in consequence management following terrorist incidents, the recent improvements will also assist with both training and response to such events that must be prepared for.

Bushfire Preparedness

Prior to the commencement of the 2012 bushfire season Fire & Rescue NSW promoted bushfire preparedness through social media. The aim was to encourage the one million NSW residents who live on the bush land urban interface to undertake a spring clean around their home, supporting the NSW Rural Fire Service's Bushfire Survival Plan.

A project called the 'Bushfire Emergency Must Have Bag' also commenced. The bag, distributed to residents in bushfire fringe areas, is designed to encourage valuable documents being taken at times of evacuations.

Sprinklers for aged care facilities

Fire & Rescue NSW continued working with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and other agencies in implementing legislative changes requiring compulsory and retrospective sprinkler installation in aged care facilities. A review has shown that 100 per cent of aged care providers cooperated with the registration and nomination process. On the basis of the information provided, it has been reported that 45 per cent of the 885 accredited facilities have sprinklers in required areas.

Providers of the aged care facilities that are not fully sprinkler protected have committed to retrofit all of their facilities within 18 months or by early 2016 in line with the NSW Government's expectations.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Storm hits West and South West Sydney

During the early afternoon of Thursday 8 November 2012, a large storm cell hit Sydney's Western and Southern suburbs. The storm came in across the Blue Mountains and impacted Penrith, Mount Druitt, Cambridge Park and Blacktown before moving South East towards Liverpool, Campbelltown and Ingleburn.

In the six hours from 3:00pm to 9:00pm, Fire & Rescue NSW communication centre staff processed 365 calls, mostly for assistance to damage caused by the storm. During this time, Fire & Rescue NSW's surge capacity saw crews respond to 14 power line related incidents, 13 trees down on buildings, 25 motor vehicle accidents, two of which involved trees on cars with persons trapped - another involving a car and school bus with 40 children on board, seven buildings collapses, 20 grass fires and five trees alight caused by lightning strikes, seven electrical fires, five house fires, four buildings hit by lightning, four floodings, two lift rescues, 44 automatic fire alarms during the storm, and a hazmat incident involving 1,000 litres of contaminated chlorine.

Bushfires

Friday 18 January 2013 was the hottest day ever recorded in Sydney. On this day Fire & Rescue NSW dealt with more than 1,100 incidents over an eight hour period. Strike teams were deployed to assist the NSW Rural Fire Service in areas around the State, including large fires at Nowra, Boorowa, Cessnock and Connabarabran.

3rd Alarm fuel leak at Port Botany

Around 1:30am on 12 July 2013, firefighters were called to a fuel leak at Botany Road, Port Botany. Approximately 130,000 litres of fuel had leaked from a 2 million litre storage tank into a bunded area the size of a football field. Over the duration of the incident 20

crews from across the metropolitan area attended the spill where explosive limits were at the extreme. Firefighters were able to stop the leak and cover the spill with foam to eliminate the threat of ignition. An initial one kilometre exclusion zone was reduced to 500m and crews spent most of the day providing protection and atmospheric monitoring while the spill was cleaned up. Also on scene were firefighters from Air Services Australia and police and ambulance officers.

6th Alarm factory unit fire

On 31 May 2013, crews battled successfully to contain a large factory fire on James Ruse Drive, Rosehill. Highly developed firefighting strategies and tactics resulted in six factory units in a complex of seven being saved. The fire was fuelled by large amounts of electrical, plastic and packaging items. There were major fears that the fire would spread to adjoining units and eventually involve the entire seven unit complex. Due to effective placement of aerials and a sustained defensive attack, the fire was successfully contained to the unit of origin with adjoining units suffering smoke heat and water damage. A large heavy smoke plume was visible from most parts of Sydney.

NSW Police Force

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

During 2012-2013, the State Emergency Operations Controller and Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller were responsible for the following projects and initiatives:

- developed the *Memorandum of Understanding for Management of Mining Emergencies in NSW* between NSW Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, NSW Police Force, Mines Rescue Pty Limited (business of Coal Services Pty Limited), Ambulance Service of NSW, Fire & Rescue NSW, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Health, NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association
- led the Major Hazard Facilities Multi Agency Working Group
- responded with other agencies to multiple major emergency events including the North Coast floods, major bushfire activity in Western NSW, an asbestos incident in the Illawarra and a landslip at Upper Coopers Creek.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

The State Emergency Operations Controller, Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller and supporting staff:

- conducted multi agency exercises including a mines and vertical rescue exercise to test emergency and multi agency response arrangements
- attended a number of significant multi agency exercises that focused on facilities including the Botany Industrial Park at Port Botany, Shell and Caltex Refineries and Terminals and an oil spill exercise at Jervis Bay
- participated in Joint Operational Support Staff Induction and Professional Development Courses with the Australian Defence Force. This involved the development of the Liaison Officer role and closer understanding of Commonwealth requirements.

Other

Major initiatives that the State Emergency Operations Controller reviewed and/or redeveloped during the reporting period included:

- Sydney Central Business District Emergency Sub Plan
- NSW Mines emergency management arrangements
- Major Hazard Facilities reviews
- NSW Local Emergency Operations Controller Policy, which also included the implementation of a training regime.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

- responded to multiple bush fires across NSW including the opening and operation of the Public Information and Inquiry Centre
- manage evacuations due to major bush fire activity
- responded to the North Coast storms
- evacuation of a Bankstown unit complex due to fire which included the management of evacuees and development of recovery guidelines
- attending to asbestos incidents involving a house explosion on the North Coast and damaged housing Coonabarabran as a result of the bush fires
- responded to a significant power outage in Western Sydney which involved the closure of the M5 East tunnel and resultant traffic congestion
- conducted numerous searches for missing persons including in the Alpine areas.

NSW Police Force

Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command

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

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

- participation and engagement in the State Emergency Management Committee
- continued coordination and participation in multi agency emergency response exercises
- continued participation in training and accreditation of rescue and response capabilities throughout NSW

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

The NSW Police Force's Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command conducted:

- Multi Agency Incident Training in the Northern and Central Metropolitan Regions with Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW State Emergency Service and their equivalent Queensland counterparts
- Regional Airport Security Programs at 25 NSW regional airports in NSW involving local emergency services and airport personnel
- a Maritime Ports Security Program at the Port of Newcastle involving Roads and Maritime Services and other emergency response agencies
- the abovementioned programs included presentations from officers from the emergency service functional areas and discussion exercises to stimulate audience involvement. The training was very positively received

- all Police Rescue Units were accredited with the NSW Flood/Swift Water Technician Level 3 status
- regional police rescue units participated in the National Search and Rescue Managers Course
- Multi Agency Land Search and Rescue and Remote Area Operations workshops were conducted in Goulburn and the Blue Mountains. These were funded by the State Rescue Board
- participated in the Search and Rescue Exercise at Barrington Tops
- OTIS, a multi agency rural vertical exercise, was conducted at Narromine
- police participated in the Volunteer Rescue Association NAVEX activity which was held in Central West NSW
- vertical rescue equipment was enhanced across all units, and operators participated in specialist climbing courses, upskilling their capabilities
- the advanced Vertical Rescue Instructors Course was conducted in the Blue Mountains and the Western Region Police Rescue Operators Course conducted in Bathurst

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Police Flood Rescue Teams were deployed in support of the NSW State Emergency Service Flood Operations in Northern NSW including in Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Taree and Kempsey. Police Rescue Operators also provided aerial support to the flood operations in Northern Region.

NSW Police also:

- rescued 18 persons in flash flooding at Wentworth Falls Valley
- retrieved bodies from a helicopter crash that occurred in Wollongong
- coordinated multi agency land search and rescue operation at Kosciuszko National Park
- deployed Police Rescue Teams to Coonabarabran Fires for operational and emergency incident support.

NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the combat agency for bush fires in New South Wales. The NSW Rural Fire Service responds to a range of other incidents including structural fires and motor vehicle accidents and provides support during other emergencies such as storms, floods and land search and rescue.

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

Pre Season Briefings/Exercise

Prior to the 2012-2013 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 involving members of the State Emergency Management Committee to test coordinated fire fighting arrangements and emergency management support.

Evacuation Working Group

The NSW Rural Fire Service continues to co-chair the Evacuations Working Group which is currently finalising policy to inform and enhance existing emergency management arrangements regarding evacuations. This work is being supplemented by the knowledge gained by Superintendent Ben Millington who travelled to New Zealand, Japan, United States of America and Canada in early 2013 as part of the Churchill Fellowship to study mass evacuations.

Information Sharing

The NSW Rural Fire Service has provided members of the State Emergency Management Committee with access to the Incident Control Online system to improve situational awareness and flow of information during bush fire activity. The Incident Control Online system is the primary incident management system for all forest, grass and scrub fires across NSW and ACT agencies. The system was first released in July 2005 and now has over 3,300 registered users.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Members of the NSW Rural Fire Service and partner agencies contribute significantly to hazard reduction activities in support of land management agencies and private property owners. During 2012-2013, the NSW Rural Fire Service and partner agencies undertook significant hazard reduction works protecting more than 140,000 properties across NSW protecting more than \$64 billion in assets.

