



Australian Government

**Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet**

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

VERSION 2.3 OCTOBER 2020

Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Revision History

Version	Release date	Change history	Authorisation
1.0	17 December 2012	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 5.0, 22 July 2010) and Australian Government Crisis Management Arrangements: A Guide for Ministers (Version 1.1, 19/12/2011)	PM&C
1.1	10 December 2013	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 1.0, 17 December 2012) and reflects the Abbot Ministry and Administrative Arrangements Order of 18 September 2013.	PM&C
1.2	12 August 2015	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 1.1 10 December 2013) 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 Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 1.2 12 August 2015) and reflects the role of the Minister for Counter-Terrorism.	PM&C
2.0	October 2016	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 1.3, 12 January 2016).	Prime Minister
2.1	May 2017	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 2.0, October 2016) and reflects updated administrative arrangements.	PM&C

2.2	December 2017	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 2.1, May 2017) and reflects updated administrative arrangements following establishment of the Home Affairs portfolio.	PM&C
2.3	October 2020	Replaces Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (Version 2.2 December 2017) 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. [A redraft of these arrangements is planned for 2021, following the Government’s response to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.]	

The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework is updated as necessary to maintain its relevance and currency and may be comprehensively reviewed every three years if required.

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Introduction

Purpose

The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (the Crisis Framework) outlines the arrangements enabling the Australian Government's 'all hazards' crisis management approach. This approach is a continuum of: prevention; preparedness; response; and recovery.¹ However, the main focus of the Crisis Framework is near term crisis preparedness, immediate crisis response and early crisis recovery arrangements. Long term disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities are not covered in detail in this Crisis Framework.

Crises may include (but are not limited to) terrorist incidents, cyber incidents, health pandemics, animal diseases, natural disasters and incidents affecting Australians and/or Australian interests overseas.²

National plans and arrangements developed by Australian Government agencies are required to reflect the roles and responsibilities set out in the Crisis Framework.

Crisis Management is a complex and challenging area. 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 – as such there is no standard response.

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

Audience and structure

The Crisis Framework is in two parts; Part One - 'Guide for Ministers' and Part Two - 'Guide for Senior Officials'.

The Guide for Ministers provides high-level information on policy, the likely application of

1 Crisis Management is a continuum of:

Prevention – measures to eliminate or reduce the incident 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;

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

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 (UNISDR 2017).

² ***In this context a crisis is an event that activates the arrangements outlined in the Crisis Framework.***

Australia's crisis management arrangements and an overview of specific portfolio responsibilities and key ministerial decisions. The Guide for Senior Officials should be read in conjunction with the Guide for Ministers. It includes detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of senior officials, key committees and facilities.

Responsibilities of the Australian and state and territory governments

States and territories have primary responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment within the bounds of their jurisdiction. They control most functions essential for effective crisis prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.³ However, where crises involve actual or potential national consequences there may be a need for high level collaboration and coordination within and across all levels of government.

Australian Government responsibilities include:

- providing support to a state or territory, where Australian Government coordinated assistance has been requested (e.g. a major bushfire or cyclone) or Commonwealth interests⁴ are affected or threatened;
- jointly managing, with an affected state or territory, a crisis that has the potential to affect/has affected: more than one jurisdiction, the broader community or Australian Government areas of responsibility; or is of national consequence (e.g. pandemic, large scale/multiple terrorist incidents or cyber incidents), to include prioritising limited Australian Government resources and capabilities when simultaneous demand exists;
- taking primary responsibility for coordinating the response to a crisis that is not the responsibility of a state or territory⁵ (e.g. a crisis outside Australia that significantly affects Australians and/or Australian interests); and
- providing financial assistance to the Australian community and states and territories for relief and recovery.

Figure 1.1 summarises the Australian Government's responsibilities. The *Australian Emergency Management Arrangements* (AEMA) provides further information on the roles and responsibilities of each level of government.

³ Independent of the Australian Government, states and territories may provide assistance to foreign governments on a bilateral basis, based on their own arrangements and resources. However, as the Australian Government is responsible for foreign relations, states and territories should consult with Australian Government agencies prior to committing resources to assist in a crisis.

⁴ The term Commonwealth interests is not defined. For the purposes of Part IIIA of the *Defence Act 1903*, Commonwealth interests would include the protection of: Commonwealth property or facilities; Commonwealth public officials; visiting foreign dignitaries or heads of state; and major national events.

⁵ The Australian Government is responsible for crisis management arrangements in Australia's territories of Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Jervis Bay, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Coral Sea Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and Norfolk Island. The Australian Government also has specific responsibilities in relation to the national security and defence of Australia, customs and immigration, aviation and maritime transport, search and rescue, maritime environmental emergencies, the safety and welfare of Australians overseas, international relations, and assistance to other countries.

Figure 1.1 Australian Government responsibilities

SUPPORTING ROLE	JOINT MANAGEMENT	PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
Providing support to the states and/or territories where Australian Government coordinated assistance has been requested or where Commonwealth interests are affected or threatened.	Working together with the states and/or territories to manage a crisis that has potential to affect, or has affected, more than one jurisdiction, the broader community or an Australian Government area of responsibility, and prioritise limited resources when there is competing demand.	Managing any crisis that is not the responsibility of a state or territory.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE		
Providing financial assistance to state and territory governments and individuals affected by a major crisis.		

Crisis management objectives and approach

The overarching objectives of crisis management are to: protect human life; including critical infrastructure to the extent necessary; support continuity of every day activity; and, as far as possible, protect property and the natural environment.

No two crises are the same. These objectives are pursued through a flexible whole-of-government approach, underpinned by the following principles:

- **Coordination** – effective coordination and communication facilitates information sharing. Wherever possible, the Australian Government will work closely with relevant international, state, territory and local governments, businesses, non-government organisations, volunteers and individuals.
- **Continuity** – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to crises should be grounded in the existing functions of organisations and familiar ways of working.
- **Subsidiarity** – decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level, with coordination at the highest level necessary.
- **Proportionality** – crisis management should be calibrated to the magnitude and nature of the crisis.
- **Accountability** – decision making and actions must be transparent and accountable.

