



Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan

(EnviroPlan)

A Supporting Plan of the NSW Emergency Management Plan

June 2019

This version of the Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee on the 20 June 2019

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All natural and man-made hazards impact the environment.

Because of hazard impacts the loss of ecosystems can have adverse consequences for the functioning of the community, infrastructure and subsequently micro- and macro-economies. It can pose direct or indirect risk to people's lives, safety, health and well-being.

Environmental impacts can impede the ability of a community to return to a level of reasonable functioning and can impact on rebuilding, future land use and long-term health of the environment.

EnviroPlan details the provision of support and coordination of prevention measures, planning for, response to and recovery from hazards impacting or potentially impacting upon the environment and causing damage.

The principles within EnviroPlan are applied during incidents and emergencies and are not limited to the declaration of a State of Emergency.

INTRODUCTION

Authority

The NSW Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (EnviroPlan) is developed under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (SERM Act) and is to be read in conjunction with the *NSW Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)*.

The Environmental Services Functional Area (EnvSFA) is identified under the SERM Act and EMPLAN as having a key role in responding to emergencies, or leading activities, where the environment is at risk or impacted. The EnvSFA coordinates support to assist with managing the response to environmental impacts across the elements of land, air and water. This includes cultural and natural heritage assets.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the EnvSFA sponsoring agency and therefore is responsible for mobilisation of the arrangements outlined in this supporting plan.

Aim

The aim of EnviroPlan is to establish the NSW EnvSFA emergency management arrangements for the protection of the environment prior to, during and after an emergency.

Scope

EnviroPlan applies to all lands, inland waters and air within or traversing NSW.

EnviroPlan details the coordination of prevention, preparation, response and recovery activities related to hazards impacting or potentially impacting upon the normal functioning of the environment.

EnviroPlan also applies to arrangements involving Environmental Services support specified within other NSW Sub Plans and Supporting plans.

For emergencies crossing State or Territory borders affecting the environment within NSW, local and regional formalised arrangements are in place for interstate communications, assistance and coordination.

Environmental Disasters

The environment is understood as the physical, chemical and biological surroundings in which communities live and develop their livelihoods. It provides the natural resources that sustain individuals, industries and economies and determines the quality of the surroundings in which they function.

Environmental disasters are defined as the uncontrolled, unplanned or accidental release or presence of a substance into the environment that may change its physical, chemical or biological stability as well as affect human life or health to a significant degree.

Environmental disasters can occur as a direct result of a natural hazard occurrence such as floods, storms and bushfires. These types of hazards can cause severe environmental impact, community, infrastructure and economic disruption or loss. Natural hazard impacts can be compounded by the release of a pollutant or chemical from a technological accident (Natech), itself resulting in an environmental disaster event.

Environmental disasters require a coordinated and collaborative whole of government response to ensure the consequences and impacts are minimised, resolved or are eliminated in order for the environmental recovery to not affect the functioning of the overall community, infrastructure and economy.

Types of environmental impacts and disasters that have occurred or have potential to occur are:

- Contamination of land, water or air from the uncontrolled release of chemicals or pollution because of infrastructure or industry accidents.
- Significant erosion caused by rain from a storm or after a bushfire which further damages ecosystems and environment protection infrastructure.
- Sedimentation of rivers, creeks and dams impacting marine ecosystems and marine based industries.
- Sedimentation of water storage facilities because of storms, floods, fires or Natech incidents.
- Generation of significant waste material because of storms, fires, floods or Natech incidents.
- Generation of large numbers of deceased animals requiring responsible disposal of carcasses.

Principles

The following principles apply to EnviroPlan:

- EnviroPlan is implemented and referenced in conjunction with EMPLAN, and other key Sub Plans and Supporting Plans as appropriate.
- Where an environmental impact occurs, or potentially may occur, because of a hazard and/or emergency there may be one or more control authorities as specified in EMPLAN.
- The provisions of the EnviroPlan apply without the need for formal activation of EnviroPlan, declaration of an environmental emergency or a State of Emergency.
- Response and Recovery operate concurrently according to the type of emergency or support requirements.
- Actions taken to protect or remediate the environment relate directly to the actual environment as well as adequate functioning of the health, social, built and economic aspects of the broader community.
- Coordination of environmental services functional area support will occur at, and across, the most effective levels of operation for the emergency type.
- The EPA is the environmental regulator and Lead Agency for protection of the environment in NSW and supports the role of the EnvSFA.
- General (non-emergency) pollution incidents and environmental issues are managed under the relevant legislation or by the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA).

State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Sub Plan

The arrangements in the State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Sub Plan take precedence over the arrangements in this supporting plan. However, the arrangements and principles of this supporting plan can be utilised for any part or context of marine oil and chemical spills in State Waters.

Integrated Strategies

EnviroPlan addresses the integration of strategies to support NSW emergency management arrangements across the Comprehensive (Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) and All Hazards frameworks.

This is achieved by:

- Identification and assessment of environmental hazard(s), occurrence and vulnerability.
- Undertaking pre-emptive, pro-active and reactive actions that can reduce environmental vulnerability and impacts during emergencies.
- Mitigating the consequences and environmental impacts due to disaster reduction actions during prevention, preparation, response and recovery.
- Informing consideration of environmental impacts in Combat and Lead Agency decision-making processes.
- Development of partnerships and collaborative approaches.
- Provision of advice and information to stakeholders in protecting, enhancing or remediating the environment.

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Section 1:

Risk & Exposure Reduction



Overview

Vulnerability of the community, property, infrastructure and the economy to exposure of environmental risks is a key consideration in undertaking risk reduction strategies. It is not possible to adopt measures to eliminate the phenomena which cause natural disasters. Environmental disaster risk & exposure reduction is the framework to minimise vulnerabilities and consequences within the broad context of environmental and community health, functioning and resilience.

The type, source and route of the hazard, as well as the subsequent consequences, inform the strategies and tactics to deal with eliminating adverse impacts, reduce the exposure or consequences and minimise pathway opportunities.

Table 1: Hazard v Exposure Opportunities v Consequence Considerations

Hazard/Response Type	Exposure Pathways	Consequence Considerations
Bushfire	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On biodiversity
Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Marine locations
Floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather influences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Human health
Hazardous materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel distances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On food chain
Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispersion patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On essential services
Biohazards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On infrastructure
Aviation emergencies	Water Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On public health
Maritime emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel within or upon water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, political and environmental sensitivity
Major infrastructure failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm/flood movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known risks
Building collapse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumed risks
Earthquake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations
Landslide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception
Terrorist act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term impacts
Food industry emergency		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term impacts
Heatwave	Land	
Major evacuation centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural 	
Mine emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban 	
Tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic significance 	
Interactions between hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage 	
Interactions between ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected 	
	Contact	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal/human to animal or human 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water/soil/air to animal or human 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingestion 	

Environmental Risk Reduction

Risk reduction is achieved through development and adherence to conventions, legislation, regulations, codes, guidelines and standards developed at the Commonwealth, State and Local levels of government and through industry and agricultural associations. Activities undertaken to assist with reducing environmental risk may include:

- Undertaking appropriate emergency risk management regarding the processing, storage, transfer operations, transport, use and disposal of environmentally hazardous materials.
- Identifying prevention and/or mitigation options.
- Developing and testing Pollution Incident Response Management Plans.
- Developing and testing general emergency response plans.
- Applying audit and compliance policy for licenced facilities and dangerous goods.

