This is EMA

REVISED 2007

'.safer sustainable communities'
I saw a fire about 15–20 feet from me. I don’t know what was on fire. All in the steel was twisted. A man I don’t on know was a short distance behind me and was screaming for help. I couldn’t yell through a gap in the pan and about 5 minutes later some men came but they couldn’t get me out until some time later. The people pulled me out with a rope. I think I am very lucky to be alive.

### Front cover image acknowledgements

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This is EMA

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Emergency Management is an ever evolving field that requires us to constantly review our beliefs, actions and responsibilities, and the structures and systems that we create to support them. In my view, one of the biggest risks facing Australia is that of complacency, a risk that needs to be managed in just the same way as we manage natural and man made/technological risks. We must develop flexible plans that will manage all of the hazards within the emergency management continuum that might impact upon us. These plans have to be constantly reviewed and tested, with exercises designed to ensure that they are workable and effective. These strategies will in turn allow us to reduce the risks that complacency create whilst ensuring that we are well placed to deal with the prevailing hazards themselves.

The traditional emergencies for which we have planned in the past may not adequately cover the real risks that we face today and in the future. The recent terrorist events around the world, such as the September 11 2001 attacks, the Bali bombings of 2002 and 2005, the Madrid bombings of 2004 and the London bombings of 2005, have caused us to consider the environment in which we work and the obligations of emergency managers that are created. National security and emergency management agencies are collaborating to ensure that public safety aspects are managed and the consequences of these events minimised. However, it is important to remember that this type of event is only one of many hazards that can significantly impact on communities.
The Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake in 2005, and Cyclone Larry that impacted Queensland in March 2006, are poignant reminders of the devastating impact that a natural disaster can have both directly and indirectly on a country. These events attracted international attention and have significant ongoing economic, physical, psychological and social impacts. They emphasise the need for an all-hazards approach to emergency management.

Emergency management is a shared responsibility. In order to meet current and new challenges, emergency managers and key stakeholders at the local, state and national level, volunteers, businesses and communities need to work in partnership to mitigate the impact of emergency and disaster events. This is vital in order to meet the growing political and community expectation, whilst still fostering community resilience at the grass roots level.

Emergency Management Australia is building mutually beneficial networks within the national and international emergency management arena to learn and share information and lessons learned, identify new challenges facing our communities and to build a safer future for us all.

As risks evolve, and governments and communities change, the sound body of knowledge and expertise and the strong partnerships EMA has built throughout the wider emergency management sector will continue to be of benefit to all Australians.

Tony Pearce
Director General
June 2007
EMA to the present day

EMA's predecessor, the Natural Disasters Organisation (NDO), was established in mid-1974 within the Department of Defence. The NDO brought together all elements of Commonwealth civil defence capability (brought about by the Cold War), but with an expanded scope that included combating natural emergencies and disasters. In December 1974, the NDO's capabilities were tested by the devastating impact of Cyclone Tracy on Darwin. This event resulted in an increased focus on natural emergencies and disasters and the provision of resources to support emergency and disaster response.

With the emergence over the next two decades of the broader concepts of emergency management embracing prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, the NDO's role was further broadened. In 1993, the NDO was renamed Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to better reflect this wider perspective. In November 2001, EMA was relocated from Defence to the Attorney-General's Department to reflect its changing responsibilities and the greater emphasis on consequence management in respect of national security arrangements.

In addition to natural emergencies and disasters, EMA's scope now encompasses technological and human-caused emergencies and disasters. The focus of emergency management changed in the late 1990s to address issues like Y2K and the return to earth of the MIR space station. Emergency management evolved into a greater whole-of-government focus on critical infrastructure, and their interdependencies, with an increased understanding of community vulnerability and risk management.
Environmental shifts towards greater urban development, economic globalisation, increased sophistication of technology, terrorism, and climate change, have also contributed to the changing nature of risks posed to communities.