- **Integration** – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery should be considered as elements of a continuum that may occur concurrently.

Part One – Guide for Ministers

Ministers should familiarise themselves with their roles and responsibilities under these arrangements and understand their executive 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. for summer bushfire season). Offices should be familiar with their minister's role, responsibilities and executive decision-making powers under the arrangements.

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.

State and territory governments have legislative responsibility for the protection of life, property and 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 advice to states and territories to support prevention and preparedness activities, including crisis management exercises; and
- national leadership and coordination on policy and capability through Australian Government supported/sponsored committees.

Australian Government agencies also develop national plans and maintain (through the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) a national exercise program for Commonwealth Ministers, Secretaries and Agency Heads. Home Affairs also maintains a national exercise program focussed on certain operational level agencies and aims at improving Commonwealth and State incident management cooperation. Both assist in preparing for crises within Australia and overseas. The Australian Government (through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Defence) manages a program to prepare for incidents that may affect Australians and/or Australian interests overseas. Both assist in preparing for crises within Australia and overseas.

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.

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; and manages a crisis that is not the responsibility of a state and/or territory.

Who leads the Australian Government's response to, and recovery from, a crisis?

The lead minister for the Australian Government on response and recovery is usually the relevant portfolio minister (see Table 2.1 below).

In certain circumstances it may be necessary for two or more ministers to co-lead the Australian Government's response to (and/or recovery from) a crisis – this depends on the effects of a crisis, and how these effects align with ministers respective portfolio responsibilities. As the incident evolves and circumstances become clearer, responsibility for leading the Australian Government response to (and/or 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 response (and/or recovery). When this occurs, the Prime Minister's Office will advise ministers which elements the Prime Minister will lead and which elements the relevant portfolio minister(s) will continue to lead.

For example, the Prime Minister may choose to act as the Australian Government spokesperson in the event of a significant bushfire. In this instance the Minister responsible for emergency management remains responsible for all other elements of the response and recovery.

Table 2.1

Lead Minister	Possible hazards	Annex
Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs	International crises	Annex A.1
Minister responsible for Home Affairs	Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents) or any other domestic crises with no clear ministerial lead	Annex A.2
Minister responsible for Home Affairs	Domestic terrorist incidents or maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain Note the Minister responsible for Defence will take a leading role if Australian Defence Force assistance is required.	Annex A.3 and Annex A.4
Minister responsible for Emergency Management	Domestic natural disasters	Annex A.5
Minister responsible for Agriculture	Domestic biosecurity crises	Annex A.6
Minister responsible for Health	Domestic public health crises	Annex A.7
Minister responsible for Energy	Domestic energy supply crises	Annex A.8
Minister(s) responsible for Resources and Northern Australia	Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters	Annex A.9

Minister responsible for Transport	Transport incidents (maritime and aviation) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region	Annex A.10
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Two primary all-hazards 24/7 facilities monitor and inform the Australian Government of emerging hazards and provide whole-of-government situational awareness:

- the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC) in Home Affairs, and
- the Global Watch Office (GWO) in DFAT.

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

- for domestic crises, the CCC coordinates the Australian Government's response; including administering Australia's Online Content Incident Arrangement;
- for international crises, DFAT provides initial response actions through the GWO, and may activate the department's Crisis Centre (CC) for more significant crises;
- ministers and ministerial offices are notified either by senior officials from their respective agencies or by the lead ministerial office;
- secretaries/deputy secretaries will separately brief their ministers on the situation and provide advice on a whole-of-government communication strategy, key decisions and policy options as needed (generally informed by whole-of-government crisis committee discussions);
- senior official crisis committees usually convene within hours of a significant event – either the Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC), the National Crisis Committee (NCC)⁶, or the Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF). Ideally, crisis committees are convened prior to Cabinet meetings and support and inform ministerial decision-making and enable an effective whole-of-government approach to crisis management. Depending on circumstances this may not always be possible/necessary.
- for overseas events, incidents or crises, senior Commonwealth officials usually convene through an Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF), convened by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, within hours of a significant event affecting Australians or Australian interests.
- to operationalise Australia's Online Content Incident Arrangement, the Australian Government utilises the 24/7 Crisis Coordination Centre to connect the Commonwealth eSafety Commissioner, relevant government agencies, digital platform based businesses and Internet Service Providers to maximise the automation of information flow, including through existing industry and agency mechanisms to combat the uploading and dissemination of terrorist and extreme violent material online.

⁶ Or whichever committee(s) replace this under the new National Federation Reform Council arrangements.

Ministers' roles during a crisis

The lead minister should:

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

Co-lead ministers should oversee the delivery of the Australian Government response; exercise their executive responsibilities in consultation with ministers who have relevant portfolio interests; and 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; and
- support the whole-of-government communications strategy, headed by the responsible lead minister or co-lead ministers, using:
 - approved holding statements and talking points; and
 - agreed coordination and clearance processes to release information or comment.

The Prime Minister's role during a crisis

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 continue to 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; and
- 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 convene as frequently as required.

Australian Government: forms of assistance

When required, the Australian Government provides non-financial assistance to affected countries, states and/or territories. Australian Government agencies are able to provide specific capabilities to assist with the response to a crisis, including Australian Defence Force (ADF) resources, access to satellite imagery, or assistance in brokering memoranda of understanding with foreign partners to obtain resources. Where possible, assistance should be facilitated through Australian Government national plans.

Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2 outline key Australian Government Plans and standing Commonwealth assistance arrangements respectively.

Figure 2.1 – Key Australian Government Plans

Plan	Key decisions
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Domestic</p>	<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"> • Director-General, EMA, Home Affairs activates and deactivates COMDISPLAN. • The Minister responsible for Emergency Management approves requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN. • The CCC coordinates requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">International</p>	<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. • DFAT leads and coordinates requests for assistance under AUSASSISTPLAN in close consultation with the CCC within EMA, Home Affairs. • Director-General, EMA, Home Affairs activates and deactivates AUSASSISTPLAN, at the request of DFAT.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">International</p>	<p>The Australian Government Reception Plan (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"> • Director-General, EMA, Home Affairs activates and deactivates AUSRECEPLAN at the request of DFAT. • DFAT is responsible for coordinating the evacuation, with support provided by the CCC within EMA, Home Affairs for coordinating reception arrangements in Australia. • The CCC assists lead agencies coordinate and integrate activities under AUSRECEPLAN.

