

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
CRISIS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

**VERSION 3.3 September 2023**

Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

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

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| **1.0** | 17 December 2012 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 5.0) and Australian Government Crisis Management Arrangements: A Guide for Ministers (Version 1.1) | | PM&C |
| **1.1** | 10 December 2013 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.0) and reflects the Abbot Ministry and Administrative Arrangements Order of 18 September 2013. | | PM&C |
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| **1.3** | 12 January 2016 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.2) and reflects the role of the Minister for Counter-Terrorism. | | PM&C |
| **2.0** | October 2016 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 1.3). | | Prime Minister |
| **2.1** | May 2017 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.0) and reflects updated administrative arrangements. | | PM&C |
| **2.2** | December 2017 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.1) and reflects updated administrative arrangements following establishment of the Home Affairs portfolio. | | PM&C |
| **2.3** | October 2020 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.2) and reflects updated administrative arrangements following the establishment of new ministerial portfolios focused on natural disasters and emergency management and revised Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements. This version also reflects the retirement of the Council of Australian Governments arrangements and associated structures. | | PM&C |
| **3.0** | July 2021 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 2.3) and reflects the Government’s response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. | | Prime Minister |
| **3.1** | December 2021 | | Administrative updates to describe the Australian Government National Joint Common Operating Picture and Australian Public Service Surge Reserve and provide updated detail on the handover arrangements from Emergency Management Australia to National Recovery and Resilience Agency. | | PM&C |
| **3.2** | November 2022 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 3.1) and reflects updated administrative arrangements including the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency. | | PM&C |
| **3.3** | September 2023 | | Replaces AGCMF (Version 3.2) and reflects updated administrative arrangements including the addition of a Cyber Incident annex. | | PM&C |

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1. Australian Government Crisis Management and Recovery Objectives

The Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF) outlines the Australian Government’s approach to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from crises. The AGCMF provides ministers and senior officials with guidance on their respective roles and responsibilities. It also sets out the arrangements that link ministerial responsibility to the work of key officials, committees, and facilities.

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

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

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

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

Australian Government agencies maintain plans and arrangements for the management of crises for which they are the lead, as set out in Section 6 (*Table 6.1*) of the AGCMF. However, lead agencies may choose to escalate issues to AGCMF coordination mechanisms (see *Section 8*) where enhanced strategic coordination is required, or in response to potentially significant crisis consequences, the triggers for which are outlined in Section 3. Agencies may also choose to escalate issues where there is a novel event or crisis for which a specific Government plan does not exist.

Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Programs

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

1. Australian Government, State and Territory Responsibilities

States and territories are the first responders to any incident that occurs within their jurisdiction and have primary responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment within the bounds of their jurisdiction. In addition, the Australian Government plays a more prominent crisis management role in Australian External Territories (including Norfolk Island, the Indian Ocean Territories, and Jervis Bay Territory).

However, the Australian Government recognises the expectations of the Australian public that it will take a leadership role in nationally significant emergencies.

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

The Australian Government:

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

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

There are a range of forms of assistance that may be provided by the Australian Government which encompass financial and non-financial assistance (see*Section 11*).

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

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

National Crisis Planning and Coordination

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

The Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP)[[1]](#footnote-2) process maintained by **NEMA** can be used for national crisis planning. CASP is a repeatable strategic planning tool used to make sense of complex issues related to crises. It employs a structured, systematic methodology to analyse complex scenarios. CASP is a set of tools that allow for timely integration of information from multiple sources and the exploration of how government, not-for-profit and private sector efforts can integrate to provide a unified response.

National-level planning and exercising for **Australian Government Ministers** and officials is supported by these sector-specific plans.

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

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

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

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

Activating a whole-of-government response

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

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

1. National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum

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

* **prevention** –measures to eliminate or reduce the severity of a hazard or crisis
* **preparedness** – arrangements to ensure that, should a crisis occur, the required resources, capabilities and services can be efficiently mobilised and deployed
* **response** –actions taken in anticipation of, during, or immediately after a crisis to ensure that its impacts are minimised, and that those affected are supported as quickly as possible
* **relief** –meeting the essential needs of food, water, shelter, energy, communications and medicines for people affected by a crisis event
* **recovery** –short and medium-term measures to restore or improve the livelihoods, health, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better[[2]](#footnote-3)’ to avoid or reduce future disaster risk
* **reconstruction** – **implementing longer-term strategies post-incident to ‘build back better’ from a crisis, including identifying sustainable development approaches and mitigation measures that may be applicable beyond the directly affected community**
* **risk reduction** –reducing future risk and identifying measures that may be taken to reduce the impact of future crises.

1. Ministerial Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **lead minister** should:

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

Supporting or co-lead ministers:

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

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

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

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

Prime Minister

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

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

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

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

The **National Cabinet** is an intergovernmental forum which brings together the Australian Government with state and territory governments to collaboratively address a wide range of issues of national significance. It is chaired by the **Prime Minister** and attended by the **First Minister** of each of the states and territories.

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

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

Where a NED is contemplated or is in force, **Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response (Deputy CG EMR), NEMA,** the **Department of Home Affairs** and/or other senior officials responsible for managing the relevant hazard/s will work with the **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** to make recommendations to the **Prime Minister** on the making, extension, variation or revocation of a NED pursuant to the legal and consultation thresholds of the NED Act (*see also Section 10*). The process for making a NED, including legal and consultation thresholds, is outlined in the **National Emergency Declaration Aide‑Mémoire.[[3]](#footnote-4)**

| **Lead Minister**  **(see notes below)** | **Possible hazards** | **Annex** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs** | **International crises** | Annex C.1 |
| **Minister responsible for Home Affairs** | **Domestic security-related incidents (excluding terrorist incidents) or other domestic crises with no clear ministerial lead** | Annex C.2 |
| **Minister responsible for  Home Affairs** | **Domestic terrorist incidents or maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain** | Annex C.3 and  Annex C.4 |
| **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** | **Domestic natural disasters** | Annex C.5 |
| **Minister responsible for Agriculture** | **Domestic plant and animal biosecurity crises** | Annex C.6 |
| **Minister responsible for Health** | **Domestic public health or human biosecurity crises** | Annex C.7 |
| **Minister responsible for Energy** | **Domestic energy supply crises** | Annex C.8 |
| **Minister responsible for Resources** | **Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters** | Annex C.9 |
| **Minister responsible for Transport** | **Transport incidents (maritime, aviation, road and rail) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region** | Annex C.10 |
| **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** | **Space events** | Annex C.11 |
| **Minister responsible for Cyber Security** | **Cyber incidents** | Annex C.12 |

