

# Tasmania State Emergency Management Committee

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FRAMEWORK

Building Safe and Resilient Tasmanian Communities  
2013 - 2018

# MESSAGE FROM THE STATE CONTROLLER

Devastating bushfires in southern Tasmania during January 2013, and other recent natural disasters in other parts of Australia, serve as a reminder on the need for effective and timely prevention and mitigation, response and recovery arrangements and strategies.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is committed to ensuring that Tasmanian communities are resilient and have the ability to respond to and recover from emergencies and this Strategic Directions Framework helps to achieve those objectives by outlining the way forward for the next five years. The Framework not only encapsulates the statutory functions in the Tasmanian Emergency Management Act 2006 but importantly sets out a governance structure that ensures coordination at national, state, regional and municipal levels.

The Framework provides the necessary guidance that is required for the many stakeholders involved in preparing for, responding to and participating in the recovery from disasters. Importantly, progress towards each of the key actions will be monitored and reported on through the annual business planning process and the Framework will be revised and improved as we continue to learn more about responses to, and recovery from, natural disasters.

Develop of the Framework has involved extensive consultations with stakeholders and I want to this opportunity to acknowledge their input and thank those members of SEMC, supported by government agencies, community organisations and volunteers, who provide invaluable support to Tasmanian communities.



Darren L. Hine  
Commissioner of Police

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## LEGISLATIVE, POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXT

In Tasmania an integrated emergency management framework is established under the Emergency Management Act 2006 (the Act). The Act includes the establishment and functions and powers of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

The Act prescribes that the SEMC oversees, institutes and coordinates emergency management functions and powers in support of the State Emergency Management Controller (State Controller) in Tasmania.

### Functions

Section 9 of the Act details the following functions:

- a) to institute and coordinate, and to support the institution and coordination of, emergency management, including the preparation and review of the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan and Special Emergency Management Plans that relate to emergency management for the State;
- b) to determine and review emergency management policy;
- c) to review the management of emergencies that involve more than one region, and other emergencies as the State Committee considers appropriate, and to identify and promote opportunities for improvement in emergency management;
- d) at the direction of the State Controller, to assist him or her in the performance and exercise of his or her functions and powers;
- e) other emergency management functions imposed by the Minister;
- f) other functions imposed by this or any other Act; and
- g) prescribed functions.

### Powers

Section 9 of the Act also provides the SEMC with the following powers:

- to impose functions on a Regional Emergency Management Committee from time to time;
- to establish subcommittees for the purpose of assisting it in the performance and exercise of its functions and powers; and
- to do all other things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its functions.

### Membership

Membership of the SEMC includes the State Controller, Secretary of Departments of Premier and Cabinet and Health and Human Services, the Co-Chairs of the Security and State Emergency Management Advisory Group, Chief Officer Tasmania Fire Service, Chief Executive Officer Ambulance Tasmania and the Director, State Emergency Service (also the SEMC Executive Officer).

## Subcommittees

Section 9 (2) (b) of the Act provides for the establishment of subcommittees for the purpose of assisting the SEMC in the performance and exercise of its functions, accordingly the SEMC has established the Security and Emergency Management Advisory Group (SEMAG). It is responsible providing policy advice to the SEMC relating to security and emergency management. It comprises the deputy secretaries of most State Government departments or their principal advisers. It is co-chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Tasmania Police and the Deputy Secretary of the DPAC. SEMAG's main functions are to:

- provide strategic policy advice to the SEMC regarding:
  - priorities for reducing the risk to Tasmania from emergencies
  - effective state-wide security and emergency management capabilities
  - the status and adequacy of security and emergency management plans and arrangements.
- advise the SEMC on matters relating to the Act.
- contribute to the development of national security and emergency management arrangements, mainly by supporting Tasmania's representatives on the Australia and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and the Australia and New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- inform the priorities of the whole of government activities of State Government agencies involved in security and emergency management.
- support whole of government response and recovery activities as described in the State Crisis Centre Operations Manual.

## Relationship with the Australian Government

Tasmania has entered into a two year National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Resilience (NPA) with the Australian Government. The NPA provides financial assistance to Tasmania, which is matched by project recipients through a mixture of cash or in-kind support, to respond to natural disaster risk priorities, recognising the strategic direction provided by the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR).