The National Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents Involving Australians Overseas

(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.

- The **Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health and Home Affairs** activate and deactivate OSMASSCASPLAN.
- The **CCC** assists lead agencies coordinate and integrate activities under OSMASSCASPLAN.

Figure 2.2 – Standing Commonwealth Assistance Arrangements

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC)

Emergency DACC is support provided to the civil community where immediate action is necessary to: save human life or alleviate suffering; prevent widespread loss/damage to property; prevent extensive loss of animal life; or to prevent environmental damage. Emergency DACC may also be activated when state and/or territory resources are overwhelmed/not fit for purpose.

Category One Local emergency assistance

- Immediate ADF assistance provided by local ADF commanders, or emergency use of Defence Estate, from within their own resources, to local authorities.
- The relevant **local ADF commander or Base Manager** approves Category One requests.
- Assistance shall not normally exceed 48 hours.
- No cost recovery unless prior agreement. Defence will not pursue cost recovery. *(Note: Extract from Defence DACC Manual)*

Category Two Significant emergency assistance

- ADF assistance beyond that provided under Category One, for a more extensive or continuing crisis response (this may include short term recovery efforts).
- Requires COMDISPLAN to be activated and a request for assistance through Emergency Management Australia (EMA).
- The **Chief of the Defence Force (CDF)** or delegate approves requests for Defence support beyond local arrangements.
- Duration depends on the nature and scope of the crisis, as well as available resources.
- No cost recovery unless prior agreement. Defence will not pursue cost recovery but may accept payment if offered. *(Note: Extract from Defence DACC Manual).*

Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA)

- DFACA is Defence's policy framework for the provision of Defence support in circumstances where it is possible the ADF may be required to use force.
- The provision of DFACA is underpinned by Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* which enables Call Out of the ADF within Australia to protect Commonwealth interests against domestic violence⁷ and from threats in Australia's offshore area, and in response to requests from states and territories for protection against domestic violence.
- The **Governor-General** makes a Call Out order on the advice of the three authorising ministers (the **Prime Minister**, the **Attorney-General** and the **Minister responsible for Defence**).
- In a sudden and extraordinary emergency, the **Prime Minister** acting alone, or the **Minister responsible for Defence** and the **Attorney-General** acting together (when the Prime Minister is uncontactable), can make an Expedited Call Out order.

⁷ *'Domestic violence' refers to conduct that is marked by great physical force and would include a terrorist attack, hostage situation, and widespread or significant violence. Part IIIAAA uses the term 'domestic violence' as this is the term used in section 119 of the Constitution, which deals with state requests for assistance in responding to domestic violence. Peaceful protests, industrial action or civil disobedience would not fall within the definition of 'domestic violence'.*

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 (UNISDR 2017).

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 such as by providing specific expertise or equipment, under 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). Other assistance programs may be developed on a case-by-case basis to support recovery efforts (e.g. community recovery packages).

Responsibility for all aspects of emergency management, including disaster recovery, is shared between 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.

Australian Government: forms of assistance

Non-financial assistance

The Australian Government can provide a range of non-financial assistance depending on the crisis, including Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) Arrangements:

- DACC Category 3 is assistance associated with recovery from a civil emergency or disaster, where the imminent threat to life and or property has passed. Provision of this level of support involves longer term significant recovery support, such as reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing. Duration of assistance shall depend on nature, scope of recovery effort and available resources.
 - Requires COMDISPLAN activation.
 - The **Chief of the Defence Force** or delegate approves requests for Defence support.
 - Duration depends on the nature and scope of the recovery efforts, as well as available resources.

- Unless a waiver is approved, this category involves direct cost recovery.

Financial assistance

The Australian Government provides 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 automatically 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, non-for-profit organisations and needy individuals (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); and
- 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 provide assistance to individuals in addition to DRFA measures.

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) provides one-off, non means tested financial assistance of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child to those adversely affected by a major disaster (in Australia or overseas).

- The **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** holds authority for activating AGDRP and has the discretion to determine the criteria for any given event. Indicative criteria for AGDRP eligibility are:
 - a person was seriously injured, or
 - a person is the immediate family member of an Australian who is killed as a direct result of the disaster, or
 - a person's principal place of residence has been destroyed, or
 - a person's major assets have suffered major damage, or
 - a person's principal place of residence has sustained major damage, or

- a person is the principal carer of a dependent child and the dependent child has been affected by any of the above.
- Services Australia assesses claims and makes the AGDRP payments.
- AGDRP is provided under the *Social Security Act 1991*.

The 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.
- DRA is:
 - equivalent to the rate of Jobseeker Payment or Youth Allowance; and
 - is available to Australian residents or individuals who are:
 - 16 years of age, or older;
 - not a dependent child;
 - either Australian residents or holders of an eligible visa;
 - living in Australia for the period of time they receive the allowance; and
 - not receiving another income support or pension.
- Services Australia assesses claims and makes the DRA payments.
- AGDRA is provided under the Social Security Act 1991.

The Australian Government provides ex-gratia AGDRP and DRA to eligible New Zealand citizens residing in Australia who hold a 'non-protected' Special Category Visa (subclass 444).

- The **Prime Minister** or **Cabinet** authorise(s) ex-gratia AGDRP and DRA to New Zealand Special Category Visa holders.
- Ex-gratia AGDRP is provided consistent with the conditions and eligibility of AGDRP under the Social Security Act 1991 and is only available in circumstances where the DRP has been made available.
- Ex-gratia DRA is provided consistent with the conditions and eligibility of the DRA under the Social Security Act 1991 and is only available in circumstances where the DRA has been made available.
- Services Australia assesses claims and makes ex-gratia DRP and DRA payments.

The Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment (AVTOP) provides financial assistance 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** is responsible for declaring an overseas incident as a terrorist act under the AVTOP scheme, on advice from the Minister responsible for Home Affairs.
- The scheme provides financial assistance of up to \$75,000 in relation to each primary and secondary victim.
- An Australian resident who is both a primary and secondary victim may claim up to \$75,000 in relation to the harm they suffered as a primary victim and up to \$75,000 in relation to each deceased close family member.
- If there is more than one close family member affected in relation to a deceased person the maximum amount of financial assistance of \$75,000 is apportioned between those family members.
- Home Affairs administers the legislation for AVTOP.
- Services Australia assesses claims and makes payments under AVTOP.

The *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003* enables insurance claims for losses from damage to commercial property, business interruption and public liability claims following a 'terrorist incident'.

- To apply, the **Treasurer** must declare a 'terrorist incident' under the Terrorism Insurance Act 2003 (the Act).
- Under the Act the **Treasurer** is required to consult the **Minister responsible for Home Affairs** prior to making a determination about whether an incident is a 'terrorist incident' for insurance purposes. The **Minister responsible for Home Affairs** should consult the **Australian Security Intelligence Organisation** and the **Australian Government Solicitor** before providing advice to the Treasurer.

Funding arrangements

Where a foreign government requests, or is offered, Australian assistance the lead minister is responsible for the costs incurred, including where that minister has agreed to the deployment of state and territory resources.⁸

All ministers can approve spending within their budget portfolios consistent with extant policy and funding authority provided by the **Cabinet** or **Prime Minister**, including existing appropriations (e.g. the **Minister responsible for Home Affairs** can activate the AGDRP). In all cases ministers should seek approval for additional funding if the costs incurred cannot be

⁸ *The Australian Government has no obligation to compensate states and territories for costs incurred if they offer to deploy resources overseas without Australian Government agreement (including under state and territory bilateral agreements).*

accommodated within existing agency budgets or authority.⁹ All proposals with financial implications beyond their budget portfolios must be submitted for consideration in line with Cabinet's Budget Process Operational Rules.¹⁰ If the urgency of the situation means that Cabinet processes do not allow for a decision in sufficient time, agencies may seek authority through correspondence to the **Prime Minister**, copied to the **Treasurer** and the **Minister responsible for Finance**.¹¹

⁹ *Generally, Commonwealth and state and territory agencies would only be funded for the net additional cost of their activities in response to a crisis.*

¹⁰ *If it is not feasible to agree costs before a submission to Cabinet, the Prime Minister may consider agreeing to an expenditure cap.*

¹¹ *Correspondence must provide appropriate supporting arguments and documentation that address Budget and Cabinet rule requirements.*

Part Two – Guide for Senior Officials

Senior officials across government play a critical role in effective and efficient crisis coordination.

The following senior officials manage whole-of-government crisis coordination functions:

- The **Deputy Secretary, National Security, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Deputy Secretary PM&C)** is responsible for setting and overseeing whole-of-government crisis policy, in accordance with the AGCMF.
- The relevant **Deputy Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs)**, or equivalent, chairs the Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC) and National Crisis Committee (NCC)¹²; and takes necessary steps to ensure whole-of-government decision-making is timely, accurate and coordinated. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** may chair or co-chair these committees. The relevant **Deputy Secretary of Home Affairs** also chairs the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC).
- The relevant **Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, or delegate, convenes the Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF) and manages the Commonwealth 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 following senior officials have specific whole-of-government crisis responsibilities:

- The **Director General EMA (DG EMA)** manages the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC) and oversees response, recovery, national planning.
- The **Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (Home Affairs)** sets the strategic direction and priorities for the Commonwealth's counter-terrorism effort. In the event of a domestic terrorism-related crisis, the Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator's primary role is to provide strategic direction and/or ensure whole-of-government decision making is timely accurate and coordinated.
- The **Head of Australian Cyber Security Centre** provides timely and accurate advice to inform ministers and other senior decision makers on the cyber aspects of an incident, including options for response.

In addition, other senior officials have responsibilities to lead or coordinate the Australian Government's response to a crisis, as outlined in Annexes A.1-A.10. These responsibilities may include:

- Providing advice and support to lead ministers.
- Ensuring that ministerial directions and decisions are effectively implemented.

¹² Or whichever committee(s) are nominated under the new National Federation Reform Council arrangements

- Setting and overseeing the strategic response to a crisis.
- Coordinating whole-of-government response actions.
- Exercising relevant powers and decision-making responsibilities provided in legislation and crisis plans.
- Supporting consistent and effective crisis communications and information sharing, including to maintain public safety and confidence.

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, plans, capabilities and services can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

State and territory governments have legislative responsibility for the protection of life, property and 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 advice to states and territories to support prevention and preparedness activities, including crisis management exercises; and
- national leadership and coordination on policy and capability through Australian Government supported/sponsored committees.

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

Australian Government agencies also develop national plans and maintain (through the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs)) a national exercise program. Both planning and exercising assist in preparing for crises within Australia and overseas. The Australian Government (through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Defence) also manages a program to prepare for incidents that may affect Australians and/or Australian interests overseas.

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.

State/territory coordination arrangements – As first responders, local and state and territory governments have arrangements in place to respond to crises within their respective jurisdictions.

Agency-led coordination arrangements – A single Commonwealth agency (or agencies if a co-lead situation is necessary) may coordinate the Commonwealth response to a crisis. In this event, the lead agency/agencies should clearly agree on the thresholds/factors that would escalate the response to whole-of-government coordination arrangements and a whole-of-government crisis committee.

For example, if an outbreak of plant-based disease affects a large range of primary producers' and limits Australia's ability to export its products, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment may consider it appropriate and necessary to escalate to the appropriate whole-of-government crisis committee.

The online viral spread of the 15 March 2019 Christchurch terrorist attack livestream and associated content was unprecedented. In response, the Department of Home Affairs coordinated agreement on Australia's Online Content Incident Arrangement. This new arrangement outlines a joint industry-government response to an online content event involving terrorist and/or extreme violent material that is likely to cause significant harm to the Australian public.