Information on the hazards involved in industrial operations and measures taken to eliminate, reduce or mitigate these risks is an important part of the emergency management processes.

Environmental Exposure Reduction

Exposure reduction is achieved through identifying potential points of origin, observations, types of harm, potential pathways, receptors (recipients) that can encounter the pathways and the level of exposure.

Activities undertaken to assist with reducing the exposure opportunities to environmental pollution and subsequently human health may include:

- Ensuring appropriate containment measures are applied.
- Ensuring access to contaminated sites is restricted.
- Adopting shelter-in-place or evacuation strategies for airborne toxicants.
- Ensuring people involved in clean-up operations are adequately equipped and informed.
- Eliminating or reducing cross-contamination.
- Ensuring decontamination processes are applied to prevent continuing exposure or secondary contamination.
- Ensuring comprehensive public information on environmental contamination and public health issues.
- Ensuring appropriate waste treatment, transport and disposal.

These exposure reduction strategies are applied prior to a foreseeable hazard threat, as part of the response operations and in addressing immediate and long-term recovery.

Environmental Vulnerability Reduction

Vulnerability reduction is achieved through ensuring communities, authorities, organisations and individuals are aware of environmental impacts from disasters and through facilitating responsible planning and other activities.

Activities undertaken to assist with reducing vulnerability immediately before and after the impact of a hazard include:

- Public education on the removal of chemicals and waste from areas subject to hazard impacts such as flood zones, fire hazard areas and where human interaction during hazard impacts occurs.
- Sustainable and responsible land use planning and development.
- Undertaking effective strategies to:
 - Assess protection priorities and net benefits.
 - Immediately protect sensitive environments.
 - Reduce impact on essential services for human health and wellbeing.
 - Reduce impact of long-term damage.

These vulnerability reduction strategies are applied prior to a foreseeable hazard threat, as part of the response operations and in addressing immediate and long-term recovery.



Section 2:
Planning



Overview

Preparing for environmental emergencies requires information on underlying vulnerabilities, knowledge of risks, risk communication, consequence identification and community stakeholder engagement. Emergency response plans should be established and regularly reviewed and updated. Community, Local Government and industry involvement in, and awareness of, emergency response planning is vital for engagement in emergency preparedness.

Preparation and planning for the EnvSFA is undertaken on a State-wide basis. The EnvSFAC has responsibility for policy development and maintaining preparedness at the State level and management of the Environmental Services Functional Area Committee (EnvSFA Committee) programme.

The arrangements maintain the focus on establishing a framework for EnvSFA to coordinate, Participating and Supporting Organisations and organisations to mobilise their structures and resources, and to support response to and recovery from a disaster or emergency. This will be achieved through:

- Establishing strong networks between member organisations and agencies in the EnvSFA, Emergency Services Organisations, other Functional Areas and the community.
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with Combat Agencies and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate.
- Managing Environmental Services strategy by reviewing and testing of EnviroPlan and providing input to the review of other relevant plans.
- Identifying and facilitating access to relevant environmental emergency management training for personnel responsible for environmental emergency response and recovery.

NSW Environmental Services Functional Area Committee

NSW EnvSFA Committee is formed in accordance with the requirements of the SERM Act and assists in the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases.

The NSW EnvSFA Committee (chaired by the EnvSFAC) is a policy committee for the NSW EnvSFA, and it consists of the organisations and disciplines that form the planning and working elements of EnviroPlan. The EnvSFA Committee membership includes Combat Agencies, Participating and Supporting Organisations and other organisations and agencies as deemed appropriate by the Committee and its Chair.

The terms of reference for the EnvSFA Committee include:

- Provision of advice to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on the EnvSFA.
- Preparation and maintenance of EnviroPlan.
- Contribution to the preparation and maintenance of Sub Plans to EMPLAN.
- Coordination of the provision of EnvSFA support for emergency operations.

EnvSFA Committee Membership

- State Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator (Chair)
- Environment Protection Authority
- State Emergency Recovery Controller (Office of Emergency Management)
- Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture and Animal Services FA)
- NSW Public Works (Engineering Services FA)
- Transport for NSW (Transport Services FA)
- Roads & Maritime Services (NSW Maritime)
- NSW Health (Health Services FA)
- NSW Police Force
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW Office of Water
- SafeWork NSW
- Office of Local Government NSW

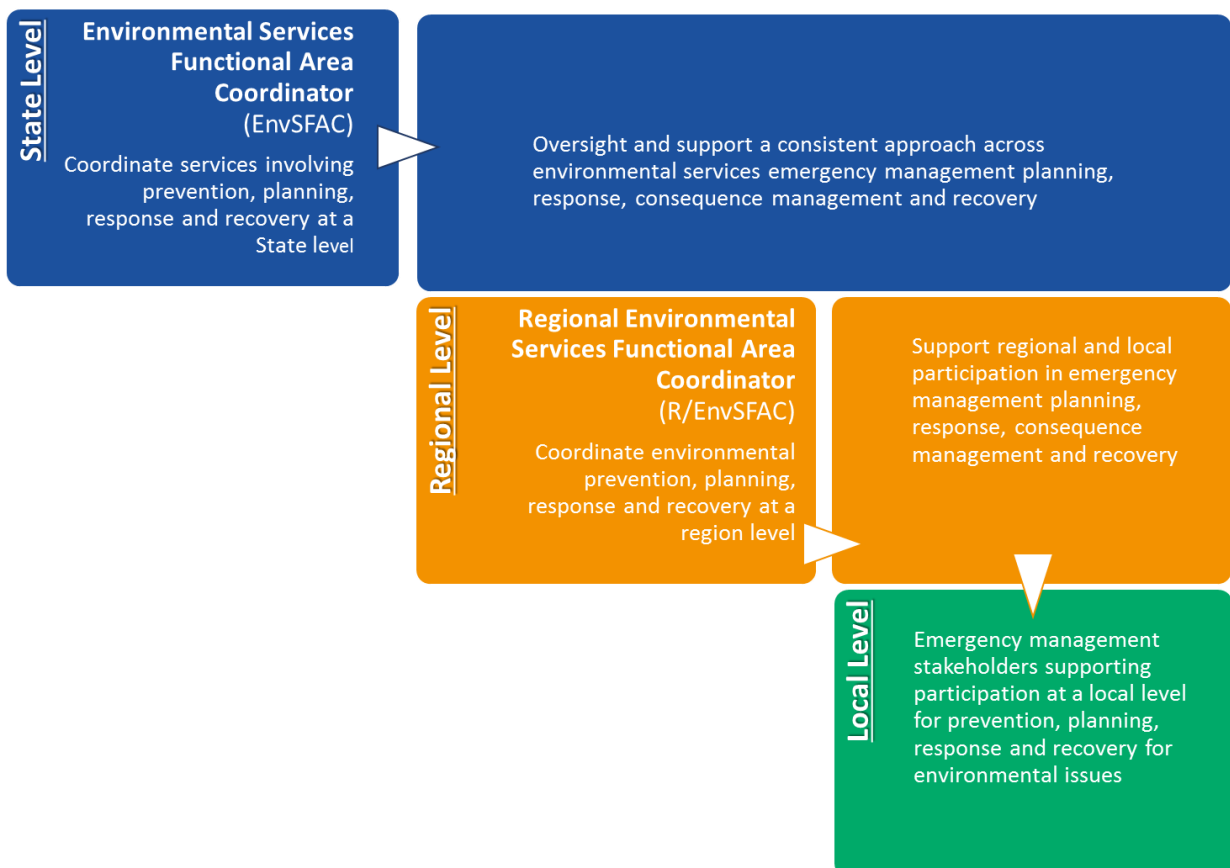
Supporting Committees

The EnvSFA Committee may establish sub-committees, advisory focus groups or working groups to achieve designated outcomes or to review and analyse environmental incidents. These may be at State or regional levels within the EnvSFA.