EMA continues to coordinate the Australian Government response to emergencies and disasters and remains a flexible and responsive organisation that, through well developed partnerships and relationships, is able to work with the three levels of government, the private sector and the community to foster strategic investment in emergency management.

EMA continues to strive for safer sustainable communities.

**EMA's vision**

*‘safer sustainable communities’*

**EMA's mission**

*Provide national leadership in the development of emergency management measures to reduce the risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters.*
Emergency management encompasses a wide range of measures to manage risks to the safety and sustainability of communities and the environment.

EMA is actively working to build Australia's capacity to deal with these risks and to advance understanding of the factors that define and influence emergency management. The following developments are particularly relevant:

- **Changes in emergency management principles and practice:** The key focus for the future is the mitigation of emergency and disaster events and the promotion of community safety and resilience. This enables communities to understand the risks they face and to plan accordingly. Emergency Risk Management, based on the Australia/New Zealand Standard on Risk Management AS/NZS 4360 (2004), continues to be a critical tool in the drive for community sustainability, including continuity of critical infrastructure.

- **Nature of hazards:** Hazards are changing. Consideration needs to be given to understanding the impact of climate change, the consequences from acts of terrorism, changes in frequency and distribution of extreme events, the spread of risk profiles, and the influence of new technologies.

- **National security:** The terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001, the significant loss of Australian lives in Bali in 2002, and the transport system bombings in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005, combined with the Bali bombings of 1 October 2005 and other terrorist events throughout the world, have permanently changed the approach to Australia's national security. A necessary cohesion has been established between national security and emergency management agencies and arrangements to ensure that public safety aspects are managed and the consequences of these events minimised.

- **Volunteers:** The 2001 Emergency Management Volunteers Summit and Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements recognised the vital role played by emergency management volunteer organisations. Following the Summit, an Australian Emergency Management Volunteers Forum (AEMVF) was formed in April 2002 and is supported by EMA. A significant recent output from the AEMVF is the publication The Cost of Volunteering: A Report on a National Survey of Emergency Management Sector Volunteers, released in November 2006. This publication is available on the AEMVF website www.aemf.org.au.
A second Emergency Management Volunteers Summit held in April 2005 raised further significant issues to be addressed at all levels of Government. These relate to training, retention, recruitment and protection of volunteers. Addressing these issues will form the basis of EMA's future involvement with the emergency service/management volunteer sector.

- **New national decision-making machinery:** COAG, the peak inter-governmental forum in Australia, is a significant initiator in the development of emergency management policy. It has committed to a range of reforms and initiatives to enhance community safety and empower communities to effectively manage the consequences of disasters.

Following recommendations from the COAG review *Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements*, new national decision-making machinery was established to oversee national emergency management arrangements and to drive the implementation of national initiatives. This framework includes the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM) and a revised Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC) that functions as a primary decision-making body for emergency management policy issues. The AEMC reports to the MCPEM. Refer to the Authority and Accountability diagram above.

- **Community motivators:** Factors influencing community participation in emergency management include the development of a more integrated whole-of-community approach to emergency management, increased community participation in emergency risk management, and the promotion of community self-reliance.

- **Globalisation:** The world's reliance on global communication, trade and travel has lead to the risk of rapidly spread trans-national emergency and disaster events. These events result in significant widespread economic impacts on such industries as tourism, food production and transport. Examples include:
  - the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001
  - the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic, which first received international attention in 2003; and
  - the global outbreak of 'bird flu' since 2003 that currently has Australia, as part of an international effort, clearly focussed on pandemic prevention and preparedness.
Demographics: Australia’s changing demographics include greater concentration of populations in hazard prone areas, an ageing population, a technology-driven society, and increased community survival pressures on rural and remote communities. This has impacted significantly on the emergency management workforce and volunteer capacity. There is also a public thirst for information about hazards and measures that can reduce risk and enhance safety.

Economy and society: There is a growing recognition of issues associated with remoteness of communities, gender, Indigenous communities, and cultural and linguistic diversity. Additional influences include increased risks for the insurance industry, together with an added emphasis on the knowledge economy. There is also a greater understanding that emergencies and disasters impact on both tangible and intangible assets, such as community cohesion.