**Figure 5.1: Ministerial Responsibilities**

**Note: the Minister responsible for Defence will be a key supporting minister in a cyber incident as the Minister responsible for the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD). ASD has responsibility for cyber security incident response, harm minimisation, technical capabilities, intelligence and effects.**

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

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

1. Role of Australian Government Agencies

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

* coordinating whole-of-government response actions and overseeing the strategic response to a crisis
* providing advice and support to lead ministers
* maintaining mature business continuity plans to support their minister in circumstances where the agency itself is experiencing the effects of an unfolding crisis
* preparing plans to manage all-hazards
* exercising national plans; principally through the national crisis exercise program administered by **NEMA**
* leading the Australian Government response in cases that have not triggered a whole-of-government crisis response arrangement
* providing subject matter expertise, and implementing key elements of the response (for example: coordinating briefings; situational reports; and public messaging and engagement with the **National Coordination Mechanism** (**NCM**)[[4]](#footnote-5), if activated)
* ensuring that ministerial directions and decisions are implemented effectively
* exercising relevant powers and decision-making responsibilities provided in legislation and crisis plans
* working with jurisdictional partners to inform Australian Government situational awareness
* contributing to situational awareness, predictive analysis and decision support through effective information sharing with the **Australian Government** **National Situation Room (NSR)** within **NEMA**, and through the provision of data into the **National Joint Common Operating Picture (NJCOP)[[5]](#footnote-6)** maintained in the NSR
* supporting consistent, timely, accurate and effective crisis communications, including to maintain public safety and confidence, and contribute to Whole of Government Talking Points
* working with **NEMA** to capture observations in the management of crises as part of the Australian Government’s commitment to continuous improvement.

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

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

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

* The **Deputy CG EMR** oversees operational preparedness, response, the transition to recovery and national planning. The **Deputy CG EMR** also oversees the operation of the **NSR**.
* The **Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator** **(Department of Home Affairs)** provides strategic direction and/or ensures whole‑of‑government decision making is timely, accurate and coordinated in the event of a domestic terrorism-related crisis.
* The **Deputy Director-General** of the **Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) – Head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre** **(HACSC)** provides timely and accurate advice to inform ministers and other senior decision makers on the cyber security aspects of an incident, including technical response options.
* The **National Cyber Security Coordinator** leads on the coordination of responses to major cyber incidents, whole of government cyber incident preparedness efforts and the strengthening of Australian Government cyber security capability. As part of this role, the Coordinator can direct and deliver coordinated and consistent information for the public as the Minister’s spokesperson on cyber incident management.

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

| **Lead Agency (see notes below)** | **Possible hazards** | **Annex** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department responsible for Foreign Affairs** | **International crises** | Annex C.1 |
| **Department responsible for Home Affairs** | **Domestic security-related incidents  (excluding terrorist incidents) or any other domestic crises with no clear ministerial lead** | Annex C.2 |
| **Department responsible for Counter-Terrorism Coordination** | **Domestic terrorist incidents or maritime terrorist incidents within the Australian Maritime Domain** | Annex C.3 and  Annex C.4 |
| **Department responsible for Emergency Management** | **Domestic natural disasters** | Annex C.5 |
| **Department responsible for Agriculture** | **Domestic plant and animal biosecurity crises** | Annex C.6 |
| **Department responsible for Health** | **Domestic public health and human biosecurity crises** | Annex C.7 |
| **Department responsible for Energy** | **Domestic energy supply crises** | Annex C.8 |
| **Department responsible for Resources** | **Incidents involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters** | Annex C.9 |
| **Department responsible for Transport** | **Transport incidents (maritime, aviation, road and rail) within Australia, the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, or the Australian Search and Rescue Region** | Annex C.10 |
| **Department responsible for Emergency Management** | **Space events** | Annex C.11 |
| **Department responsible for Cyber Security** | **Cyber incidents** | Annex C.12 |

**Table 6.1: Departmental Responsibilities**

**Note: The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) has responsibility for cyber security incident response, harm minimisation, technical capabilities, intelligence and effects.**

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

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

1. Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Prevention and Preparedness

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

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

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

The Australian Government:

* provides financial assistance and planning support to states and territories to assist prevention and preparedness activities, including crisis management exercises
* provides national leadership and coordination on policy and capability through Commonwealth supported/sponsored capabilities
* facilitates annual higher risk weather season preparedness briefings
* facilitates national scenario-based preparedness exercises
* facilitates near real-time national situation awareness.

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

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

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

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

Australian Government agencies regularly conduct national crisis exercises[[6]](#footnote-7) and report on observations and insights to inform future preparedness, policy, and capability requirements.

| **Plan** | | | **Key decisions** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domestic** | **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). | * **Deputy CG EMR** activates and deactivates COMDISPLAN. * The **Minister responsible for Emergency Management** approves requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN. * The **NSR** coordinates requests for assistance under COMDISPLAN. | |
| **International** | **The Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan**  (AUSASSISTPLAN) enables the Australian Government to provide emergency physical assistance to overseas countries. | * The **Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs** approves requests for activation under AUSASSISTPLAN. * **Deputy CG EMR** activates and deactivates AUSASSISTPLAN, at the request of **DFAT**. * **DFAT** leads and coordinates requests for assistance under AUSASSISTPLAN in close consultation with the **NSR** **within NEMA**. | |
| **The Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign National Evacuated from Overseas** (AUSRECEPLAN) outlines the arrangements for the reception into Australia of Australian citizens and permanent residents, and their immediate dependents, and approved foreign nationals evacuated from overseas. | * **Deputy CG EMR** activates and deactivates AUSRECEPLAN at the request of **DFAT**. * **DFAT** is responsible for coordinating the offshore evacuation, with support provided by the **NSR** **within NEMA,** for coordinating reception arrangements in Australia. * The **NSR** assists lead agencies to coordinate and integrate activities with states and territories under AUSRECEPLAN. | |
| **The Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents** (OSMASSCASPLAN) provides an agreed framework for agencies in all Australian jurisdictions to assess, repatriate and provide care for Australians and other approved persons injured or killed overseas in mass casualty crises. | * The **Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs** approves requests for activation under OSMASSCASPLAN. * **Deputy CG EMR** activates and deactivates OSMASSCASPLAN, at the request of DFAT. * The **NSR** assists lead agencies to coordinate and integrate activities under OSMASSCASPLAN. | |

***Table 7.1: National-level Plans***

1. Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response and Recovery

**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.

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

The Australian Government:

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

States and territories are the first responders to any incident that occurs within their jurisdiction. State and territory governments also have primary responsibility for providing recovery assistance to affected individuals and communities within their jurisdiction.