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 921 sites have now been assessed and established as Neighbourhood Safer Places, well above the NSW 2021 target. Annual audits and inspections were also undertaken to identify new sites and to ensure standards for design and placement of Neighbourhood Safer Places were upheld.

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

works, access and egress issues, the location of vulnerable members of the community (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centres) and available protection options. The Community Protection Plan guidelines were approved by the Bush Fire Coordinating Committee subject to Asset Protection Zone policy being finalised.

The NSW Rural Fire Service has worked with members of the Bush Fire Arson Taskforce to develop an electronic arson information database to assist in the identification and tracking of arson related incidents. The program enables the analysis of all fire incident data thus identifying areas with arson related issues which enables the implementation of ignition prevention strategies and possible identification of serial arsonists. This program satisfies the national priority for data sharing between agencies. This database is now live and is currently being rolled out across the state.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 bush fire season will be remembered as one of the most challenging and destructive in recent times. The season began early for much of NSW, particularly in the north and west of the State. Significant fires were recorded in the communities around Clarence Valley, Tenterfield, Armidale, Richmond Valley and the Barwon Darling. Crews on the Central Coast were also kept busy with Section 44 declaration at Wyee and at Pretty Beach in the Gosford area.

Conditions deteriorated further, peaking in January with some of the worst fire conditions ever experienced. Catastrophic fire danger ratings were declared for Tuesday 8 January 2013 in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and Southern Ranges which was the first time such ratings had been issued for forested areas or large cities.

That day, a number of serious fires occurred in areas including Cooma Monaro, Yass Valley and the Shoalhaven. A few days later on Sunday 13 January 2013, a major fire rapidly burnt through the Warrumbungle National Park near Coonabarabran. This fire destroyed more than 50 homes and damaged the Siding Springs Observatory.

From July 2012 to March 2013, the following statistics were recorded:

Total bush and grass fires	5,885
Area burnt	1.4 million hectares
Total fire ban declarations	26
Section 44 declarations	80
Personnel deployments	20,544
Aircraft taskings	2,066
Fire fighter injuries	259
Human lives lost	0
Buildings destroyed	57

NSW State Emergency Service

The NSW State Emergency Service is the combat agency responsible for the planning and control of rescue and response operations for flood, storm and tsunami events. The Service comprises some 10,000 volunteers in 229 units across the State, supported by 269 staff located at the Service's 17 Regional Headquarters and the State Headquarters in Wollongong.

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

The NSW State Emergency Service Height Equipment Working Group worked diligently to improve the organisation's working at heights capability. Extensive research led to the development of a holistic Heights Safety System, based on a proof of concept and practical adaption approach. Supported by new policies and equipment, this system has now been implemented across the entire organisation and has enabled a major shift in height safety.

The NSW State Emergency Service Urban Search and Rescue Canine Unit is a joint venture between Fire & Rescue NSW and the NSW State Emergency Service. In September 2012, the NSW Taskforce 1 Australia, which includes four NSW State Emergency Service Canine teams, was chosen to participate in a mock disaster zone exercise. The exercise was conducted through an International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Secretariat and designed to test all aspects of urban search and rescue operations in a simulated 72 hour assessment. The NSW State Emergency Service Urban Search and Rescue teams were commended by the International External Classifiers for effective canine search, location and victim identification.

The NSW State Emergency Service commenced a project to collaboratively complete the NSW Urban Levees Review with NSW Public Works and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The review is assessing all NSW urban flood levees and will create a state wide data set of levee status, levee protection levels, contingency planning and risk assessment to improve levee emergency response. It will implement levee owner guidelines and will provide a portal to support levee infrastructure maintenance particularly for local government.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Local Flood Plans

NSW State Emergency Service continued to implement its revised approach to the preparation of 132 Local Flood Plans. This approach enables Local Emergency Management Committees to endorse the body of the plan which incorporate emergency management arrangements, whilst the subsections 'Hazard and Risk', and 'NSW State Emergency Service response arrangements', can be prepared incrementally and on a risk prioritised basis.

At the end of the reporting period 48 plans remained current, 47 Local Flood Emergency sub plans had been endorsed by Local Emergency Management Committees with the remaining 37 plans ready for endorsement.

NSW Flood Database

Financial year project outputs were completed, including a June release of the strategic flood layers for government use and processing of approximately 900 local flood studies representing over 50% of database population.

Tsunami

NSW State Emergency Service finalised the tsunami inundation modeling project which examined the tsunami risk at Swansea, Manly, Botany Bay, Port Kembla and Merimbula.

The results of the 2012 work show the five communities are exposed to tsunami hazard with land inundation becoming significant particularly at the rare 1:1,000 to 1:2,000 year ARI level (and greater) although the results also indicate some potential inundation and exposure of people and property even at the lowest return intervals examined (likely 1:200 year ARI) particularly at Swansea. The results suggest less exposure than estimated in the Stage 1 Risk Assessment Scoping Study (2008). The NSW State Emergency Service is using the result of the work to update evacuation area mapping. This project was funded by the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Exercises

In collaboration with the NSW Dam Safety Committee, a joint discussion exercise was conducted at Kiama to increase general awareness about the emergency management of dams in particular arrangements for warning, evacuation and decision making around a dam failure.

The NSW State Emergency Service Support Team conducted a field exercise at Moree in June 2013 to simulate an evidence search for aircraft debris in support of the NSW Police Force. The exercise tested a new mobile mapping platform to support NSW State Emergency Service impact assessment and reconnaissance activities.

A new Community Safety exercise in the series of the NSW State Emergency Service Nevagazunda series of exercises has been developed focusing on the preparation of Public Information and Warning Products, upskilling staff and volunteer capability.

Discussion exercise scenarios for flood, storm and tsunami which can be scaled and facilitated at the local volunteer unit level, the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Regional Emergency Management Committee meetings were also developed.

Community and Public Information and Warning

With Principal Partner NRMA Insurance and other stakeholders, StormSafe Week (1-8 September) planning workshops were undertaken with visits to 15 regions from June to August.

NSW State Emergency Service undertook community focus testing of NSW State Emergency Service Public Information and Warning Products, resulting in the refinement of these products.

An online Home Emergency Plan was launched in June 2012 to assist households prepare for flood, storm and tsunamis. These plans will tailor specific advice to individuals' situation and locality.

NSW State Emergency Service continued to represent on the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review Steering Committee and chair one of five working groups focussing on flood emergency planning. The report to Cabinet is due in November.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Alpine Search for Missing Canadian Hiker – May 2013

The NSW State Emergency State, Emergency Service Alpine Search Teams provided assistance to the NSW Police Force in the Kosciuszko National Park for a missing

Canadian national. The eight days of NSW State Emergency Service involvement saw 8-10 volunteers participating each day, equating to 60-80 search days in total.

Severe Weather/Thunderstorm, Eastern NSW

In February 2013, a severe thunderstorm occurred through in parts of the South West Slopes, Riverina, Snowy Mountains, Southern Tablelands, Central West Slopes and Plains, and Illawarra. 44 communities and approximately 8,600 people were isolated due to flooding. The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 1,570 requests for assistance, including re-supply requests from isolated communities and 42 flood rescues.

On Sunday 24 February 2013 at 3.00am, what has been referred to as a 'family of tornadoes' impacted the Illawarra region affecting numerous streets and houses. 25 houses sustained major damage, 14 deemed beyond repair and Kiama Fire Station was also extensively damaged. Due to the extensive infrastructure damage including debris and downed power lines, access was restricted and 30 residents evacuated.

To add to the complexity of the clean up, asbestos was found amongst the debris. Subsequently, the NSW State Emergency Service tasked the Local Emergency Operations Controller to manage an exclusion zone and evacuate approximately 300 residents for up to a week whilst the asbestos was removed. The NSW State Emergency Service also focused on over 700 outstanding Requests for Assistance.

Severe Weather/Mulwala Tornado – March 2013

On Thursday 21 March 2013, a tornado classified F3 on the Fujita Scale (wind speed between 251 and 333km/h) caused significant damage across northeast Victoria and southern NSW. The township of Mulwala which is the east of the Murray River was the most affected, with several houses being severely damaged and the Denison County Caravan Park almost completely destroyed.

Twelve people were in residence when the tornado struck and four of them were seriously injured. Up to 20 permanent residents were evacuated and provided with temporary accommodation whilst hazardous materials, including asbestos, was cleaned up.

Severe Weather/Thunderstorm, Various Areas – January 2013

A Severe Weather Warning was issued as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald which moved slowly from northern NSW, tracking steadily southwards and producing widespread heavy rain over much of eastern NSW.

