



Australian Government

**Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet**

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

VERSION 3.2 November 2022

Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

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Revision History of the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF)

Version	Release date	Change history	Authorisation
1.0	17 December 2012	Replaces AGCMF (Version 5.0) and Australian Government Crisis Management Arrangements: A Guide for Ministers (Version 1.1)	PM&C
1.1	10 December 2013	Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.0) and reflects the Abbot Ministry and Administrative Arrangements Order of 18 September 2013.	PM&C
1.2	12 August 2015	Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.1) and reflects the appointment of the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter- Terrorism and the Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.	PM&C
1.3	12 January 2016	Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.2) and reflects the role of the Minister for Counter-Terrorism.	PM&C
2.0	October 2016	Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.3).	Prime Minister
2.1	May 2017	Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.0) and reflects updated administrative arrangements.	PM&C

Version	Release date	Change history	Authorisation
2.2	December 2017	Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.1) and reflects updated administrative arrangements following establishment of the Home Affairs portfolio.	PM&C
2.3	October 2020	Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.2) and reflects updated administrative arrangements following the establishment of new ministerial portfolios focused on natural disasters and emergency management and revised Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements. This version also reflects the retirement of the Council of Australian Governments arrangements and associated structures.	PM&C
3.0	July 2021	Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.3) and reflects the Government's response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.	Prime Minister
3.1	December 2021	Administrative updates to describe the Australian Government National Joint Common Operating Picture, Australian Public Service Surge Reserve and provide updated detail on the handover arrangements from Emergency Management Australia to National Recovery and Resilience Agency.	PM&C
3.2	November 2022	Replaces AGCMF (Version 3.1) and reflects updated administrative arrangements including the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency.	PM&C

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1. Australian Government Crisis Management and Recovery Objectives

The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF) outlines the Australian Government's approach to preparing for, responding to and recovering from crises.

The Australian Government seeks to manage risks holistically using an 'all-hazards' approach that includes mitigating, planning, and assisting states and territories, where appropriate, in managing emergencies resulting from a combination of:

- **natural events** – including but not limited to bushfires, cyclonic or severe storms, floods, earthquakes, space weather, asteroid or extra-terrestrial body impacting on the earth, pandemics and other biosecurity incidents, tsunamis and globally and regionally significant volcanic eruptions.
- **human-induced events** – including but not limited to cyberattacks, space junk, malicious critical infrastructure sabotage or kinetic terrorism or bio-terrorism, and non-naturally occurring radiological or other wide area environment contamination events. This does not include events such as human protests or industrial workforce activities.

The AGCMF provides ministers and senior officials with guidance on their respective roles and responsibilities. It also sets out the arrangements that link ministerial responsibility to the work of key officials, committees and facilities.

The overarching objectives of crisis management are to: protect human life and critical infrastructure; support the continuity of every day activity; and, as far as possible, protect property and the natural environment. These objectives are pursued through a flexible whole-of-government approach, underpinned by the National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum (*see Section 4*).

Crisis management is complex and challenging. Crises are inherently difficult to predict and are typically associated with high levels of uncertainty about either their cause or the scope and severity of their impacts. There is no standard response.

Australian Government agencies maintain plans and arrangements for the management of crises for which they are the lead, as set out in Section 6 (table 6.1) of the AGCMF. However, lead agencies may choose to escalate issues to AGCMF coordination mechanisms (Section 8) where enhanced strategic coordination is

required, or in response to potentially significant crisis consequences, the triggers for which are outlined in Section 3. Agencies may also choose to escalate issues where there is a novel event or crisis where a specific Government plan does not exist.

Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Programs

The main focus of the AGCMF is near-term crisis preparedness, immediate crisis response and crisis recovery arrangements. Longer term disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities are dealt with in other documents and therefore are not covered in detail in this crisis framework. The **National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** is responsible for these programs.

2. Commonwealth, State and Territory Responsibilities

States and territories are the first responders to any incident that occurs within their jurisdiction and have primary responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment within the bounds of their jurisdiction. However, the Australian Government recognises the expectations of the Australian public that it will take a leadership role in nationally significant emergencies.

The Australian Government does not seek to replicate the capabilities of states and territories. However, the Australian Government possesses operational and strategic capabilities that can ensure decisive action is taken during a nationally significant crisis. The Australian Government seeks to harness national resources and ensure that they are applied in appropriate, proportionate and equitable ways to secure the safety of all Australians.

The Australian Government:

- provides support to states and/or territories when coordinated assistance is requested
- protects Commonwealth interests
- undertakes threat and security risk assessments and provides national security capabilities to prepare for and respond to events determined to be of national significance
- supports a state or territory where, in the judgement of the Australian Government and following consultation with relevant jurisdictions where practicable, the nature of a crisis has or is expected to exceed the sovereign capacities of that state or territory to manage
- jointly manages a crisis with states and/or territories if a crisis has the potential to affect, or has affected, multiple jurisdictions, the broader community or an Australian Government area of responsibility (for example a pandemic, a large scale or complex terrorist event or a cyber-incident)
- manages a crisis that is not the responsibility of a state and/or territory (for example a crisis that occurs outside Australia but impacts Australians or Australia's national interest)
- works with states, territories, industry and the public to build national resilience against future hazards, particularly those with national consequences

- provides financial assistance to eligible Australian residents who are adversely affected by a crisis.

The AGCMF sets out the lead minister or ministers for the Australian Government's response to and recovery from crises of national significance (*see Section 5*).

There are a range of forms of assistance that may be provided by the Australian Government which encompass financial and non-financial assistance (*see Section 12*).

3. Risk-based All-hazards Approach and Triggers for a Whole-of-Government Response

The AGCMF adopts an 'all-hazards' approach to managing crisis risk, ensuring that the full spectrum of hazards that may affect life, property or the natural environment are considered (*see also Section 1*).

National Crisis Planning and Coordination

The AGCMF is implemented through a series of national level crisis plans that detail the preparation, response and recovery phases of the *National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum* (*see Section 4*). The plans consider natural, human-made and multi-faceted hazards and are maintained by the relevant Australian Government agencies. Plans are required to reflect the roles and responsibilities set out in the AGCMF.

The Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP)¹ process maintained by **NEMA** can be used for national crisis planning. CASP is a repeatable strategic planning tool used to make sense of complex issues related to crises. It employs a structured, systematic methodology to analyse complex scenarios. CASP is a set of tools that allow for timely integration of information from multiple sources and the exploration of how government, not-for-profit and private sector efforts can integrate to provide a unified response.

National-level planning and exercising for **Commonwealth Ministers** and officials is supported by these sectoral-specific plans.

NEMA will develop and deliver an annual national exercise program and report on observations and insights to inform future preparedness, policy and capability requirements. This exercise program will be scalable and adaptive to avoid imposing unreasonable demands on Australian Government agencies, state or territory resources during the high risk weather season.

NEMA will maintain a register that consolidates and creates a single picture of Australian Government national all-hazard crisis exercise activity.

The **Department of Home Affairs** through the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) manages the Counter-Terrorism National Tiered Exercise Program in partnership with states and territories. This program validates and strengthens Australia's national counter-terrorism capabilities to support counter-terrorism prevention, preparedness and response.

The **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)** manages a program to prepare for and respond to international incidents or crises that may affect Australians and/or Australian interests overseas, including all-hazard contingency plans. This includes support from **Defence, NEMA**, and other agencies on a case-by-case basis. **DFAT** prepares and maintains all-hazard contingency plans.

Activating a whole-of-government response

Triggers to activate the Australian Government's whole-of-government coordination arrangements outlined in this framework may include:

- the scale of the crisis and its potential or actual impact on Australia, Australians or Australia's national interests
- formal ministerial consideration of the event
- a crisis affecting multiple jurisdictions or industry sectors
- a request from an affected nation, state and/or territory for Australian Government capabilities or assistance
- a crisis with both domestic and international components
- a crisis resulting in a large number of Australian casualties
- community expectations of national leadership
- multiple crises occurring simultaneously which require coordination, resource prioritisation and de-confliction.

¹ See <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/casp-guidebook.pdf>

4. National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum

The Australian Government's disaster management continuum comprises seven phases of crisis management and recovery. Some crisis events may not include all seven phases. It is also possible for phases to overlap, be considered simultaneously or to have multiple lines of effort within a single phase. The phases are:

- **prevention** – measures to eliminate or reduce the severity of a hazard or crisis
- **preparedness** – arrangements to ensure that, should a crisis occur, the required resources, capabilities and services can be efficiently mobilised and deployed
- **response** – actions taken in anticipation of, during, or immediately after a crisis to ensure that its impacts are minimised, and that those affected are supported as quickly as possible
- **relief** – meeting the essential needs of food, water, shelter, energy, communications and medicines for people affected by a crisis event
- **recovery** – short and medium-term measures to restore or improve the livelihoods, health, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better'² to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.
- **reconstruction** – implementing longer-term strategies post-incident to 'build back better' from a crisis, including identifying sustainable development approaches and mitigation measures that may be applicable beyond the directly affected community
- **risk reduction** – reducing future risk and identifying measures that may be taken to reduce the impact of future crises.

² 'Build back better' is a catch all phrase to describe reconstruction, restoration and future planning efforts that adopt the latest scientific and professional advice and which incorporate key lessons learned from the crisis in question and/or other similar crises.

5. Ministerial Responsibilities

The nature of the hazard or hazards will determine the lead Minister for the Australian Government's near-term crisis preparation, immediate crisis response and early recovery.

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for two or more ministers to co-lead the Australian Government's preparation for, response to and recovery from a crisis.

As an incident evolves and details around the incident become clearer, responsibility for leading the Australian Government's preparation for, response to and recovery from a crisis may transfer to a different minister, as appropriate.

Where there is no clear ministerial lead on a domestic crisis, the **Minister responsible for Home Affairs** is the default lead minister, supported by the **Minister responsible for Emergency Management**.

Depending on the nature and scale of the crisis, the **Prime Minister** may decide to lead some or all elements of the Australian Government's preparation for, response to and recovery from a crisis. When this occurs, the **Prime Minister** will advise ministers which elements the **Prime Minister** will lead on and which elements the relevant portfolio minister will continue to lead.