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

The Australian Government supports recovery efforts, both within Australia and overseas, through a range of established assistance programs (non-financial and financial, see *Section 11*). 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).

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

Recovery efforts in Australia are informed by the *National Principles for Disaster Recovery.[[7]](#footnote-8)* Recovery includes physical, environmental and economic elements as well as psychological wellbeing.

Successful recovery relies on:

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

Tools for Crisis Response and Recovery

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

* The Australian Government **NSR[[8]](#footnote-9)** in **NEMA** provides 24/7 all-hazard situational awareness, impact analysis and decision support to Government. Through this capability, **NEMA** maintains the NJCOP. **NEMA** may also stand up a Crisis Coordination Team within the **NSR** to manage a crisis response.
  + States and territories may be invited to deploy a liaison officer into the **NSR** in Canberra to facilitate coordination, collaboration, and communication between the Australian Government and affected jurisdictions.
* The **Global Watch Office (GWO)** in **DFAT** is focused on international matters and provides situational awareness and initial whole-of-government messaging for overseas events, incidents and crises that may have consequences for Australians or Australian interests.

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

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

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

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

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

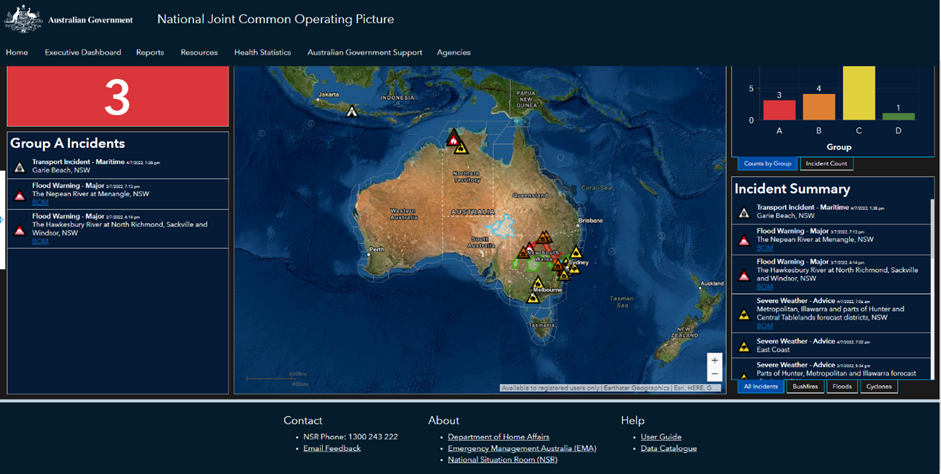
Senior officials will brief their ministers on the situation and provide advice on a whole-of-government communications strategy, key decisions and policy options as needed (generally informed by whole-of-government crisis and recovery committee discussions).

The NJCOP improves decision support at the national-level by:

* Providing near-real-time automated situational awareness of nationally significant hazard events
* Improving the Australian Government’s visibility of the impacts and consequences of hazards events
* Enhancing the Australian Government’s position to coordinate a national approach to crisis events.

The NJCOP will:

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



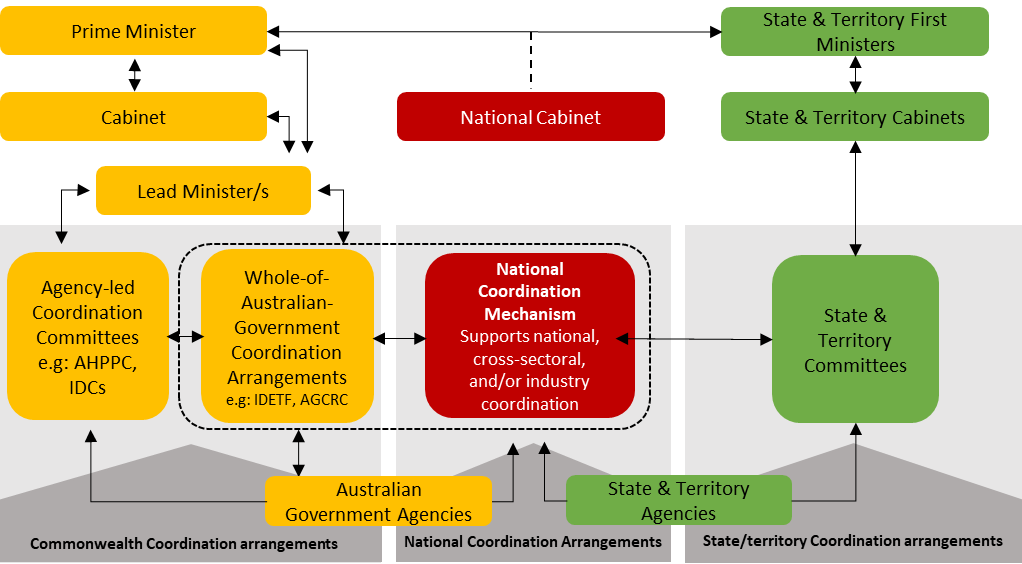
In circumstances where a nationally significant crisis response is unfolding, **Deputy CG EMR** may assess that the Australian Government’s non-defence resources require mobilisation. **Deputy CG EMR** may make a recommendation to the **Secretary** of **the** **Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**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

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

This capability is administered by the **APS Surge Reserve Coordination** function within the **Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)** in close coordination with the Secretary of the **Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet** and the Australian Government **Secretaries’ Board[[9]](#footnote-10)**.

**NEMA** has established capabilities to provide specialist expertise drawn from across government. **NEMA** supports specialised functions through a network of officers that can support preparedness, response and early recovery in communities affected by all-hazard events.