Management of information and knowledge: There is increasing recognition of the value and importance of data, information and knowledge in informing emergency management decision making. Influences include improved access to existing sources of information using internet and wireless technologies, and a more mobile workforce necessitating systems to unlock the knowledge held by people within the emergency management community.

Technology: There is enhanced availability of, and improvement in, applied information sources and tools, such as satellite imagery, automated information management programs, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and electronic communications. This has lead to wider community and economic dependence on complex and vulnerable technological infrastructure.

Broadening partnerships: EMA continues to work closely with State and Territory emergency management organisations and related Australian Government agencies. There are also strong links with local governments, community based organisations, volunteers, academia and researchers, businesses, industry bodies and individuals. International partnerships have also been expanded as Australia takes a greater role in regional emergency and disaster response and recovery.
EMA responds to the challenges presented by the continually changing emergency management environment and seeks to achieve its mission by working in five key areas of activity and by delivering a range of services and products.

These areas are:

- strategic partnerships
- developing community capacity and resilience
- developing emergency management capability
- managing the consequences of disasters/emergencies, and
- strategic leadership.

**Strategic partnerships**

EMA cannot work in isolation. Successful emergency management relies on integrating the vast skills, knowledge and expertise available within a range of professional, vocational and academic disciplines. EMA fosters active partnerships with a network of Australian and State/Territory agencies, local government, volunteers, non-government and community organisations, businesses, professional bodies, individuals and international agencies. Together, these agencies develop and deliver best practice emergency management in Australia.

Retaining, enhancing and sharing knowledge within the emergency management sector is an important part of Australia's emergency management capability. EMA has taken a national leadership role in the development of knowledge management and its application. The organisation is at the forefront of exploring knowledge frameworks and is actively working with its partners in developing knowledge networks such as the:

- Australian Disaster Information Network Internet Portal (AusDIN)
- National Forum for Emergency Warnings to the Community
- Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia (EMSINA), and
EMA continues to foster best practice emergency management partnerships. For example, EMA, in partnership with relevant experts from the emergency management community, produces the Australian Emergency Manual Series that encompasses national best practice in emergency management policy and practice. EMA also publishes the Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM) which provides access to information and knowledge for an active emergency management research community and practitioners of emergency management. AJEM covers a range of issues, policies, planning or procedural concerns and research reports of interest to the national and international emergency management sector. These resources are available on the EMA website, www.ema.gov.au, or can be requested from EMA.

Recognising the significant and diverse achievements of EMA’s partners and stakeholders in the pursuit of safer sustainable communities is a necessary process in nurturing these vital networks. For example, EMA with the States and Territories, manages the annual Australian Safer Communities Awards that recognise and promote excellence, innovation and achievement in emergency management.

International engagement

Australia is increasingly being invited to form international partnerships to share information, identify best practice, provide humanitarian and emergency and disaster aid, and to develop policy initiatives to mitigate the impact of emergencies and disasters in Australia’s region of interest. EMA undertakes an important role in representing Australia’s interests through:

- coordinating Australia’s physical emergency and disaster response efforts overseas, including the response activities following the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, coordinating the deployment of medical and surgical teams to earthquake impacted Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2006, and facilitating the reception arrangements for the voluntary evacuation of Australians from Lebanon in July 2006.
- representing Australia at international emergency management forums, including United Nations sponsored activities, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and regional bilateral initiatives.
- providing support to Australian and New Zealand Government contingency planning at the ANZAC Day commemorative services in Turkey.
hosting, chairing or sponsoring international emergency management delegations, forums and education programs. For example, on behalf of the Department of Defence, EMA conducts the annual 'Emergency Management Seminar' for senior military and civil servants from countries in the Asian region forming international emergency management partnerships to share lessons learned and best practice, such as EMA's partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to conduct capacity assessment and development activity within Pacific Island countries.