Whole-of-government coordination arrangements – Whole-of-Australian Government crisis response is coordinated through the appropriate crisis committee:

- Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC), for the coordination of the Australian Government response to domestic crises.
- National Crisis Committee (NCC)¹³, to facilitate cooperation and coordination between the Australian Government and the relevant state and territory government(s) in response to domestic crises.
- Interdepartmental Emergency Task Force (IDETF), for the coordination of the Australian Government response to overseas crises.
- National Cyber Security Committee, for inter-jurisdictional coordination in response to cyber incidents.

For crises overseas, DFAT leads the Government response through the IDETF, working with other portfolios as necessary to ensure the response is effectively coordinated across the whole-of-government.

For domestic crises, Home Affairs, in addition to its lead role for certain crises (as per Annexes A.2, A.3 and A.4), supports the coordinated whole-of-government response where it is otherwise not the lead portfolio. This role complements the designated lead portfolio by supporting these

¹³ Or whichever committee(s) are nominated under the new National Federation Reform Council arrangements.

portfolios to coordinate whole-of-government crisis planning and response across different crisis events.

For crises with both domestic and international impacts, DFAT and Home Affairs will work closely together to ensure all impacts are managed and well-coordinated across portfolios, and the CCC will assist lead agencies coordinate and integrate activities. In addition, for any crisis, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) may decide to lead or co-lead coordination of the Australian government's response as it deems necessary.

Once whole-of-government coordination arrangements are activated it is the responsibility of the appropriate crisis committee chair to determine when these arrangements are no longer required and inform agencies on how the crisis will be managed moving forward (e.g. through agency-led arrangements or inter-departmental committees). The chair of the crisis committee will also support the transition of coordinated crisis response and recovery activities through the AGDRC.

Triggers for activating whole-of-government coordination arrangements 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 crisis;
- 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 that has both domestic and international components;
- a crisis resulting in a large number of Australian casualties;
- community expectation of national leadership; or
- multiple crises occurring simultaneously.

Whole-of-government crisis response committees¹⁴

The key mechanisms for facilitating whole-of-government coordination of crises are:

- **Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC)** – is the mechanism that brings together relevant Australian Government agencies – primarily in response to domestic crises. The Deputy Secretary Home Affairs (or delegate) chairs the AGCC. The Deputy Secretary PM&C (or delegate) may chair or co-chair the AGCC;
- **Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF)** – manages the whole-of-government response to overseas incidents or crises that harm or threaten to harm, Australians or Australia's interests overseas. The Deputy Secretary DFAT (or delegate) chairs the IDETF and

¹⁴ Or whichever committee(s) are nominated under the new National Federation Reform Council arrangements.

the Deputy Secretary PM&C (or delegate) may co-chair the IDETF;

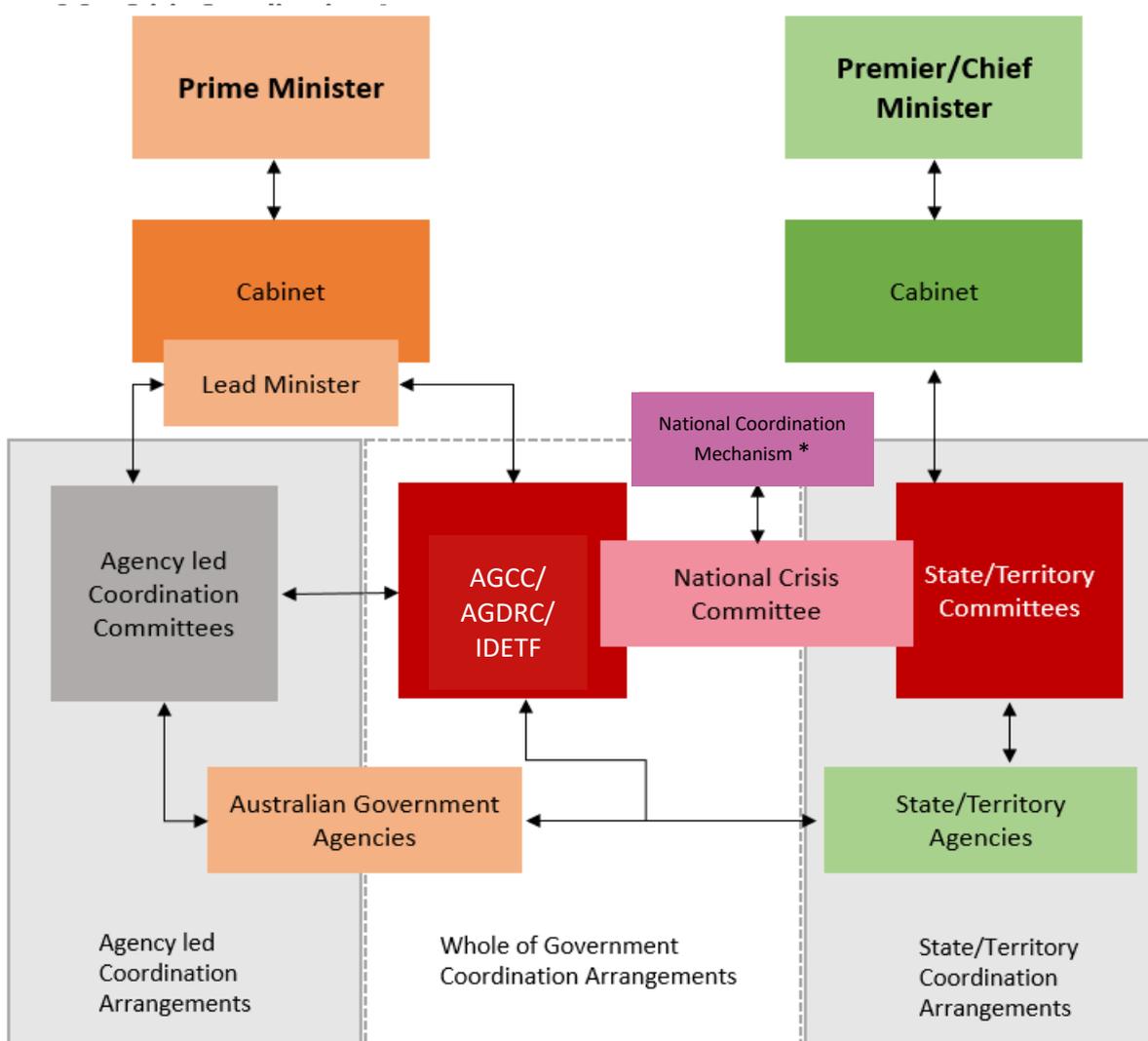
- **National Crisis Committee (NCC)** – provides a bridge between the Australian Government and the relevant state or territory government(s) to facilitate cooperation and coordination around the response to domestic crises. Only one state or territory needs to be affected to constitute an NCC. The Deputy Secretary Home Affairs (or delegate) chairs the NCC and the Deputy Secretary PM&C (or delegate) may chair or co-chair the NCC;
- **National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)** – coordinates engagement between the Australian Government, States and Territories, as well as industry, to support whole of government responses to domestic crises (The NCM may be convened in place of an NCC in certain circumstances); and
- **National Cyber Security Committee** – provides a mechanism for inter-jurisdictional coordination for responses to cyber security incidents. Led by the Head of ACSC and State and Territory representatives.