For example, the **Prime Minister** may choose to act as the Australian Government spokesperson in the event of a crisis of national significance, while the relevant **Minister** otherwise remains responsible for all other elements of preparation, response and recovery.

Ministers should familiarise themselves with their roles and responsibilities under these arrangements and understand their legislative powers.

Ministerial Offices should ensure appropriate staffing and contingency arrangements are in place, particularly during periods when crisis arrangements are likely to be activated (e.g. during the Australian high risk weather season).

Ministerial Offices should be familiar with their minister's role, responsibilities and decision-making powers under the arrangements. This includes ensuring that ministers with executive powers who are likely to be called upon during crises are readily contactable.

The lead minister should:

- oversee the delivery of the Australian Government response in conjunction with state and territory counterparts, where applicable
- exercise executive responsibilities in consultation with ministers who have relevant portfolio interests
- represent the Australian Government as the key spokesperson (or appoint a delegate, as required).

Supporting or co-lead ministers:

- oversee the delivery of the Australian Government response
- exercise their executive responsibilities in consultation with ministers who have relevant portfolio interests
- support the agreed whole-of-government communications strategy.

As part of the strategy, co-lead ministers should agree on whether the lead ministers will represent the Australian Government as the key spokespersons within their respective portfolio area, or whether one key spokesperson will be appointed to represent the Australian Government.

All ministers, including those in non-lead portfolios, should:

- remain available to the **Prime Minister**, as required
- receive briefings and regular updates from their department(s) about any impacts or actions, including any legislative responsibilities
- record ministerial decision(s) and actions relevant to the incident
- provide support to other ministers and/or **Cabinet**, as required
- support the whole-of-government communications strategy, headed by the responsible lead minister or co-lead ministers, using:
 - approved holding or media statements and talking points
 - agreed coordination and clearance processes to release information or comment.

Prime Minister

In the event the **Prime Minister** decides to lead the Australian Government response to (and/or recovery from) a crisis, the Prime Minister:

- will oversee the delivery of the Australian Government response
- will determine which ministers should support that response, and how
- may represent the Australian Government as the key spokesperson
- may consult with leaders of the affected states and/or territories
- may engage with foreign leaders, as appropriate.

The **Prime Minister** may convene the **Cabinet** or relevant **committees of Cabinet** at short notice to ensure coordinated, timely government action. Cabinet meetings may be convened as frequently as required.

The **Prime Minister** may convene the **National Cabinet** at short notice to ensure coordinated, timely action across Australian governments where cooperation across all states and territories is required.

The **National Cabinet** is an intergovernmental forum which brings together and coordinates the sovereign decisions of the Australian and state and territory governments. It is chaired by the **Prime Minister** and attended by the **First Minister** of each of the states and territories.

*Figure 5.1 (see below) provides a summary of the lead minister for single hazard crises. An Australian Government response may commence at any phase during the *National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum*.*

Under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020* (the NED Act), the **Governor-General** may, on the advice of the **Prime Minister**, declare a national emergency in relation to emergencies of national significance. The National Emergency Declaration (NED) framework is intended to capture the most significant and grave events, that is, emergencies that cause, or are likely to cause, nationally significant harm. The NED Act takes an all-hazards approach and the **Prime Minister** retains responsibility for advising the **Governor-General** in relation to all crisis types.

Where a NED is contemplated or is in force, **Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response (Deputy CG EMR), NEMA**, the Department of Home Affairs (Legal Group) and/or other senior officials responsible for managing the relevant hazard/s will work with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to make recommendations to the **Prime Minister** on the making, extension, variation or revocation of a NED pursuant to the legal and consultation thresholds of the NED Act (see also Section 11). The process for making a NED, including legal and consultation thresholds, is outlined in the National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire.³

³ The National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire is a document which outlines the procedures for administering the legislation. A copy is held by the Prime Minister's Office, the Attorney-General's Office and the offices of ministers responsible for Home Affairs, Emergency Management and Defence and appropriate senior officials.

Lead Minister (see notes below)	Possible hazards	Annex
Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs	International crises	Annex C.1
Minister responsible for Home Affairs	Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents) or other domestic crises with no clear ministerial lead	Annex C.2
Minister responsible for Home Affairs	Domestic terrorist incidents or maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain	Annex C.3 and Annex C.4
Minister responsible for Emergency Management	Domestic natural disasters	Annex C.5
Minister responsible for Agriculture	Domestic plant and animal biosecurity crises	Annex C.6
Minister responsible for Health	Domestic public health or human biosecurity crises	Annex C.7
Minister responsible for Energy	Domestic energy supply crises	Annex C.8
Minister responsible for Resources	Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters	Annex C.9

<p style="text-align: center;">Minister responsible for Transport</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Transport incidents (maritime, aviation, road and rail) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Annex C.10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Minister responsible for Emergency Management</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Space events</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Annex C.11</p>

Figure 5.1: Ministerial Responsibilities

Note: the Minister responsible for Cyber Security will be a key supporting minister for cyber security incident management.

Note: the Minister responsible for Defence will be a key supporting minister if Australian Defence Force assistance or cyber security incident management is required with any hazard-specific plan.

Note: the Minister responsible for Communications will play a key supporting role if there is an online crisis event that involves terrorist or extreme violent material being disseminated online in a manner likely to cause significant harm in accordance with relevant legislation.

Note: the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs will lead on international incidents that occur outside the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone or the Australian Search and Rescue Region.

6. Role of Australian Government Agencies

Each agency is responsible for supporting its minister, as usual. The lead minister's agency (which will depend on the hazard) is responsible for:

- providing advice and support to lead ministers
- maintaining mature business continuity plans to support their minister in circumstances where the agency itself is experiencing the effects of an unfolding crisis
- preparing plans to manage all-hazards
- exercising national plans; principally through the national crisis exercise program administered by **NEMA**
- leading the Australian Government response in cases that have not triggered a whole-of-government crisis response arrangement
- providing subject matter expertise, and implementing key elements of the response (for example: coordinating briefings; situational reports; and public messaging and engagement with the **National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)**,⁴ if activated)
- ensuring that ministerial directions and decisions are implemented effectively
- coordinating whole-of-government response actions and overseeing the strategic response to a crisis
- exercising relevant powers and decision-making responsibilities provided in legislation and crisis plans
- working with jurisdictional partners to inform Australian Government situational awareness
- contributing to situational awareness, predictive analysis and decision support through effective information sharing with the **Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR)** within **NEMA**, and through the provision of data into the **National Joint Common Operating Picture (COP)** maintained in the NSR⁵
- supporting consistent, timely, accurate and effective crisis communications, including to maintain public safety and confidence
- working with **NEMA** to capture observations in the management of crises as part of the Australian Government's commitment to continuous improvement.

Senior officials across the Australian Government play a critical role in effective and efficient crisis coordination. The following senior officials manage whole-of-government crisis coordination functions:

- The relevant **Deputy Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Deputy Secretary PM&C)** is responsible for setting, and oversight of, whole-of-government crisis management policy, in accordance with the AGCMF.
- **Deputy CG EMR** or delegate chairs the **Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)** and the **NCM** related to crisis management and takes necessary steps to ensure whole-of-government decision-making is timely, accurate and coordinated. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** may elect to chair or co-chair these committees.
- The **Deputy Coordinator-General Disaster Resilience and Recovery (Deputy CG RR), NEMA** or delegate manages the Australian Government's crisis recovery activities once the **Deputy CG EMR** has formally handed over the incident(s) to the recovery phase. **Deputy CG RR**, or their appointed delegate, may chair the **NCM** related to crisis recovery.
- The relevant **Deputy Secretary DFAT**, or delegate, convenes the **Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF)** and manages the Australian Government's response to and/or recovery from an international crisis, including humanitarian and consular assistance. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** may co-chair this committee. The **Deputy Secretary DFAT** is also responsible for advising **Deputy CG EMR** of any offers of international assistance in response to a domestic Australian crisis and to act upon the advice of **Deputy CG EMR** in accepting or declining such requests. This does not apply to counter-terrorism or cyber security incident derived crises.

⁴ Refer to *Section 8, Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response*, for a detailed outline of the National Coordination Mechanism and Annex A.

⁵ Refer to *Section 8, Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response*, for a detailed description of the COP.

The following senior officials have specific whole-of-government crisis responsibilities:

- The **Deputy CG EMR** oversees operational preparedness, response, the transition to recovery and national planning. The **Deputy CG EMR** also oversees the **NSR**.
- The **Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (Department of Home Affairs)** provides strategic direction and/or ensures whole-of-government decision making is timely, accurate and coordinated in the event of a domestic terrorism-related crisis.
- The **Head of the Australian Signal's Directorate Australian Cyber Security Centre (HACSC)** provides timely and accurate advice to inform ministers and other senior decision makers on the cyber security aspects of an incident, including technical response options.

Table 6.1 provides a summary of the lead departments for single hazard crises.

Lead Agency (see notes below)	Possible hazards	Annex
Department responsible for Foreign Affairs	International crises	Annex C.1
Department responsible for Home Affairs	Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents) or any other domestic crises with no clear ministerial lead	Annex C.2
Department responsible for Counter-Terrorism Coordination	Domestic terrorist incidents or maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain	Annex C.3 and Annex C.4
Department responsible for Emergency Management	Domestic natural disasters	Annex C.5
Department responsible for Agriculture	Domestic plant and animal biosecurity crises	Annex C.6
Department responsible for Health	Domestic public health and human biosecurity crises	Annex C.7
Department responsible for Energy	Domestic energy supply crises	Annex C.8

Department responsible for Resources	Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters	Annex C.9
Department responsible for Transport	Transport incidents (maritime, aviation, road and rail) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region	Annex C.10
Department responsible for Emergency Management	Space events	Annex C.11

Table 6.1: Departmental Responsibilities

Note: The Cyber Security Coordinator in the Department of Home Affairs will play a central role in ensuring a united and coherent Government response to an incident affecting Government networks.