assisting with training and capacity building, as well as planning for post-disaster assistance with countries in the Pacific and Asian regions. In December 2006, EMA signed a Subsidiary Arrangement between the Indonesian National Coordinating Board for Disaster Management (BAKORNAS PB) and EMA Concerning Partnership in Disaster Management. Currently EMA is assisting BAKORNAS to develop national emergency management capability. EMA also assisted with the preparation of emergency plans and structures for the Solomon Islands.

assisting with the development of international policy initiatives, for example contributing to the establishment and enhancement of tsunami warning systems for the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

collaborating with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada on chemical biological and radiological (CBR) consequence management issues.

collaborating internationally on urban search and rescue (USAR) issues through the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, and

cooperative arrangements within APEC, under the auspices of the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), including leading the APEC Pandemic Response Exercise 2006 and assisting with the APEC Chief Executive Officer's Disaster Forum 2007.
Developing community capacity and resilience

Engaging local communities in emergency management, as well as increasing involvement and awareness at a grassroots level, is a critical step in improving national preparedness for emergencies and disasters of all types, including acts of terrorism.

In 2004, the Australian Government announced a new policy initiative, Working Together to Manage Emergencies in recognition of the need to further develop self-reliance at both the community and local government level to enhance community safety. The initiative is being undertaken through a partnership between the Australian Government and State/Territory/local governments.

EMA’s Community Development Branch administers the initiative that involves funding, over four years, for a Local Grants Scheme and a National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. The funding supports local government, communities and volunteers involved in emergency management, and aims at enhancing Australia’s capability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters arising from any hazard.

Funding for the Local Grants Scheme and National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund expires at the end of the 2007/08 financial year. Government will make a decision on whether they continue to be funded in future years based on the findings of an independent review of the outcomes of the two programs.

EMA’s Education and Training Group complements this work, through the provision of training courses and educational activities aimed specifically to support the emergency management function of local governments. The nationally recognised program Emergency Management for Local Government has been designed to introduce leaders, employees and elected officials to some of the issues and experiences faced by local governments when dealing with emergency management.

EMA also provides local governments with practical application skills through courses such as Risk Based Land Use Planning, which is supported by the Australian Emergency Manual Planning Safer Communities – Land Use Planning for Natural Hazards.
EMA's emphasis is on community safety and strives to ensure a high degree of self-reliance and resilience within Australian communities. EMA's community safety approach encompasses the elements of community engagement, preparedness, awareness and education.

In support of this, EMA produces a wide variety of freely available community awareness and education publications. These provide background information as well as practical advice on preparation for, and coping with, major hazards including severe storms, floods, cyclones, tsunami and earthquakes. These publications are produced in collaboration with subject matter experts from agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia, as well as State and Territory emergency service agencies. The success of these information resources has been widely acknowledged, with translations undertaken for use in several overseas locations.

Resources are available on the EMA website, www.ema.gov.au, or can be requested from EMA.

EMA has also been prominent in the development of curriculum-based materials and resource kits to support studies in relevant curriculum areas at both primary and secondary school levels. Resources for students, teachers and principals can be accessed via the EMA website. EMA has a dedicated school education officer to ensure that the material developed meets the needs of the Australian school community.

EMA also engages in research into community dynamics in order to strengthen the impact of community safety programs.

An Australian disaster events database developed by EMA is available on the EMA website. It has proven to be a valuable research tool for students and researchers, as well as for organisations and individuals with an interest in emergencies and disasters and the impact on Australian communities.
Developing emergency management capability

EMA assists in the ongoing development of national emergency management capability through a number of areas. These areas are based on the nationally accepted emergency management concept of prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Emergency and disaster prevention/mitigation
Prevention/mitigation measures prevent or reduce the impact of hazards on communities. They include land use planning, building codes and standards, business continuity, community awareness, structural measures, warning systems, planning and training. Effective prevention/mitigation represents an investment in Australian communities, with both short and long-term benefits for the local, regional and national economy, the environment and the community at large.