In the case of a single incident that triggers the thresholds for the AGCC, NCC and the IDETF, **it is the responsibility of the respective chairs to agree which committee 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 AGCC or NCC will manage those crises with a predominantly domestic impact and the IDETF will manage crises with a predominantly international focus.

Whole-of-government crisis committees provide:

- **Situational awareness:** supports information sharing and provides senior officials with an accurate and unified picture of the crisis and response activities.
- **Advice and support:** enables senior officials to provide ministers and key decision making bodies with status updates and resources to support ministerial decision making.
- **Communication strategy:** supports consistent messaging and information sharing; execute crisis plans; and support and maintain public safety and confidence.
- **Strategic coordination:** provides high level linkage; and ensures that ministerial directions are effectively implemented across government, including with the states and territories, and with affected industry and the community, where required.

Figure 2.3 shows the relationship between state and territory coordination arrangements, agency-led coordination arrangements and whole-of-government coordination arrangements.



* Note that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Cabinet was convened to support coordination between First Ministers.

Special purpose/temporary response mechanisms

In some cases it may 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 (AGCC, NCC, NCM or IDETF).

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.

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 back brief their agencies (e.g. meeting observers and efficiently circulating minutes to relevant areas of their

departments);

- 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; and
 - a consistent communication strategy.¹⁵

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:

- leading the Commonwealth response in cases that have not triggered a whole-of-government crisis response; and
- where a whole-of-government crisis committee is convened – providing subject matter expertise; and implementing key elements of the response. This may include coordinating briefings, situational reports and public messaging.

Facilities

Three key facilities support whole-of-government coordination:¹⁶

- **Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC):** the CCC is a standing 24/7 facility that monitors and informs the Australian Government of emerging hazards; coordinates information flows and whole-of-government situational awareness; and plans and coordinates the Australian Government's response.
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Global Watch Office GWO (DFAT GWO):** the GWO is a standing 24/7 facility that monitors and informs the Australian Government of emerging overseas events; coordinates information flows and whole-of-government situational awareness; and coordinates the Australian Government's initial response.
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Crisis Centre (DFAT CC):** the DFAT CC coordinates the response to a major overseas crisis affecting Australians and/or Australian interests.

¹⁵ *Senior Officials may choose to develop a terms of reference or a similar record of these details.*

¹⁶ *Agencies may also operate their own crisis response facilities to support whole-of-government coordination facilities. For example, the Department of Health's National Incident Room is activated during the response to a national health emergency.*

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 (UNISDR 2017).

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 such as by providing specific expertise or equipment, under agreement with the Australian Government.

Recovery efforts in Australia are informed by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery.¹⁷ Disaster recovery includes physical, environmental and economic elements as well as psychological wellbeing. Successful recovery relies on:

- understanding the context;
- recognising complexity;
- using community-led approaches;
- ensuring coordination of all activities;
- employing effective communication; and
- acknowledging and building capacity.

The Australian Government supports recovery efforts, both within Australia and overseas, through a range of established assistance programs (non-financial and financial). 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).¹⁸

Responsibility for all aspects of emergency management, including disaster recovery is shared between 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

¹⁷ <https://www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement/Respond-and-recover/Documents/national-principles-for-disaster-recovery.pdf>

¹⁸ Further information on recovery arrangements is at p. 18.

the impacted community to provide a range of recovery activities, programs and services.

There are two mechanisms by which the Australian Government may coordinate disaster response and/or recovery efforts. The first is through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC). The second is through a Government directed dedicated Agency such as occurred during the 2019-20 Bushfire Season.

The responsibilities of a dedicated recovery agency or body will vary and be detailed in its Terms of Reference. The responsibilities of the AGDRC are detailed below.

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC) coordinates Australian Government recovery efforts for all hazards on behalf of the Australian Government.

The AGDRC may be convened where the complexity of recovery issues requires a coordinated Australian Government response or if there are multiple incidents and/or multiple jurisdictions affected. The AGDRC is chaired by the relevant Deputy Secretary of Home Affairs, and reports to the Secretary of Home Affairs (who will report to the Minister responsible for Emergency Management as necessary). The relevant Deputy Secretary PM&C (or delegate) may chair or co-chair the AGDRC.

The AGDRC:

- coordinates Australian Government support for delivering recovery assistance to crisis survivors, families of those missing, victims' families, the community and industry. This includes considering the fiscal implications of any financial support mechanisms and the adjustment of any Australian Government regulations to assist in community recovery;
- provides advice to the Australian Government on the social, economic, environmental, natural and built impacts of crises; implications for government, individuals, families and communities; and recovery planning; and
- maintains effective links with relevant Australian Government, state and territory governments and non-government organisations involved in domestic crisis recovery through formal sub-committees.

In the event of a domestic crisis, the relevant Deputy Secretary of Home Affairs, and or the relevant Deputy Secretary PM&C determines whether to convene the AGDRC. In the event of an international crisis, the relevant Deputy Secretary of DFAT determines whether to convene an IDETF. At the request of DFAT, the Secretary of Home Affairs may convene the AGDRC to coordinate recovery efforts in Australia.