Regional and Local EnviroPlans

Regional and Local level EnviroPlans are not required due to EnviroPlan encompassing the arrangements and principles across all 3 levels of emergency management.

For specific environmental hazards identified within a Regional or Local area, the Regional and/or Local Emergency Management Committee must develop a Consequence Management Guide for that environmental hazard.



Land Use Planning and Development

The inclusion of hazard specific considerations in development applications and zoning enables government agencies and other stakeholders to identify and apply mitigation measures into planning regulations. This reduces the impact of a hazard and contributes to building resilience into infrastructure, the environment and the safety of the community. Environmental authorities are able to provide information and analysis that will inform planning regulations for the purpose of identifying risk and vulnerabilities in the environment and the community and the prevention of environmental degradation and the protection of sensitive ecosystems.

Environmental data needs to be linked with socio-economic and census information and other information that may indicate vulnerability (e.g. presence of schools, hospitals and aged care facilities) to support a multi-stakeholder dialogue and response during emergencies. Data on the physical attributes of hazard associated risk are linked to information on the distribution of the community characteristics and vulnerability.

Hazard mapping and spatial information are assets in any location where development is anticipated or in progress. It is essential in coastal zones because of their extreme sensitivity. There are well-established mechanisms for integrated coastal zone management that represent entry points through which disaster risk and environmental protection can be systematically considered. Strengthening integrated coastal zone management through spatial planning capacity is paired with strengthening political commitment and capacity for enforcing zoning regulations.

Training and Exercises

Agencies under EMPLAN are responsible for planning and conducting exercises to rehearse and test the arrangements outlined in this and other NSW emergency management plans.

The EnvSFAC will be responsible for coordinating EnviroPlan exercises for stakeholders identified within EnviroPlan.

The EnvSFA Participating and Supporting Organisations will be required to participate in National, State and/or Region exercises which are relevant to those agencies.

Combat Agencies, Participating and Supporting Organisations are responsible for incorporating into their exercises and training elements of environmental impact considerations where appropriate and relevant. They are also required to develop and maintain training and procedures to fulfil the roles and responsibilities assigned in EnviroPlan.



Section 3: Response



Overview

Responding to environmental emergencies requires information on underlying vulnerabilities and exposures and knowledge of the hazard or threat. This ensures adequate response to, and recovery from, a land or water (inland or State) based hazardous materials emergency, biosecurity (animal/plant) emergency or public health emergency.

As stipulated in EMPLAN, the EnvSFA may undertake a role like a Combat Agency when an environmental disaster or emergency exists. When the EnvSFA is required to manage and coordinate the response similar to a Combat Agency function an Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) structure will be established with relevant agencies engaged. The EPA will perform the function of a Lead Agency for environmental impacts related to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and other Acts and regulations related to protection of the environment.

The focus of coordination across the EnvSFA Participating and Supporting Organisations is to minimise adverse consequences for individuals, the community, critical infrastructure, property and the environment.

When the impact on the environment is significant, or has potential to be significant, the EnvSFA performs the principal function of coordinating support to the Combat Agency. Examples of the types of occurrences are:

- Pollution on land, water or in the air because of a hazard impact during a multi-agency response or emergency.
- Waste fires that have potential to impact the surrounding environment or community beyond a single agency response.
- Hazardous materials release occurring because of a primary hazard impact.
- Incidents occurring at environment protection licenced facilities, Major Hazard Facilities or facilities within proximity of the same that extend actual or potential threat into the general environment or community during the incident or emergency.

The key actions and activities in the response phase may include:

- Assisting the Combat Agency in prioritising action to protect the environment.
- Providing appropriate, efficient and timely deployment of EnvSFA assets and resources (human and material).
- Providing capability to undertake Environmental Rapid Impact Assessment (ERIA) to appraise impact or potential impact of an incident or emergency upon the environment and public health.
- Establishing and maintaining coordination structures across the Participating and Supporting Organisations operating under the EnvSFA.
- Participating in multi-agency Incident Management Teams or Emergency Management Teams.
- Deployment of Environmental Services liaison staff to the relevant Emergency Operation Centre(s) (EOC) or Site Controls.

When there is no further EnvSFA support required for the emergency response phase then the services will be realigned to support the recovery phase.

Determination of an Environmental Emergency

An environmental emergency can be defined as a sudden-onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that cause or threaten to cause severe or catastrophic environmental damage as well as harm to human health and/or livelihoods and requires a significant and coordinated response.

The EnvSFA has no specific authority to declare or recommend an environmental emergency under the SERM Act or the POEO Act.

When the environmental impact, or potential impact, is of such a degree that it may have, or has, long term effects for ecosystem existence or sustainability, human health, infrastructure resilience and operation, primary production and ultimately economic impacts; the EnvSFAC will initiate considerations with the EPA and other agencies to determine an environmental emergency under the relevant authority.

Control and Coordination

The EnvSFAC does not specifically have authority to commit the resources of participating or supporting agency resources. Participating and Supporting Organisations engaged through EnviroPlan commit to being coordinated under the centralised focus of the EnvSFAC to achieve the operational objectives and strategies identified for the emergency. The EnvSFAC coordinates strategic, tactical and operational response across environmental issues. Refer to [Section 4](#) for detail on the command and control structures, relationships and processes.

EnvSFA Incident Classification Levels

Incidents are classified for significance to assist in developing and implementing appropriate response and recovery arrangements.

Incidents are aligned to AIIMS classification levels 1, 2 or 3 and are determined through assessment of environmental risks, community interest or response, impact on infrastructure and essential services, media and political interest, community expectations and inter-agency involvement ([Refer to Table 3](#)). Level 4 is a catastrophic level of operation initiated by a State of Emergency declaration.

Incident classification is used to support a range of decisions, including:

- An appropriate incident response structure.
- Allocation of incident management roles to staff.
- Appropriate timing and extent of notification and communication.

The EPA has internal classification levels that work complementarily with the EnvSFA classifications to ensure shared consistency.

Activation and Mobilisation

Activation and mobilisation procedures are instigated by the EnvSFA at a State level when:

- Requested by the State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN) or a Combat Agency.
- An emergency is occurring or possible.
- Intelligence informs the need for an increased level of awareness, or response preparation.
- Recovery operations commence are being planned.

The principles of activation at a State level are replicated at a regional level with the relevant Regional or Local Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON) or Emergency Management Officer (Refer to Figure 1).

Liaison

Each Participating and Supporting Organisation needs to ensure capability to identify and deploy Liaison Officer(s) when the Participating or Supporting Agency is contacted and requested to provide liaison to the Environmental Services Coordination Centre (ESCC) or EOC. The Liaison Officer must be able to supply specialist advice on the roles, functions and capabilities of their organisation (or sector).

Environmental Services maintains capability to provide Liaison Officers to relevant Control Centre or EOC upon request from the relevant authority (Refer to Figure 1).