In recent years EMA has partnered with an increasing number of organisations to promote a greater investment in mitigation. These organisations include a range of Australian, State and Territory agencies, local government, the Planning Institute of Australia, Master Builders Australia, the Insurance Council of Australia, and Engineers Australia. For example, EMA has worked on projects to build mitigation capability such as supporting research to better understand the costs of emergencies and disasters and the benefits of mitigation, and developing best practice guidelines on land use planning. EMA’s work in community safety also makes a significant contribution to emergency and disaster mitigation.
Development of national capability
EMA works on an ongoing basis across Australian Government, and directly with state and territory emergency management organisations, to actively enhance emergency management capability nationally. Through programs such as the Urban Search and Rescue Capability Development Program, the Chemical Biological and Radiological Enhancement Program, and the Australian Tsunami Warning System Project, to name a few, EMA continues to work with States and Territories to ensure Australia remains prepared for a range of emergency and disaster events.

EMA's work in this area is constantly evolving in response to Australia's changing emergency management needs, brought on by social, environmental, economic and political change both globally and nationally. Through discussion of these issues within national-level working groups, gaps in national capability are identified and serve as the basis for EMA's strategic approach to capability development activities of national significance.

Emergency management research and innovation
EMA is active in leading a coordinated approach to emergency management research. This is a broad field and includes many partnerships such as the Centre for Risk and Community Safety Research comprising EMA, RMIT University and the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University. EMA is also a partner in the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre which aims to enhance the management of the bushfire risk to the community in an economically and ecologically sustainable way.

A national Emergency Management Research Agenda focuses on emergency management and communities, costs of emergencies and disasters, and government decision making in planning for and managing emergencies and disasters. EMA is also involved in applied research including post-disaster impact studies, hosting and/or sponsoring specialist seminars, and facilitating consultancies.
Education and training
EMA's Education and Training activities are managed from Mount Macedon in Victoria. This includes the identification and development of best practice in emergency management, and development and delivery of accredited education and training programs, many of which are derived from the National Emergency Management Competency Standards.

EMA's programs address key aspects of prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in such topics as emergency planning, business continuity management, establishing an Emergency Coordination Centre, and managing recovery. A Senior Executive Program focusing on Strategic Decision Making is offered twice annually. Specialised training activities are also conducted to enhance the capability of States and Territories to manage the consequences of terrorist activities. In addition, EMA conducts two nationally recognised qualifications, the Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management and the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management).

Training, education and professional development programs are delivered at Mount Macedon, and extension courses are provided throughout Australia and overseas. The EMA Institute Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of all programs and is available on the EMA website, www.ema.gov.au.

Library services
The Emergency Management Australia Library informs and supports the emergency management community by providing a national resource of specialist information. EMA Library is a unique resource in Australia as the collection covers the entire spectrum of emergency management issues, within Australia and internationally. Membership of the library is free and available to anyone with an interest in emergency management. The library catalogue is searchable online and resources or information can be requested via the EMA website.

Plans for emergency & disaster response
The ability to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters requires careful planning. Contingency plans are in place to meet State and Territory requests for Australian Government assistance arising from any type of emergency or disaster. These plans include the Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN), which details procedures for provision of Australian Government assistance through EMA in the event of an emergency/disaster in Australia.
Requests for emergency and disaster assistance from overseas countries are managed through a separate plan, the Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan, by EMA on behalf of AusAID.

EMA maintains a number of hazard-specific contingency plans including:

- managing the reception of persons evacuated into Australia due to disasters or civil unrest in neighbouring countries
- repatriating and providing care for Australians injured or killed in mass casualty events overseas
- coordinating the response to an aviation disaster within Australia, and
- coordinating actions related to the re-entry of radioactive space debris.

EMA also works cooperatively with other agency plans that relate to national emergencies and disasters, for example, as a partner in recent work to produce the National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic.

Managing the consequences of disasters/emergencies

Consequence management

Consequence management involves protecting public health and safety, restoring essential government services and providing emergency/disaster relief to businesses and individuals affected by the consequences of natural, technological and human-caused emergencies and disasters – effectively, the collective term given to post-impact response and recovery activities. EMA is the lead Australian Government agency for consequence management matters and works closely with State and Territory organisations such as police, fire agencies, ambulance services, State and Territory Emergency Services and public health authorities to ensure appropriate consequence management arrangements are established.

EMA has established an alliance with national security agencies to develop an 'all agencies' communication network to assist in protecting public safety, to minimise the impact of a threat to national security, and to effectively manage the consequences of such an event. Through key working partnerships, EMA is enhancing the emergency management sector's capability to effectively...
respond to CBR incidents and to identify and protect critical infrastructure to maintain public health and safety.

Key lessons learned from the September 11, Bali, Madrid and London terrorist attacks have resulted in a greater understanding of the issues involved in mass casualty events whether in Australia or overseas. Issues include USAR capability, mass casualty management (particularly burns victims), disaster victim registration and identification, and repatriation of Australians from overseas.

The National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS) plays a major role during emergencies and disasters for the registration of affected or evacuated persons, and provides an information system that can be used by concerned relatives and friends.

Civil defence is another element of Australia's comprehensive 'all-hazards' approach to emergency management. EMA's civil defence responsibility involves policy development and coordination, and a variety of planning and training support activities.

The national civil defence capability is based on using existing State and Territory emergency management organisations and requires EMA to work closely with the Australian Defence Force and jurisdictions.

Response coordination
EMA is responsible to the Attorney-General for the coordination of physical emergency and disaster assistance provided by the Australian Government. Such assistance results from a formal request from a State or Territory if government and commercial resources are unable to cope with an emergency or disaster. The Director General of EMA, after obtaining approval from the Attorney-General, can call on the resources of any other Australian Government Department or Agency, and can request assistance from other States or Territories. This is coordinated through the National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC) which is located at EMA Canberra. The Attorney-General's Department is currently considering amalgamation of the NEMCC, the Protective Security Coordination Centre Watch Office and the National Security Hotline.

EMA maintains a Disaster Earmark Store that contains a range of emergency/disaster response and recovery resources such as tarpaulins, water containers, sand bags and blankets for use in an emergency or disaster situation.

EMA is becoming more involved in coordinating Australian Government assistance to overseas countries impacted by emergencies or disasters. This whole-of-
government assistance is coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and is facilitated by an Australian Government Inter-Departmental Emergency Task Force.

Assisting recovery
Arrangements for emergency and disaster recovery throughout Australia are internationally recognised and reflect the experience and input of government and non-government organisations in the wide variety of events that have occurred over the last 20 years.

At the core of these arrangements is the concept of supporting individuals and communities in the management of their own recovery following emergencies and disasters, regardless of cause. In this manner the arrangements remain effective and valid in their application to natural, technological and human-caused events.

The focus of sustainable community recovery is in five core areas – community, infrastructure, psychosocial, economy and environment. In addressing each of these areas, recovery programs aim to build community capacity, promoting ongoing individual and community resilience.

Working with the national recovery community
Individual States and Territories undertake the primary role in recovery management and service delivery for emergencies and disasters which occur in Australia. EMA plays a major role in the facilitation and provision of Australian Government support to ensure the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Within each State and Territory community services department is the designated position of Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Together with representatives from EMA, Centrelink and the Australian Government’s Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA), they work cooperatively as the Disaster Recovery Sub-Committee of the Community Services and Disability Ministerial Advisory Council (CSDMAC).

The group provides a central point for cross-jurisdictional contact on recovery issues and acts as a peak reference group to the CSDMAC and AEMC on recovery issues arising from national and offshore events like the terrorist bombings in Bali and the Indian Ocean tsunami.
Strategic leadership

EMA provides national strategic leadership, working with stakeholders to identify current and future issues of national importance and then developing and implementing strategies to address them. These include national approaches to emergency and disaster mitigation, education and training, research, consequence management, continuity management, and emergency and disaster information management. In undertaking this leadership role, EMA integrates emergency management considerations into a range of disciplines and related arenas such as national security.