Mechanisms for Coordination during a Crisis Response or Recovery

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**Figure 8.1: Coordination Mechanisms**

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

There are three key mechanisms that facilitate whole-of-government coordination in response to or recovery from crisis:

* **Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)** – the primary mechanism that brings together relevant Australian Government Agency representatives.
  + The **relevant** **Deputy CG NEMA** (or delegate) chairs the **AGCRC**. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may elect to chair or co-chair the **AGCRC**.
  + However, when the focus is on response to a domestic terrorism-related event, the **CT Coordinator** (or delegate) chairs the **AGCRC**, supported by the Counter Terrorism Coordination Centre (CTCC) and **NEMA**. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may elect to chair or co-chair the **AGCRC**.
* **National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)** – brings together relevant Australian Government, state and territory government and private sector representatives for coordination, communication and collaboration during response and recovery to domestic crises. The **AGCRC** and the **NCM** remain the primary mechanisms for whole-of-government leadership and coordination.
  + The relevant **Deputy CG NEMA** (or delegate) convenes and chairs the **NCM**. The **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may elect to co-chair the **NCM**.
  + Other relevant Australian Government agencies may co-chair, at the request of the relevant **Deputy CG NEMA** or where they are the lead agency for a particular hazard.
  + States, territories or the private sector may request that an **NCM** is activated for a specific purpose/issue.
* **Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce (IDETF)** – manages the whole‑of‑government response to overseas incidents or crises that impact or threaten to impact, Australians or Australia’s interests overseas. The **Deputy Secretary DFAT** (or delegate) chairs the **IDETF** and the **Deputy Secretary PM&C** (or delegate) may co-chair the **IDETF**.

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

Whole-of-government coordination arrangements provide:

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

1. Special Purpose/Temporary Response Mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

* a clear understanding of respective roles, responsibilities and functions
* clear lines for information sharing, decision making and accountability
* a catalogue of available resources that may be available to assist in the response, and;
* a consistent communication strategy.[[10]](#footnote-11)

1. Key Legislation

*National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Biosecurity Act 2015*

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

Chapter 8 of the Biosecurity Act sets out the special powers for dealing with biosecurity emergencies of national significance. Under Chapter 8, Part 1 of the Biosecurity Act, the **Governor-General** may make a biosecurity emergency declaration if the **Minister responsible for Agriculture** is satisfied that the special powers are needed to deal with a plant or animal biosecurity emergency. The **Minister responsible for Agriculture** may exercise powers to manage biosecurity risks including monitoring, control and response during a biosecurity emergency period. These may be exercised anywhere in the Australian territory.

Under Chapter 8, Part 2 of the Biosecurity Act, the **Minister responsible for Health** may also exercise powers relevant to the management of a human health biosecurity risk.

1. Australian Government Assistance

Financial Assistance during the Prevention and Preparedness Phases

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

Non-Financial Assistance during the Response and Recovery Phases

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

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

Financial Assistance during the Recovery Phase

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

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

The Australian Government may also provide assistance to individuals:

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

1. Administration of the AGCMF

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

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

Annex A – National Coordination Mechanism

The **NCM** is a flexible tool to ensure that the full capabilities of the Australian, state and territory governments, industry, the not-for-profit sector and the community support effective crisis consequence management. The **NCM** will ensure coordination, communication and collaboration, but is not a mechanism for command and control.

The **NCM** provides holistic advice to the **AGCRC**. It facilitates rapid problem definition, shared situational awareness and ensures ownership of solutions to drive the rapid stabilisation of crisis events. It is a flexible, scalable and hazard-agnostic tool. Participation is flexible and voluntary. **NEMA** will maintain close engagement with Australian Government agencies, jurisdictions, industry and community leaders to ensure that appropriate invitations are issued for participation in relevant **NCMs**. Invitations are based on equity in the crisis and lines of effort to minimise the impacts and consequence.

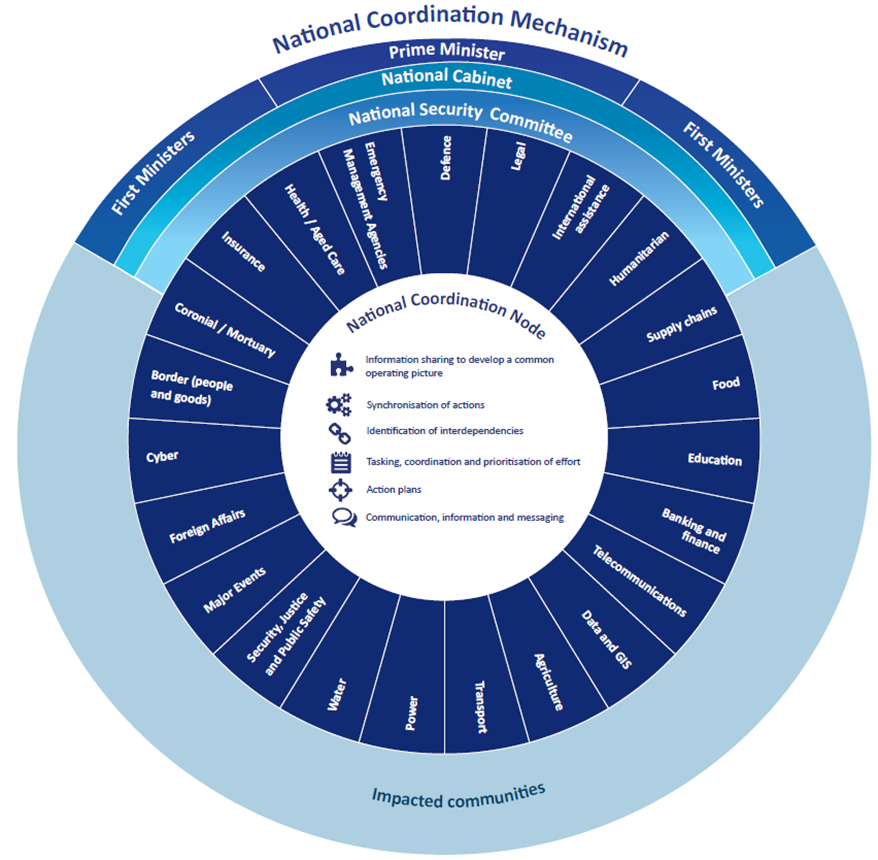
The **NCM** is supported by whole-of-government capabilities like the NJCOP, the Australian Government NSR, the Crisis Coordination Team and the CASP methodology. *Figure A.1* provides a representation of the **NCM** and its domain concept but is not a proscriptive list and can be adjusted according to the crisis and consequences that need to be managed.