The NSW State Emergency Service received a total of 4,474 Requests for Assistance including 86 flood rescues. Evacuation Orders were issued to nine communities in northern NSW, affecting approximately 5,000 residents. Approximately 1,200 NSW State Emergency Service volunteers responded to operations during this period, including more than 40 NSW State Emergency Service Flood Rescue Operators.

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has performed rescue services to the community for 44 years. Its primary role is to provide support to emergency services within NSW. The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association is also the primary response rescue unit for 42 locations within NSW with the majority of these being located in regional areas.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has 16 specialist squads that support emergency service agencies. These include Bushwalkers, Cave Rescue, WICEN - Wireless Institute of Australia, Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams, Australian Aerial Patrol, Australian Civil Air Patrol, Burrendong Dam Rescue Squad, Community First Aid Support Team, Hawkesbury River Rescue Incorporated, National Service for Loss and Grief, Namoi Air Patrol, Nymboida Wilderness Rescue Team, Penrith Volunteer Rescue Association Support Unit, South Coast Volunteer Rescue Association Support Unit, Ski Patrol Association, and the Tweed Coast Volunteer Rescue Association.

Rolling statistics for 2012-2013 were:

- 12,117 operational tasks
- 134,594 operational hours
- 136,721 non-operational hours
- 271,316 total volunteer hours

The 12,117 incidents attended by the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association included rescues involving aircraft, domestic, industrial, inland water, motor vehicle accidents, road and rail accidents, vertical/cliff rescues, land searches, body recoveries, 176 animal rescues and assistance to other emergency services on 251 occasions.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association acknowledges the support of the NSW State Government and the NRMA for their continued and valued support during the 2012-2013 period.

Achievements for 2012-2013

The Volunteer Rescue Association Registered Training Organisation became operational during the reporting period.

Nine competency based training weekends were held over the reporting period resulting in the issue of:

- 8 x Induction Statements of Attainment:
- 17 x PUA 21312 Cert II certificates
- 48 x PUA 30412 Cert III certificates
- 6 x PUA 40212 Cert IV certificates.

These competency based training weekends are scheduled to be continued over the following 12 months.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Vertical Training Team also held nine workshop/training weekends. As a result, the association now has 54 vertical qualified operators with an equivalent number in training to gain this certification.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

During 2012-2013, the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association hosted the multi agency exercise "Navshield" at Colo River. Seventy-five teams entered, which represented about 290 participants. The event was held over two days and was well supported by emergency service organisations. This annual exercise is organised by volunteers at various undisclosed locations.

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association has also commenced a replacement program for redundant and heavy road rescue equipment which was made possible through a grant from the NRMA.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

The NSW Volunteer Rescue Association assisted emergency service organisations during the natural disasters that occurred in NSW in January and February 2013. This included their largest response in Coonabarabran on Sunday 13 January 2013 when the Warrumbungle National Park Fire Ground was impacted by bushfire. For a ten day period following the event the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association assisted with 5,006 man hours at the disaster site and rotated 212 volunteers from eight regional rescue squads through the Coonabarabran Volunteer Rescue Association headquarters.

After the event had finished the Coonabarabran Rural Fire Service and Coonabarabran Volunteer Rescue Association commenced formal cooperative arrangements between the two organisations. First Aid and Oxygen Therapy training is now being delivered by the NSW Rural Fire Service for the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association members to ensure a high state of operational readiness, whilst the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association are assisting the NSW Rural Fire Service with storm tempest assistance and manpower for ancillary operations in return.

In addition, some NSW Rural Fire Service members joined the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association and achieved the State Rescue Board qualification as Basic Rescue Operators. This will enable volunteer numbers for callouts to remain at a satisfactory level for incidents that require the two services to respond together. NSW Volunteer Rescue Association members also joined the NSW Rural Fire Service so they too can assist in conducting operations on the fire ground.

In country areas of NSW, volunteer numbers have been in decline for the past ten years or so. The above situation may be used as a model for future like-minded volunteer organisations. That is, by having flexible memberships and associated training, organisations can assist each other whilst also ensuring the safety of the general public in times of emergencies.

Marine Rescue NSW

Marine Rescue NSW is the State's official volunteer marine rescue service. It has 3,200 members in 47 units along the NSW coastline and on the Alpine Lakes and Murray River at Moama. Its volunteers provide:

- swift, coordinated marine emergency response
- boating safety education and marine licence courses for local boaters
- continuous marine radio coverage along the coastline.

Achievements for 2012-2013

Marine Rescue NSW, represented by Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM, was appointed to the State Emergency Management Committee in September 2012.

Marine Rescue NSW entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Rural Fire Service in August 2012, outlining arrangements to provide mutual support during bushfire and marine emergency operations.

A State Operations and Communications Centre was established at Marine Rescue's new State Headquarters at Cronulla, providing a base for the coordinated management of marine incidents by the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Roads and Maritime Services and other relevant functional areas.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Marine Rescue NSW, represented by Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM, participated in the National Emergency Management Volunteers Forum.

The organisation also participated in coordinated multi agency marine search and rescue training exercises throughout 2012-13 at Batemans Bay (July), Greenwell Point (October), Coffs Harbour (November), Point Danger (November), Ballina (February), Lake Jindabyne (February) and at Broken Bay (March).

In conjunction with the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, Marine Rescue NSW undertook:

- a review of Chapter 3 of the State Rescue Board Policy dealing with marine rescue
- a complete review of the State Rescue Board Marine Rescue Standing Operating Procedures.

Marine Rescue NSW units took part in a number of boating safety and education programs with agencies including NSW Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Police Force Marine Area Command and NSW Fisheries.

In a project jointly funded by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Safety of Life at Sea Trusts, Marine Rescue NSW upgraded their radio communications infrastructure on the NSW South Coast to enhance the safety of recreational sailors and those taking part in the annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

New VHF Digital Selective Calling infrastructure was also installed at 15 Marine Rescue NSW Search and Rescue Coordination Centres and the central Sydney communications base at Terrey Hills. This was to boost marine safety along the coastline, using funding supplied by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia Safety of Life at Sea Trusts.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Deans Gap bushfire support

Marine Rescue NSW units at Sussex Inlet, Shoalhaven and Kioloa provided support for the NSW Rural Fire Service Deans Gap bushfire operation on 8 January 2013.

Marine Rescue Sussex Inlet had been placed on standby for necessary deployment or other assistance if required by the NSW Rural Fire Service or NSW Police Force in the event that the fire ran into Sussex Inlet. At 1.30pm, as a precautionary measure, Unit Commanders of the Shoalhaven and Kioloa units also were requested to deploy their trailer-able rescue vessels to the local evacuation centre at the Sussex Inlet RSL in readiness for any required additional assistance.

At 6:00pm the three unit's Category 1 vessels and a Surf Lifesaving jet boat were tasked to Inland Point boat ramp on St Georges Basin to collect animal cages for the RSPCA and transport these to the evacuation centre.

Flood operations support

Marine Rescue Nambucca provided operational support to the Clarence-Nambucca State Emergency Service during floods in the Nambucca region on the Australia Day long weekend.

Seven volunteers from the unit helped evacuate residents from Pelican Park, ferrying them by boat through waist-deep water, and provided radio communications support and reconnaissance to the NSW State Emergency Service.

Members of Marine Rescue Brunswick provided 30 hours of radio communications support to the Mullumbimby State Emergency Service during the response to the major storms and floods that swept the Northern Rivers on 27 January 2013 and another 50 hours when the region was again hit by torrential rain three weeks later.

Local Emergency Management Committee planning

The Brunswick Marine Rescue unit participated in the process to amalgamate the Tweed and Byron Local Emergency Management Committees and the introduction of the new Byron Shire Flood Emergency Sub Plan.

Maritime Combat Agencies

Transport for NSW is the overall managing (statutory) agency for marine oil/chemical spills and ship accident emergencies in State waters. Combat agency roles are undertaken in accordance with the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan. Combat agencies include Roads and Maritime Services, the NSW Port Corporations and Transport for NSW.

Achievements for 2012-2013

State Exercise

Transport for NSW led the annual State Maritime incident exercise 'Bherwerre' which was held on 5-6 December 2012 at HMAS Creswell, Jervis Bay. The exercise consisted of a discussion and equipment deployment exercise based on a significant Tier 2 medium level (10-1000 tonnes) oil spill incident offshore from Jervis Bay which also impacted the waters of Jervis Bay and the surrounding area. With a focus on improving the understanding of the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan, the exercise also examined the complex inter-jurisdictional issues involved in dealing with an incident adjacent to and within Jervis Bay which encompasses not only state waters and inland waters, but also a marine park, Royal Australian Naval waters and Commonwealth waters.

Oil Spill Response Atlas Development

The web based Oil Spill Response Atlas application has been developed and access provided to combat and supporting agencies. This access incorporates:

- imagery, maps and electronic navigation charts
- environmental sensitivity data that can be overlaid directly through a user friendly toolbox
- ability for users to create maps.