The Environmental Services representation and liaison capability for an emergency includes:

- Liaison Officers, being nominated by the EnvSFAC to represent the EnvSFA at:
 - All relevant EOCs for Local, Region and State levels.
 - NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) State Operations Centre during bush fire operations.
 - NSW State Emergency Service (SES) State Operations Centre or Area of Operations as appropriate following discussion with NSW SES State Duty Operations Controller.
- During a marine oil and/or chemical spill emergency the EnvSFAC will appoint an Environment Advisor to the Incident Controller in the form of an Environment & Scientific Coordinator and an EnvSFA Liaison Officer to the Incident Control Centre (*Refer NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan*).
- During a biosecurity (animal and plant) emergency if so required, an EnvSFA Liaison Officer will represent the EnvSFA at a Dept of Primary Industry Control Centre.
- During a Hazardous Material / Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) emergency, an EnvSFA Liaison Officer will represent the EnvSFA at a FRNSW Incident Control Centre and/or Site Control.
- During an emergency impacting on the environment and where the Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC) has been activated, an officer of the EPA's Public Affairs Section will act as Liaison Officer to the PICC.

EnvSFA Liaison Officers will:

- Maintain communication with the EnvSFAC.
- Convey directions or requests from the Combat Agency, or other agencies, to the EnvSFAC.
- Provide advice on the status, capabilities, actions and requirements of EnvSFA Participating and Supporting Organisations.
- Provide information to contribute to the EnvSFA Situation Report (SitRep) and provide this to the EnvSFAC.

Response Activities

EnvSFA response activities and tasks may include:

- Coordinating EPA and supporting agency response to the emergency.
- Assisting with undertaking real-time impact assessment of actual and potential environmental impacts occurring because of the emergency response.
- Coordinating and facilitating air monitoring during active response operations and maintaining during transition to recovery.
- Coordinating and facilitating soil and water sampling and analysis during active response operations and during transition to recovery.
- Providing advice and assistance to the Incident Controller, Site Controller and NSW Health on hazardous materials and activities occurring, or potential to occur, that may impact the environment, responder or public health.
- Providing advice and guidance regarding public messaging in relation to environmental contamination and risk to public health occurring because of the active response operation.
- Assessing and coordinating planning and response to disaster debris and waste.
- Facilitating access to EnvSFA supporting and participating agency resources where other arrangements do not exist.

Public Information

During an emergency where the PICC has not been activated, the EnvSFAC will collaborate with the Combat Agency and Public Information Functional Area Coordinator to coordinate the provision of relevant information to the public.

The EnvSFAC will ensure that emergency information related to environmental damage and risks is communicated within the emergency management context and arrangements. The EnvSFA will ensure that such information is consistent with the Combat Agency's public information strategy.

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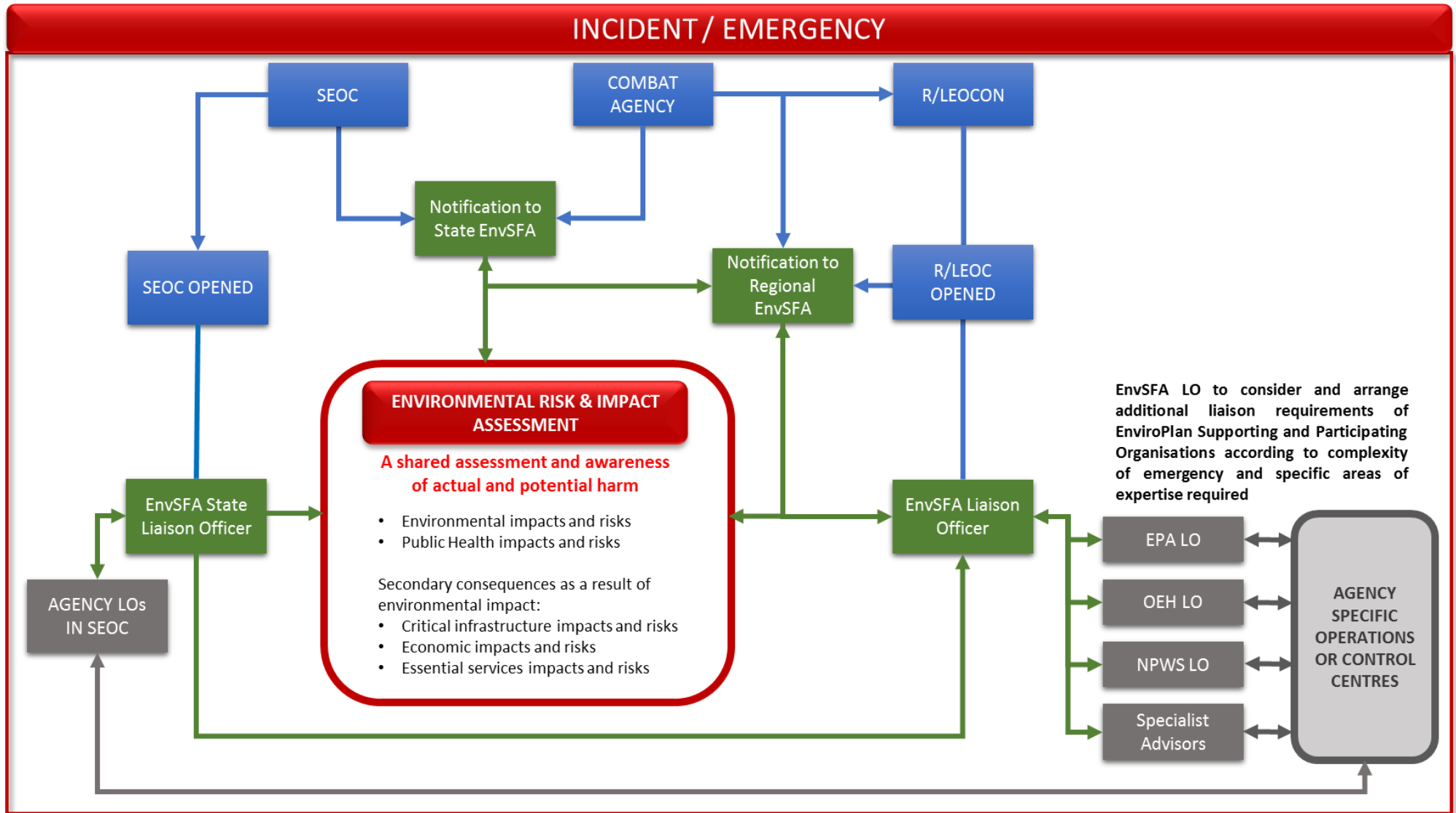
Table 2: Emergency and Incident Escalation Table Aligning with AIIMS levels of operation