Annexe A – Crisis Management and Response Arrangements

Response arrangements - overview

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

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

A.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, and kidnapping of Australians overseas.

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:

- Activating the Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment, as appropriate.
- Changing 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 **Minister(s) 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 Minister(s) responsible for Home Affairs, Defence and Health**).
- Activate financial assistance packages, including humanitarian funding to countries affected by international crises.

Minister(s) responsible for Emergency Management or Home Affairs:

- Activate the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, as necessary.
- 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:

- Deploying Australian health resources overseas in response to an emergency, as required (at the request of the **Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs**).
- Providing advice and implementing measures to manage an international health incident which involves a threat to Australia.
- Liaising 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.

Minister responsible for Defence or Chief of the Defence Force:

- Responding to and approving requests for Defence support, as required.

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Key legislation:

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003*
- *World Health Organization Act 1947*
- *International Health Regulations 2005*
- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

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

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

- Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF)
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN).
- Australian Government Plan for the reception of Australian citizens and other approved persons evacuated to Australia from overseas (AUSRECEPLAN).
- National Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents involving Australians Overseas (OSMACASPLAN).
- France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) Agreement on response to natural disasters in the Pacific.
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA).

A.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 wide-spread 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 and recovery: Department of Home Affairs

Minister

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

- Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General:

- Makes an order calling out 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, 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903* in 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.

Prime Minister:

- Activating the New Zealand Special Category visa holder's ex-gratia disaster assistance, as necessary.
- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on calling out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required.
- Authorising an Expedited Call Out of the ADF in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs:

- Coordinating Commonwealth 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**).
- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (**in consultation with relevant ministers**).

- Activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.
- 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 Defence:

- Responding to and approving requests for Defence support under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, as required.
- Providing 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 authorising 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Consult the **Prime Minister** on calling out the ADF Reserves under Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.

Attorney-General:

- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on 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 Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Foreign 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.

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.

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(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Key legislation:

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Defence Act 1903*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Deputy Secretary, Home Affairs
- Chief of the Defence Force (where ADF assistance is provided)

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC)
- National Crisis Committee (NCC)
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- 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)

A.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; or*
- *seriously interferes with, disrupts or destroys critical infrastructure.*

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

Lead Agency for response and recovery: Department of Home Affairs

Minister

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

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General:

- Makes an order calling 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903* in 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.

Prime Minister:

- Changing 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)).
- Declaring a National Terrorist Situation, if, when and where required (**with the agreement of the affected states and/or territories**).

- Approving Category C and D assistance under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, as necessary.
- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on Call Out of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required.
- Authorising an Expedited Call Out of the ADF in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.

Minister(s) responsible for Emergency Management or Home Affairs:

- Activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment or Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.
- Responding to requests for financial assistance under DRFA arrangements, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs:

- Coordinating Commonwealth 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**).
- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (**in consultation with relevant ministers**).
- Responding to requests for financial assistance under DRFA arrangements, as necessary (**Prime Minister approval is required for Category C and D requests**).
- Activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.
- Prohibit the entry of specified cargo into Australian territory (**in consultation with the Minister(s) responsible for Foreign Affairs and Trade**).
- 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 Defence:

- Responding to and approving requests for Defence support under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, as required.
- Providing 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 authorising 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.

- Consult the **Prime Minister** on calling out the ADF Reserves under Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.

Attorney-General:

- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on 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 Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Health:

- Implementing health measures, as appropriate.
- Whether or not to activate the Terrorism Insurance Scheme and at what level (**in consultation with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs**).

Treasurer:

- Whether or not to activate the Terrorism Insurance Scheme and at what level (**in consultation with the 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 Foreign Affairs:

- Provision of reverse consular assistance to foreign 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.

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(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Key legislation:

- *Social Security Act 1991*
- *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003*
- *Defence Act 1903*

- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*

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 (as applicable):

- Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC)
- National Crisis Committee (NCC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)
- Centre for Counter-Terrorism Coordination (CCTC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Government Piracy Response Plan (AUSPIRACYPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- 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 (DFACA) operation response Guidelines and threshold considerations
- 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)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
- Major Aviation Security Incident (MASI)

A.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 off-shore 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 and recovery coordination: Australian Border Force (Maritime Border Command)

Minister

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

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General:

- Makes an order calling 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**).
- Make an order calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Part III of the *Defence Act 1903* in 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.

Prime Minister:

- Changing 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)**).

- Declaring a National Terrorist Situation, if, when and where required (**with the agreement of the affected states and/or territories**).
- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on calling out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required.
- Authorising an Expedited Call Out of the ADF in a sudden and extraordinary emergency.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs:

- Coordinate Commonwealth 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**).
- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non- financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (**in consultation with relevant ministers**).
- Responding to requests for financial assistance under NDRRA arrangements, as necessary (**Prime Minister approval is required for Category C and D requests**).
- Activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.
- 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 uncontacted.

Attorney-General:

- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on calling out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* as required.
- Jointly authorise with the **Minister responsible for Defence** an Expedited Call out Order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.

Minister responsible for Defence:

- Providing advice to the **Governor-General** on call out of the Defence Force under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required.
- 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Consult the **Prime Minister** on calling out the ADF Reserves under Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.

Treasurer:

- Whether or not to activate the Terrorism Insurance Scheme and at what level (**in consultation with the Attorney-General**).
- 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.

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:

- 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*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

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

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism
- Counter-Terrorism Coordination Centre (CTCvC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
- 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)
- Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)
- Major Aviation Security Incident (MASI)

A.5 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: Department of Home Affairs

Minister

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

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Prime Minister:

- Approving Category C and D assistance under DRFA arrangements, as necessary.
- Activating the New Zealand Special Category visa (subclass 444) holders ex-gratia disaster assistance, 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**).
- Responding to requests for financial assistance under DRFA arrangements, as necessary (**Prime Ministerial approval is required for Category C and D requests**).
- Activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or the Disaster Recovery Allowance, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Defence:

- Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support 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 Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Consult the **Prime Minister** on calling out the ADF Reserves under Part III of the *Defence Act 1903*.