Transport for NSW is currently progressing the ongoing development of Oil Spill Response Atlas which will include incorporating live Automatic Identification System data, weather reports and links to web based cameras, and importantly the ability to overlay the Oil Spill Trajectory Modelling over the environmental sensitivity data. This will also include development of a tablet based application allowing responders to enter and upload data from the field. This will also include photos and an enhanced draw function.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Contingency Plans

The NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan was updated and endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in December 2012.

Contingency Plans for covering the Roads and Maritime Services combat agency areas (North and South Coast) were developed and endorsed by the respective Regional Emergency Management Committees.

Training

Transport for NSW delivered a range of operational and management training for over 300 state personnel during 2012-2013. Additionally over 40 personnel from across agencies attended national courses delivered by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Participation in national working groups

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

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

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Fortunately, there were no significant spills during the last 12 months in NSW. Combat Agencies (the Port Corporations, Roads and Maritime Services and Transport for NSW) have responded to numerous minor incidents or reports of oil on the water or ashore. This included a number of fishing vessels which have grounded at Newcastle, Cronulla, Harrington and Kiama. These vessels have either resulted in the vessel breaking up and small amounts of pollution entering the water or salvage of the vessel without a pollution incident.

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

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services

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

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

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

Development of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan

The NSW State Emergency Management Plan was published in December 2012 and replaced the former State Disaster Plan. The NSW State Emergency Management Plan is written as a high level strategic and policy overview of emergency management arrangements in NSW. It retains the governance structure of emergency management, the legislative context and the response and recovery framework. However, it removed much of the agency-specific detail that was in the former Plan.

Strategic Review of the State Emergency Management Committee

In the reporting period, it was considered timely to review the procedures of the State Emergency Management Committee. In the first six months of 2013, the Chair and Ministry worked with members of the Committee to identify the key themes and issues to be discussed at the State Emergency Management Committee meeting in June, which was a Strategic Planning Day.

During the consultations and the meeting itself, it was broadly recognised that emergency management arrangements work well in NSW. But it was a timely opportunity to consider the operation of the Committee. Outcomes included a commitment to one desktop exercise every 12 months. Further work will also be done to determine the feasibility of cross deployments of accredited personnel into multi agency Incident Management Teams during operations and improved coordination of exercises between the counter terrorism and emergency management training groups.

Emergency Management Training and Exercises

The Resilience and Planning Branch coordinates the delivery of nationally recognised emergency management training. The Branch funded and coordinated 100 training courses, attended by approximately 1,650 participants from across government and non-government organisations with a role in NSW emergency management arrangements. The Branch also funded eight regional and local level multi agency exercises to test emergency management arrangements.

Natural Disaster Resilience Program Grants

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments under the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Resilience. In 2012-2013, the Grants Unit administered funding totaling \$13.05 million for 215 projects to address 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

The 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 in NSW. The purpose of the functional area is to:

- coordinate the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of emergencies involving agriculture and all animals
- provide animal care services for wildlife, domestic animals and companion pets of persons evacuated from an area affected by an emergency, with the support of participating and supporting organisations.

Achievements for 2012-2013

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area provided support to the NSW State Emergency Service in the state wide flood events and to the NSW Rural Fire Service in state wide bushfire events.

They were also responsible for the containment of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza on one farm in the Hunter region which required destruction and composting of chickens on farms, and surveillance of surrounding poultry properties.

Staff training in emergency management, including preparedness, prevention, response and recovery, was continued throughout the reporting period. In particular, Local Lands Services staff were trained on aspects relating to the new agency which was formed through the amalgamation of the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, Catchment Management Authorities and Department of Primary Industries Extension Services.

All training programs are aligned with qualification levels:

- PUA33112 Certificate III in Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Operations)
- PUA42912 Certificate IV in Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Leadership)
- PUA52412 Diploma of Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Management).

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

The State Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Sub-Committee meeting was held in October 2012 and was represented at the State Emergency Management Committee and State Emergency Management Committee Working Group meetings.

The following training and workshops were held over the reporting period:

- Emergency Management Basic Training workshops (61 participants)
- Incident Management Team workshops (22 participants completed parts 1, 2 and 3)
- Operational Planning workshops (54 participants)
- Planning workshops (12 participants completing parts 1, 2 and 3)
- Logistics systems workshop (23 participants)

- Work Safely Around Aircraft and Crew Resource Management workshops (55 participants).

In September - October 2012, assisted by the NSW Rural Fire Service State Airdesk, the Department of Primary Industries held five Emergency Management Aircraft Management Systems workshops to inform key personnel of the changes to aviation management. These workshops were attended by 40 officers from Department of Primary Industries, 17 Livestock Health and Pesticides Authority, three NSW State Emergency Service and three Australian Plague Locust Commission personnel.

Department of Primary Industries staff attended Incident Control Online System training at the NSW Rural Fire Service Headquarters. Department of Primary Industries and Office of Environment and Heritage staff fulfilling marine oil spill roles in the wildlife unit have attended Australian Maritime Safety Authority courses.

NSW Department of Primary Industry continued to develop an information management system, referred to as WebEOC, to support all hazard emergency responses. Further development of this system will improve safety, efficacy of resource allocation, in particular personnel, and will provide a more effective system to gather information, collate and utilise data. Information captured using this system includes task requests such as task description, allocation, completion and financial expenditure and personnel requests such as personnel identification, qualifications and experience.

The Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area continued work with agencies on mass destruction options. Medium expansion fire fighting foam was trialed and may be an effective and humane method for the mass destruction of poultry in emergency disease outbreaks. It has been used in NSW in a recent small scale outbreak of avian influenza and at a field day demonstration in Victoria. The fire fighting foam is delivered using purpose built machines.

The Biosecurity Emergency Sub-Plan, formerly called the NSW Animal Health Emergency Sub-Plan, was reviewed and approved by the State Emergency Management Committee.

Recommendations were prepared for three agricultural natural disasters.

Funding from the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services was received for two projects. The first project, 'Building resilience in rural, residential and regional communities,' is a community engagement project that promotes resilience in animal welfare and is an Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Community Engagement strategy providing strategic direction, an action plan, community engagement tools and training resources.

The second project, 'Pathways Agriculture Resilience Floodplain Model' looks at key north coast industries such as sugar cane and dairy that are highly vulnerable to floods and severe weather events. This project involves working with industry leaders and farm enterprises to establish priorities for creating greater resilience.

Senior Veterinary Officers from Department of Primary Industries travelled to Nepal to participate in a five day Foot and Mouth Disease preparedness training program, sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and run by the United Nations European Union Foot and Mouth Disease Taskforce.

In November 2012, Exercise Sea Fox was held in Adelaide. This exercise focused on the response to an oyster disease outbreak. Led by the South Australian Government, participating groups included NSW Department of Primary Industry's Aquatic Biosecurity Unit and representatives from the Oyster Industry and South Australian, Tasmanian and New Zealand Governments.

The Department of Primary Industries is represented on the Animal Biosecurity National Rapid Response Team. NSW hosted the national Rapid Response Team Exercise "Control Freak" in Coffs Harbour from 30 April to 2 May 2013. The exercise was a professional development activity based on a Foot and Mouth Disease scenario.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Office of Environment and Heritage personnel participated in the planning of the NSW marine incident exercise with Transport for NSW and other agencies. The exercise is planned for Port Macquarie on 15-16 October 2013.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Office of Environment and Heritage personnel also participated in an oil spill exercise with ten other agencies at Jervis Bay in December 2012. This exercise focused on the complex jurisdictional issues associated with the location and testing of oil spill equipment and the oiled wildlife response kit.

There are 20 current Memoranda of Understanding with participating and supporting organisations. Current membership of the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area includes members from:

Department of Primary Industries, Department of Territory and Municipal Services (ACT Territory and Municipal Services), Animal Welfare League NSW, Australia Horse Industry Council, Australian Seabird Rescue, Australian Veterinary Association NSW, Dogs NSW, Equestrian NSW, Fauna and Marine Parks Association, Department, Game Council of NSW, HANROB, Hornsby/Kuring-gai Local Agricultural and Animal Emergency Group, Horse Rescue Australia, Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Native Animals Trust Fund, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers Incorporated, NSW Cat Fanciers Association, NSW Farmers' Association, NSW Food Authority, Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA), Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, RSPCA, Livestock Health Pest Authority SMC (to be LLS) Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services, WIRES.

Significant Operations /Activities for 2012-2013

Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area provided support to the NSW Rural Fire Service during the bushfires from November 2012 - April 2013. These fires were primarily in the Cooma-Monaro, Yass/Harden and Coonabarabran areas. Participating agencies included RSPCA, NSW Farmers' Association, and the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities. During these events emergency fodder and water, livestock and wildlife assessment, stock destruction and disposal, donated fodder scheme, and agricultural damage assessments were provided. The Department of Primary Industries led the recovery efforts for the fires in the south east.

The Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area also provided support to the NSW State Emergency Service for the flood, wind and storm events from December 2012 - April 2013. These predominantly occurred on the north and central coasts and emergency fodder, donated fodder scheme and agricultural damage assessments were provided at these events.

The Department of Primary Industries biosecurity staff also responded to a number of Hendra virus cases on the Mid North Coast.

Telecommunications Services Functional Area

The NSW Government Telecommunications Authority is responsible for the overall coordination of radio telecommunication services for the NSW Government. The Telecommunications Authority is working to improve the quality and efficiency of radio services for NSW Government agencies, to effectively manage the Government spectrum holdings, and consolidate government owned infrastructure, assets and resources to remove unnecessary costs and duplication.

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area within the NSW Telecommunications 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:

- coordination of information, planning and intelligence via telecommunication carriers, Combat Agency State Operations Centres and the NSW State Emergency Operations Centre during an emergency, including acting as a link between telecommunications carriers and emergency services agencies
- facilitating and assisting telecommunications carriers with access to failed critical telecommunications infrastructure in emergencies, through collaboration with NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service and/or NSW Rural Fire Service, to escort or transport telecommunication carriers' technicians to failed infrastructure
- coordinating the deployment of telecommunications carrier network augmentation infrastructure in an emergency or major incident
- providing specialist advice, where appropriate, to Government agencies on telecommunications availability and effectiveness in an emergency context, and contributing to the development of the emergency management policy in the prevention, preparation, response and recovery phases of emergency management.

Achievements for 2012-2013

The Telecommunications Services Functional Area:

- coordinated the effort to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure and restore services during the bushfire at Coonabarabran in January 2013
- coordinated the effort to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure and restore services during the ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald
- secured the cooperation of the Australian telecommunication industry body, the Communications Alliance in collaborating in the review and development of emergency communication standards.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Telecommunications Services Functional Area staff participated in emergency management training in August and December 2012 and June 2013.

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

A Functional Area Committee meeting was held in February 2013 to gather initial requirements for the development of the Functional Area Sub Committee Supporting Plan and Constitution.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Coonabarabran Fires Response

In January 2013, the Telecommunications Services Functional Area coordinated the response to protecting critical telecommunications infrastructure from bush fires in the Coonabarabran area.

This included collaboration with the NSW Rural Fire Service to initiate site protection work to Needle Mountain, an important communications site for a number of NSW Government agencies, telecommunications carriers and ABC Radio. The Telecommunications Services Functional Area also collaborated with Telstra to deploy "cell on wheels" portable telecommunications in Coonabarabran to augment local telecommunications.

Ex tropical cyclone Oswald Response

In late January 2013, the Telecommunications Services Functional Area coordinated the response to the impact of ex tropical cyclone Oswald on telecommunications services on the North Coast of NSW. Working in partnership with the NSW State Emergency Service, telecommunication carrier repair crews were provided with assistance in accessing critical telecommunications infrastructure in very difficult conditions.

Recovery Operations

During the year the Telecommunications Services Functional Area coordinated the deployment of emergency communications services for Recovery Centres at Coonabarabran and Grafton.

Energy and Utility Services Functional Area

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

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area comprises a Functional Area Coordinator who is sponsored by NSW Trade & Investment, and representatives of public and private owners and operators of electricity, gas, petroleum, and water infrastructure. At the State level, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator coordinates support from or to these organisations during significant events.

The Functional Area Coordinator 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.

Achievements for 2012-2013

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area:

- participated in the review of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and the development of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan
- engaged functional area members in planning and preparedness for the 2012-2013 disaster season, resulting in outstanding coordination and response in bushfires, floods and storms
- engaged NSW Health Services Functional Area and electricity network operators to improve the management of power supply disruptions at NSW hospitals.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Bushfire pre season activities

In addition to attending the annual pre season briefings by NSW Rural Fire Service, the Functional Area Coordinator organised pre bushfire season briefings by the NSW Rural Fire Service in October and December 2012 for Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members. The Bureau of Meteorology provided season prognosis and participants engaged in discussion on outlook, response and strategy. The Functional Area Coordinator also facilitated ICON access and training at the NSW Rural Fire Service for Functional Area members.

Bush Fire Concept of Operations

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area *Bush Fire Concept of Operations* was updated and circulated to the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members in December 2012 and again in February 2013.

Floods and Storms Pre Season Activities

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator attended annual pre season briefings by the NSW State Emergency Service in October 2012 and subsequently distributed seasonal outlook briefing information to the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area members. The Coordinator also participated in the State Emergency Service After Action Review of the 2012-2013 Flood events.

Flood and Storm Concept of Operations

The Energy and Utility Service Area *Flood and Storm Concept of Operations* was revised and circulated to the Energy & Utility Services Functional Area members in December 2012 and again in February 2013.

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator participated in the Steering Group, as the flood damages assessment and flood emergency planning for the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Management Review. Input from the energy and utilities businesses that have assets at risk in the valley is also being facilitated.

Functional Area Committee

Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Committee meetings were held in October and December 2012. Meetings were attended by most members and provided the opportunity to discuss a range of strategic and operational issues including changes to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*. Other topics included pre season briefings by combat agencies and presentations by NSW Police Force Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. In addition, the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator has maintained a continuum of communication with committee members throughout the year.

Health Facility Electricity Supply Continuity

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator and the Deputy Health Services Functional Area Coordinator are joint leaders of a working group reviewing the continuity of power supply to hospitals. The working group is facilitating input from the Local Area Health Services and the electricity distributors. Project objectives include improved coordination and communication between parties during power outages whether due to severe weather events or technical problems. The project will also inform hospital design criteria for standby power capability, and improve outage management at health facilities.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Protracted Operational Response

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator and team attended the NSW Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre over seven days during the intense January 2013 bush fire season.

The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator coordinated the responses by and support for Essential Energy during extensive network damage from several severe weather events during the period, including notably the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Engineering Services Functional Area

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

Engineering Services Functional Area involves a range of programs and arrangements designed to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of impacts of emergencies on the community. In particular, there is an emphasis on supporting recovery operations.

Activities include disaster damage assessments, structural and geotechnical assessments, demolition and shoring up of damaged buildings, construction of emergency levees, maintenance of essential services, re-establishment of water and sewerage services, clearing asbestos contamination, establishment of recovery centres, and logistic supply and support.

Achievements for 2012-2013

During the 2012-2013 reporting period and through the NSW Public Works broader capability, Engineering Services undertook to compile an inventory of critical information on all NSW town levees to enhance the NSW Flood Database for use in flood response and planning. It is also undertaking surveys and condition assessments of high risk levees in NSW.

In September 2012, Engineering Services participated in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group accreditation live exercise in Queensland, for the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce. This involved a full deployment from Sydney by the Royal Australian Air Force to transport aircraft.

Engineering Services also led a whole of team exercise to practice engineering response and support for a maritime oil spill on the North Coast in conjunction with the Roads and Maritime Services and NSW State Emergency Services in November 2012.

Through NSW Public Works, the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements were administered for NSW Treasury, providing financial assistance to local councils whose assets had been damaged by declared natural disasters.

During 2012-2013 34 requests for assistance to the value of approximately \$18 million were assessed for approval. Seventy-four payments amounting to approximately \$20 million were made under the program for disasters that occurred during the year or in previous years where works were still eligible for payments.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

During the 2012-2013 reporting period, the Engineering Services Functional Area participated in over 60 inter agency meetings, briefings and planning workshops and specifically undertook the following preparedness activities during the reporting period:

- a fit out of a new facility at Burbank for use as NSW Engineering Services Emergency Operation Centre was undertaken
- participated in Exercise INIMICAL with the Transport Services Functional Area

- participated in the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group and Recovery Funding Group
- undertook a review of the Major Evacuation Centre Policy
- provided representation at the Emergency Response and Management Australasia Conference on the Gold Coast on 22 and 23 October 2012
- provided representation at the Next Generation Disaster Management Forum held in Canberra on 24 October 2012 followed by a Blast Design and Modelling Forum which was attended by structural engineers of the Engineering Emergency Management team
- conducted full team training in November 2012 where the primary objective was to exercise the Engineering Services' capability through a major real time field exercise simulating a coastal oil spill on the North Coast
- conducted full team training in May 2013 where the primary objective of the training was to enhance Engineering Services' capability in urban search and rescue engineering with significant input from Professors Michael Griffith (University of Adelaide) and John Wilson (Swinburne University of Technology)
- the majority of the engineering team achieved accreditation to Level 1 Urban Search and Rescue Engineering capability
- participated in the State Emergency Management Committee strategic planning workshop held on 20 June 2013.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Engineering Services responded to over 30 emergency incidents including building fires, damaged and collapsed structures of various kinds, storm damage, severe coastal erosion, asbestos contamination, floods and animal disease. These responses provided emergency support to a range of agencies including NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Environment Protection Authority, Primary Industries and Local Government Councils.