The Strategic Directions contained in this framework align with the NPA and the NSDR. Funds provided through the NPA will assist the SEMC to progress priority actions developed in response to the Framework.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Strategic Directions Framework is to provide a longer-term strategy for the SEMC. This Framework articulates four Strategic Directions. To assist the SEMC in achieving the outcomes the Framework is supported by:

- the NPA;
- the Implementation Plan for the NPA;
- an annual action plan; and
- the alignment of Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees' business plans to the directions.

This approach enables:

- shared understanding and responsibility across the emergency management stakeholders and the community;
- an emergency management framework based on risk-based planning; and
- more resilient communities that are better prepared for, able to respond to, and recover from emergencies.

## MISSION

The SEMC's mission is to establish and coordinate emergency management in Tasmania through:

- the preparation, coordination and review of emergency management policy, planning and training;
- reviewing the management of emergencies; and
- the provision of support to the State Controller.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FRAMEWORK

For the next five years SEMC, with support from SEMAG, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Committees and member agencies, will focus on four strategic directions:

### 1. Understanding and Managing Risks

The SEMC will work with all levels of Government, other organisations, and the community to improve the understanding and management of risks associated with natural and man-made hazards.

### 2. Recovery and Building Resilience

The SEMC will work with all levels of Government, other organisations and communities to assist in developing the capacity of communities to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

### 3. Ensuring Capability and Capacity

The SEMC will oversee the State's capability and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

### 4. Developing Collaborative Leadership

The SEMC will lead and coordinate efforts to promote positive and cooperative relationships with all spheres of Government, other organisations, and the community in order to satisfy its obligations under emergency management legislation and policy.

## Strategic Direction 1 - Understanding and Managing Risk

The SEMC will work with all levels of government, other organisations and the community to identify, assess, and treat risks associated with natural and man-made hazards.

### What we will do over the next 5 years

1. Support the establishment and ongoing implementation of the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Management Framework at State, regional and municipal levels.
2. Support research to assist with the identification, assessment and treatment of existing and emerging risks.
3. Promote the State Emergency Risk Assessment and Treatment Plan with key stakeholders.
4. Support ongoing implementation of State, regional and municipal emergency risk treatment plans.

## **Strategic Direction 2 – Recovery and Building Resilience**

The SEMC will work with all levels of government, other organisations and local communities to assist in developing the capacity for those communities to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

### **What we will do over the next 5 years**

1. Educate people about risks and the mitigation of hazards through community awareness and education programs to local communities and key stakeholders.
2. Support the recruitment, retention and training of emergency service volunteers.
3. Assist in the development and promotion of State, regional and local recovery strategies.
4. Support programs and strategies that work to deliver the Priority Outcomes of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

## **Strategic Direction 3 – Ensuring Capability and Capacity**

The SEMC will oversee the State's capability and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

### **What we will do over the next 5 years**

1. Ensure emergency management frameworks and capabilities are well supported by up-to-date, flexible and effective emergency management legislation, policy and operational processes and procedures.
2. Develop a capability assessment and development framework for Tasmania.
3. Develop and implement a performance improvement framework to ensure that lessons are learned from exercises and emergencies and they are incorporated into emergency management culture, behaviours, policies, processes and tools.
4. Ensure decision-making support systems are contemporary, flexible and coordinated.
5. Enhance public information and community warning capabilities.

## **Strategic Direction 4 – Developing Collaborative Leadership**

### **What we will do over the next 5 years**

The SEMC will lead and coordinate efforts to promote positive and cooperative relationships with all spheres of Government, other organisations, and the community in order to satisfy its obligations under emergency management legislation and policy.

1. Manage, support and review Tasmania's participation in National Partnerships that exist to address emergency management and counter-terrorism issues.
2. Oversee and coordinate emergency management resources across Government.
3. Pursue strategic relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders who can effect change.
4. Enable community participation in decision-making through information, consultation, involvement, collaboration, and empowerment as appropriate.



This plan is maintained on behalf of the  
State Emergency Management Committee.

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