Minister responsible for Health:

- Implementing health measures, as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs:

- Coordinating any offers of international assistance, as required.
- Provision of reverse consular assistance to foreign Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Key legislation:

- *Social Security Act 1991*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Deputy Secretary, Department of Home Affairs

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC)¹⁹

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- Australian Contingency Plan for Radioactive Space Re-entry Debris (AUSSPREDPLAN)
- Domestic Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents of National Consequence (AUSTRAPLAN)
- National Catastrophic Disaster Plan (NATCATDISPLAN)
- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

¹⁹ 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.

A.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); and plant pests and diseases (e.g. locusts, fruit flies).

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Agriculture

Lead Agency for response and recovery: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Minister responsible for Biosecurity

- Determining a biosecurity emergency under Part 1 of Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Approving the implementation of biosecurity measures, as required.
- Seeking to maintain or retain market access in the event of a disease, pest or food safety incident that may impact on trade, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Health:

- Implementing health measures, as appropriate.

Legislation:

- *Export Control Act 1982*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Deputy Secretary, Department responsible for Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism

- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)

Note: Under national biosecurity response agreements between all governments and livestock and plant industries, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment chairs the National Management Group (decision making body under the below agreements and plans) and various Consultative Committees (technical advisory groups under the below agreements and plans).

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

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

A.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.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Health

Lead Agency for response and recovery: Department of Health

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General:

- Declaring 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*.

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.
- Implementing health measures, 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.

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Legislation:

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *National Health Security Act 2007*
- *Imported Food Control Act 1992*
- *World Health Organization Act 1947*
- *International Health Regulations 2005*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)

Note: The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) is a key health sector coordination mechanism that provides advice to whole-of-government crisis committees.

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- National Health Security Agreement (NHSA)
- National Health Emergency Response Arrangements (NatHealth Arrangements)
- Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements (National CD Plan)
- Domestic Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents of National Consequence (AUSTRAUMAPLAN)
- Domestic Health Response Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear incidents of National Consequence (CBRNINC 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)

A.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(s) responsible for Energy and Resources

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

A.8.1 Energy supply crises – liquid fuel

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General:

- Declaring a National Liquid Fuel Emergency under the provisions of the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984* (LFE Act).

Minister(s) responsible for Energy and Resources:

- 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 Home Affairs:

- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the **Minister(s) responsible for the Environment and Energy**).

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Legislation:

- *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984* (LFE Act), the associated Liquid Fuel Emergency Guidelines (LFEG); and 2008 Determination on Essential Users.

Senior Officials

Key senior official

- Deputy Secretary in the department responsible for energy

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee
- Australian Cyber Security Centre
- National Cyber Security Committee

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response Plan
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements

A.8.2 Energy supply crises – natural gas

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Minister(s) for energy and resources:

- Participating in discussions with relevant energy and resources ministers in the event of a multi-jurisdictional gas disruption, utilising the National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC) for information and advice, as required.

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).

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

- Deputy Secretary in the department responsible for energy

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Memoranda of Understanding in relation to National Gas Emergency Response Protocol (NGERP) (including use of emergency powers)
 - The Protocol aims to ensure a nationally consistent approach to managing

natural gas supply interruptions and comes into effect in the event of a natural gas shortage affecting two or more jurisdictions.

- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA).

A.8.3 Energy supply crises – power system emergency

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Minister(s) responsible for the energy and resources:

- If the event occurs in the National Electricity Market:
 - Contributing to key leadership messaging in support of Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and jurisdictional responses, as necessary.
 - Advising Cabinet of AEMO and jurisdictions responses as per the Power System Emergency Management Plan (PSEMP), as required.

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(s) responsible for the Environment and Energy**).

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

- Deputy Secretary in the department responsible for energy

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee
- National Crisis Committee
- National Coordination Mechanism

- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee
- Australian Cyber Security Centre

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- 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)

A.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(s) responsible for Resources and Northern Australia

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

Minister

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

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Minister(s) responsible for Resources and Northern Australia:

- Activating powers under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act), as required.
- Responding to requests from states and territories, as required.

Key legislation:

- *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC)
- National Crisis Committee (NCC)

- National Coordination Mechanism
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)

Note: The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources will convene and chair the Offshore Petroleum Incident Coordination Committee (OPICC), which is a key coordination mechanism that will provide advice to the whole-of-government committees on offshore petroleum incidents.

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- 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)

A.10 Transport incidents (maritime and aviation) 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.

Lead Minister for response and recovery: Minister responsible for Transport

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms:

- Cabinet or Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Minister responsible for Transport:

- Deploying resources to support the response to aviation and maritime emergencies, as required.
- Executing powers under the *Protection of the Sea (Powers of Intervention) Act 1981* to minimise pollution damage by sinking a vessel, as required.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs:

- Responding to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (**in consultation with relevant ministers**).

Minister responsible for Defence:

- Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), as required.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs:

- Provision of reverse consular assistance to foreign Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Minister(s) responsible for Cyber Security:

- Coordinating the cyber aspects of a whole-of-government communications strategy and response to the crisis.

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*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

- Deputy Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

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

- Australian Government Crisis Committee (AGCC)
- National Crisis Committee (NCC)
- National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee (AGDRC)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)
- Maritime Emergency Strategic Coordination Committee (MESCC)

Note: The MESCC is a key coordination mechanism that will provide advice to whole-of-government committees on Maritime Environmental Emergencies.

National plans and arrangements (as applicable):

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
- National Plan for Maritime 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 Plan (NATSARPLAN)

- Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
- Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)

Acronyms

ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
ADF	Australian Defence Force
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AGCC	Australian Government Crisis Committee
AGD	Attorney-General's Department
AGDRC	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee
AGDRP	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
AHPPC	Australian Health Protection Principal Committee
AVTOP	Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment
CCC	Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre
CIMA	Cyber Incident Management Arrangements
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
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
DRA	Disaster Recovery Allowance
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
GWO	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Global Watch Office
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
NCC	National Crisis Committee

NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCSC	National Cyber Security Centre
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK