



STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Part 3: Guidelines and Frameworks

Annex B: NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS



**Government
of South Australia**



SEMP STRUCTURE

The State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) is a four-part plan containing a range of documents that further detail strategies for dealing with emergencies in South Australia. The parts are described in more detail below.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Provides a strategic overview of the state's arrangements for senior executive and community information.

PART 2: ARRANGEMENTS

Provides the overarching details of the arrangements and structures in place to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

PART 3: GUIDELINES AND FRAMEWORKS

Consists of the various guidelines and frameworks that have been developed to document known best practice for key aspects of emergency management. These guidelines and frameworks provide guidance regarding the development of arrangements, administrative functions and plans.

PART 4: PLANS

Consists of the standards required of the various levels of detailed plans for implementing the arrangements, including naming conventions, review guidance and templates. It also includes the suite of supporting plans for implementing the arrangements.

Figure 1: The South Australian State Emergency Management Plan is actually a series of documents split over 4 Parts with a number of accompanying annexes.

SEMP REVIEW

The SEMC shall ensure that the SEMP is subject to a full review every five years. Ongoing updates and continual improvement is to occur in the interim period. Updates will be considered as below.

SEMP UPDATES

Proposals to amend, review or update the SEMP are managed by the State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Inquiries should be directed to:

State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat

Department of Premier and Cabinet

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NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Natural disasters often result in large-scale expenditure by state governments, in the form of disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration. To assist with this burden, the Commonwealth Government has made arrangements to provide financial assistance to the states in some circumstances. The arrangements are set out in the Commonwealth NDRRA Determination 2012 (the NDRRA) and broadly cover measures in the form of emergency assistance to individuals to alleviate personal hardship and distress, relief assistance to small business and primary producers, community recovery programs and essential public asset restoration.

The NDRRA is not intended to provide compensation for loss, or reduce incentives for the need to have adequate insurance coverage, but rather to provide safety net assistance towards meeting clean up and recovery costs.

The NDRRA requires that assistance by the Commonwealth Government to the State Government for eligible measures should complement other strategies such as insurance and disaster mitigation planning.

The State Recovery Finance Sub-committee provides administrative oversight of the NDRRA processes and arrangements in South Australia. Further information about the NDRRA in regard to activation, eligible measures and administrative arrangements can be found on the Commonwealth Disaster Assist website.

Guidelines

These guidelines outline the:

- NDRRA Determination for Australian Government cost share with states and territories
- State government claimable expenses (known as Eligible Measures) and related administrative arrangements
- Role and function of the State Recovery Committee (SRC) Finance Sub-committee and state government agencies.

The State Recovery Committee Finance Sub-committee is responsible for updating and maintaining these Guidelines.

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Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)

The NDRRA Determination 2012 defines a natural disaster as:

“A serious disruption to a community or region caused by the impact of a naturally occurring rapid onset event that threatens or causes death, injury or damage to property or the environment and that requires significant and coordinated multi-agency and community response, and is one, or a combination of, the following: bushfire; earthquake; flood; storm; cyclone; storm surge; landslide; tsunami; meteorite strike; tornado.

Events where human activity is a significant contributing cause (for example, poor environmental planning, commercial development, personal intervention (other than arson), or accident) are not natural disasters for the purposes of this determination.”

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination 2012 establishes (a) the eligible financial thresholds for reimbursement to the State, (b) the nature of eligible state expenditure and (c) the processes for making a claim to the Australian Government.

Obligations on South Australia

Disaster Mitigation Planning

A condition of NDRRA assistance for restoration or replacement of an Essential Public Asset is that the State has developed and implemented natural disaster mitigation strategies in respect of likely or recurring disasters, and has also encouraged local government bodies to develop and implement such strategies.

Councils have completed emergency risk assessments and undertaken mitigation projects in partnership with the State and Australian Government. The partnership is promoted through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

Recognition of Commonwealth Contribution

If the Commonwealth provides assistance to the State for an Eligible Measure, the State must publicly acknowledge the Commonwealth’s contribution. At a minimum the acknowledgement is to appear:

- in announcements of assistance to victims such as press releases and websites
- in recovery centres or the like and
- in advice to the public about the availability of relief and recovery assistance.

Evidence that acknowledgement has occurred is to be provided to the Commonwealth at the time the State submits a claim.

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NDRRA Eligible Event Criteria

The Australian Government recognises an Eligible Disaster when the following criterion is met.