Scale of Response	Risk	Appropriate Response Arrangements	Examples
Level 1	Localised Impacts. Some community sensitivity. Potential for short term or local damage. Impacts small number of residents. Contained or easily contained.	Incident response and recovery led at a local level. Regional oversight with some specialist advice and support Regional EnvSFAC is notified and maintains situational awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small to moderate numbers of deceased animals or fish. • Truck accident with spilt chemicals/materials. • Large or high-profile sewer overflows. • Fire with some firewater discharge to the environment. • Incident involving small releases of high-profile hazardous materials/substances.
Level 2	Moderate impacts. High community sensitivity. Potential for long-term damage. Impacts multiple community locations. Not contained or potential to become uncontained. Toxic or potentially toxic.	Incident response and recovery led at a regional level. State oversight with some specialist advice and support Regional EnvSFAC is engaged, undertakes assessment, maintains situational awareness and determines level of EnvSFA support requirements to operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire, flood or storm. • Uncontrolled release of hazardous materials that is not contained. • Truck accident with significant uncontained chemical release. • Uncontrolled emissions of toxic air pollutants. • Incident involving large releases of high-profile hazardous materials/substances.
Level 3	Significant impacts. Very high community sensitivity. Potential for long term or irreparable damage. High-level coordination and whole of government approach.	Incident response and recovery led at a regional level with significant State support. State EnvSFAC oversees all aspects of the response and provides direction to Regional EnvSFACs as appropriate. Regional EnvSFA is engaged, undertakes assessment, maintains situational awareness and determines level of EnvSFA support requirements to operation at a region level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May involve activation of a State Plan (e.g. Hazmat/CBRN or Major Structural Collapse Plan). • Major fire at chemical storage facility/precinct. • Environmental incident resulting in extended closures of arterial road network. • Large scale or major bushfires, floods or storms • Biosecurity Emergency
State of Emergency	Catastrophic impacts. State level control required.	State EnvSFAC coordinates overall response. Region EnvSFA coordinates regional response under direction of State EnvSFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major earthquake. • Land based tsunami impact • State of Emergency declared

Table 3: Stages of Activation and Mobilisation

Stage	Actions	
ALERT or STANDBY	<p>State and Regional EnvSFAC(s) will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications are established with State and Regional level stakeholders. • Notification and awareness to EnvSFA stakeholders. • The situation is effectively monitored at State and Regional levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential environmental risks and threats. • Identification of sensitive receivers and facilities. • Capability to respond to incident scene(s) or EOCs as required. 	
CALL OUT or RESPONSE	<p>State EnvSFAC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider activation of the State Environmental Emergency Coordination Centre (EECC) at the required level of operation and structure. • Establish and maintain liaison and communications with State level stakeholders. • Ensure communications with Regional EnvSFAC and Region based resources are established and maintained. • Support Region based resources and establishment of appropriate coordination structures. • Support requirements such as specialist advice and support for region EnvSFA operations. • Ensure a heightened level of monitoring and intelligence gathering. • Undertake identification and assessment of environmental impacts. 	<p>Regional EnvSFAC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider activation of appropriate facilities and support staff for the EnvSFA responsibilities. • Establish and maintain liaison and communications with REOCON/LEOCONs and regional and local level stakeholders. • Ensure EnvSFA response activities and interests are addressed and managed. • Establish EnvSFA Liaison Officer and EnvSFA supporting agency liaison capability for EOCs. • Maintain internal and external reporting requirements. • Assess resource requirements to support EnvSFA requirements. • Ensure a heightened level of monitoring and intelligence gathering. • Undertaking threat assessments and facilitate preventative post-impact priority actions. • Commence assessing considerations and planning requirements for recovery operations.
STAND DOWN	<p>State EnvSFAC in conjunction with the Regional EnvSFA will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All notifications for standing down procedures are communicated to all participants and stakeholders involved in the response. • Deactivation of Environmental Services coordination response and recovery resources and activities no longer required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demobilisation of any deployed personnel, equipment and resources for the EnvSFA functions. • Ensure the EnvSFA participation in debriefs and lesson identification internally and across the multi-agency response. 	
TRANSITION	<p>Assist with the transition from response activities to formal recovery requirements under the NSW recovery arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and finalise transition to formal recovery requirements under the NSW recovery arrangements. 	

Figure 1: Environmental Services Notification, Escalation & Coordination Arrangements



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Section 5:
Recovery



Overview

Recovery addresses the process of normalising the area affected by the emergency, be it community or property (including the environment). Post the hazard impact land, people, animals, plants, water bodies and air can be contaminated by chemicals or pollutants. These pollutants or chemicals impact on essential services such as food production, supply of water catchments and drinking water.

Direct damage to the environment following natural hazard events is a regular consequence and the recovery phase should commence almost concurrently with the response phase. This means that many of the activities described as recovery can also be undertaken during response.

Comprehensive recovery processes must consider the state of ecosystems and environmental services during the assessment process. This ensures that any inter-dependencies of the community and infrastructure with the environment are holistically addressed.

Additionally, the management of disaster debris and waste, if not done properly, can impact the environment in the immediate and long term. For this reason, environmental considerations form a significant part of recovery planning and activities.

Strengthening Environmental Resilience in Recovery

Recovery and reconstruction efforts that are carried out without proper environmental guidance and safeguards can have devastating short- and long-term impacts on the environment and potential impacts on the functioning, well-being and health of the community and the economy.

The environmental footprint of post-disaster recovery can be significant. The priority to resolve immediate issues for the community and address recovery actions that allow the community to reinstate social and essential activities as soon as possible can involve intensive exploitation of the surviving areas, both on site and in the remaining nonaffected locations.

Such activities can be unsustainable from the point of view of the impact on the environment and eco-systems during recovery. The ongoing environmental recovery actions need to occur as an integrated component of the human community requirements of a recovery operation. Longer-term recovery of the community can otherwise be affected.

Recovery Operations

To determine the most appropriate recovery actions environmental damage needs to be included in impact and risk assessments occurring during response as well as specifically for recovery. The information collected will inform decision makers on the best option for environmental recovery. The EnvSFA and the EPA coordinate impact information through the conduct of ERIA. [Refer to Section: Environmental Rapid Impact Assessment.](#)

The EnvSFAC will ensure that strategic environmental recovery priorities include:

- Identification and remediation of hazardous materials and contaminated public and private property.
- Coordination of waste management procedures in conjunction with Councils, waste facilities and other related waste authorities.
- Establishing controls to minimise environmental and human health impacts including prohibiting access to, or use of, materials, land, stock, pastures, waterbodies, water or food storage areas with exploration of alternate sources or options to be provided.

- Determining no action to be taken if the damage done and potential ongoing risks are not significant enough or that human based actions will interfere with the natural recovery processes of the environment or ecosystems.

Recovery Activities

The most common EnvSFA recovery activities and tasks include:

- Providing EnvSFA staff to the Recovery Committee.
- Supporting or establishing Waste and Environment Recovery Sub Committees.
- Conducting and assisting in post-disaster impact assessments and investigations.
- Providing advice and assistance for the decontamination of food, water, crops, stock and other food supply paths to ensure protection of human health.
- Coordinating and providing advice and assistance with the disposal of contaminated food, waste, debris and animal carcasses.
- Providing advice and guidance on hazardous materials waste such as asbestos and solar panels.
- Providing advice and guidance regarding public messaging for waste and hazardous materials handling, management and disposal.
- Restoring and future-proofing cultural and heritage sites.
- Facilitating processes that restore or maintain healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Demobilising environmental resources deployed during the response and recovery phases.
- Participating in debriefing process.

Impact of Recovery Operations on the Environment

Recovery incorporates a period of immediate development. Without proper consideration of the environment, pre-existing vulnerabilities may be re-created or exacerbated.

The expectations of undertaking remedial actions as quickly as possible for community functioning may negate the importance of environmental considerations and a new situation may potentially pose new risks.

Additionally, recovery programs provide the opportunity not only for regeneration of the environment but also to strengthen and build resilience and consider climate change impacts such as the increase in frequency and intensity of future events.

For this reason, the inclusion of environmental services within recovery programs to assist with expediting environmentally safe solutions, as well as mitigating environmental impact during reconstruction phases, is important.

The EnvSFAC will ensure that EnvSFA representation on recovery committees occurs, where appropriate.

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program (EPCUP)

The purpose of EPCUP is to avoid significant risk to the environment or public health in NSW by contributing funds towards the removal, dispersal or mitigation of significant pollution when measures need to be taken immediately.

The EPA is the agency responsible for the management of EPCUP and applies the principles of the program across incident and emergency situations.

State agencies, emergency services organisations and local councils may become involved in pollution clean-up activities following an emergency. In most cases a responsible party will undertake and fund clean-up under the polluter-pays principle. However, sometimes the responsible party is unknown, unavailable, unwilling (despite a legal obligation to do so) or unable to pay for emergency pollution clean-up within the timeframe required to avoid or at least minimise harm to the environment or public health.

Under these circumstances, the organisation responsible for coordinating the clean-up in the absence of the responsible party may apply for funding under EPCUP. Where it is an organisation's obligation to clean up emergency pollution, the organisation should do so, irrespective of whether their application seeking funding is approved or not. EPCUP is not to be used to fund applicants who have contracted out operations to minimise their internal costs. That is, organisations should not be reliant upon EPCUP to meet their legal obligations.

There is specific assessment and eligibility criteria before funding is made available. More information can be found on the [NSW EPA Website](#).

Debriefing and After-Action Reviews

The EnvSFAC will ensure that the EPA participates in multi-agency debriefs where the EPA has participated in the response or recovery phases.

Where Participating and/or Supporting Organisations have assisted during response or recovery, the EnvSFAC will ensure that they are included in any EnvSFA debrief process.

The EPA will ensure internal debriefs are undertaken due to response to incidents and emergencies and to inform into multi-agency debriefs and the NSW Lessons Management Program.

Lessons Management Program

The EnvSFAC maintains a lessons management program and identifies areas for improvement across the EnvSFA roles and responsibilities. The implementation of actions related to ongoing improvement of EnvSFA activities is managed by the EPA Incident & Emergency Coordination Unit.

ENVIRONMENTAL RAPID IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ERIA)

Overview

ERIA integrates into the preparation, response and recovery arrangements under EMPLAN and *NSW Recovery Plan* and establishing a framework that compliments Combat Agency and recovery committee responsibilities.

This capability addresses the requirement to undertake a timely assessment of the impact on the environment and its resultant consequences. Environmental impact subsequently impacts on the safety and health of the public as well as emergency response and recovery operations and responders.

ERIA in the emergency management context is the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the impact damage, or foreseeable potential damage, to the environment. This damage can subsequently impact on the social, built, economic and other relevant factors of community functioning.

The ERIA collects and analyses data to inform decision making, to form solutions and implement actions to resolve or mitigate environmental problems. It provides a “snap-shot” of environmental conditions at the time it is completed, informs the response to disasters but also informs the formal multi-agency EOC Impact Assessment and Recovery Needs Assessment. Where problems are not immediately evident, the ERIA provides enough information to allow technical experts to appraise and advocate action.

Environmental impacts exist across an all hazards approach (natural, technological, man-made, infrastructure) with situational awareness and analysis related to:

- The mechanism and context of the disaster.
- Actual and possible immediate environmental impacts.
- Consequence factors which may have an impact on the environment.
- Meeting of disaster survivor needs that could lead to adverse impact on the environment.
- Potential negative environmental consequences of recovery operations.

The EnvSFAC will ensure that ERIA will be commenced as soon as practicable after a warning or start of an incident or disaster. The initial (baseline) assessment will be followed by periodic updates to ensure the ERIA accurately represents current environmental and disaster conditions.

ERIA Process

The ERIA process is designed to:

1. Collect information needed to assess environmental and heritage impacts.
2. Provide simple steps for analysing this information to identify important and critical issues.
3. Review decisions to reduce the potential negative environmental impacts of emergency response and recovery assistance.

The ERIA can be undertaken by means of:

- Utilising remote intelligence such as CCTV, social media, automated monitoring stations and on-scene responder field reports.
- Deploying single or multi-agency field teams into the disaster area during and post-impact.
- Utilising aviation, UAV or satellite resources.

- Deploying personnel as part of multi-agency Rapid Impact Assessment Teams under the coordination of the Combat Agency Incident Controller or EOCON.

The immediate disaster impact and urgency of life saving actions will be considered in deciding on whether to undertake a field-based or remote assessment.

ERIA Outputs

Table 2: ERIA Assessment process and outputs.

Assessment	Detail
Organisation Level Assessment	Identification of critical environmental issues related to the disaster from the perspective of response and recovery.
Community Level Assessment	Identification of critical environmental issues related to the disaster from the perspective of communities and groups affected.
Consolidation and Analysis	Identification and prioritisation of environmentally-linked issues involving threat to lives, wellbeing, the economy, infrastructure and the environment.
Recovery Strategies	Inclusion in the planning for and monitoring of recovery activities and services to minimise negative environmental impacts and implement restoration and protection controls.

ERIA Components

- Preliminary potential and actual risk exposure of environmental hazard impact.
- Wetland, waters and ground -water contamination assessment.
- Stormwater and drains contamination assessment.
- Air and soil contamination assessment.
- Contamination impact on threatened and endangered species.
- Waste/Clean-up assessment, planning and monitoring.
- Demolition monitoring.
- Inter- and sub-tidal water mark assessments.
- Restoring the environment and eco-systems for wildlife, fisheries, recreation, employment and aesthetics.
- Assessing and providing data and intelligence related to actual or potential disaster impact on heritage assets and areas.
- Post-impact guidance on eco-system restoration and management.
- Inform collaborative research opportunities.

Implementing ERIA

The EnvSFAC will ensure ERIA is implemented effectively by:

- Integration of sampling and monitoring capability within multi-agency context.
- Deployment of personnel from supporting and participating agencies to facilitate ERIA functions.
- Utilisation of the NSW Data Sharing Platform for impact information sharing for response and recovery operations.



Section 7:

Roles & Responsibilities



Overview

Where an agency or organisation has a role under EnviroPlan, and its general responsibilities during an emergency are adequately covered under EMPLAN, Legislation, a Sub Plan or another Functional Area Supporting Plan, then these details are not repeated under EnviroPlan. The roles outlined here are specific to supporting the EnvSFA.

Through formal or informal agreements Participating and Supporting Organisations have acknowledged to the EnvSFA that they are willing to participate in emergency prevention, planning, response and/or recovery operations to the best of their capability under the direction of the EnvSFAC or their representative.

Each organisation supporting the responsibilities and functions of the EnvSFA is responsible for:

- The development of effective internal standing operating procedures to ensure that it can respond in accordance with EnviroPlan.
- The safety, protection, training and management of its own personnel, and should consider its responsibilities under the Work Health and Safety legislation.
- Advising if it cannot meet its obligations under EnviroPlan.

Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator (EnvSFAC)

The EnvSFAC is nominated with the approval of the Minister holding the environment portfolio. In the EPA it is the Executive Director, Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health Branch (HIEH). The Deputy EnvSFAC is the person holding the position of Director, Hazmat & Specialised Support within the HIEH Branch.

The EnvSFAC is nominated and undertakes their responsibilities as stipulated in the SERM Act and EMPLAN.

The EnvSFAC is responsible for the NSW EnvSFA tasks in all phases of the NSW emergency management arrangements outlined in EMPLAN.