An **NCM** will:

* ensure national leadership and the maintenance of public trust
* ensure that actions are synchronised, coordinated, and responsive
* ensure that any issue or problem is clearly defined and understood
* maintain key functions within communities
* strengthen the ability of the community, economy, and affected individuals to remain resilient and assist their own recovery
* reduce harm and the overall severity of the crisis.

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

* support the whole-of-government response, and decision making
* support the maintenance of essential services
* support the maintenance of essential government services
* support the coordination of information and messaging to maintain community confidence in government(s), their agencies and processes
* provide guidance and coordinate with industry on business continuity priorities and plans, and identify emerging vulnerabilities.

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***Figure A.1: National Coordination and Domain Concept***[[11]](#footnote-12)

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

| **Lead Agency** | **Plan Title** | **Short Name (if relevant)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Australian Maritime Safety Authority** | Australian Government Coordination Arrangements for Maritime Environmental Emergencies |  |
| National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies |  |
| National Search and Rescue Manual |  |
| **Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation** | Terrorism Insurance Scheme |  |
| **Australian Signals Directorate and its Australian Cyber Security Centre** | Cyber Incident Management Arrangements | CIMA |
| **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry** | Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan | AQUAVETPLAN |
| Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan | EMPPlan |
| Australian Government Biosecurity and Agricultural Response Plan | AUSBIOAGPLAN |
| Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan\*\* | PLANTPLAN |
| Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed\*\* | EPPRD |
| Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan\* | AUSVETPLAN |
| Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement\* | EADRA |
| Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity | IGAB |
| National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement | NEBRA |
| **Defence** | Communication Strategy: Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* |  |
| Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Policy and Manual | DACC |
| Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force | DFACA |
| Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* by States and Territories | DFACA |
| **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** | France, Australia and New Zealand Agreement on response to natural disasters in the Pacific | FRANZ |
| Guidelines for Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific | Quad HADR Partnership |
| **Department of Health and Aged Care** | National Health Emergency Response Arrangements | NHERA |
| Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza | AHMPPI |
| Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) | COVID-19 Plan |
| Domestic Health Response Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Incidents of National Significance | Health CBRN Plan |
| Australia’s Domestic Health Response Plan for All-Hazard Emergencies of National Significance | AUSHEALTHRESPLAN |
| Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Diseases of National Significance | CD Plan |
| Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements | National CD Plan |
| Guidelines for the epidemiological investigation of multi-jurisdictional outbreaks that are potentially food borne |  |
| National Food Incident Response Protocol | NFSIRP |
| National Health Security Agreement | NHSA |
| **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** | Australian Government Crisis Management Framework | AGCMF |
| Continuity of Executive Government | COEG |
| National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire | NED Aide-Mémoire |
| **Department of Industry, Science and Resources** | Offshore Petroleum Incident Coordination Framework |  |
| **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water** | Memorandum of Understanding in relation to National Gas Emergency Response Protocol (NGERP) (including use of emergency powers) |  |
| Interruption to Gas Supply Process | ITGSP |
| National Liquid Fuels Emergency Response Plan | NLFERP |
| Jet Fuel Supply Assurance – Supply Disruption Protocol |  |
| Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in relation to a Liquid Fuel Emergency |  |
| **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - through Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)** | National Electricity Market Memorandum of Understanding on the Use of Emergency Powers **(pending finalisation)** | NEM Emergency Powers MOU |
| Power System Emergency Management Plan | PSEMP |
| **Department of Home Affairs** | Australian Government Piracy Response Plan (for incidents in the security forces authority area) | AUSPIRACYPLAN |
| Maritime Counter-Terrorism Response Manual | MCTRM |
| National Counter-Terrorism Plan | NCTP |
| National Security Public Information Guidelines | NSIPG |
| Online Content Incident Arrangement | OCIA |
| Major Aviation Security Incident | MASI |
| Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment | AVTOP |
| Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure | FPNII |
| Australian Cyber Response Plan **(pending finalisation)** | AUSCYBERPLAN |
| Australian Cyber Incident Consequence Management Plan **(pending finalisation)** | ACICMP |
| **National Emergency Management Agency** | Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan | AUSSPREDPLAN |
| Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment | AGDRP |
| Disaster Recovery Allowance | DRA |
| Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements | DRFA |
| New Zealand Special Category visa holder's ex-gratia disaster assistance |  |
| Australian Government Disaster Response Plan | COMDISPLAN |
| Australian Government Overseas Assistance Plan | AUSASSISTPLAN |
| Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas | AUSRECEPLAN |
| Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents | OSMASSCASPLAN |

\* Administered through Animal Health Australia  
\*\* Administered through Plant Health Australia

Annex C – Crisis Management and Response Arrangements

**Response arrangements - overview**

In the event of significant crisis requiring consequence management and coordination activities that exceed the capacity or capabilities of the lead Australian Government agency, the lead agency may seek to transition responsibility for whole-of-Australian Government coordination for consequences that sit outside their portfolio responsibilities, to NEMA.

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

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

C.1 International crises

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

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

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

Minister

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

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

* Maintain international relations with foreign governments and/or international agencies.
* Issue/update travel advice.
* Provide advice to Government on numbers of affected Australians overseas.
* Provide consular assistance to Australians and Permanent Residents (crisis only), including citizens of consular partners.
* Deploy additional Australian Government resources and/or state based expertise, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
* Approve evacuation of foreign nationals, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers including the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, Defence, and states and territories).
* Approve the repatriation of injured and deceased Australians and other approved foreign nationals (in consultation with the Ministers responsible for Home Affairs, Defence, and Health).
* Approve financial assistance packages, including humanitarian funding to countries affected by international crises.