- The event is a Natural Disaster and
- The State Expenditure on Eligible Measures exceeds the Small Disaster Criterion of \$240,000.

How State expenditure is calculated

Definition of State Expenditure

State Expenditure is the amount spent within a financial year on all Eligible Measures, and for all Eligible Disasters within two years of the end of the financial year in which the event occurred.

Costs incurred by Local Government are not directly claimable under NDRRA. Local Government claims for state assistance are considered under the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Guidelines. The definition of Eligible Measures within the guidelines are in accordance with those under the NDRRA.

State Expenditure Exclusions

State Expenditure does not include costs that the agency would normally incur such as substantive salary costs and other fixed operating costs. Nor does State Expenditure include costs that are expected to be recovered by the State (i.e. through insurance).

NDRRA Eligible Measures

Definition of Eligible Measures

Expenses that may be claimed under the NDRRA are known as Eligible Measures, being acts of relief or recovery that:

- are carried out to alleviate damage or distress arising as a direct result of a natural disaster; and
- are of a type described in the Determination as a Category A, Category B, Category C or Category D measure.

In carrying out or contributing to the cost of Eligible Measures, the State must act consistently with the general policy that its assistance is not to supplant or operate as a disincentive for self-help by way of either insurance, or appropriate strategies of disaster mitigation.

Category A Measures – Personal Hardship and Distress

Category A measures aim to protect life and individual property.

The measures fund counter disaster operations and emergency relief activities including the provision of emergency relief grants to alleviate personal hardship and distress.

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Category B measures – Public Assets, Grants and Counter Disaster Operations

Category B measures contribute to:

- Restoration and replacement of Essential Public Assets damaged as a direct result of a natural disaster
- Loans, subsidies or grants to alleviate the financial burden of costs incurred by certain business, primary producers, voluntary non-profit bodies and needy individuals as a direct result of a natural disaster
- Counter Disaster Operations to protect the public (community at large).

Definitions

Counter disaster measures to protect life and property can be either Category A or Category B measures. Category A measures are defined as protecting individual life and individual property (fire break or sandbagging to protect an individual property) whereas Category B measures protect the broader community (fire breaks or sandbagging to protect the town).

An Essential Public Asset is an asset held by an Eligible Undertaking that:

- is an integral and necessary part of the State's infrastructure and
- would, if lost or damaged, severely disrupt the normal functioning of a community and
- would if lost or damaged, be restored or replaced as a matter of urgency.

Definition of an Eligible Undertaking is a body that is one of the following:

- A department or other agency of a state government or
- established by or under a law of a State for public purposes (for example, a local government body) and
- provides community, social or economic services free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the cost of production.

Category C – Community Recovery Package

A Community Recovery Package is funded by agreement of both the Premier and Australian Government First Minister. The Package MUST NOT be announced before such agreement is made. South Australia must also comply with any EMA funding announcement protocols.

Assistance measures available under the Community Recovery Package include:

- A community recovery fund to restore social networks, functioning and community facilities. This may include clean up and recovery grants for charities and non-profit organisations.
- Clean up and relief grants for small business and primary producers.

The State Recovery Finance Sub-committee provides support and advice to agencies who develop and submit Category C funding submissions.

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NDRRA Administration and Claims processes

The following outlines the key roles and responsibilities in South Australia for administering NDRRA.

State Recovery Committee - Finance Sub-committee

The Finance Sub-committee, chaired by the Department of Treasury and Finance is responsible for:

- The collection (from State agencies) and reporting (to Emergency Management Australia) of State Expenditure on Eligible Measures
- Provision of advice on approval requirements for expenditure, and where necessary the seeking of any appropriate approvals.
- Informing the communication between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth in relation to the NDRRA.
- Overseeing and co-coordinating Cabinet Submissions.

During an event, the SRC Finance Sub-committee may co-opt members from key agencies at a senior level.

Department of Treasury and Finance

The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), Account Manager, Emergency Services acts as the primary liaison point for the Commonwealth, state agencies and interstate counterparts regarding NDRRA.

DTF notifies EMA of an Eligible Event and also administers the claim process to the Commonwealth.

DTF also manages all claims for local government assistance on behalf of the Minister for Finance in consultation with the SRC - Local Government Disaster Assistance Sub-committee.

State Government Agencies

All state government agencies must establish systems and processes to enable expedient and accurate capturing, recording and reporting of NDRRA Eligible Measures.

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