The role of the EnvSFAC is to coordinate the activities of Participating and Supporting Organisations to support Combat and other agencies by carrying out or delegating the following functions:

- Deployment of a Liaison Officer to the emergency area, EOC or site control.
- Establishing and maintaining communications with the EOC.
- Activating, where necessary, the ESCC.
- Establishing and maintaining communications with the Participating and Supporting Organisations and Functional Area Coordinators.
- Coordinating all Environmental Services technical assistance, advice and support.
- Conducting a post-emergency debrief and participate in any overall incident and emergency debriefs.

Regional Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator (REnvSFAC)

With approval of the Minister holding the environment portfolio, the EnvSFAC appoints, for each Emergency Management Region (EMR), a person to perform the role of the Regional Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator (REnvSFAC). The appointment is valid for the determined period.

The REnvSFAC undertakes their role with the support of the EnvSFAC and the EPA Incident & Emergency Coordination Unit.

The REnvSFAC undertakes the following responsibilities:

- Represents the interests of the EnvSFA within the EM Region.
- Coordinates all Environmental Services technical assistance, advice and support at a regional level.
- Represents the EnvSFA on Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC).
- Participates and facilitates support to emergency management planning, response and recovery within the EM Region in respect of environmental impacts and issues.
- Supports environmental planning, response and recovery conducted by Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC).
- Assists with educating and training stakeholders on the role and functions of the EnvSFA, the EPA and associated Supporting and Participating Organisations within NSW emergency management framework.

Deputy Regional Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator

With the approval of the EnvSFAC the REnvSFAC may appoint one or more Deputy REnvSFAC's. The appointments ensure capability and sustainability of the EnvSFA roles and functions at a region level.

The Deputy REnvSFAC undertakes the following responsibilities:

- Assists the REnvSFAC to represent the interests of the EnvSFA within the EM Region.
- Represents the EnvSFA on Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC) in the absence of the REnvSFAC.
- Performs the role and responsibilities of the REnvSFAC in their absence or upon delegation.

Local Environmental Services Functional Area Representation

With the approval of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services the EnvSFAC determines the need to appoint a person to represent the EnvSFA at a local level. In most cases the REnvSFAC will maintain visibility on LEMC activities through REMC activities and ensure engagement and attendance at a local level as appropriate.

In high risk or sensitive areas, the EnvSFAC may appoint a representative for one or more LEMCs as determined appropriate.

Council, as an Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA), may provide representation on the LEMC in relation to pollution and contamination issues within the Local Government Area. When Council nominates such a representative that person is not representing the EnvSFA as a functional area. However, the REnvSFAC is available to the LEMC representative for advice and guidance on environmental emergency management issues.

Where LEMCs require specific attendance of the EnvSFA representative at an LEMC they may request it through the REnvSFAC.

Duty Incident Advice Coordinator (DIAC)

The DIAC is a 24/7 point of contact for incidents and emergencies and for emergency management support and response.

The DIAC receives notification from a range of sources including the EPA environment line, FRNSW and other Combat Agencies. Information is triaged, and additional intelligence gathered before notification to the relevant stakeholder. The DIAC supports the EnvSFAC responsibilities with ongoing intelligence gathering, monitoring of the situation, information exchange from other stakeholders and strategic and tactical advice.

Energy and Environment Portfolio

Environment Protection Authority

The EPA is the assigned sponsor agency for the EnvSFA. The EPA is to:

- Maintain an overview of environment protection activities within the emergency area and arrange the provision of specialist advice and technical assistance as required, in doing so it supports the functions of the EnvSFAC and the EnvSC.
- Direct clean-up operations for environment protection and site remediation. In all other cases, the EPA will continue to arrange the provision of specialist advice and technical assistance as required.
- Conduct a post-emergency investigation, if required.
- Conduct a post-emergency formal inquiry under section 310 of the POEO Act if it determines that such an inquiry be conducted or if the Minister for Energy and Environment requires.
- Provide advice on the management and disposal of contaminated and hazardous wastes.

Environment Energy & Science Group

- Provide specialist advice on, and assistance with, the protection of, or impact/damage to:
 - Cultural heritage areas, structures and conservation works.
 - land and marine based parks, reserves, protected areas and associated ecosystems.
 - native animals and the management of native animal carcasses.
- Provide advice and guidance on pest animals and weeds thriving under post-impact conditions.
- Provide scientific and forensic advice and services, monitoring analysis and impact evaluation on natural resources and environmental issues because of a disaster.
- Assist with post-impact recovery planning.
- Provide assistance and advice related to grants and funding programs.
- Engage and collaborate with stakeholders under the relevant portfolios in relation to environmental response and recovery.
- Provide other services and advice determined appropriate to the expertise and training of the relevant branch.

Other Participating and Supporting Organisations

All agencies listed below agree to:

- Deploy a Liaison Officer to the EECC, if required.
- Deploy staff and equipment to the emergency area as requested by the EnvSFAC or the Combat Agency.
- Provide technical and specialist advice and assistance to the Combat Agency, EnvSFAC and others in the emergency area.
- Provide administrative and logistic support to its own personnel and equipment in the emergency area.
- Debrief agency personnel who were involved in the emergency operation.
- Participate in any post-emergency debrief conducted by the EnvSFA.
- Participate in training and exercises related to EnvSFA functions and responsibilities.

Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU)

The Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) assists with spatial data to inform emergency planning, response and recovery.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS)

Provide support and services under the *Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan* including:

- Work with the EnvSFA to address adverse environmental impacts related to decontamination, destruction and/or disposal of diseased animals and plants.
- Work with the EnvSFA to address adverse environmental impacts related to animal carcass disposal unrelated to biosecurity emergencies.
- Monitor, share and provide advice on animal, agriculture, forestry, biosecurity, food and water resources and infrastructure that falls within the responsibility of DPI and LLS.

NSW Public Works (NSW PW)

Provide support and services under the *Engineering Services Functional Area Supporting Plan* including assisting the EnvSFA in clean-up and waste management operations.

This may include provision of engineering coordination and advice (including structural) and engineering resources (machinery, materials, logistics).

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW)

The *Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989* and EMPLAN identify FRNSW as the Combat Agency for hazardous materials emergencies occurring on land or in inland waters as outlined in Hazmat/CBRN Sub Plan. This includes the direction of actions and activities to protect life and property including the environment.

FRNSW agree to:

- Support collaboration with the EnvSFA for emergencies involving management of hazardous materials.
- Work with the EPA in respect of the arrangements contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between FRNSW and the EPA.

Local Government

Local Government agree to the following where their training, resources and capability allow:

- Assist with gathering of operational intelligence related to impacted sites/areas.
- Provide access to Council maintained hazardous materials or pollutant registers for EnvSFA as operationally required.
- Act as the Appropriate Regulatory Authority for pollutants and hazardous materials contamination where applicable.
- Assist with waste and contamination management strategies during response and recovery operations.

NSW Maritime (Roads and Maritime Services) and the Port Authority of NSW

EMPLAN and the *NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan* identifies NSW Maritime as the Combat Agency for marine oil and chemical spills occurring in State waters and Port Authority of NSW as the Combat Agency for designated Ports and sections of the coast. This includes the direction of actions and activities to protect life and property including the environment.

In addition to the arrangements specified in EMPLAN and NSW Sub Plans, NSW Maritime and the Port Authority of NSW agree to:

- Collaborate with the EnvSFA for response to management, retrieval or identification of waste and debris transferring into State waters because of a land-based emergency or incident.
- Assist with provision of advice and support, where applicable and within the capacity and capability of NSW Maritime and the Port Authority of NSW to do so.