Minister responsible for International Development and the Pacific (jointly with the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs)

* Maintain international relations with foreign governments and/or international agencies on humanitarian crises.
* Approve emergency funding packages drawn from the Humanitarian Emergency Fund.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Health

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

Minister responsible for Defence

* Respond to and approve requests for Defence support, as required.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Communications

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

Key legislation

* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *World Health Organization Act 1947*
* *International Health Regulations 2005*
* *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
* *Online Safety Act 2021*
* *Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Act 2019*
* *Telecommunications Act 1997*
* *Migration Act 1958*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

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

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

Relevant national plans and arrangements

* Australian Government Overseas Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN)
* Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN)
* Australian Government Response Plan for Overseas Mass Casualty Incidents involving Australians Overseas (OSMASSCASPLAN)
* France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) Agreement on response to natural disasters in the Pacific
* Guidelines for Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific
* Online Content Incident Arrangement

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

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

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

**Lead Agency for response:** Department of Home Affairs

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

* Make an order for Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) of the Australian Defence Force under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests against domestic violence and from threats in Australia’s offshore area, and in response to requests from states and territories for protection against domestic violence, if the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence) have approved the request.
* Make an order on the advice of the Minister for Defence (in consultation with the Prime Minister), calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* in particular circumstances, including assistance to Australian Government, State or Territory government authorities and agencies in matters involving Australia’s national security, civil aid, humanitarian assistance, medical or civil emergency or disaster relief.
* May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

* Respond to and approve requests for Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, as required.
* Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and Attorney-General).
* Jointly authorise with the Attorney-General an Expedited Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
* Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903*, in consultation with the Prime Minister.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Attorney-General

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Treasurer

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

Deputy Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Communications

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

Key legislation

* *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
* *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *Defence Act 1903*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Online Safety Act 2021*
* *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*
* *Crimes Act 1914*
* *Criminal Code Act 1995*
* *Telecommunications Act 1997*
* *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

* Deputy Coordinator General, Emergency Management and Response, NEMA
* Chief of the Defence Force (where ADF assistance is provided)

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)

Relevant national plans and arrangements

* Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
* Continuity of Executive Government Plan (CoEG)
* Australian Government Protective Security Arrangements
* Framework for the Protection of the National Information Infrastructure (FPNII)
* Guidelines for requesting support from the Australian Defence Force (Call Out) under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* by States and Territories
* Defence Policy Guide: Threshold for Call Out of the Australian Defence Force
* Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC Policy and Manual)
* Online Content Incident Arrangement
* National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

C.3 Domestic terrorist incidents

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

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

* *death, serious harm or endangers a person*
* *serious damage to property*
* *a serious risk to the health or safety of the public*
* *the serious interference with, disruption, or destruction, of critical infrastructure.*

**Lead Minister for response:** Minister responsible for Home Affairs

**Lead Agency for response:** Department of Home Affairs

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

* Make an order for Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) to ‘call out’ the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests against domestic violence and from threats in Australia’s offshore area, and in response to requests from states and territories for protection against domestic violence, on the advice of the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
* Make an order on the advice of the Minister responsible for Defence (in consultation with the Prime Minister), calling out the ADF Reserves (Reserve Call Out) under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903* in particular circumstances, including assistance to Australian Government, State or Territory government authorities and agencies in matters involving Australia’s national security, civil aid, humanitarian assistance, medical or civil emergency or disaster relief.
* May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Attorney-General

* Providing advice to the Governor-General on DFACA Call Out of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required (in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Defence).
* Jointly authorising with the Minister responsible for Defence an Expedited DFACA Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
* Declaring Commonwealth places to be ‘prescribed security zones’ under Part IAA of the *Crimes Act 1914* if such declarations would assist in preventing terrorist acts from occurring, or in responding to a terrorist act.
* Providing advice to Government on legal or constitutional issues – including international legal advice as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Health

* Coordinate health sector response, as appropriate.

Treasurer

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

Assistant Treasurer

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Deputy Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Communications

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

Key legislation

* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *Terrorism and Cyclone Insurance Act 2003*
* *Defence Act 1903*
* *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
* *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
* *Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Online Safety Act 2021Australian Federal Police Act 1979*
* *Crimes Act 1914*
* *Criminal Code Act 1995*
* *National Health Security Act 2007*
* *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
* *Intelligence Services Act 2001*
* *Telecommunications Act 1997*
* *Migration Act 1958*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

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

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

Relevant national plans and arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

* Make an order for the Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority (DFACA) to call out the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* to protect Commonwealth interests from threats in Australia’s offshore area, on the advice of the authorising Ministers (the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Defence).
* May make a National Emergency Declaration under Section 11 of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Attorney-General

* Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA ‘call out’ of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* as required and in conjunction with the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for Defence.
* Jointly authorise with the Minister responsible for Defence an Expedited DFACA Call Out Order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
* Declaring Commonwealth places to be ‘prescribed security zones’ under Part IAA of the *Crimes Act 1914* if such declarations would assist in preventing terrorist acts from occurring, or in responding to a terrorist act.
* Providing advice to Government on legal or constitutional issues – including international legal advice as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Defence

* Provide advice to the Governor-General on DFACA ‘call out’ of the ADF under Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*, as required and in conjunction with the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General.
* Jointly authorise with the Attorney-General an Expedited Call Out order of the ADF in the event the Prime Minister is uncontactable.
* Provide advice to the Governor-General on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903.*
* Consult the Prime Minister on calling out the ADF Reserves under Section 28 of the *Defence Act 1903.*

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Treasurer

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

Assistant Treasurer

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

Deputy Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Key legislation

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

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

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

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

Relevant national plans and arrangements

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

C5 Domestic natural disasters

*A domestic rapid onset event that requires a whole-of-government response. This may include bushfires, earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones, storm surges, landslides, tsunamis, meteorite strikes or tornados. It does not include space weather or space debris re-entry, which are covered by Annex C.11.*

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

**Lead Agency for response and recovery:** National Emergency Management Agency

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Health

* Coordination of the health sector, as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Minister responsible for the Environment

* Provide advice on weather, tsunami and flood warnings and alerts.
* Provide advice on Matters of National Environmental Significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

Key legislation

* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

* Relevant Deputy Coordinator General, NEMA

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

* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
* Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC)[[12]](#footnote-13)

Relevant national plans and arrangements (as applicable)

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

C.6 Domestic biosecurity crises

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

**Lead Minister for response and recovery:** Minister responsible for Agriculture

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

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

**Minister**

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Biosecurity

* Determine the need for and recommend to the Governor-General to declare a biosecurity emergency under Part 1 of Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*
* Approve the implementation of biosecurity measures.
* Negotiate to maintain or regain market access in the event of a disease, pest or food safety incident that may impact upon trade.