Note: the Defence Portfolio will play a key supporting role if Australian Defence Force assistance or cyber security incident management is required with any hazard-specific plan.

Note: the Department responsible for Communications will play a key supporting role if there is an online crisis event that involves terrorist or extreme violent material being disseminated online in a manner likely to cause significant harm in accordance with relevant legislation.

Note: the Department of Foreign Affairs will lead on international incidents that occur outside the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone or the Australian Search and Rescue Region.

7. Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Prevention and Preparedness

***Prevention** – measures to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of a crisis.*

***Preparedness** – arrangements to ensure that, should a crisis occur, the required resources, capabilities and services can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.*

As outlined in *Section 2*, state and territory governments have responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment in their jurisdictions and are responsible for prevention and preparedness activities to mitigate risk and the impact of crises.

The Australian Government:

- provides financial assistance and planning support to states and territories to assist prevention and preparedness activities, including crisis management exercises
- provides national leadership and coordination on policy and capability through Australian Government supported/sponsored capabilities
- facilitates annual high risk weather season preparedness briefings
- facilitates national scenario-based preparedness exercises.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring that national crisis planning remains consistent across hazards and agencies, and in line with the AGCMF.

The Australian Government coordinates security planning and delivers security capabilities for major events, declared by the **Prime Minister** to be Special Events. A Special Event is defined as a planned event of such a nature that the national interest is served by the Australian Government's involvement in a whole-of-government coordination of capabilities, led by the **Attorney-General's Department**.

Australian Government agencies also develop national plans (see *Table 7.1*) and maintain (through **NEMA**) an all-hazard national crisis exercising program. Both planning and exercising assist in preparing for crises within Australia and overseas. The Australian Government (through **DFAT** and **Defence**) manages a program to prepare for incidents that affect Australians and/or Australian interests overseas. For example, an aircraft accident overseas that affects Australian citizens or residents; an overseas terrorist event such as the Bali bombings; and matters affecting Australian citizens overseas during a global pandemic. It does not include incidents such as environmental catastrophes that do not affect Australians or Australian interests.

Structured planning processes and methodologies such as the **CASP**⁶ process managed by **NEMA** or the Joint Military Appreciation Process used by the **Australian Defence Force** should be used to develop and maintain the Commonwealth's plan for responding to the hazard and ensuring preparedness (see also *Section 3*).

Australian Government agencies regularly conduct national crisis exercises⁷ and report on observations and insights to inform future preparedness, policy and capability requirements.

⁶ See <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/casp-guidebook.pdf>

⁷ Exercise AIDR definition - An exercise is a controlled, objective-driven activity used for testing, practising or evaluating processes or capabilities

Plan	Key decisions
<p>The Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) is the mechanism that enables states and territories to request non-financial assistance from the Australian Government (e.g. specific capabilities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy CG EMR activates and deactivates COMDISPLAN. • The Minister responsible for Emergency Management approves requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN. • The NSR coordinates requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN.
<p>The Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN) enables the Australian Government to provide emergency physical assistance to overseas countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs approves requests for activation under AUSASSISTPLAN. • Deputy CG EMR activates and deactivates AUSASSISTPLAN, at the request of DFAT. • DFAT leads and coordinates requests for assistance under AUSASSISTPLAN in close consultation with the NSR within NEMA.
<p>The Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign National Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN) outlines the arrangements for the reception into Australia of Australian citizens and permanent residents, and their immediate dependents, and approved foreign nationals evacuated from overseas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy CG EMR activates and deactivates AUSRECEPLAN at the request of DFAT. • DFAT is responsible for coordinating the offshore evacuation, with support provided by the NSR within NEMA, for coordinating reception arrangements in Australia. • The NSR assists lead agencies to coordinate and integrate activities with states and territories under AUSRECEPLAN.
<p>The Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents (OSMASSCASPLAN) provides an agreed framework for agencies in all Australian jurisdictions to assess, repatriate and provide care for Australians and other approved persons injured or killed overseas in mass casualty crises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs approves requests for activation under OSMASSCASPLAN. • Deputy CG EMR activates and deactivates OSMASSCASPLAN, at the request of DFAT. • The NSR assists lead agencies to coordinate and integrate activities under OSMASSCASPLAN.

Table 7.1: National Level Plans

8. Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response

Response – actions taken in anticipation of, during, or immediately after a crisis to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that those affected are given relief and support as quickly as possible.

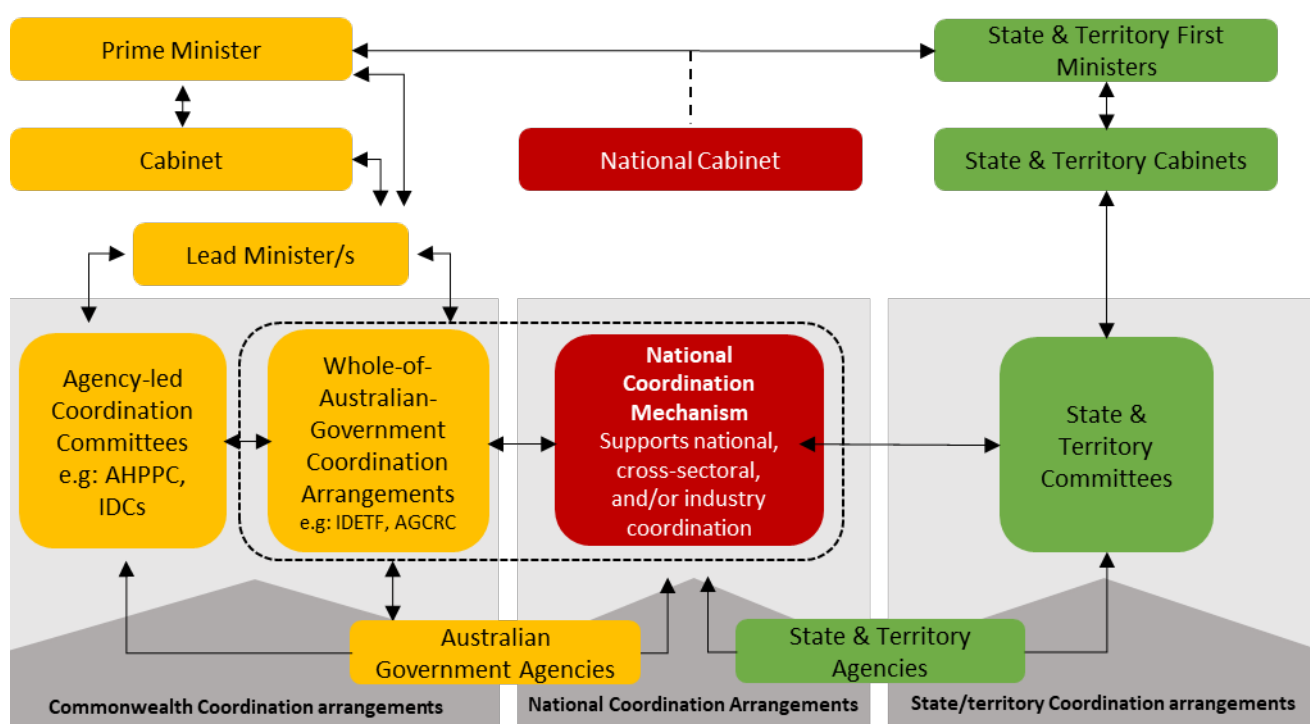


Figure 8.1: Coordination Mechanisms

Figure 8.1 shows the relationship between state and territory coordination arrangements, agency-led coordination arrangements and whole-of-government coordination arrangements.

States and territories are the first responders to any incident that occurs within their jurisdiction.

The Australian Government:

- provides support to states and/or territories when coordinated assistance is requested or to protect Commonwealth interests
- jointly manages a crisis with states and/or territories if a crisis has the potential to affect, or has affected, multiple jurisdictions, the broader community or an Australian Government area of responsibility (for example a pandemic, large scale or complex terrorist event or cyber incident) and
- manages crises that are not the responsibility of a state and/or territory.

Tools for Crisis Response

The Australian Government has two primary 'all-hazard' 24/7 facilities that monitor and inform the Australian Government of emerging hazards and provide whole-of-government situational awareness:

- the **NSR**⁸ in NEMA provides 24/7 all-hazard situational awareness, impact analysis and decision support to Government. The **NSR** maintains the COP and may form a Crisis Coordination Team to manage a crisis response.
 - States and territories may be invited to deploy a liaison officer into the **NSR** in Canberra to facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication between the Australian Government and affected jurisdictions.
- the **Global Watch Office (GWO)** in **DFAT** is focused on international matters and provides situational awareness and whole-of-government messaging for events, incidents and crises that may have consequences for Australians or Australian interests overseas.

If the scale and seriousness of an incident requires a whole-of-government response:

- for domestic crises, NEMA provides near-real-time situational awareness through the COP and coordinates the Australian Government's response and recovery efforts.
- for international crises, **DFAT** provides initial response actions through the **GWO**. **DFAT** will keep the **NSR** informed to enable the COP to be updated, particularly if there are domestic consequences to an international crisis. **DFAT** may activate the department's **Crisis Centre (CC)** for more significant crises, or allocate personnel to the **NSR** for larger scale responses or mobilisation.

⁸ The National Situation Room was formerly known as the Crisis Coordination Centre.

The Australian Government's response to crises is supported through a number of data agencies and sources, including but not limited to:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Australian Climate Service (ACS)
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
- Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)
- Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Office (CSIRO)
- Cyber and Infrastructure Security Centre (CISC)
- Defence
- Geoscience Australia (GA)
- Services Australia
- States and territories.

Liaison officers from these agencies may be deployed to the **NSR** or **DFAT CC** to facilitate whole-of-government situational awareness and COP management. **Deputy CG EMR** will ensure that appropriate representatives from Australian Government agencies have access to the COP to support decision making.

Senior officials will brief their ministers on the situation and provide advice on a whole-of-government communications strategy, key decisions and policy options as needed (generally informed by whole-of-government crisis and recovery committee discussions).

The COP improves decision support at the national level by:

- Providing near-real-time automated situational awareness of nationally significant hazard events
- Improving the Commonwealth's visibility of the impacts and consequences of hazards events and

- Enhancing the Commonwealth’s position to coordinate a national approach crisis events.

The COP will:

- Ingest diverse data sets from internal and external sources
- Display all nationally significant hazard events
- Enable complex analytics and predictive analysis capabilities to better support impact analysis and decision making, and;
- Be made available to all Commonwealth Government stakeholders, state and territory emergency services, and relevant industry stakeholders (e.g. critical infrastructure).



In circumstances where a nationally significant crisis response is unfolding, **Deputy CG EMR** may assess that the Commonwealth’s non-defence resources require mobilisation. **Deputy CG EMR** may make a recommendation to the **Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet** and the **Australian Public Service (APS) Commissioner** for the Secretaries Board to consider the mobilisation of the **APS Surge Reserve**. Similarly, any head of an Australian Government agency with responsibilities for crisis response or recovery may make a recommendation for mobilisation of additional Commonwealth resources either through **Deputy CG EMR** or directly to the **Secretaries’ Board**.

The mobilisation of Defence assets will be managed separately through existing Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) procedures and authorities.

The **APS Surge Reserve** is a key mechanism available to the Commonwealth Government in ramping up disaster response efforts during and after nationally significant natural disasters. The APS Reserve comprises a known volunteer list of current APS employees that can be quickly redeployed to augment Commonwealth agencies responsible for the timely and efficient disbursement of relief and recovery support to Australians and Australian businesses experiencing loss or suffering because of a large natural disaster or other unforeseen events beyond the scope and capacity of the individual agency, state(s) or territory jurisdiction to respond adequately respond in a timely way.

This capability is administered by the **APS Surge Reserve Coordination** function within the **Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)** in close coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Commonwealth Secretaries' Board. Further details on the APS Reserve may be found at: [APS Surge Reserve | Australian Public Service Commission \(apsc.gov.au\)](https://www.apsc.gov.au/aps-surge-reserve).

The **Australian Climate Service** provides access to integrated and authoritative information to inform the Australian Government's recovery and preparedness planning through evidence-based programs.

Mechanisms for Coordination during a Crisis Response

Key mechanisms that facilitate a whole-of-government crisis response are the:

- **AGCRC** – the primary mechanism that brings together relevant Australian Government Agency representatives
 - The **Deputy CG EMR** (or delegate) chairs the **AGCRC** when the focus is on crisis response. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may elect to chair or co-chair the **AGCRC**.
 - The **Deputy CG RR** (or delegate) chairs the **AGCRC** after formal agreement with **Deputy CG EMR** that management of the crisis has moved from the response phase to the recovery phase.
 - The **CT Coordinator** (or delegate) chairs the **AGCRC**, supported by NEMA, when the focus is on a response to a terrorism-related event. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may chair or co-chair the **AGCRC**.

- The **Deputy CG EMR** (or **CT Coordinator** in the case of a terrorism-related event) and the **Deputy CG RR** (or their delegates) may elect to co-chair the **AGCRC** when response and recovery activities overlap in complex crises.
- **NCM** – brings together relevant Australian Government, state and territory government and private sector representatives for coordination, communication and collaboration during response and recovery to domestic crises. The **AGCRC** and the **NCM** remain the primary mechanisms for whole-of-government leadership and coordination.
 - The **Deputy CG EMR** (or delegate) activates and chairs the **NCM**. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may co-chair the **NCM**. **Deputy CG RR or delegate** may also chair an NCM where the focus is on the recovery phase of a crisis.
 - States, Territories or Industry may request that an NCM is activated for a specific purpose/issue.
- **IDETF** – manages the whole-of-government response to overseas incidents or crises that impact or threaten to impact, Australians or Australia’s interests overseas. The **Deputy Secretary DFAT** (or delegate) chairs the **IDETF** and the **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may co-chair the **IDETF**.
- **National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)** – is the mechanism for inter-jurisdictional coordination for technical responses to cyber security incidents. The NCSC members include the **Head of the Australian Signals Directorate’s Australian Cyber Security Centre (HACSC)**, the cyber security state and territory lead from each jurisdiction, and supporting representatives from **PM&C** and the **Department of Home Affairs**
 - The **NCSC** escalates the **Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)** and classifies the cyber security alert level by severity, which dictates the technical response activities and coordination undertaken to remediate the cyber security incidents and mitigate the threat to other Australian entities.

In the case of a single incident that triggers the thresholds for the **AGCRC** and the **IDETF**, it is the responsibility of the respective chairs to agree which governance arrangement (**AGCRC** or **IDETF**) will manage the crisis. The chairs may also decide to transition management of a crisis between the committees as an event evolves to encompass either domestic or international aspects. The **AGCRC** will manage those crises with a predominantly domestic impact and the **IDETF** will manage crises with a predominantly international focus.

Whole-of-government coordination arrangements provide:

- **situational awareness:** information sharing to provide senior officials with an accurate and unified picture of the crisis and response and recovery activities
- **advice and data to support decision-making:** to provide ministers and key decision making bodies with status updates and resources to support decision making
- **communication strategies:** to ensure consistent messaging and information sharing; to execute crisis plans; and to maintain public safety and confidence
- **strategic coordination:** to ensure ministerial directions are effectively implemented across government, including with the states and territories, and with affected industry and the community. And to de-conflict government actions and provide advice on prioritisation of response and recovery activities.

9. Special Purpose/Temporary Response Mechanisms

Notwithstanding existing crisis arrangements, in some cases it may still be appropriate for the **Prime Minister**, or the minister leading the response to a crisis, to establish special purpose/temporary response mechanisms in parallel with existing response mechanisms (e.g. the search for MH370).

Temporary/special purpose mechanisms may include, for example: the appointment of a special envoy; an ad hoc Secretaries' coordination meeting; and/or a dedicated whole-of-government taskforce or other arrangement.

Any special purpose/temporary mechanisms should be guided by existing arrangements, to ensure a consistent and effective whole-of-government response.

Where special purpose/temporary mechanisms are established, senior officials should ensure arrangements are in place to brief their agencies (e.g. meeting observers and efficiently circulating minutes to relevant areas of their departments). Senior officials of a special purpose/temporary response mechanism may elect to use the existing architecture created by the AGCMF. In that case, the relevant Deputy Secretary of PM&C will chair or co-chair the AGCRC.

The relevant crisis committee chair or delegate should quickly establish the relationship between that committee and the new mechanism, and communicate that to relevant agencies/officials. Specifically, the Chair or delegate should establish:

- a clear understanding of respective roles, responsibilities and functions
- clear lines for information sharing, decision-making and accountability
- a catalogue of available resources that may be available to assist in the response, and;
- a consistent communication strategy.⁹

⁹ Senior Officials may choose to develop terms of reference or a similar record of these details.

10. Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Recovery

***Recovery** – restoring or improving livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better’ to avoid or reduce future disaster risk (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017).*

As stated in *Section 2*, state and territory governments have primary responsibility for providing recovery assistance to affected individuals and communities within their jurisdiction.

State and territory governments may also support international recovery efforts, including by providing specific expertise or equipment, in agreement with the Australian Government.

The Australian Government supports recovery efforts, both within Australia and overseas, through a range of established assistance programs (non-financial and financial, see *Section 12*). These programs can include cost-shared arrangements between state and territory governments and the Australian Government, and targeted recovery assistance from Australian Government Agencies. Other assistance programs may be developed on a case-by-case basis to support recovery efforts (e.g. community recovery packages).¹⁰

Responsibility for all aspects of emergency management, including disaster recovery, is shared between levels of governments, individuals, the business and non-government sectors, and communities. While the responsibilities may not be equal, all have a responsibility to work collaboratively with the impacted community to provide a range of recovery activities, programs and services.

Recovery efforts in Australia are informed by the *National Principles for Disaster Recovery*.¹¹ Disaster recovery includes physical, environmental and economic elements as well as psychological wellbeing.

¹⁰ For further information see *Section 12* (Commonwealth Assistance)

¹¹ The document is available [here](#) or at <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au>

Successful recovery relies on:

- understanding the context
- recognising complexity
- enabling community-led approaches
- ensuring coordination of all activities
- employing effective communication
- acknowledging and building capacity for future resilience.

There are two mechanisms by which the Australian Government may coordinate disaster response and/or recovery efforts. The first, and primary mechanism, is through **NEMA**. The second mechanism is reserved for unique crisis situations and involves a Government directed dedicated temporary agency or authority, where specific expertise is required that is not resident within **NEMA**. An example would be a wide area radiological contamination event. The **Coordinator General NEMA** would be engaged as part of decision making for any special purpose or temporary response mechanism.

Tools to Support Crisis Response and Recovery

NEMA has established capabilities to provide specialist recovery and resilience expertise drawn from across government. **NEMA** supports the specialised functions through:

- a network of Recovery Support Officers (RSOs) to support recovery and resilience in communities affected by all-hazard events
- coordination across Australian Government agencies to support affected communities
- engagement across all levels of government and the non-government sector to support a national approach to recovery.

In circumstances where a nationally significant crisis recovery is unfolding, **Deputy CG RR** may assess that the Commonwealth's non-defence resources require mobilisation. **Deputy CG RR** may make a recommendation to the **Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet** and the **APS Commissioner** for the **Secretaries' Board** to consider the mobilisation of the **APS Surge Reserve**.

Similar to the response phase, the **APS Surge Reserve** is a key mechanism available to the Commonwealth Government in delivering disaster relief and recovery efforts during nationally significant natural disasters (see *Section 8*).

The **APS Surge Reserve** may be activated to deliver expanded support to critical functions such as data management and reporting, media and communications, administration and policy support functions.

The **Australian Climate Service** provides access to integrated and authoritative information to inform the Australian Government's recovery planning and preparedness through evidence-based programs.

Mechanisms for Implementing Crisis Recovery

NEMA may convene the **AGCRC** to coordinate the Australian Government's recovery efforts for all crises, including but not limited to:

- severe or catastrophic disasters, disasters of national significance and/or concurrent and compounding disasters
- where multiple jurisdictions are affected concurrently
- where complex recovery issues require a coordinated response
- where there has been multiple, or complex, requests for disaster recovery assistance from the states or territories.

Deputy CG EMR and **Deputy CG RR** may co-chair the **AGCRC** where there are compounding disasters, or where the recovery response begins to intensify while the response phase is still active.

NEMA will determine when recovery efforts have reached a stage where the **AGCRC** is no longer required.

The **NCM** may be convened where the complexity of recovery issues requires a coordinated whole-of-government response or if there are multiple incidents and/or multiple jurisdictions affected. During the recovery phase, the **NCM** will be chaired by the **Deputy CG RR**, and report to the **Minister responsible for Emergency Management**, or the **Prime Minister** in those circumstances where the **Prime Minister** has elected to lead the Australian Government response. The relevant **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may elect to co-chair the **NCM**.

11. Key Legislation

National Emergency Declaration Act 2020

Under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020* (NED Act), the **Governor-General** may, on the advice of the **Prime Minister**, declare a national emergency in relation to emergencies that rise to the level of national significance.

The making of a National Emergency Declaration (NED) signals to the Australian community – and to all levels of government across Australia – the severity of an emergency event. It also provides certainty about the statutory powers available to the Commonwealth to handle an emergency causing nationally significant harm.

When a NED is in force, a range of powers are available to Ministers to assist with response and recovery from the emergency to which the declaration relates. This includes the power to suspend, vary or substitute ‘red tape’ requirements where doing so would be of benefit to the public or a section of the public, the power to require Commonwealth entities to report on stockpiles during a national emergency, and the streamlining of statutory tests to exercise national emergency laws.

PM&C, Department of Home Affairs and **NEMA** are responsible for providing advice on operational and legal policy matters relevant to the NED Act, including preparing advice for the **Prime Minister** about making a declaration. The process for making a NED, including legal thresholds and consultation requirements, is outlined in the National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire.¹²

Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act 1903 (Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority call out)

Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* sets out the statutory process for Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) ‘Call Out’ of the **Australian Defence Force (ADF)** to protect Commonwealth interests or states and territories against ‘domestic violence’ as defined by the Act. Part IIIAAA is used in circumstances where the **ADF** may be required to use force. Defence’s policy framework for Part IIIAAA is the **Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for call out of the Australian Defence Force** and **Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act 1903 by States and Territories**.

The decision to call out the **ADF** is normally made by the **Governor-General** on the advice of the authorising Ministers.

Separately, **Defence** can provide assistance to civilian agencies where there is no contemplated use of force through **Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC)**. The **Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Policy** and the **Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Manual** are the policy frameworks for **DACC**.

Section 28 of the Defence Act 1903 (Reserve Call Out)

Reserve Call Out under Section 28 of the Defence Act 1903 provides Defence access to additional human resources beyond the permanent forces and those Reservists whom have volunteered to support a crisis response. It is an *in extremis* mechanism which legally compels a Reservist to provide service in particular circumstances including civil aid, humanitarian assistance, medical or civil emergency or disaster relief, and assistance to Commonwealth, state or territory government authorities and agencies in matters involving Australia's national security. The Reserve Call Out may not be an appropriate mechanism for responding to a crisis and is not tethered to the declaration of a National Emergency. The **Minister for Defence, after consultation with the Prime Minister**, may recommend the Reserve Call Out to the **Governor-General**.

Biosecurity Act 2015

Chapter 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Biosecurity Act) allows for a power to be exercised or a biosecurity measure imposed in relation to human diseases that cause significant harm to human health. The Biosecurity Act provides for the management of risk of contagion of a listed human disease; or a listed human disease entering, or emerging, establishing itself or spreading in the Australian territory or part of the Australian territory.

Chapter 8 of the Biosecurity Act sets out the special powers for dealing with biosecurity emergencies of national significance. The **Governor-General** may make a biosecurity emergency declaration if the Agriculture minister is satisfied that the special powers are needed to deal with a biosecurity emergency. The Agriculture Minister may exercise powers to manage biosecurity risks including monitoring, control and response during a biosecurity emergency period. These may be exercised anywhere in the Australian territory.

Under the Biosecurity Act, the Minister for Health may also exercise powers relevant to the management of a human health biosecurity risk.

¹² The National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire is a document which outlines the procedures for administering the legislation. A copy is held by the Prime Minister's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the offices of ministers responsible for Home Affairs, Emergency Management and Defence and appropriate senior officials.

12. Commonwealth Assistance

Financial Assistance during the Prevention and Preparedness Phases

The Australian Government provides financial assistance and planning advice to states and territories to support prevention and preparedness activities, including crisis management exercises.

Non-Financial Assistance during the Response and Recovery Phases

In a crisis, the Australian Government may provide non-financial assistance to affected countries, states and/or territories. Australian Government agencies may provide specific capabilities from within their portfolio to assist with the response to a crisis. Where possible, this assistance should be facilitated through Australian Government national plans.

Where a foreign government requests, or is offered, Australian assistance, the lead minister is responsible for the costs incurred, including if the minister has agreed to the deployment of state and territory resources.

Financial Assistance during the Recovery Phase

The Australian Government may provide financial support to states and territories affected by natural disasters and domestic terrorist acts through the jointly funded **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)**. Under the **DRFA**, the Australian Government provides funding directly to states and territories to assist with certain costs associated with response and recovery assistance to affected communities.

DRFA has four categories:

- **Category A:** assistance to individuals to alleviate personal hardship or distress (provided directly by the states and territories).
- **Category B:** assistance to state, territory or local governments for the restoration of essential public assets, counter-disaster operations and assistance to small businesses, primary producers, not-for-profit organisations and individuals in need (provided automatically by states and territories).
- **Category C:** to establish a community recovery package(s), that provides assistance for severely affected communities which may include clean up and recovery grants for small businesses and primary producers and not-for-profit organisations (the **Prime Minister** is the decision maker – usually upon request from the states and territories).

- **Category D:** assistance beyond Categories A to C, usually upon request from the states and territories and in response to exceptional circumstances (the **Prime Minister** or **Cabinet** is the decision maker).

The Australian Government may also provide assistance to individuals:

- **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)** is a one-off, non means tested payment of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child to those adversely affected by a major disaster (in Australia or overseas). **Services Australia** assesses claims and makes AGDRP payments under the *Social Security Act 1991* (Social Security Act). The **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** holds authority for activating AGDRP and has the discretion to determine the criteria for any given event.
- **Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)** provides income support payments (for up to 13 weeks) to employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster. The **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** holds authority for activating DRA. **Services Australia** assesses claims and makes DRA payments under the Social Security Act.
- The Australian Government may provide **AGDRP** and **DRA** equivalent payments (if activated) to eligible New Zealand citizens residing in Australia who hold a 'non-protected' Special Category Visa (subclass 444), if authorised by the **Prime Minister** or **Cabinet**. **Services Australia** assesses claims and makes these payments.
- The **Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment (AVTOP)** provides financial assistance up to \$75,000 for Australian residents harmed as a direct result of a declared overseas terrorist act (primary victims) and for close family members of Australian residents who have died as a result of a declared overseas terrorist act (secondary victims). The **Prime Minister**, on advice from the **Minister responsible for Home Affairs**, may declare an overseas incident as a terrorist act under the AVTOP scheme. **Services Australia** assesses claims and makes these payments.

13. Administration of the AGCMF

The appropriate **Deputy Secretary PM&C** maintains editorial control over the AGCMF on behalf of the Australian Government. Updates to the AGCMF will be coordinated by PM&C in close consultation with **NEMA** and other Commonwealth agencies.

Updates to the AGCMF will be released by October of each calendar year and, where necessary, updates focussed on the clarification of the execution of crisis and recovery management functions may be issued outside this cycle. However, the underlying principle is that wherever possible, changes to the AGCMF during extended periods of high operational activity will be avoided.

Annex A – National Coordination Mechanism

The **NCM** is a flexible tool to ensure that the full capabilities of the Australian, state and territory governments and, if required, the private sector are brought to bear during a crisis. The **NCM** will ensure coordination, communication and collaboration, but is not a mechanism for command and control.

The **NCM** provides holistic advice to the **AGCRC**. It facilitates integrated and coherent planning, identification of escalation triggers and actions, implementation, governance and communication arrangements that streamline a crisis response. The **NCM** is designed to be nimble and respond directly to the hazard or vector.

Participation is flexible. State and territory representatives will be invited via First Ministers' departments. However, invitations may be forwarded to relevant officials at the discretion of jurisdictions. NEMA will maintain close engagement with Australian Government agencies, jurisdictions, industry and community leaders to ensure that appropriate invitations are issued for participation in an **NCM**.

Figure A.1 provides a representation of the **NCM** and its domain concept but is not a proscriptive list.

An **NCM** will:

- ensure that the Australian Government's actions are synchronised, coordinated and responsive
- ensure that any issue or problem is clearly defined and understood
- maintain key functions within communities
- strengthen the ability of the community, economy and affected individuals to remain resilient and assist their own recovery
- reduce harm and the overall severity of the crisis.

The **NCM's** critical objectives are to:

- support the whole-of-government response and decision making
- support the maintenance of essential services
- support the maintenance of essential government services

- coordinate information and messaging and maintain community confidence in government(s), their agencies and processes
- provide guidance and coordinate with industry on business continuity priorities and plans, and identify emerging vulnerabilities.

