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# Appendix two – Emergency management arrangements for local councils

## Emergency management arrangements for local councils

The *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* establishes emergency management arrangements in NSW.

An Emergency Management Plan is prepared across State, regional and local levels to outline the overarching management arrangements and document agreed roles and functions of various agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Emergency management plans are supported by other plans for specific agencies and functional areas and sub plans prepared to address specific hazards or events (e.g. Consequence Management Guides) where the required detail is greater than what is in the Emergency Management Plan.

Coordination of the prevention, preparation, response and recovery is carried out under State, Regional and Local Emergency Management Committees. Such committees include emergency service organisations – such as NSW Police, Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Health, State Emergency Service.

At the local level, Local Emergency Management Committees are formed for each local government area, and consist of:

- the General Manager of the local council, who is the Chair of the Committee
- senior representatives of emergency services agencies (including 'combat agencies') operating in the LGA
- representatives for functional areas that operate within the LGA
- the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the LGA.

Under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act*, local councils' are required to support the activities of the Local Emergency Management Committee. Operationally, councils advised this involves providing 'executive support' and Local Emergency Management Officers who support the Local Emergency Operations Controllers. Key activities of Local Emergency Management Officers include organising committee meetings, coordinating updates to the EM Plan, and ensuring the Local Emergency Operations Centre (LEOC) is ready for use if and when required (EOC locations are specified in the EM Plan).

Other council staff may also sit on the Local Emergency Management Committee to provide technical and other advice, for example area coordinators for utilities, engineering, and environment.

A local council may also be subject to directions from the Local Emergency Management Controller (LEOCON), where the LEOCON has assumed responsibility for controlling the response to an emergency.