Minister responsible for Health

* Coordinate health sector response, as appropriate.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Key Legislation

* *Export Control Act 2020*
* *Biosecurity Act 2015*
* *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *Therapeutic Goods Administration Act 1989*
* *National Health Security Act 2007 pt III*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

* Deputy Secretary, Department responsible for Agriculture.

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

National plans and arrangements

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

C.7 Domestic public health crises

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

**Lead Minister for response and recovery:** Minister responsible for Health

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

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Health

* Advising the Governor-General on the declaration of a human biosecurity emergency under Part 2, Chapter 8 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*
* Determining requirements and issuing directions during a human biosecurity emergency.
* Shaping the direction of response to a health incident of national significance, including public health response, as necessary.
* Coordination of health sector response, as appropriate.
* Developing assistance packages to assist with recovery efforts, as required.
* Seeking advice from the Minister responsible for Agriculture in the event of food-borne disease crises linked to imported food, as necessary.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

* Responding to and approving requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), as required.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Legislation

* *Biosecurity Act 2015*
* *National Health Security Act 2007*
* *Imported Food Control Act 1992*
* *World Health Organization Act 1947*
* *International Health Regulations 2005*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Therapeutic Goods Administration Act 1989*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official:

* Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Aged Care

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
* Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)

National plans and arrangements

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

C.8 Domestic energy supply crises

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

**Lead Minister for Response and Recovery:** Minister responsible for Energy

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

**Lead agencies for recovery**: National Emergency Management Agency and

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

*C.8.1 Energy supply crises – liquid fuel*

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Energy

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Legislation

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

Senior Officials

Key senior official

* Deputy Secretary responsible for Energy in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC)
* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)

National plans and arrangements

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

*C.8.2 Energy supply crises – natural gas*

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Energy

* Contribute to key leadership messaging in support of Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and jurisdictional responses.
* Advise Cabinet of AEMO and jurisdictions’ responses as per the Interruption to Gas Supply Process (ITGSP).
* Convene an Energy Ministers’ Sub Group meeting (of the Energy & Climate Change Ministerial Council) to ensure communication and coordination of the response with state and territory ministers.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Key Legislation

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

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

* Deputy Secretary responsible for Energy in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC)
* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)

National plans and arrangements

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

*C.8.3 Energy supply crises – power system emergency*

Incidents may include any event significantly impacting the power system, particularly across multiple jurisdictions. The *Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) chairs the National Electricity Market Emergency Management Forum. Electricity Emergencies in WA and NT are managed by jurisdictional mechanisms.*

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Energy

* If the event occurs in the National Electricity Market:
  + - * + Contribute to key leadership messaging in support of AEMO and jurisdictional responses
        + Advise Cabinet of AEMO and jurisdictions’ responses as per the Power System Emergency Management Plan (PSEMP)
        + Hold an Energy Ministers’ Sub Group Meeting (of the Energy & Climate Change Ministerial Council) to ensure communication and coordination of the response with state and territory ministers.
* If the event occurs outside the National Electricity Market:
  + - * + Contribute to key leadership messaging in support of jurisdictional responses
        + Advise Cabinet of jurisdictions’ responses
        + Hold an Energy Ministers’ Sub Group Meeting (of the Energy & Climate Change Ministerial Council) to ensure communication and coordination of the response with state and territory ministers.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Legislation

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

Senior Officials

Key senior officials

* Deputy Secretary responsible for Energy in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee (AGCRC)
* National Electricity Market Emergency Management Forum (NEMEMF)
* National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)

National plans and arrangements

* AEMO’s Power System Emergency Management Plan (PSEMP)
* National Electricity Market Memorandum of Understanding on the Use of Emergency Powers (NEM Emergency Powers MOU)
* National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire

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

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

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

**Lead Minister for response and recovery:** Minister responsible for Resources

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Resources

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Key legislation

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

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

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

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

National plans and arrangements

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

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

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

**Lead Minister for response and recovery:** Minister responsible for Transport

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

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Transport

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

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

Minister responsible for Defence

* Respond to and approve requests for significant Defence support where use of force is not contemplated under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC).

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

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

Legislation

* *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990*
* *Protection of the Sea (Powers of Intervention) Act 1981*
* *Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability) Act 1981*
* *Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2008*
* *Civil Aviation Act 1988*
* *Civil Aviation (Carriers’ Liability) Act 1959*
* *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
* *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

* Deputy Secretary responsible for Transport, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

National plans and arrangements

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

C.11 Space events

*Space events are global, with significant national impacts for Australia that require a whole-of-government response. Space weather can disrupt many of Australia’s critical infrastructure assets, such as the electricity grid, Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) systems, internet connectivity and satellite and radio communication systems. It can also expose people in airplanes and astronauts to damaging radiation. Many industries and government sectors may be impacted if there are interruptions to communications and navigation, and a loss of power. This annex applies to space events that are not captured by Annex C.5.*

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

**Lead Agency for response and recovery:** National Emergency Management Agency

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or National Security Committee of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

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

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

* Coordinate whole-of-government response to crisis, including public messaging.
* Provide space situational awareness and space traffic management data, as required.
* Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements (in consultation with the Minister responsible for Energy).
* Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for the Environment

* Provide advice on space weather warnings and alerts.

Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs

* Coordinate any offers of, or responses to requests for, international assistance, as required.
* Liaise with, and provide assistance as appropriate to, foreign governments, Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

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

Legislation

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

Senior Officials

Lead senior official

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

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

National plans and arrangements

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

C.12 Cyber incidents

*A cyber incident is a single or series of unwanted or unexpected event(s) that impact the confidentiality, integrity or availability of a network or system or the information that it stores, processes or communicates. This may result in significant disruption to the functioning of government or provision of government services; critical infrastructure or the provision of essential services; or may require a coordinated national response. This may include unauthorised or malicious sharing of data, manipulation or destruction of critical data and software, disruptions to ICT networks or systems, and exploitation of networks to cause a physical effect. A response to a cyber incident may require coordination under the AGCMF as a result of the technical considerations of the event, such as those detailed under the CIMA, or following consideration of the broader consequences of the cyber incident.*

**Lead Minister for response and recovery:** Minister responsible for Cyber Security

**Lead Agency for response:** Department of Home Affairs

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

Minister

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

* Cabinet or Committees of Cabinet

Key considerations:

Governor-General

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

Prime Minister

* Where legal and consultation thresholds have been met, provide advice to the Governor-General on the making of a National Emergency Declaration under the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*.
* Co-authorise (with the Minister for Defence) an Intervention Request from the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, under part 3A of the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018.*
* Make an emergency declaration under the *Privacy Act 1988* which permits agencies and organisations to share personal information as required to help individuals, provide services and otherwise respond to an emergency or disaster.