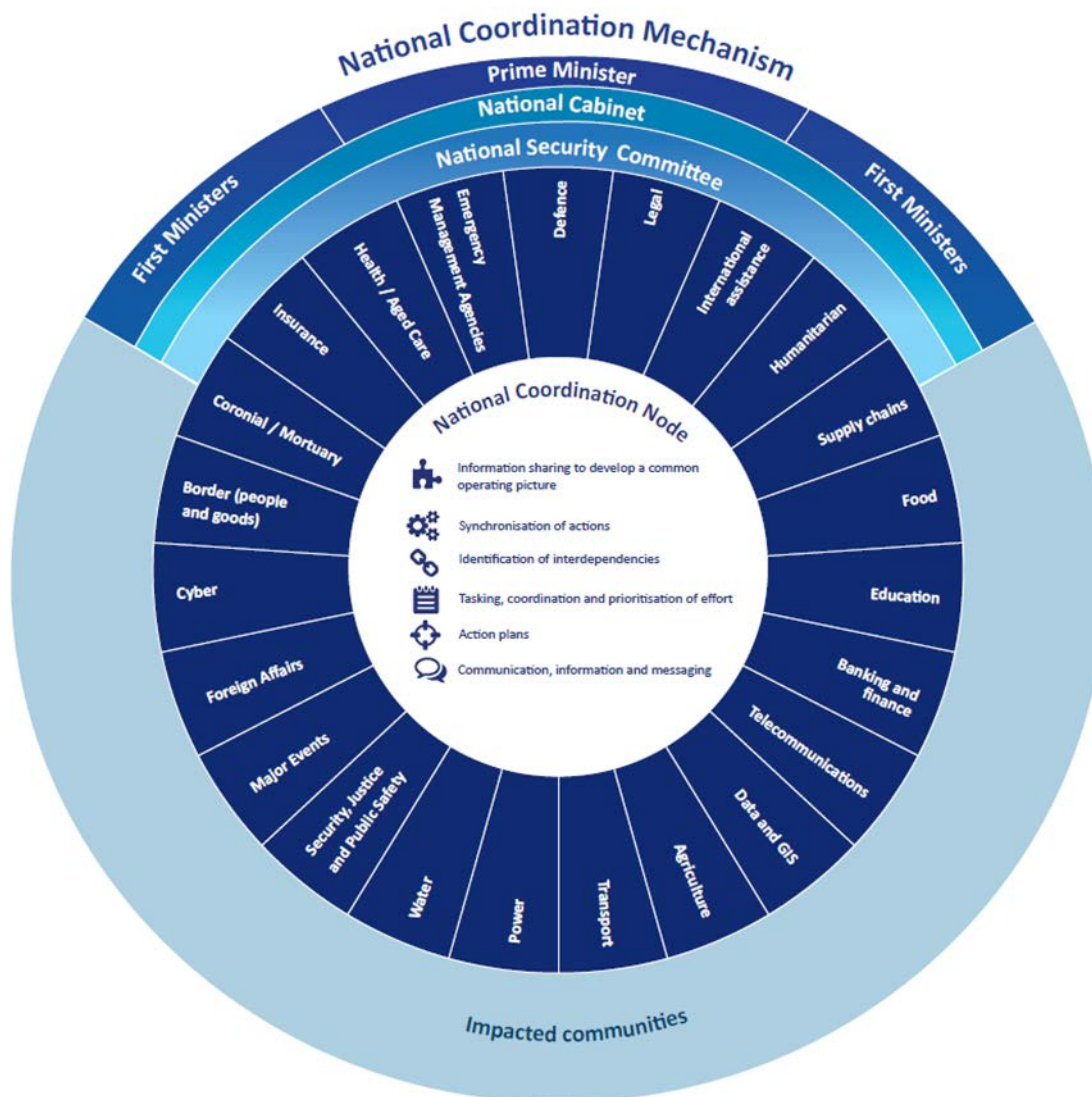


Figure A.1: National Coordination and Domain Concept¹³

¹³ The key benefit of the domain coordination structure is that it recognises the practical importance of cooperative groups that operate according to formal and informal links with explicit and implicit commitments. A domain describes a cooperative community of related stakeholders rather than a hierarchical command and control structure.

Annex B – National Level Planning and Policy Documents Relevant to the AGCMF

Lead Agency	Plan Title	Short Name (if relevant)
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)	National Electricity Market Memorandum of Understanding on the Use of Emergency Powers	NEM Emergency Powers MOU
	Power System Emergency Management Plan	PSEMP
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Australian Government Coordination Arrangements for Maritime Environmental Emergencies	
	National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies	
	National Search and Rescue Manual	
Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation	Terrorism Insurance Scheme	
Australian Signals Directorate and its Australian Cyber Security Centre	Cyber Incident Management Arrangements	CIMA
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan	AQUAVETPLAN
	Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan	EMPPlan

	Australian Government Biosecurity and Agricultural Response Plan	AUSBIOAGPLAN
	Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan**	PLANTPLAN
	Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed**	EPPRD
	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan*	AUSVETPLAN
	Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement*	EADRA
	Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity	IGAB
	National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement	NEBRA
Defence	Communication Strategy: Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority under Part IIIAAA of the <i>Defence Act 1903</i>	
	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Policy and Manual	DACC
	Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force	DFACA

	Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the <i>Defence Act 1903</i> by States and Territories	
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	France, Australia and New Zealand Agreement on response to natural disasters in the Pacific	FRANZ
Department of Health and Aged Care	National Health Emergency Response Arrangements	NHERA
	Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza	AHMPPI
	Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)	COVID-19 Plan
	Domestic Health Response Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Incidents of National Significance	Health CBRN Plan
	Australia's Domestic Health Response Plan for All Hazard Emergencies of	AUSHEALTHRESPLAN

	National Significance	
	Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Diseases of National Significance	CD Plan
	Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements	National CD Plan
	Guidelines for the epidemiological investigation of multi-jurisdictional outbreaks that are potentially food borne	
	National Food Incident Response Protocol	NFSIRP
	National Health Security Agreement	NHSA
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Australian Government Crisis Management Framework	AGCMF
	Continuity of Executive Government	COEG
	National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire	NED Aide-Mémoire

Department of Industry, Science and Resources	Offshore Petroleum Incident Coordination Framework	
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Memorandum of Understanding in relation to National Gas Emergency Response Protocol (NGERP) (including use of emergency powers)	
	Interruption to Gas Supply Process	ITGSP
	National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response Plan	NLFERP
	Jet Fuel Supply Assurance – Supply Disruption Protocol	
	Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in relation to a Liquid Fuel Emergency	
Department of Home Affairs	Australian Government Piracy Response Plan (for incidents in the security forces authority area)	AUSPIRACYPLAN
	Maritime Counter-Terrorism Response Manual	MCTRM
	National Counter-Terrorism Plan	NCTP

	National Security Public Information Guidelines	
	Online Content Incident Arrangement	OCIA
	Major Aviation Security Incident	MASI
	Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment	AVTOP
	Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure	FPNII
National Emergency Management Agency	Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan	AUSSPREDPLAN
	National Catastrophic Natural Disaster Plan	NATCATDISPLAN ¹⁴
	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment	AGDRP
	Disaster Recovery Allowance	DRA
	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	DRFA
	New Zealand Special Category visa holder's ex-gratia disaster assistance	
	Australian Government	AUSAVPLAN

¹⁴ The NATCATDISPLAN has been suspended from use, pending review of its ongoing efficacy.

	Aviation Disaster Response Plan	
	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan	COMDISPLAN
	Australian Government Overseas Assistance Plan	AUSASSISTPLAN
	Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas	AUSRECEPLAN
	Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents	OSMASSCASPLAN

* Administered through Animal Health Australia

** Administered through Plant Health Australia

Annex C – Crisis Management and Response Arrangements

Response arrangements - overview

Whole-of-government response arrangements for hazard-specific crises are outlined over the following sections:

- C.1 International crises
- C.2 Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents)
- C.3 Domestic terrorist incidents
- C.4 Maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain
- C.5 Domestic natural disasters
- C.6 Domestic biosecurity crises
- C.7 Domestic public health crises
- C.8 Domestic energy supply crises
- C.9 Incidents involving offshore petroleum facilities in Commonwealth waters
- C.10 Transport incidents (maritime and aviation) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region
- C.11 Space events

C.1 International crises

An international incident that requires an Australian Government response. This may include natural disasters, humanitarian crises, terrorist acts, major transport incidents, civil unrest, overseas health emergencies or outbreaks, kidnapping of Australians overseas and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents which impact or may impact Australians or Australia's national interest.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

Lead Agency for response and recovery: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms (as applicable)

- Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Prime Minister

- Activate the Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment, as appropriate.
- Change the national terrorism threat level and/or public advice if required (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs and the Director-General of Security).

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Maintain international relations with foreign governments and/or international agencies.
- Issue/update travel advice.
- Provide advice to Government on numbers of affected Australians overseas.
- Provide consular assistance to Australians and Permanent Residents (crisis only), including citizens of consular partners.
- Deploy additional Australian Government resources and/or state based expertise, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Approve evacuation of foreign nationals, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers including the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, Defence, and states and territories).

- Approve the repatriation of injured and deceased Australians and other approved foreign nationals (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, Defence and Health).
- Activate financial assistance packages, including humanitarian funding to countries affected by international crises.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and other Commonwealth Disaster Payments, as necessary.

Minister Responsible for Home Affairs

- Prohibit the entry of specified cargo into Australian territory (in consultation with the Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Minister responsible for Health

- Deploy Australian health resources overseas in response to an emergency, as required (at the request of the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs).
- Provide advice and implementing measures to manage an international health incident which involves a threat to Australia.
- Liaise with the World Health Organization, including meeting reporting requirements under the International Health Regulations 2005 and administering the World Health Organization Act 1947 in Australia.
- Liaise with the International Atomic Energy Agency, including meeting any reporting requirements under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Respond to and approve requests for Defence support, as required.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Communications

- Provide advice on the eSafety Commissioner's response to an online content incident, including the potential use of content blocking and takedown powers, or engagement with industry.

Key legislation

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *World Health Organization Act 1947*
- *International Health Regulations 2005*
- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015*
- *Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Act 2019*
- *Telecommunications Act 1997*
- *Migration Act 1958*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Deputy Secretary, DFAT, responsible for Consular and Crisis Management.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF)
- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Overseas Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN)
- Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN)
- Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents involving Australians Overseas (OSMASSCASPLAN)
- France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) Agreement on response to natural disasters in the Pacific
- Online Content Incident Arrangement
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)

C.2 Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents)

A domestic security incident, other than terrorism, that requires a whole-of-government response. This may include widespread violent civil unrest and threats (to public places, members of the public or the Parliament).