Specifically, significant operations and activities included:

- 25 July 2012 - provided advice for the Westfield Eastgardens shopping centre structural collapse on the safety of the structure
- 27 November 2012 - made assessments and recommendations for the crane collapse in Broadway on making the site safe and allowing the opening of roads to traffic
- January 2013 - provided assistance to the disposal of burnt animals, provision of plant (graders) during the Wambelong (Coonabarabran) and Monaro Fires
- January 2013 - established a Recovery Centre at Coonabarabran and monitored asbestos at the sites of raised buildings and developed an asbestos management plan
- January 2013 – established a Recovery Centre at Grafton in response to the flooding
- 26 January 2013 – established a temporary access road for emergency vehicles due to a landslide at Upper Coopers Creek Road - the road was stabilised for use in dry weather, and work continues on a temporary access road for residents, to allow full repair of the road

- February 2013 - a 'Community Outreach Centre' was established in response to the flooding at Kempsey
- February 2013 - asbestos contamination clean-up following mini tornados in Kiama, Woodburn and Mulwala.

Environmental Services Functional Area

The Environmental Services Functional Area role in emergency management is to determine measures to prepare for and aid in preventing incidents or emergencies that may impact on public health and the environment, and coordinate the protection of the environment during emergency response and recovery operations. The Environment Protection Authority is the lead agency.

Achievements for 2012-2013

The Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (2005) was reviewed and the revised Plan endorsed by the Environmental Services Functional Area Committee. The Plan was restructured in line with the principles of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, formatted into the current template, and agency names, roles and responsibilities were updated. The Environment Services Functional Area Plan was scheduled for endorsement in the latter half of 2013.

The Environment Protection Agency sponsored the multi agency discussion exercise, 'Exercise Kip 4' held on 5 November 2012. Exercise Kip 4 was designed to consider recovery issues arising from a radiological emergency. The exercise principal aim was to establish what factors and actions the Recovery Committee will need to consider and resolve in order to return the affected site and surrounds to operational normalcy. It was found that the move from response to recovery was blurred depending upon one's concept of rendered safe and whether clean-up involving residual radiological materials was still a response or recovery issue. A summary report has been finalised with recommendations for the Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Subcommittee.

An Asbestos Working Group was established following the asbestos contamination issues in the Coonabarabran fire and the Kiama and Mulwala tornados. This group was formed as an outcome of the multi agency debrief. The Working Group will progress issues related to funding and management of asbestos clean-up during and following emergencies. The Working Group is chaired by the Environment Protection Authority.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

The Environment Protection Authority has developed and implemented an agency Incident Management System. This system is a modified Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System structure. The System incorporates the Environment Protection Authority's broader definition of an incident which includes pollution incidents. These (pollution incidents) do not necessarily require a combat agency response, while maintaining consistency with the State Emergency Management Plan and the Hazardous Materials/ Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Management Plan.

Incident Management System training has been developed and is being rolled out to ensure a better consistency and improve response to incidents. By the end of the reporting period more than 85 per cent of relevant Environment Protection Authority staff had received training.

During the reporting period the Environmental Services Functional Area Committee held biannual meetings on 29 October 2012 and 30 April 2013. The Hazmat Incident Review Group is a Working Group that reports to the Environmental Services Functional Area Committee. The Working Group reviews response to hazardous materials incidents, response and recovery issues and trends, heavy vehicle transport incident trends and dangerous goods transport campaign results. Given the intense campaign schedule and reporting regime, the Hazmat Incident Review Group only met once in 2012-2013 (17 June 2013).

The current membership of the Environmental Services Functional Area Committee includes: Environment Protection Authority, Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area, Health Services Functional Area, Division of Local Government, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area, Engineering Services Functional Area, Fire & Rescue NSW, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller), NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit, Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Rural Fire Service, Sydney Catchments Authority, Transport Services Functional Area, Transport for NSW (Freight & Regional Development), a Ports representative and WorkCover NSW.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Significant operations and activities for the reporting period included:

- On 1-2 October 2012, a factory fire at a facility in Riverstone that manufactured bulk cleaning products. The response to the incident resulted in contaminated firewater being discharged from the site. Approximately 60,000 litres of a mix of firewater and hazardous material waste was pumped out and disposed of overnight. The pump-out was coordinated by the Environmental Protection Authority with the assistance of Environmental Trust Funds. The occupier was served with a notice to continue the clean-up.
- On 14-17 October 2012, an Eraring Energy transformer caught fire at the Hume Dam substation that resulted in large smoke plume and some treated firewater discharge to the Murray River.
- In Coonabarabran in January 2013 more than 50 homes and 110 outbuildings were destroyed in the area from bush fires. Of these, in excess of 30 homes were found to contain significant amounts of friable asbestos. The Environment Protection Authority provided support to the Recovery Coordinator in assessing and planning for the management of the asbestos contamination within the community.

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 and are:

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

NSW Health completed the review and update of the NSW Health Services Supporting Plan (HEALTHPLAN). The plan includes new divisions of Health and now incorporates the Incident Command System model for command and control of Health Services responding to events.

'Exercise CERES' was a multi agency Emergo Train System exercise designed to evaluate NSW Health's ability to respond to the consequences of a major incident involving mass casualties in a rural area, with particular focus on tracking patients, aero medical evacuation, and communication within the health and ambulance system.

The State Health Emergency Management System has been fully commissioned to support the management of major incidents and flow of communication across one platform of health. The system is partitioned to enable each Local Health District coordinate their Local Health District activity while providing a state wide view to the State Health Services Functional Area Coordinator. The system provides the ability to establish an incident management team remotely until all personnel can be brought together.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

During the reporting period, the Health Functional Area:

- developed the new Australian version of the Major Incident Medical Management and Support course and had this mapped to the Public Safety Training package
- developed an eLearning package for Incident Command System to be made available for all Health staff
- held a number of internal exercises, focusing on the health response to anthrax, chemical, biological, radiological, pandemic and mass casualty presentations
- developed a policy directive to identify common standards for all areas of Health in emergency management prevention, preparation, response and recovery
- commenced a joint project with the Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Coordinator to investigate supply disruptions to health services in response to the January heat wave

- members of the Health Emergency Management Unit have participated in a variety of State Emergency Management Committee sub-committees to advise on the health requirements for policy development.

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

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

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

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

NSW Health contributed to health protection of the community through planning for the 20 regular annual events held in NSW. In addition to the regular events held around NSW, this year NSW Health also provided advice and assistance for the International Rowing Regatta and the ITU Triathlon.

Major NSW Health responses

In July 2012, the Health Services Functional Area responded to the National Blood Management System failure at the Australian Red Cross which resulted in the need for manual ordering of blood products to ensure supply across NSW hospitals.

In September 2012 the Health Services Functional Area responded to:

- a Bankstown Building fire where Mental Health teams were activated to support displaced persons
- a poison threat at the Villawood Detention Centre. In this event, NSW Health worked closely with the Commonwealth to monitor and prepare for any potential response
- a severe weather warning for snow conditions in the Blue Mountains. Health and aged care facilities prepared with additional resources to assist with displaced persons
- a Darlington Point High rise evacuation, in particular when it was reported that disabled persons were trapped in the upper levels of a high rise building without power or water, which was referred to the Region Emergency Management Officer.

In November 2012 the State Heatwave plan was activated. Local Health Districts saw minor increases in presentations of Heat related disorders. Close monitoring continued in December.

NSW Health provided liaison officers during the major bushfires in January 2013 when requested and successfully coordinated the evacuation and repatriation of the Baradine Health facility with minimal impact on emergency services.

Health facilities at Tweed Heads and Ballina were directly affected by the storms that also occurred in January 2013. Assistance was required from other functional areas to ensure that disruption to services was minimal.

In April 2013, NSW Health instigated a watching brief to the H7N9 virus in China and made appropriate preparations for the emergence of this virus in the 2013 flu season.

Public Information Functional Area

The Public Information Functional Area is responsible for the coordination of public information during an emergency which is under the control of an emergency operations controller. This includes the development of: media and public information strategies, plans in support of the NSW State Emergency Management Plan, and assistance to other agencies when required.