NSW Health

EMPLAN identifies NSW Health as the Combat Agency for a pandemic response. The *NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Sub Plan* outlines the strategic intent, coordination arrangements, responsibilities and mechanisms to prepare for, respond to and recover from an influenza pandemic in NSW. NSW Health is responsible for maintaining this plan.

NSW Health will additionally provide support and services under the *Health Services Functional Area Supporting Plan* and:

- Support assessment of, and addressing, environmental concerns during pandemic emergencies.
- Provide treatment to individuals impacted by environmental contamination and collaborate to address adverse environmental impacts related to decontamination processes.
- Collaborate with the EnvSFA to:
 - Manage the containment, transportation and destruction and/or disposal of medical waste during emergencies.
 - Address adverse environmental impacts related to deceased persons as a result of emergencies.
 - Assess health risks related to adverse impacts on the environment.
- Monitor, share and provide advice on public health issues that arise, or have the potential to arise, because of adverse impact on the environment.

NSW Police Force (NSWPF)

EMPLAN identifies the NSW Police Force as the Combat Agency for a Terrorist act. This includes the direction of actions and activities to protect life and property including the environment. Terrorism may have direct or indirect impacts on the environment.

In addition to the arrangements specified in EMPLAN and NSW Sub Plans, the NSWPF agrees to:

- Assist with establishing and enforcing immediate exclusion or restriction of access to areas where pollution or contaminants are life threatening.
- Assist with provision of advice and support, where applicable and within the capacity and capability of the NSW Police Force to do so.
- Work with the EPA in respect of the arrangements contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Police Force and the EPA.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)

The *Rural Fires Act 1997* and EMPLAN identify NSW Rural Fire Service as the Lead Agency for bush fire emergencies and the Combat Agency for fires within Rural Fire Districts. This includes the direction of actions and activities to protect life and property including the environment.

NSW RFS agrees to:

- Support collaboration with the EnvSFA for emergencies involving environmental impacts within bush fire impacted areas.
- Work with the EPA in respect of the arrangements contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW RFS and the EPA.

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES)

The State Emergency Service Act 1989 and EMPLAN identify the NSW State Emergency Service as the Combat Agency for storms, floods and tsunamis. This includes the direction of actions and activities to protect life and property including the environment.

NSW SES will:

- Support collaboration with EnvSFA for management of waste materials and mitigating uncontrolled pollutant releases as a result of storms, floods and tsunamis.
- Work with the EPA in respect of the arrangements contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW SES and the EPA.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW)

Provide support and services under the *Transport Services Functional Area Supporting Plan* and assistance with the provision of transportation coordination, advice and resources (machinery, materials, logistics).

This may also include assisting the EnvSFA in facilitating safe transportation of dangerous goods, hazardous materials and waste during recovery operations.

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Section 8:
Administration



Review of Plan

The Plan is to be reviewed:

- Following activation as the result of an emergency.
- Following an exercise designed to practice or test any aspects of the Plan.
- When the roles or responsibilities of any agency involved in the Plan are changed.
- At the direction of the SEOCON, EnvSFAC or the SEMC.
- At the request of:
 - a designated Combat Agency as recognised under EnviroPlan, or
 - the EnvSFA Committee
- Every five years.

Amendments to the Plan

Submissions for amendment to EnviroPlan for consideration should be sent to the EPA Incident & Emergency Coordination Unit at EnvSFA@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Distribution of the Plan is in accordance with the SEMC requirements.

Expenditure and Recovery of Funds

The key funding issues incorporate decontamination and waste management including the analysis, transport, treatment, temporary storage and permanent disposal of wastes.

Expenditure of funds by Agencies, Organisations or Functional Areas during emergency response or recovery operations is to be met in the first instance by the providers of resources from within their normal operating budgets. Should the expenditure be of such a magnitude as to prevent the providing Agencies, Organisations or Functional Areas from continuing their normal operations for the remainder of the financial year, Treasury may provide supplementation, but Departments cannot be guaranteed that funding will be provided.

Certain expenditure incurred during emergency response or initial recovery operations following natural disasters may be included under the Commonwealth or State funding arrangements.

Efforts will also be made to require polluters to pay a contribution to emergency responses and recovery where appropriate, in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle. It should be noted however that administrative difficulties in securing payment from polluters should not overshadow the need for a timely response.

Definitions & Abbreviations

Definitions used, and specific to this Supporting Plan are listed below.

NOTE: General and other definitions used in EnviroPlan can be sourced from the SERM Act, EMPLAN and various Sub Plans and Functional Area Supporting Plans.

Abbreviation	Item	Definition
	Disaster	A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. A disaster results from the combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the potential negative consequences of the hazard and risks.
DIAC	Duty Incident Advice Coordinator	A rostered officer of the Environment Protection Authority on call to provide specialist emergency management advice.
	Environment	The components of the earth, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Land, air and water b. Any layer of the atmosphere c. Any organic or inorganic matter or living organism d. Human-made or modified structures and areas and includes interacting natural ecosystems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997)</i></p>
	Environmental degradation	The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and needs. Potential effects are varied and may contribute to an increase in vulnerability and the frequency and intensity of natural hazards. Examples in the disaster context include: land degradation, deforestation, desertification, loss of biodiversity and land, water and air pollution.
EnvSC	Environmental Services Commander	An officer of the EPA providing a point of contact and provision of on-site specialist advice, and who is responsible for the on-site coordination of clean-up and waste disposal.
ESCC	Environmental Services Coordination Centre	The coordination centre established by the Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator to coordinate the Environmental Services Functional Area support to an emergency.
EnvSFA Committee	Environmental Services Functional Area Committee	The committee established to coordinate the Environmental Services Functional Area pursuant to section 16 of the SERM Act.
EnvSFAC	Environmental Services Functional Area Coordinator	The nominated coordinator of the Environmental Services Functional Area tasked to coordinate the provision of Functional Area support and resources for emergency response and initial recovery operations, who, by agreement of Participating and Supporting Organisations within the Functional Area, has the authority to commit the resources of those organisations.
	EPA Incident Coordinator	A nominated officer of the Environmental Protection Authority managing the overall coordination and priorities of EPA response to the incident or emergency and establishing an EPA Incident Management Team. For minor incidents the role of EPA Incident Coordinator and EnvSFAC may be performed by the same person. For more serious incidents and for emergencies this will not occur.
NATEC	Natural hazard triggered technological accident	Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, storms, extreme temperatures, etc. can trigger fires, explosions and toxic or radioactive releases at hazardous installations and other infrastructures that process, store or transport dangerous substances. These technological secondary effects of natural hazard impacts are called "Natech".

Abbreviation	Item	Definition
	Participating Organisation	A Government Agency, statutory authority, volunteer organisation or other agency that has either given formal notice, or has acknowledged to the EnvSFAC, that it is willing to participate in emergency management operations under the direction of the EnvSFAC, and with levels of support resources as appropriate to the emergency.
	Supporting Organisation	A Government Agency, volunteer organisation, or other agency that has either given formal notice, or has acknowledged to the EnvSFAC, that it is willing to be called upon to provide assistance or resources to a Combat Agency in the event of an emergency. It will be subject to coordination by the Combat Agency or the EnvSFAC.

Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
(EnviroPlan)

A Supporting Plan of the NSW Emergency Management Plan