Minister responsible for Cyber Security

* Coordinate the Australian Government’s response to the incident including the consequences of the cyber-event, and act as the lead minister for any cyber security considerations.
* Provide advice on any cyber security incident considerations for a whole‑of‑government communications strategy and response to the crisis.
* In the event of a nationally significant incident or crisis, the Minister for Cyber Security will work closely with the Minister responsible for Emergency Management, and other relevant Ministers, in managing the broader consequences of the incident.

Minister responsible for Home Affairs

* Authorise an Information-Gathering Direction, Action Direction, or, with the agreement from the Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence, an Intervention Request, under part 3A of the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*, to provide a response to a cyber incident impacting a critical infrastructure asset.
* Support the Minister responsible for Cyber Security in providing support to states and territories in managing the cyber consequences of the crisis caused by a cyber-event.

Minister responsible for Emergency Management

* Support the Minister responsible for Cyber Security in providing support to states and territories in managing the consequences of the crisis caused by a cyber-event.
* Respond to requests from states and territories for Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN arrangements, as required (in consultation with relevant ministers).
* Support the Prime Minister with relevant information to inform the potential recommendation for a National Emergency Declaration.

Minister responsible for Defence

* Co-authorise (with the Prime Minister) an Intervention Request from the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, under part *3A of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018.*
* Oversee technical cyber incident response and harm minimisation efforts performed by the Australian Signals Directorate.

Attorney General

* Make an emergency declaration under the *Privacy Act 1988* which permits agencies and organisations to share personal information as required to help individuals, provide services and otherwise respond to an emergency or disaster.

Key legislation

* *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
* *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
* *Telecommunications Act 1997*
* *Defence Act 1903*
* *Privacy Act 1988*
* *Corporations Act 2001*
* *Social Security Act 1991*
* *Protective Security Policy Framework – Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
* *Intelligence Services Act 2001*
* *Other legislation relevant to the preparation for, or management of, the potential consequences of a cyber incident.*

Senior Officials

Lead senior officials

* National Cyber Security Coordinator
* Deputy Director-General Australian Signals Directorate – Head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre (support)
* Deputy Commissioner, AFP (support)
* Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response, National Emergency Management Agency (support)
* Other relevant Senior Officials (dependent on consequences)

Key whole-of-government coordination mechanisms

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

Relevant national plans and arrangements

* Australian Cyber Response Plan (AUSCYBERPLAN) – *Pending Finalisation*
* Cyber Incident Management Arrangements (CIMA)
* Australian Cyber Incident Consequence Management Plan (ACICMP) – *Pending Finalisation*
* Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)
* National Emergency Declaration Aide-Memoire
* Agency and sector-specific plans and arrangements

Acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ABF** | Australian Border Force |
| **ACS** | Australian Climate Service |
| **ACSC** | Australian Cyber Security Centre |
| **ADF** | Australian Defence Force |
| **ADPF** | Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework |
| **AEMO** | Australian Energy Market Operator |
| **AGCRC** | Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee |
| **AGD** | Attorney-General’s Department |
| **AGDRP** | Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment |
| **AHPPC** | Australian Health Protection Principal Committee |
| **ASD** | Australian Signals Directorate |
| **AVTOP** | Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment |
| **CASP** | Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning |
| **CIMA** | Cyber Incident Management Arrangements |
| **CSRCU** | Cyber Security Response Coordination Unit |
| **CTCC** | Counter Terrorism Coordination Centre |
| **DACC** | Defence Assistance to the Civil Community |
| **DCCEEW** | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the  Environment and Water |
| **DFACA** | Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority |
| **DFAT** | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| **DFAT CC** | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Crisis Centre |
| **DISR** | Department of Industry, Science and Resources |
| **DITRDCA** | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts |
| **DRA** | Disaster Recovery Allowance |
| **DRFA** | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements |
| **GWO** | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Global Watch Office |
| **Health** | Department of Health and Aged Care |
| **Home Affairs** | Department of Home Affairs |
| **IDC** | Inter-Departmental Committee |
| **IDETF** | Inter-Departmental Emergency Taskforce |
| **MOU** | Memorandum of Understanding |
| **MESCC** | Maritime Emergency Strategic Coordination Committee |
| **NED** | National Emergency Declaration |
| **NCM** | National Coordination Mechanism |
| **NCSC** | National Cyber Security Committee |
| **NEMA** | National Emergency Management Agency |
| **NJCOP** | National Joint Common Operating Picture |
| **NSR** | National Situation Room |
| **PM&C** | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet |

1. See <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/casp-guidebook.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ‘Build back better’ is a catch-all phrase to describe reconstruction, restoration and future planning efforts that adopt the latest scientific and professional advice and which incorporate key lessons learned from the crisis in question and/or other similar crises. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The National Emergency Declaration Aide-Mémoire is a document which outlines the procedures for administering the legislation. A copy is held by the Prime Minister’s Office, the Attorney-General’s Office and the offices of ministers responsible for Home Affairs, Emergency Management and Defence and appropriate senior officials. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Refer to Section 8, Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response, for a detailed outline of the National Coordination Mechanism and Annex A. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Refer to Section 8, Tools and Mechanisms for Crisis Response, for a detailed description of the COP. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Exercise AIDR definition - An exercise is a controlled, objective-driven activity used for testing, practising or evaluating processes or capabilities [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The document is available [here](https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5255/national-principles-disaster-recovery-a4-flyer.pdf) or at <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The Australian Government National Situation Room was formerly known as the Crisis Coordination Centre. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Further details on the APS Reserve may be found at: [APS Surge Reserve | Australian Public Service Commission (apsc.gov.au)](https://www.apsc.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/aps-mobility-framework/aps-surge-reserve) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Senior Officials may choose to develop terms of reference or a similar record of these details. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. The key benefit of the domain coordination structure is that it recognises the practical importance of cooperative groups that operate according to formal and informal links with explicit and implicit commitments. A domain describes a cooperative community of related stakeholders rather than a hierarchical command and control structure. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)