At the Australian Government level, EMA is the agency responsible for emergency management policy and provides a strategic coordination role. EMA works with the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) to facilitate the implementation of COAG review recommendations impacting on the emergency management sector, including the 2002 COAG review Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements and the National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management that was commenced in 2003.

EMA provides the Secretariat for both the AEMC and the MCPEM, supporting the governance of high level emergency management in Australia. In undertaking this role, EMA provides strategic policy advice to the Attorney-General and other Ministers responsible for emergency management, develops strategic policy relating to pertinent emergency management issues, and facilitates the implementation of policy initiatives.

Under the auspices of AEMC, EMA chairs and facilitates outputs for a number of working groups, including the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Working Group and the Urban Search and Rescue Working Group. In addition, under the auspices of AEMC, EMA is a member and provides the secretariat for the Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Committee (RICAC). With respect to remote Indigenous communities, RICAC facilitates the development and implementation of emergency management, acts as a forum for information and activities, and facilitates the development of networks to work collaboratively on relevant projects.
The National Community Safety Working Group (NCSWG), a working group of the AEMC, has been established to address the emerging issues relating to community safety in emergency management. Within this role, it is addressing recommendations 30 and 31 and key commitment 7 from the COAG review: Natural Disasters in Australia – Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements.

A national review of community education, awareness and engagement programs designed to enhance community safety for natural hazards is being conducted by the NCSWG. The aim of this review is to achieve outcomes of improved practice in community safety, behaviour change, thinking and attitude towards natural hazards developing greater community self reliance. The outputs from this review shall inform the development of evidence based guidelines and principles of good program design for the benefit of all jurisdictions.

The NCSWG’s other activities include working to determine the current extent and status of community safety issues at a national level and examining contemporary and emerging issues in relation to community safety.

The National Security Committee of Cabinet and the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) together form the basis for a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to security matters. The NCTC contributes to the security of the Australian community through coordination of a nation-wide cooperative framework to counter terrorism and its consequences. EMA is a member of the NCTC and provides a vital link between crisis and consequence management.

EMA is undertaking a four year program that is a component of the Australian Government National Action Plan (NAP) to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security. The NAP focuses on education, awareness-raising and capacity-building measures and in EMA’s case it is directed at helping the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities to prepare for, respond to and ensure recovery from incidents, crises and other emergencies and disasters in Australia.
To better facilitate access to vital natural hazard information, EMA initiates the development of mutually beneficial agreements, including Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with agencies such as Geoscience Australia. EMA also has an agreement with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for the dissemination of public information and emergency warnings.

Following the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004, the Australian Government initiated the establishment of an Australian Tsunami Early Warning System. EMA continues to work in partnership with Geoscience Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology to enhance the system, which also contributes to the ultimate realisation of an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system, as well as augmenting the existing Pacific Ocean Tsunami Warning System.

EMA monitors emerging threats such as those that may be brought about by climate change. Climate change may impact sea-levels at coastlines, the frequency and magnitude of severe weather events, and the onset of drought and bushfire conditions.

EMA fosters the sharing of national and international issues, key lessons learned, best practice and innovation through the initiation, chairing or sponsoring of topical emergency management forums. Recent key forums that have had a significant impact on the emergency management sector include the:

- 2003 ‘Lessons Larned from September 11 2001’ national tour
- 2003 Australian Disaster Conference
- 2005 Emergency Management Volunteers Summit, and
The people who work at EMA are the organisation's strength. With diverse skills and experience, EMA's people bring a range of multi-disciplinary perspectives to the challenges presented by emergency management.

The continued success of EMA's national emergency management leadership role is dependent on our reputation as a non-partisan and professional organisation.