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Home Affairs

Lead Agency for response: Department of Home Affairs

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Home Affairs

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- Make an order for Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) of the Australian Defence Force under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests against domestic violence and from threats in Australia's offshore area, and in response to requests from states and territories for protection against domestic violence, if the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
- Make an order on the advice of the Minister for Defence (in consultation with the Prime Minister), calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* in particular circumstances, including, civil aid, humanitarian assistance, medical or civil emergency or disaster relief, and assistance to Commonwealth, State or Territory government authorities and agencies in matters involving Australia's national security.

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Provide advice to the Governor-General on authorising Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) "calling out the ADF" under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* (in consultation with the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
- Authorising an Expedited DFACA Call Out of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.
- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on making a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Coordinate Australian Government support provided to states and territories in responding to security incident(s) within their jurisdictions, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and, if ADF is providing assistance, the Minister responsible for Defence).
- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, and/or recovery assistance for New Zealand visa holders, as necessary.
- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Respond to and approve requests for Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, as required.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and Attorney-General).

- Jointly authorise with the Attorney-General an Expedited Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*, in consultation with the Prime Minister.
- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Attorney-General

- Providing advice to the Governor-General on authorisation of a Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) 'call out' of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Defence).
- Jointly authorising with the Minister responsible for Defence an Expedited DFACA Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.
- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Treasurer

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Deputy Prime Minister

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Communications

- Provide advice on the eSafety Commissioner's response to an online content incident, including the potential use of content blocking and takedown powers, or engagement with industry.

Key legislation

- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Defence Act 1903*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015*
- *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*
- *Crimes Act 1914*
- *Criminal Code Act 1995*
- *Telecommunications Act 1997*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Deputy Coordinator General, Emergency Management and Response, National Emergency Management Agency.
- Chief of the Defence Force (where ADF assistance is provided).

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- Australian Government Protective Security Arrangements
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure (FPNII)

- Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* by States and Territories
- Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Online Content Incident Arrangement
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.3 Domestic terrorist incidents

A domestic terrorist incident (suspected or declared) that requires a whole-of-government response.

A terrorist incident is an act, or threat to commit an act, that is done with the intention to coerce or influence the public or any government by intimidation to advance a political, religious or ideological cause, and the act causes:

- *death, serious harm or endangers a person*
- *serious damage to property*
- *a serious risk to the health or safety of the public*
- *seriously interferes with, disrupts or destroys critical infrastructure.*

Lead Ministers for response: Minister responsible for Home Affairs

Lead Agency for response: Department of Home Affairs

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Home Affairs

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- Make an order for Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) to 'call out' the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests against domestic violence and from threats in Australia's offshore area, and in response to requests from states and territories for protection against domestic violence, on the advice of the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).

- Make an order calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* in specific circumstances, including, civil aid, humanitarian assistance, medical or civil emergency or disaster relief, and assistance to Commonwealth, State or Territory government authorities and agencies in matters involving Australia's national security on the advice from the Minister for Defence.
- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Change the national terrorism threat level and/or public advice, if, when and where required (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs and/or the affected jurisdiction(s)).
- Declare a National Terrorist Situation, if, when and where required (with the agreement of the affected states and/or territories).
- Approve Category C and D assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), as necessary.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA Call Out of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* (in consultation with the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
- Authorise an Expedited DFACA Call Out of the ADF in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.
- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.
- Prohibit the entry of specified cargo into Australian territory (in consultation with the Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Coordinate Australian Government support provided to states and territories in responding to a domestic terrorist incident(s) within their jurisdictions, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and, if ADF is providing assistance, the Minister responsible for Defence).
- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).

- Respond to requests for financial assistance under the DRFA, as necessary (the Prime Minister's approval is required for Category C and D requests).
- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, and/or recovery assistance for New Zealand visa holders, as necessary.
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Respond to and approve requests for Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA 'call out' of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and Attorney-General).
- Jointly authorising with the Attorney-General an Expedited DFACA Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General (in consultation with the Prime Minister) on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Attorney-General

- Providing advice to the Governor-General on DFACA Call Out of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Defence).
- Jointly authorising with the Minister responsible for Defence an Expedited DFACA Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Health

- Coordinate health sector response, as appropriate.

Treasurer

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Assistant Treasurer

- Decide to activate the Terrorism Insurance Scheme (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs).

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.
- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Deputy Prime Minister

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Communications

- Provide advice on the eSafety Commissioner's response to an online content incident, including the potential use of content blocking and takedown powers, or engagement with industry.

Key legislation

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003*
- *Defence Act 1903*
- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015*
- *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*
- *Crimes Act 1914*
- *Criminal Code Act 1995*
- *National Health Security Act 2007*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

- *Telecommunications Act 1997*
- *Migration Act 1958*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.
- Chief of the Defence Force (where ADF assistance is provided).

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)
- Counter-Terrorism Coordination Centre (CTCC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Government Piracy Response Plan (AUSPIRACYPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- Australian Government Protective Security Arrangements
- National Counter-Terrorism Plan (NCTP) and its associated Handbook (NCT Handbook)
- Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure (FPNII)
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- National Security Public Information Guidelines
- Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* by states and territories
- Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- Major Aviation Security Incident (MASI)
- Online Content Incident Arrangement
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.4 Maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Security Forces Authority Area

A maritime terrorist incident (suspected or declared) within the Australian Security Forces Authority Areas that requires a whole-of-government response. The Security Forces Authority Area is synonymous with Australia's Search and Rescue Region. The Australian Government has direct responsibility for offshore maritime terrorism prevention, response and recovery, from the territorial sea baseline to the outer boundary of Australia's Security Forces Authority Area. Maritime terrorist incidents may include:

- *attacks on fixed infrastructure*
- *attacks against vessels*
- *attacks on commercial interests or*
- *incidents mounted from, or through, the maritime environment.*

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Home Affairs

Lead Agency for operational response: Australian Border Force (Maritime Border Command)

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Australian Border Force (Maritime Border Command)

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- Make an order for the Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) to call out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests from threats in Australia's offshore area, on the advice of the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Change the national terrorism threat level, if, when and where required (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs and/or the affected jurisdiction(s)).
- Declare a National Terrorist Situation, if, when and where required (with the agreement of the affected states and/or territories).
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA 'call out' the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* (in consultation with the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
- Authorise an Expedited DFACA Call Out of the ADF in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.
- Approve Category C and D assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), as necessary.
- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

- Coordinate Australian Government support provided to states and territories in responding to a domestic terrorist incident(s) within their jurisdictions, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and, if ADF is providing assistance, the Minister responsible for Defence).
- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited DFACA Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Respond to requests for financial assistance under the DRFA, as necessary (the Prime Minister's approval is required for Category C and D requests).
- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, and/or recovery assistance for New Zealand visa holders, as necessary.
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Attorney-General

- Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA 'call out' of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* as required and in conjunction with the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Defence.
- Jointly authorise with the Minister responsible for Defence an Expedited DFACA Call Out Order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA 'call out' of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required and in conjunction with the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General.
- Jointly authorise with the Attorney-General an Expedited Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Consult the Prime Minister on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Treasurer

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Assistant Treasurer

- Decide to activate the Terrorism Insurance Scheme (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs).

Deputy Prime Minister

- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.
- Jointly authorise, as one of the alternative Ministers, an Expedited Call Out order with the Minister responsible for Defence or the Attorney-General in the event that the other authorising Ministers are uncontactable.

Key legislation

- *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900*
- *Criminal Code Act 1995*
- *Crimes Act 1914*
- *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979*
- *Defence Act 1903*
- *Crimes at Sea Act 2000*
- *Crimes (Ships and Fixed Platforms) Act 1992*
- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Maritime Powers Act 2013*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

- Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.
- Commander, Maritime Border Command, Australian Border Force.
- Chief of the Defence Force.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Counter-Terrorism Coordination Centre (CTCC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- Australian Government Protective Security Arrangements
- National Counter-Terrorism Plan (NCTP) and its associated Handbook (NCT Handbook)
- National Security Public Information Guidelines

- Australian Maritime Counter-Terrorism Response Concept (AMCTRC)
- Maritime Counter-Terrorism Incident Response Manual (MCTIRM)
- Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure (FPNII)
- Communication Strategy: Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*
- Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* by States and Territories
- Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- Major Aviation Security Incident (MASI)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C5 Domestic natural disasters

A domestic rapid onset event that requires a whole-of-government response. This may include bushfires, earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones, storm surges, landslides, tsunamis, meteorite strikes or tornados.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Emergency Management

Lead Agency for response and recovery: National Emergency Management Agency

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- On advice from the Minister responsible for Defence, make an order calling out the Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* (after the Minister responsible for Defence has consulted the Prime Minister).

Prime Minister

- Approve Category C and D assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA), as necessary.
- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Respond to requests for financial assistance under the DRFA, as necessary (the Prime Minister's approval is required for Category C and D requests).

- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, and/or recovery assistance for New Zealand visa holders, as necessary.
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), as required.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* after consultation with the Prime Minister.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Health

- Coordination of the health sector, as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Minister responsible for the Environment

- Provide advice on weather, tsunami and flood warnings and alerts.

Key legislation

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials for response and relief

- Deputy Coordinator General Emergency Management and Response, National Emergency Management Agency.

Lead senior officials for recovery

- Deputy Coordinator General Resilience and Recovery, National Emergency Management Agency.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms (as applicable):

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC)¹⁵

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable)

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan (AUSSPREDPLAN)
- Australia's Domestic Health Response Plan for All-Hazards Incidents of National Significance (AUSHEALTHRESPLAN)
- National Catastrophic Natural Disaster Plan (NATCATDISPLAN)¹⁶
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

¹⁵ The CCOSC is a committee of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC). The CCOSC's role in Australian Government crisis management arrangements is limited to information sharing on operational matters during significant events.

¹⁶ The NATCATDISPLAN has been suspended from use, pending review of its ongoing efficacy. It may be decommissioned as part of the annual review of the AGCMF in October 2022.