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

The Public Information Functional Area Coordinator provides strategic public information advice to the State Emergency Management Committee, State Emergency Operations Controller/Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller/Local Emergency Operations Controllers, 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 provides advice regarding the development of public information material for emergency management policies and guidelines.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Images of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System were placed on the NSW Police Force Facebook page for the monthly test of the system which generated much discussion and knowledge about the system.
- In conjunction with the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, the concept for AlertNSW, an all-hazards emergency warning and information system on a single social media platform, was proposed and outlined.
- The First Responders Chemicals of Security Concern Awareness DVD was finalised and distributed. NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Ambulance Service of NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service were all provided with copies.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

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

- Exercise Soteria – a Sydney Airport emergency exercise
- Exercise Baryon – designed to exercise response arrangements for an incident at Australian Nuclear and Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Lucas Heights
- Exercise OTIS – exercise aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the risks and GrainCorp resources for emergency responses to Grain Silo incidents within emergency service agencies, this involved consulting with agencies and developing a media and public information strategy
- Ministry for Police and Emergency Services Community Engagement Working Group and Community Engagement Strategic Workshop
- Australian and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee Public information Sub-Committee, Australian and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee Alert Systems Working Group, G20 Branding and Communications Working Group, National Media and Awareness Emergency Alert Working Group.

Additional Information Required for Functional Areas

During the 2012-2013 reporting period, the Public Information Functional Area Sub-Committee met three times and discussed and progressed a range of issues including: NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service seasonal launches and support to be provided; communications protocols; ongoing updates of the Emergency Alert project; NSW Government Counter Terrorism Public Information Response and Recovery Arrangements; and the provision of support to agencies in relation to posting and retweeting public information during emergencies.

Public Information Functional Area Sub-Committee membership includes NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Health, Department of Premier and Cabinet Security and Recovery Coordination, Community Services, Defence Public Relations, Sydney Airports Corporation Limited, Community Relations Commission, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, State Rail, Sydney Ferries, Industry and Investment, City of Sydney, Transport Management Centre, and Roads and Maritime NSW.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

- Coordinated the media and public information operation amongst the response agencies for Exercise Soteria, a Sydney Airport emergency exercise.
- Coordinated the public information response to the partial building collapse at Westfield Eastgardens.
- In conjunction with the NSW State Emergency Service, coordinated the Public Information and Inquiry Centre response to the North Coast Floods in February - March 2013 including the key messages of: 'if roads are closed - they are closed,' and 'Health and Safety advice for when the clean up begins'.
- With NSW Health and the NSW Rural Fire Service, coordinated the hot weather key message of 'Children, the elderly or pets in cars on hot days – a recipe for disaster'.
- Provided strategic media support and advice to the Kiama Local Emergency Operations Controller following the south coast windstorm at Kiama in February 2013.
- Coordinated the media and public information activities for Exercise Baryon in April 2013 - an exercise that tested the response arrangements for an incident at the Australian Nuclear and Science Technology Organisation, Lucas Heights.
- Developed the Public Information Coordination Office Media and Public Information Strategy for Exercise Inimical II.

Transport Services Functional Area

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

Specific examples of support include:

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

An emergency paid volunteer team was established within the Transport Portfolio staff of Transport for NSW and its operating agencies, as a supplement to Transport's existing emergency management resources. The volunteers are trained in the capacity of Transport Liaison Officer in an Emergency Operations Centre and or as a member of a Transport Incident Management Team.

A Concept of Operations was developed to assist transport operators and traffic management officers during emergencies involving any of the 14 Major Hazard Facilities that are identified as residing in close proximity to medium-to high volume transport routes.

Assisted the NSW State Emergency Service in the review evacuation options associated with the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Sub Plan.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Transport Services Functional Area and a range of combat agency and functional area response capabilities at the tactical level were exercised during a simulated attack on the Sydney train network. Exercise INIMICAL was jointly organised by Transport for NSW and the NSW Police Force to test plans and responses around suspicious behavior, detection and reporting, information sharing, changing security environments and then exercising a range of emergency services and law enforcement responses to a given scenario.

State Emergency Management Committee members were actively involved in this strategic exercise with the learnings readily able to be incorporated into the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery spectrum of activity.

A discussion exercise was conducted in July 2012 with the new ferry operator Harbour City Ferries, NSW Police Force, involving the scenario of a major ferry accident, including the emergency response and coordination arrangements and post incident investigations.

In November 2012, a major field exercise was conducted to test the implementation of traffic contra flow arrangements on the F3 freeway. The exercise involved the Transport Management Centre, Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service. Subsequently a Concept of Operations was developed for the concurrent closure of the F3 Freeway, the Old Pacific Highway and the rail line between Berowra and Woy Woy due to bush fire.

RailCorp maintained its year-round exercise program known as "Exercise Join Forces" 2012-2013 consisting of field exercises, familiarisation sessions and desk top exercises for emergency services in relation to various new rolling stock. Major field exercises included response in rail incidents on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Epping to Chatswood line and the Airport line.

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

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

During the extreme and catastrophic fire weather conditions in January 2013, Transport for NSW implemented state wide contingency plans for the management and coordination of emergency transport logistics and public information. Transport Liaison Officers attended, or were on standby to attend, Emergency Operations Centres across much of NSW. Numerous bus operators in NSW were also placed on standby to assist with evacuations, if required.

Following the bush fires in early 2013, Transport for NSW sourced and delivered 1,850 new hardwood rail sleepers to assist the fence rebuilding activities in several locations across regional NSW including Cooma, Yass and Coonabarabran.

Welfare Services Functional Area

The Welfare Services Functional Area coordinates the provision of welfare services to disaster affected individuals, families and communities to meet the immediate needs of disaster affected people (such as providing food, clothing, shelter and psychological first aid) and relieve personal hardship and distress.

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services is the coordinating agency responsible for the Welfare Services Functional Area. It is supported by the Department of Family and Community Services and four non-government partner agencies - the Australian Red Cross, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Salvation Army and Anglicare, in managing local level provision of welfare services in response to disaster events. The type of activities carried out include:

- managing evacuation centres to provide welfare services to affected people
- providing immediate basic needs and psychological support in evacuation and recovery centres, and through community outreach programs
- undertaking initial psychosocial assessment of communities to inform the recovery process
- administering the Personal Hardship and Distress Scheme grants for essential home contents or structural repairs under eligibility criteria
- operating the Disaster Welfare Assistance 1800 Line
- providing training and policy guidance to Family and Community Services and other agency staff and volunteers
- developing policy in regards to financial assistance for affected individuals.

Achievements for 2012-2013

Arrangements were reviewed between the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and Family and Community Services to support the integration of three separate agencies into one Family and Community Services' structure. The review also considered how service delivery will be undertaken at the local level.

Welfare Services contributed to evacuation centre policy development, through the Australian Emergency Management Institute Community Evacuation Training Curriculum development and the publication of the Evacuation Planning Handbook.

Welfare Services also contributed to evacuation centre policy development in NSW through the State Emergency Management Committee Evacuations Working Group (evacuation management guidelines including major evacuation centres).

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

- A new training program was designed and delivered to NSW Health, Ageing Disability and Home Care, and Family and Communities central office staff to deliver welfare services and ongoing training across government and non-government stakeholders in the Functional Area.
- Development of e-learning packages to provide greater access to disaster welfare training.
- A joint interagency training package to Community Partner volunteers was delivered and evaluated.

- Revised arrangements were agreed to with Anglicare to provide material aid, and the NSW Rural Fire Service to provide bedding, if required in evacuation centres, resulting in the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding with Community Partners.
- Implementation of stored value cards to improve service delivery in evacuation centres through easier availability of cash as required.
- Participation in a range of state and national working groups including the State Disaster Recovery Advisory Group, Recovery Funding Group (NSW), Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Stakeholders Group and the National Disaster Recovery Sub Committee.

The State Welfare Services Functional Area Committee met on three occasions in 2012-2013. The following agencies and organisations are members of the Committee:

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (Chair and Secretariat); Adventist Development and Relief Agency; Ageing, Disability and Home Care; Anglicare; Australian Red Cross – NSW; Department of Human Services; Community Relations Commission; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Housing NSW; NSW Department of Commerce; NSW Department of Education and Training; NSW Department of Primary Industries; NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet; NSW Health; Rural Fire Service; State Emergency Service; The Salvation Army; Uniting Church Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

- Twenty-four discrete events required a disaster welfare response which included bushfires, storms, flooding and tornadoes.
- Evacuation centres were established in 23 sites with 1,567 people registered. An Assistance and Information Point was established in Mulwala in March with 130 people registered. Teams of Alumni worked in affected areas until late March 2013.
- Emergency accommodation was provided to 207 people with 72% of these arising from floods/storms. Immediate financial assistance was provided to 49 households, demonstrating that most disaster welfare assistance is provided "in kind". Disaster Relief Grants for household contents or structural repairs were approved for 242 applicants. An additional nine structural grants are forecast to be paid in 2013-2014.
- Across the major natural disaster events, 118 community partner volunteers were deployed. Teams of Disaster Recovery Chaplains were deployed in the recovery phases of four events, and a child friendly space was established by Save the Children at Coonabarabran Recovery Centre.
- In consultation with the Recovery Committee and local human services agencies, the Disaster Welfare Branch established the Warrumbungle Bushfire Support Coordination Service in Coonabarabran in early February, in conjunction with NSW Health, Barnardos and Warrumbungle Shire Council. The service was supported through 'Category A' of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements which is for personal and financial counselling. One full-time coordinator was employed by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and two sessional support workers were sub-contracted through Barnardos. As at the end of June 2013, 75 households had been assisted by the service with the provision of crisis and grief counselling, assistance from various grants and funds, information, advocacy, problem solving and referral.

NSW Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear/Hazardous Materials Steering Committee

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

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Arrangements for the management of asbestos continued to be reviewed. This is a joint Environmental Protection Authority and Ministry for Police and Emergency Services committee designed to develop a sub plan for the effective management of asbestos post event. The work is ongoing.
- The Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan was reviewed to provide a greater alignment with the NSW State Emergency Management Plan and the Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Sub Plan. It has been recommended to rescind the Lucas Heights Sub Plan and refer to Hazardous Materials/ Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Sub Plan to manage events at or around the Australian Nuclear and Science Technology Organisation.
- Review of the medical stockpiles of iodine and nerve agent antidotes. Recommendations were determined to maintain the capability, and NSW Health and NSW Police Force will manage storage and distribution.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

- The Chemicals of Security Concern Project awareness campaign was launched. All agencies on the committee supported the campaign and were encouraged to circulate the promotional material to all staff within their agencies.
- The National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear response arrangements were reviewed as the Australian and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee have developed new Terms of Reference and response arrangements for a Chemical, Radiological, Biological and Nuclear response. All states provided input to the proposed changes which arrangements are due to be discussed at the next meeting of Australian and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee following the 2012-2013 reporting period.
- Ministry for Police and Emergency Services are reviewing the arrangements for emergency management training across all agencies to provide for greater interagency collaboration and integration. This review is ongoing.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

The response to clandestine laboratories continues to dominate the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear operations. NSW Police Force and Fire & Rescue NSW are providing the initial response capability with support from NSW Health via NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service.

Exercise Baryon 2013 was a series of six exercises that included one deployment, two functional and three discussion exercises. The series was conducted under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee and tested the state's capacity to manage a terrorist event at the Australian Science and Nuclear Technology Organisation facility.

NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee

The NSW Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee is responsible for the on-going development and operational readiness of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue capability. During the reporting period this Committee met as the NSW Urban Search and Rescue International External Classification Project Team to ensure appropriate arrangements were established to undertake the United Nations classification process for the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Task Force.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Development of the NSW Urban Search and Rescue Canine Search Capability managed by the NSW State Emergency Service.
- Successful certification by the United Nations as a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce.
- Continued development for the urban search and rescue self sustainability component to support the deployment of an Australian Medical Assistance Team from NSW.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

- Ongoing equipment enhancement to support two Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Task Force deployments as well as a NSW Australian Medical Assistance Team.
- Successful training of Fire & Rescue NSW Senior Officers to undertake management roles during deployment.
- Activation and mobilisation exercises involving all participating emergency service organisations, namely Fire & Rescue NSW, Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Public Works, Emergency Management Australia and AusAID.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

- Ongoing skills maintenance for Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce members.
- Commencement of construction of a dedicated Urban Search and Rescue prop at the Fire & Rescue NSW Disaster Response Centre at Ingleburn, due to be completed in October 2013.
- Continued involvement in the Australasian Fire Authorities Council Urban Search and Rescue Working Group and Commonwealth Deployment Working Group to ensure appropriate arrangements exist to facilitate urban search and rescue arrangements at the national level.

Climate Change Working Group

The purpose of the Climate Change Working Group is to act as the central point of contact for the NSW emergency management sector on climate change issues. The Group is also responsible for advising the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the NSW Government on the impacts of climate change on the emergency management system through the State Emergency Management Committee.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Building on the Heatwave Sub Plan, the Climate Change Working Group members (Office of Environment and Heritage - NSW Health) jointly commissioned research to better understand local government capacity to consider heatwave events in their emergency planning procedures.
- Climate Change Working Group members provided input and guidance to climate change research projects, so as to enhance emergency management planning and mitigation of climate change related risks.

Preparedness and Prevention Activities for 2012-2013

Climate Change Working Group members provided input into the Towards a Resilient Sydney project, which will ensure broad representation and participation of local, regional and state emergency management professionals in the Sydney Metropolitan Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment. This project will enable the development of regional responses to improve resilience to climate change impacts.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2012-2013

Climate Change Working Group members were active in providing input to research projects to determine the impacts of climate change in NSW with emergency management implications. NSW climate impact research that was presented or discussed with the working group included:

- the progress of new climate projections for NSW, through the NSW and ACT Climate Model project, including the development of products and access for emergency management end users
- modelling of changes in future fire weather in Sydney as a result of climate change by Office of Environment and Heritage with NSW Rural Fire Service using the Forest Fire Danger Index, which has projected increases in spring, especially in western Sydney
- NSW Rural Fire Service research which resulted in statewide fuel mapping and better understanding of how climate affects fuel loads, funded through the NSW Environmental Trust
- NSW Rural Fire Service research with University of Wollongong into fire behaviour modelling, which will enable strategic planning on a 50 year horizon
- developed a methodology and supporting tools to understand projected changes to extreme precipitation and catchment conditions, by Dr Garry Willgoose from the University of Newcastle, with Office of Environment and Heritage
- planning the next iteration of impacts of climate change on natural hazard profiles for NSW regions, with Climate Change Working Group members using new NSW and ACT Climate Model data.

The Climate Change Working Group fulfilled its education objectives by ensuring that current and future climate change research is shared between State Emergency Management Committee agencies. This was achieved by facilitating presentations on research conducted under the National Adaptation Research Plan for Emergency

Management through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. Specific National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility projects presented to the group included:

- Climate Change and the Community Welfare Sector - Risks and Adaptation: Dr Karl Mallon
- Heat-Ready: Heatwave awareness, preparedness and adaptive capacity in aged care facilities: University of Sydney
- Extreme Heat and Climate Change: adaptation in culturally and linguistically diverse communities: University of Adelaide.

State Emergency Management Training Advisory Group

The State Emergency Management Training Advisory Group comprises key representatives from a range of emergency management organisations and functional areas in NSW. The group provides advice and strategic guidance to the NSW State Emergency Management Committee and its member agencies to ensure that multi agency emergency management training and exercises developed, delivered and evaluated by all agencies aligns with NSW emergency management arrangements and reflects the principles of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Achievements for 2012-2013

Over the 2012-2013 reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:

- a strategic review, funded by the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, was undertaken of the multi agency emergency management training courses including fit for purpose course content, examining modes of delivery and assessment. The updated courses are being rolled out during 2013-2014
- the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services delivered 100 multi agency training programs to over 1,650 participants
- an eLearning strategy to deliver introductory emergency management training was developed. The eLearning programs are designed to have a greater reach for participants to engage in training as they will be short web-based module accessible at any time from any computer terminal. These modules will provide the essential information students need before attending face-to-face training, freeing up the classroom time for interactive scenario based activities. The first on-line product, Emergency Management Overview, was near completion with a further range of products covering Welfare Services, Emergency Risk Management, Recovery and Community Engagement under development.
- A state wide Emergency Management Training Needs Analysis. The recommendations are currently being reviewed and an implementation plan is being developed for 2013-2014.

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	1	3
Mr Les Tree AM	SERCON	3	2	1
Ms Mary-Louise Battilana		1	1	
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM, Fire & Rescue NSW	Deputy Chair	4	3	1
Mr Mike Willis ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		3	2	1
Commissioner Ray Creen ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW		1	1	
Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke APM, NSW Police Force		4	3	1
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service		4	3	1
Commissioner Murray Kear AFSM, NSW State Emergency Service		4	4	
Commissioner Russell Ashdown, Volunteer Rescue Association		1		
Commissioner Mark Gibson		3	3	
Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM, Marine Rescue NSW		4	4	
Mr Barry Kay, Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Mr Peter Marks, Telecommunications Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Ralph Grimes, Energy and Utility Services Functional Area		4	4	
Mr Robert Siebert, Engineering Services Functional Area (to March 2013)		3	3	
Mr Roger Davison		1	1	
Mr Craig Lamberton, Environmental Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Dr Ron Manning, Health Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Senior Sergeant Kevin Daley, Public Information Functional Area		4	3	
Mr Les Wielinga, Transport Services Functional Area		4		4
Dr Allison Rowlands, Welfare Services Functional Area		4	3	1
Ms Corin Moffatt, Division of Local Government		4	2	1
Mr Shayne Wilde, (Maritime Combat Agencies), Transport for NSW		4	4	
Ms Megan Kirchner, Department of Premier and Cabinet		4	3	1
Mr Brian Cheney, NSW Treasury		1		1
Mr Enrico Sondalini		3	1	2
Ms Natalie Marsic, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services		4	4	

ANNEXURE 2 –NSW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REGIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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