We value:

- relevant skills and experience
- a professional approach that is open to new ideas
- the needs and opinions of organisations and people with whom we work
- the balance between personal and work activities of EMA staff
- the career and developmental needs of EMA staff
- an open and honest approach
- partnerships which identify and achieve constructive, innovative solutions
- creativity, flexibility and a willingness to learn from experience
- a commitment to continuous improvement, and
- integrity and accountability.

Business and human resource policy initiatives have been established and are maintained to recognise, develop, encourage and support all staff in their service delivery on behalf of EMA.
The Australian Civil Defence School at Mount Macedon was officially opened on 2 July 1956, by the then Minister for the Interior and Works, the Hon Allen Fairhall MP. Instructional courses began in 1956 and, until the late 1960s, instruction was devoted to matters related to civil defence. There was a gradual move towards teaching methods of coping with natural and other man-made disasters.

In 1976, new structures were built to provide residential, instructional and administrative facilities to cater for fifty students. The (renamed) Australian Counter Disaster College was officially opened by the then Minister for Defence, Mr D J Killen, on 7 February 1978. The College had three roles, namely training, liaison and research in the counter-disaster and civil defence areas. These functions were situated within the Department of Defence as part of the Natural Disasters Organisation, later to become EMA.

On 1 January 1993, the College was renamed the Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI). This name change reflected the emerging paradigm shift in emergency management towards a comprehensive and integrated emergency management approach.

In late 2001, EMA was transferred to the Attorney-General's Department from the Department of Defence. The name of the Institute was subsequently changed to the Emergency Management Australia Institute. Emergency management competency standards were added to the Institute's scope of registration and competency based training and assessment was implemented.

Training needs continue to be identified in consultation with State and Territory stakeholders and assessed against national competency standards from the Public Safety and related Training Packages so that, wherever possible, training is consistent with the national training framework, enabling pathways for career/study progression in the Public Safety or other industries.

Recent international events have confirmed that there is no room for complacency. We must continue to plan, exercise and build capacity in emergency management. EMA education and training and its valuable library services make an important contribution in this regard. By working together, EMA and counterpart stakeholders across Australia will continue to address future challenges in an all-hazards context.
Image captions and Acknowledgements

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All other images | EMA |
Savage storm leaves rail of damage

A severe rainstorm described as a "mini-tornado" ripped

off balconies and roofs from homes, toppled trees and downed powerlines as it roared path through Sydney early yesterday.

Emergency services took calls for help moments after howling winds of more than "100km/h shortly after"

and had removed 111 trees from the area.

And the police and fire crews were called to 19 homes in the Fairfield area to help Fairfield Council move debris from roads and driveways in 11 streets.

Fires in both Yarraville, almost three-stories high, had crashed into homes and in some cases, shattered windows.

A volunteer was taken to Fairfield Hospital yesterday after

2 October 2002

5pm (1505 UTC) on October 12, 2002 an electronically

i

ED BOMBING

induced bomb ripped through Paddy’s Bar, driving the injur

to the street. Approximately ten to fifteen seconds later and much more powerful car bomb exploded in front of the Sari Club, and the entire town was blown out. The town was left uninhabitable. The local hospital was unable to cope or, particularly, burn victims. Many of those injured were flown by the Royal Australian Air Force in Darwin and other Australian cities.

The death toll was 202, the majority of the

30s and 40s who were in the town. Two

being in the bars were also killed. Hundreds more people had horrific burns and other injuries. The largest group of those killed were holiday makers from Australia. The Bar

g is sometimes called "Malaysia’s Cheesecake", because a large number of its patrons were killed in the attack.

26 December

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

Mr Howard went on to say that, "as a country

The prevailing drought was the most

in his lifetime, atmospheric humidity,

discussions were at record low.

The hotel was stormed by the Australian Army and Navy, who helped clear the streets.

Hundreds fell from the sky and when the

Catholics continued by large" said

smashing cars and TV and radio before

seamen, casualties remained a matter of discussion. If not

riages were involved in the disaster, there

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