C.6 Domestic biosecurity crises

An incident where a pest or disease poses immediate threat to part or parts of Australia's economy, environment or community that requires a whole-of-government response. This may include animal diseases (e.g. equine influenza, foot and mouth disease); plant pests and diseases (e.g. *Xylella*); and pests impacting on the environment or social amenity (e.g. invasive ants).

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Agriculture

Lead Agency for response: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Declare a biosecurity emergency, on the advice of the Minister responsible for Biosecurity under Part 1 of Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Biosecurity

- Determine the need for and recommend to the Governor-General to declare a biosecurity emergency under Part 1 of Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Approve the implementation of biosecurity measures.

- Negotiate to maintain or regain market access in the event of a disease, pest or food safety incident that may impact upon trade.

Minister responsible for Health

- Coordinate health sector response, as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), as required.
- Provide advice to the Governor-General (after consultation with the Prime Minister) as to whether he/she is satisfied of various matters relevant to the calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

- Provide advice on any matters related to the control of Australia's international border settings in response to the crisis (in consultation with the Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *Export Control Act 2020*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *Social Security Act 1991*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Deputy Secretary, Department responsible for Agriculture.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Management Group and Consultative Committees

National plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN)
- Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan (EMPPlan)
- Australian Government Biosecurity and Agricultural Response Plan (AUSBIOAGPLAN)
- Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANTPLAN)
- Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)
- Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)
- Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD)
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB)
- National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- National Emergency Declaration Aid-Mémoire

C.7 Domestic public health crises

A domestic public health incident that requires a whole-of-government response. Examples may include an influenza pandemic or a serious infectious disease outbreak or a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazard of national significance.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Health

Lead Agency for response: The Department of Health and Aged Care

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Health and Aged Care

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- Declare a human biosecurity emergency, as required (on advice from the Minister responsible for Health) under Part 2 of Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, providing advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Health

- Advising the Governor-General on the declaration of a human biosecurity emergency under Part 2, Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Determining requirements and issuing directions during a human biosecurity emergency.

- Shaping the direction of response to a health incident of national significance, as necessary.
- Coordination of health sector response, as appropriate.
- Developing assistance packages to assist with recovery efforts, as required.
- Seeking advice from the Minister responsible for Agriculture in the event of food-borne disease crises linked to imported food, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
- Support the lead minister coordinate whole-of-government non-health action.
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), as required.
- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

- Provide advice on any matters related to the control of Australia's international border settings in response to the crisis (in consultation with the Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *National Health Security Act 2007*
- *Imported Food Control Act 1992*

- *World Health Organization Act 1947*
- *International Health Regulations 2005*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

National plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- National Health Security Agreement (NHSA)
- National Health Emergency Response Arrangements (NHERA)
- Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Diseases of National Significance (CD Plan)
- Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements (National CD Plan)
- Australia's Domestic Health Response Plan for All-Hazards Incidents of National Significance (AUSHEALTHRESPLAN).
- Domestic Health Response Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Incidents of National Significance (Health CBRN Plan)
- Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI)
- National Food Incident Response Protocol (NFSIRP)
- Guidelines for the epidemiological investigation of multi-jurisdictional outbreaks that are potentially foodborne
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.8 Domestic energy supply crises

A domestic energy supply crisis that requires a whole-of-government response. This may include liquid fuel supply, natural gas supply or power supply.

Lead Minister for Response and Recovery: Minister responsible for Energy

Lead agency for response: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Lead agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

C.8.1 Energy supply crises – liquid fuel

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- Declare a National Liquid Fuel Emergency under the provisions of the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984* (LFE Act).
- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Energy

- Advising the Governor-General on whether a national liquid fuel emergency should be declared, as required.
- Activating and exercising powers under the *LFE Act*, after the Governor-General declares an emergency, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence and Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 (LFE Act)*, the associated Liquid Fuel Emergency Guidelines (LFEG); and 2019 Determination on Essential Users
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Key senior official

- Deputy Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC)
- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

National plans and arrangements

- National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response Plan
- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in relation to a Liquid Fuel Emergency
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- Jet Fuel Supply Assurance – Supply Disruption Protocol
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

MinisterKey whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Energy

- Convene an Energy Ministers' Meeting to ensure communication and coordination of the response with state and territory energy ministers.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence and Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *National Gas Law (National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008)*

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

- Deputy Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC)
- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

National plans and arrangements

- Interruption to Gas Supply Process (ITGSP)
- Memorandum of Understanding in relation to National Gas Emergency Response Protocol (NGERP) (including use of emergency powers)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

MinisterKey whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Energy

- If the event occurs in the National Electricity Market:
 - Contribute to key leadership messaging in support of Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and jurisdictional responses
 - Advise Cabinet of AEMO and jurisdictions' responses as per the Power System Emergency Management Plan (PSEMP)
 - Hold an Energy Ministers' Meeting to ensure communication and coordination of the response with state and territory ministers.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence and Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020.*
- *National Electricity Law (National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996).*

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

- Deputy Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Electricity Market Emergency Management Forum (NEMEMF)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

National plans and arrangements

- AEMO's Power System Emergency Management Plan (PSEMP)
- National Electricity Market Memorandum of Understanding on the Use of Emergency Powers (NEM Emergency Powers MOU)
- Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for National Electricity Market (NEM) emergencies (WA and NT emergencies are managed by jurisdictional mechanisms)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.9 Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters

Incidents may include any non-security related event that occurs at, or has a direct link to, an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters (e.g. fire, oil spill) and requires a whole-of-government response.

Note: Commonwealth waters are three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles off the Australian coastline.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Resources

Lead Agency for response and recovery: Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Resources and Northern Australia

- Activate powers under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (OPGGS Act).
- Respond to requests from states and territories.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Key legislation

- *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

- Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
- Chief Executive Officer, National Offshore Petroleum and Environmental Safety Authority (NOPSEMA)
 - Key consideration: whether an incident meets the threshold for an "oil spill emergency" under Schedule 2A of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC).
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM).
- Offshore Petroleum Incident Coordination Committee (OPICC).

National plans and arrangements

- Offshore Petroleum Incident Coordination Framework.
- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN).
- National Maritime Emergency Response Arrangements.
- National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies.
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual).
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire.

C.10 Transport incidents (maritime, aviation, road and rail) within Australia, the Australian Search and Rescue Region, or the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone

Transport incidents (maritime and aviation), other than terrorism, that require a whole-of-government response. This may include crashes of, and search and rescue efforts for, commercial aircraft and vessels (within Australia or the Australian Search and Rescue Region) or maritime environmental emergencies, including maritime casualties, oil and/or hazardous and noxious substance spills (within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone) stemming from these incidents. Other Transport incidents include major disruptions to road and rail infrastructure which impact on supply chains across multiple jurisdictions.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Transport

Lead Agency for response: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Lead Agencies for recovery: National Emergency Management Agency and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Transport

- Deploy resources to support the response to aviation and maritime emergencies.
- Execute powers under the *Protection of the Sea (Powers of Intervention) Act 1981* to prevent, mitigate or eliminate pollution or the threat of pollution from a maritime casualty.
- Coordinate (with the states and territories) and provide a national maritime and aviation search and rescue service.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

- Respond to and approve requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC).
- Provide advice on cyber security considerations to the whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Legislation

- *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990*
- *Protection of the Sea (Powers of Intervention) Act 1981*
- *Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability) Act 1981*
- *Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2008*
- *Civil Aviation Act 1988*
- *Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1959*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Deputy Secretary (Transport), Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- National Plan Strategic Coordination Committee (NPSCC)
- Aviation Policy Group (APG)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)
- Maritime Emergency Strategic Coordination Committee (MESCC)

National plans and arrangements

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies
- Australian Government Coordination Arrangements for Maritime Environmental Emergencies
- Various international agreements to provide mutual support during major pollution incidents including Pacific Islands Regional Maritime Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)
- National Search and Rescue Manual
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.11 Space Events

Space events are global, with significant national impacts for Australia that require whole-of-government response. Space weather can disrupt many of Australia's critical services, such as the electricity grid, Global Position System (GPS) and satellite and radio communications. It can also damage satellites and affect aviation and air passenger safety. Many industries and government sectors may be impacted if there is a loss of power, GPS or communications following a space weather event. This annex applies to space events that are not captured by Annex C.5.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Emergency Management

Lead Agency for response and recovery: National Emergency Management Agency

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

- Cabinet or National Security Committee of Cabinet.

Key considerations:

Governor-General

- May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

- Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

- Coordinate whole-of-government response to crisis, including public messaging.
- Provide space situational awareness and space traffic management data, as required.

- Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
- Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for the Environment

- Provide advice on space weather warnings and alerts.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

- Coordinate any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Liaise with, and provide protocol assistance to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates

Minister responsible for Defence and Minister responsible for Cyber Security

- Provide advice on cyber security considerations to the whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Legislation

- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

- Deputy Coordinator General, Emergency Management and Response, Emergency Management Agency.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms (as applicable)

- Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Space Coordination Committee (SCC)

National plans and arrangements (as applicable)

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Contingency Plan for Space Re-entry Debris (AUSSPREDPLAN)
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)

- National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

Acronyms

ACS	Australian Climate Service
ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADPF	Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AGCRC	Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee
AGD	Attorney-General's Department
AGDRP	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
AHPPC	Australian Health Protection Principal Committee
ASD	Australian Signals Directorate
AVTOP	Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment
CASP	Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning
CIMA	Cyber Incident Management Arrangements
COP	National Joint Common Operating Picture
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DFACA	Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFAT CC	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Crisis Centre
DISR	Department of Industry, Science and Resources
DITRDCA	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
DRA	Disaster Recovery Allowance
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

GWO	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Global Watch Office
Health	Department of Health and Aged Care
Home Affairs	Department of Home Affairs
IDC	Inter-Departmental Committee
IDETF	Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MESCC	Maritime Emergency Strategic Coordination Committee
NED	National Emergency Declaration
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCSC	National Cyber Security Committee
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NSR	National Situation Room
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet