

## 3.3 Response

### Principle

- 3.3.1 Optimising interoperability in response to minimise the impacts of emergencies on the Tasmanian community.

### Legal Requirements

- 3.3.2 The general legislative requirements relevant to response in Tasmania are outlined here and incorporated in the arrangements described later in this section. A summary of other legislation that is relevant to Tasmanian emergency management is provided in Appendix 5.3.
- 3.3.3 There are two main bodies of legislation related to response. First, there is specific State legislation that establishes responsibility for State agencies and departments to respond to a range of hazards. Second, the *Emergency Management Act 2006* provides additional authorities and responsibilities for response in emergencies. These may be used with legislative powers provided in other acts and regulations but if there is an inconsistency or conflict, then the *Emergency Management Act 2006* prevails. The relevant provisions of the Act for response include:
- emergency powers (Schedule 1) and special emergency powers (Schedule 2) for authorised officers (Section 31)
  - risk assessment powers (Sections 36-39)
  - functions and powers for identified roles including Municipal Coordinators, Regional Controllers, the Director State Emergency Service and the State Controller (Sections 23, 18, 28, 11 respectively)
  - additional support for response in Section 46 which establishes the responsibility of councils to use their resources, and the authority to use resources made available to them, for managing emergencies in their area in accordance with their plan.

### Current Tasmanian Arrangements

#### Overview

- 3.3.4 Organisations involved in response carry out their Management Authority and Support Agency roles:
- within existing command and control arrangements that aim to be interoperable
  - by applying existing arrangements and protocols where appropriate
  - maintaining the safest possible working environment given the circumstances. This includes protective security practices along with occupational health and safety considerations.
- 3.3.5 Response actions are usually aligned with pre-planned arrangements described in relevant emergency plans (see Appendix 5.5 for a summary list of State plans). Tasmania has adopted an all-hazards approach for response to counter-terrorism events and other emergencies. Subsequently similar arrangements apply irrespective of the cause of the event. These arrangements are scalable and flexible so that stakeholders can participate in response as required to address the unique nature of the emergency, its context and consequences.

- 3.3.6 Emergency powers exist to enable authorised officers to take action to resolve emergencies. Primary powers and responsibilities are generally established in hazard specific State legislation and then incorporated in hazard specific plans. Additional powers are provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and can be applied when the relevant criteria are met.
- 3.3.7 Overall control of an emergency can be assumed by State authorities including Regional Controllers or the State Controller (this is explained in more detail later in this section). National authorities can also assume control in certain circumstances.

#### Finishing Response

- 3.3.8 As Support Agencies resolve the emergency, response activities can end/‘stand down’ (ie when there is no further threat to life, property or the environment). Usually once the emergency is resolved the legislated authority provided to response agencies finishes, and unless control of the property/premises transitions to the control of another organisation under other authority, it reverts to the owner/manager to continue their recovery/and re-commence operations.
- 3.3.9 Resolution of emergencies and ending response activities can happen quickly or in stages, depending on the complexity of the response.
- 3.3.10 Regardless of the timeframes involved, the response Management Authority provides advice to stakeholders that response activities have concluded or are about to conclude. Stakeholders can include but are not limited to:
- organisations involved in response
  - the owners/managers of relevant property/premises
  - Regional/State Controllers as required, and
  - organisations involved in coordinating community recovery efforts
- 3.3.11 These communications can include when operations/coordination centres are expected to close and when final situation reports will be issued. They constitute a hand-over from response activities and occur in consultative manner so that transition to community recovery activities occurs in timely manner.

#### Command, Control and Coordination

- 3.3.12 The following paragraphs describe the general arrangements for response and these provide the basic framework for response arrangements in Tasmania. They arrangements should be referred to when:
- arrangements for the situation are not in place and/or current arrangements are inadequate/overwhelmed
  - there is agreement to enhance/complement the arrangements that are already in place.
- 3.3.13 The response arrangements described in this plan are for all and/or any of 3 general scenarios:
- an emergency occurs that directly affects people, property or the environment in Tasmania (eg road crash, storm, fire, outbreak of animal disease)
  - an emergency occurs outside of Tasmania that is likely to:
    - have a direct impact on the Tasmanian community (eg outbreak of pandemic influenza, infrastructure failure in national electricity grid) and/or
    - require support from the Tasmanian Government emergency management authorities.

#### Emergencies in Tasmania

- 3.3.14 When an emergency occurs, initial response actions are usually carried out at the emergency site by those who have the primary responsibility for protecting the life, property or environment that is being threatened. In the first instance this is usually the asset owner/manager of the property/premises and/or the people at the emergency site. Where people are not present or able to respond effectively, specified agencies/organisations have responsibilities/authority to take control of the situation. In this plan they are identified as the response Management Authority. Control at the scene may alter during response, as the situation changes. For example control will revert to Tasmania Police for investigation of deaths that may have occurred in the emergency.
- 3.3.15 If further assistance is required, response Management Authorities can make requests to emergency management authorities (eg Municipal Coordinators, Regional/State Controllers). The need for enhanced coordination and more frequent situation reports increases as more organisations become involved in response, so stakeholders can provide support/assistance as required.

#### Emergencies outside Tasmania

- 3.3.16 When emergencies occur outside of Tasmania and have significance to the State or part of it, response arrangements are usually coordinated from locations that are remote from the emergency site (eg from a State Emergency Operations Centre/State Crisis Centre). Coordination is achieved through ongoing liaison with centres at other levels (eg national, regional and municipal) until the emergency is resolved or assistance/liaison is no longer required.
- 3.3.17 These response arrangements can include combinations of hazard and function-specific state and national arrangements (eg electrical supply emergency) and/or bi-lateral agreements (refer to Table 7 later in this section for more information). Where widespread community consequences of national significance and interest are anticipated/occur then the COMDISPLAN liaison arrangements and AEMC network usually also exchange/consider high-level jurisdictional information, certain consequence management matters, emerging national issues and support requirements. Unless otherwise advised, the primary Tasmanian liaison for these arrangements is the Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee (Director State Emergency Service).

#### Escalation of Response

- 3.3.18 Wherever the emergency occurs, additional support for response can be provided through liaison with other authorised officers from organisations identified in Section 2 of this plan, and/or from Emergency Operations Centre(s) or Emergency Coordination Centre(s). For example a response Management Authority may request that a Municipal or Regional Emergency Coordination Centre be opened to address the community consequences of the emergency because they are outside the scope of that agency's authority/capacity (eg restoring power and services, evacuation management, public information, clean-up, health and human services support etc). These centres may be co-located depending on the location, severity, and type of emergency. Appendix 5.9 shows the main differences between Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Coordination Centres in Tasmania, as well as the standard arrangements for the activation and closure of coordination centres managed by emergency management committees established by the Act.

- 3.3.19 The Regional Controller can:
- offer assistance
  - be requested to provide assistance
  - assume overall control of response/community recovery operations (Section 18 of the Act).

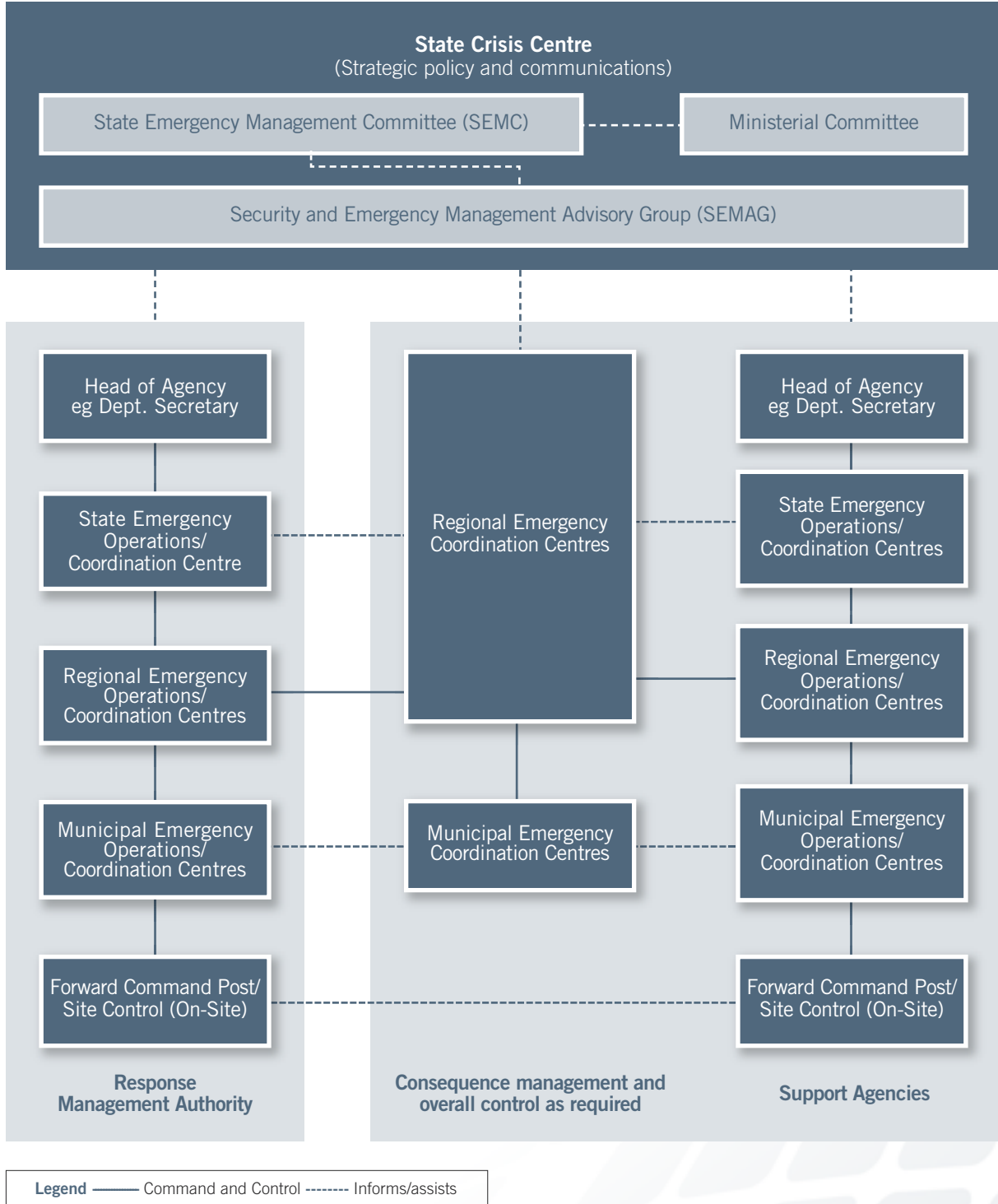
Emergency powers from the *Emergency Management Act 2006* do not need to be sanctioned for this to occur. Actions can include but are not limited to coordinating the resources and expertise of the Regional Committee and other relevant stakeholders. These actions are usually managed through the close working relationship with the State Emergency Service Regional Managers, and often take place at the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre. If further assistance is required, the Regional Controller can make requests to other regions or to the State Controller

- 3.3.20 For a prolonged or significant State or national emergency, the Commissioner of Police as State Controller can assume overall control of the response (Section 11 of the Act). Control assumed at the State level is focused on broader Whole-Of-Government and community impacts of the emergency, rather than on the tactical management of the emergency itself. This may include (but does not necessitate) the use of emergency powers from the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. This work usually takes place at the State Crisis Centre with the SEMAG/SEMC members and can include, but is not limited to:
- providing policy and strategic advice to the Premier and other members of the Tasmanian Government (including the Ministerial Committee)
  - coordinating/oversighting Whole-Of-Government response and community recovery activities of Tasmanian Government agencies
  - coordinating/oversighting public information and media strategies
  - making requests to the Commonwealth and other States/Territories for assistance, and managing any requests from them.
- 3.3.21 A summary of the State Crisis Centre facilities is provided in Appendix 5.10. The SEMAG/SEMC is supported by workers from the Departments of Police and Emergency Management and Premier and Cabinet (secretariat and information management duties). Liaison Officers from other organisations may also be in attendance.
- 3.3.22 If the State Crisis Centre is opened:
- agency Emergency Operation Centres and the Regional Emergency Coordination Centres provide liaison officers at the State Crisis Centre
  - the State Crisis Centre provides liaison officers to the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre/s.
  - Figure 4 shows a model for multi-agency response with participants at municipal, regional and State level. Generic terms and functions are used, and are not specific to any one command or control system.

#### Offers of Assistance

- 3.3.23 Assistance can be offered from organisations that are not usually part of response arrangements (eg from the community, industry, celebrities, other regions/jurisdictions and interstate agencies). Where arrangements are not in place to manage offers of assistance, the Regional Controllers or State Controller manage them.
- 3.3.24 Refer to paragraph 3.3.77 for how coordination with the Commonwealth agencies is usually managed.

**Figure 4: Command, Control and Coordination Summary**



### Emergency Powers Overview

- 3.3.25 Response Management Authorities powers are established by specific State legislation or national arrangements (in some instances Commonwealth legislation can also provide authority).
- 3.3.26 The *Emergency Management Act 2006* provides additional powers so that the State Controller and the Premier can take/direct action for the protection of life, property and the environment.
- 3.3.27 While historically there has been a practice to use defined powers and escalating response activities progressively it can also be prudent to sanction the use of emergency powers promptly, especially where it is foreseeable that responding agencies may be quickly overwhelmed and/or required to be operational for an extended period of time (eg areas with low capacity, pandemic, catastrophic events).
- 3.3.28 Once the powers from the Act are sanctioned they are confirmed in writing, but in the short term, authorised persons do not require a copy of the written authorisation to exercise the powers they have been provided with. There are three types of powers that can be used in response and community recovery:
- risk assessment powers
  - emergency powers
  - special emergency powers (under a declared state of emergency).

### Risk Assessment Powers

- 3.3.29 Sections 36-39 provide the State Controller with the authority to:
- authorise inspections of any place, structure, source or situation that may be potentially hazardous
  - have the risk/s that are identified, assessed
  - direct that reasonable remedial action be taken to reduce the relevant hazards.

### Emergency Powers

- 3.3.30 Section 40 provides for the State Controller to invoke emergency powers that can have effect for up to 7 days, actioned by authorised officers. These powers are sanctioned on the basis of advice provided by Regional Controllers, which can be supported by information from the Senior Officer of the response Management Authority. Ideally the State Controller notifies the Minister before the authorisation is made.
- 3.3.31 For emergency powers to be sanctioned, this advice must be in line with Section 40(1), and the State Controller must be satisfied that:
- an emergency is occurring or has occurred in Tasmania, or that credible information shows that an emergency occurring elsewhere may impact on Tasmania, and
  - there are reasonable grounds for the exercise of the powers to protect:
    - persons from distress, injury or death, or
    - property or the environment from damage or destruction.
- 3.3.32 The emergency powers available are listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, and authorised officers are identified in Section 31.

- 3.3.33 The authorisation of emergency powers is confirmed in writing as soon as practicable to authorised officers and the Regional Controllers. The confirmation includes:
- authorised officers
  - powers to be used and duration of use
  - the general area that is affected.
- 3.3.34 This authorisation can be amended or revoked at any time by the State Controller and can be extended with approval from the Minister for Police and Emergency Management. Amendments, revocations and extensions are confirmed in writing as soon as practicable.

#### Special Emergency Powers (Declaration of a state of emergency)

- 3.3.35 Section 42 provides for the Premier to declare a state of emergency, and sanction the use of special emergency powers by the State Controller and Regional Controllers, on the basis of advice provided by the State Controller.
- 3.3.36 For a declaration to be made and special emergency powers to be sanctioned this advice must be in line with Section 42(1) and the Premier must be satisfied that:
- an emergency is occurring or has occurred in Tasmania, and
  - that circumstances require, or may require, the use of special emergency powers (ie that the authorisation of emergency powers alone may be insufficient to manage the emergency).
- 3.3.37 The declaration can have effect:
- for up to 12\* weeks for an emergency relating to disease in humans or animals, or
  - for up to 2 weeks for any other emergency.
- \* Where a declaration is made for an emergency relating to disease in humans or animals and it exceeds 4 weeks, the SEMC is responsible for reviewing the situation at the end of the 4th week, and then every 2 weeks after that; as well as providing advice to the Premier to amend or revoke the declaration.
- 3.3.38 Schedule 2 of the *Emergency Management Act 2006* defines the special emergency powers.
- 3.3.39 Where a state of emergency is declared, a Regional Controller can use the emergency powers afforded under Schedule 1 of the Act. Should a conflict arise between the emergency powers being used by a Regional Controller and the use of special emergency powers, the State Controller is responsible for resolving the conflict.
- 3.3.40 The declaration of a state of emergency is confirmed in writing as soon as practicable to the State Controller for wider distribution and includes clarification of:
- the special emergency powers given, and
  - the general area affected and duration of the powers.
- 3.3.41 Special emergency powers can be amended, extended or revoked at any time by the Premier.

#### Community Warnings and Public Information

##### Severe Weather Warnings

- 3.3.42 The Bureau of Meteorology is responsible for providing warnings to the community for severe weather events.
- 3.3.43 The Tasmania Fire Service provides weather warnings related to fire risk and/or potential.

#### Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)

- 3.3.44 Tasmanian guidelines for the use of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal have been developed. Generally the use of the signal is limited to significant emergency situations and is only for providing urgent safety messages. The guidelines include four criteria that should all be present to confirm that the use of the signal is appropriate. These are:
- potential for loss of life and/or a major threat to a significant number of properties or the large scale environment
  - impact has occurred or is expected within 12 hours
  - a significant number of people need to be warned
  - one or more phenomena are expected to be destructive.
- 3.3.45 Responsibility for the management of the signal rests with the Executive Officer of the SEMC (Director State Emergency Service), in coordination with the Tasmanian Regional Director of the Bureau of Meteorology. This includes maintaining the initiating procedure for its use and community awareness of its purpose and sound.
- 3.3.46 Relevant media outlets are provided with a copy of the SEWS sound and it can also be downloaded from [www.ses.tas.gov.au](http://www.ses.tas.gov.au). SEWS messages are broadcast in a pre-set format, without undue delay and where possible to the affected areas only. Television broadcasts are accompanied by text where possible and enquiries are referred to the media liaison officer for the initiating authority.
- 3.3.47 The following positions are nominated as SEWS initiating authorities:
- State Controller (Commissioner of Police)
  - Deputy Commissioner of Police
  - Regional Controllers (North-West, Northern and Southern)
  - Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service
  - Director, State Emergency Service
  - Regional Director of the Bureau of Meteorology (weather and flood related events only).

#### Public Information

- 3.3.48 At the emergency site, the response Management Authority is responsible for providing public information about the emergency. This includes granting access for media representatives to visit parts of the emergency site (This is usually managed in conjunction with the land owner/manager).
- 3.3.49 Away from the emergency site, public information is usually provided in a variety of ways including but not limited to:
- responding agencies can provide public information through the media and their websites (eg [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) or [www.police.tas.gov.au/community\\_alerts](http://www.police.tas.gov.au/community_alerts), [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au))
  - councils can also arrange for releases of general information for the public (usually through the Mayor)
  - other authorised organisations/groups with specific responsibilities (eg registrations of affected persons)
  - emergency operations, emergency coordination and community recovery centres: the officer in charge of the centre is responsible for arranging public information to be provided.



#### Call Centres

- 3.3.50 Tasmania has a State call centre capability known as the Tasmanian Emergency Information Service (TEIS). This service provides an initial point of contact for the community to access self-help information following an emergency. The service is activated and deactivated by Service Tasmania after a request by the State Controller on the advice of Regional Controllers. Alternatively, it can be activated by the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the advice of the SEMAG members. The decision to activate the service includes allocation of responsibility for clearing information and the service usually operates on a 'fee for service' basis.
- 3.3.51 A national call centre capability also exists (National Emergency Call Centre) to provide an initial point of contact for emergencies of national significance. It provides general information only and messages from national leaders as well as being able to gather information from the public. The Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet manages this capability, in partnership with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. When the centre is to be activated, the public will be made aware through media releases.

#### Working with the Media

- 3.3.52 The following principles apply to all media arrangements:
- an informed community is a resilient community, so timely and accurate information being provided to the media is a priority
  - commentary is limited to matters related to each agency's own role in response/community recovery
  - comments outside an agency's scope are referred to the response Management Authority in the first instance.
- 3.3.53 An effective model for community messages was used by the New York Mayor following the attacks of 9/11. The model for these messages was:
- what we know
  - what we don't know
  - what we are doing (the authorities)
  - what we want you to do (the community).

#### Other Elements of Response

##### Initial Actions

- 3.3.54 Effective emergency response is generally dependent upon having interoperable communications, reasonable access and egress to the emergency sites, and effective command and control structures.
- 3.3.55 Response actions are intended to protect people, property and the environment. The emergency defines the specific actions required in each instance, and arrangements in existing emergency plans and established SOPs are used where appropriate.
- 3.3.56 For catastrophic events the immediate focus on consequence management is to support the provision of basic survival needs including casualty rescue and treatment, and the provision of drinking water, shelter and food.
- 3.3.57 Where a multi-agency/organisation response evolves, there is an increased need for briefings and situation reports.

- 3.3.58 Security of the emergency site/s and preservation of evidence are common considerations in the initial stages of response. The response Management Authority is responsible for making appropriate arrangements to secure the site/s and preserve evidence (often in conjunction with the owner/manager of the property/premises).

#### Operational Information

##### Notification, Logs and Situation Reports

- 3.3.59 Responding agencies primarily use radio networks to coordinate operational information. Other telecommunication methods are also used in a variety of combinations, depending on the emergency and the facilities available.
- 3.3.60 Responding agencies maintain operations logs and provide situation reports in accordance with internal requirements.
- 3.3.61 Prompt notification of the situation to stakeholders is always an objective of emergency response. The guiding principle for determining priority of notification is the 'need to know' principle. Stakeholders/emergency management partners can include but are not limited to:
- a. organisational leaders/managers
  - b. supporting agencies and service providers
  - c. regulators (where appropriate)
  - d. workers and stakeholders (local community, supply chain, media etc).
- 3.3.62 The Regional Managers from the State Emergency Service usually advise the Regional Controllers of situations that are likely to have community-wide consequences. The SEMAG/SEMC members are usually briefed by the State Controller or Director of the State Emergency Service.
- 3.3.63 Situation reports are circulated regularly between Emergency Operations Centres for the response Management Authority and Emergency Coordination Centres and they include updates of impact assessments. If the State Crisis Centre is open, situation reports between regional emergency operations centres and the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre are exchanged regularly/as agreed.

##### GIS and Desktop Mapping Services

- 3.3.64 Response efforts are supported by Geographic Information Services (GIS) and desktop mapping. In municipal areas, councils use their existing capacity and if additional assistance is required, local industry or regionally based State Government agencies can be approached for assistance. An on-call capability to assist with GIS and desktop mapping services exists within the Department of Primary Industries and Water on a 'fee for service' basis.

##### Evacuation

- 3.3.65 The decision to evacuate or exclude people from an area is made with due consideration of the dangers and difficulties inherent in evacuation and the likelihood of evacuated people being injured.
- 3.3.66 Usually the decision to evacuate people is made by Tasmania Police. In the instance of fire or potential fire, the Tasmania Fire Service is responsible for making decisions with respect to evacuation of people. The control and supervision of the evacuation is managed by Tasmania Police. The way this is managed for bushfire is described in 'Tasmania Fire Service and Tasmania Police Position on the Protection of People and Homes Threatened by Bushfires', last updated in September 2007.
- 3.3.67 Evacuated people are taken or directed to a place of relative safety which can include assembly or evacuation centres, as identified in municipal plans.

#### Impact Assessments

- 3.3.68 The response Management Authority is responsible for arranging initial impact assessments of the affected area/s. These assessments include reporting the most credible information available at the time for the items listed in paragraph 3.2.30 that are relevant in the situation. They usually need to be conducted progressively with support from other attending agencies.
- 3.3.69 Unless other arrangements exist, impact assessments are included in situation reports and findings of the assessments are reported promptly.

#### Registrations

- 3.3.70 Registration of stakeholder groups that emerge as a result of the emergency can be required in response and community recovery. Typical groups are identified in paragraph 3.2.31, and established responsibilities for registration of these groups is included in Section 2 of this plan.
- 3.3.71 Registrations are usually managed at the lowest level of the emergency response/community recovery management structure. Where no other arrangements exist, the Regional Controllers are responsible for assigning responsibilities for registrations and in the first instance may approach any combination of response Management Authorities, Support Agencies and councils for assistance. The State Controller can give directions for registration responsibilities where a need for state-wide consistency in registrations is identified.

#### Debriefs

- 3.3.72 Each organisation is responsible for debriefing its workers. Debriefs should be held as soon as possible after the response phase, while demonstrating due respect for the outcomes of the emergency. Organisations are responsible for arranging ongoing support of their workers (in addition to debriefs), as required.
- 3.3.73 The Regional Committees and the Senior Officer for the response Management Authority are responsible for making arrangements for multi-agency/combined debriefs to be conducted with other responding agencies. This responsibility includes recording the findings of debriefs and sharing them in the consultation framework.
- 3.3.74 The Regional Committees and the SEMC review the management of relevant emergencies to identify and promote opportunities for improvement in emergency management.

#### Finance and Records Management

- 3.3.75 In the first instance organisations are responsible for absorbing their own expenses for response. In some instances these may be able to be recovered if State/Commonwealth relief arrangements are activated, and records show the appropriate details (Refer to Appendix 5.8).
- 3.3.76 Records related to response are subject to the usual records management provisions and State archiving legislation and are treated accordingly. Logs, reports and briefings from response and community recovery are collated progressively, and stored centrally for future reference.

## Arrangements between Tasmania, other Jurisdictions and the Commonwealth

### Summary of Arrangements

3.3.77 Tasmania can request assistance from the Commonwealth under a variety of plans and arrangements (see Appendix 5.5). Beyond established hazard-specific arrangements between Tasmania and the Commonwealth, the Director State Emergency Service and the State Controller are authorised to request assistance from the Commonwealth using COMDISPLAN and the NCTP. Tasmania can also be requested to provide assistance in support of the Commonwealth under a variety of other Commonwealth plans, through established liaison points. Some response Management Authorities maintain bi-lateral agreements for the provision of inter-jurisdictional support or resources. Table 7 provides a summary of these arrangements.

**Table 7: Arrangements with the Commonwealth and other Jurisdictions**

| Details                                    | COMDISPLAN   | National Counter Terrorism Plan  | Bi-Lateral Agency Agreements   | Hazard or Function Specific Arrangements  |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Tasmanian Liaison                          | Director State Emergency Service   | Commissioner of Police   | Head of Agency   | Refer relevant State plan (See Appendix 5.5)  |
| Commonwealth or Other Jurisdiction Liaison | Attorney-General's Department Emergency Coordination Centre                    | Attorney-General's Department Emergency Coordination Centre  | Head of Agency   | Refer relevant national plan (See Appendix 5.5)   |
| What kind of assistance                    | Commonwealth Government physical assistance in any emergency                   | Commonwealth Government physical assistance arising from a terrorist event   | Hazard or function specific assistance (eg additional fire fighting personnel)   | Commonwealth assistance relevant to the hazard  |
| Notes                                      | Verbal advice is confirmed by fax or email with details required by COMDISPLAN | Director State Emergency Service and Emergency Management Australia are informed where there is a 'need to know' (usually related to the coordination of supporting resources) | Heads of Tasmanian Government organisations update the Director State Emergency Service when bi-lateral agreements are used (Director State Emergency Service refers to this information to enhance overall coordination). | Director State Emergency Service is informed where there is a 'need to know' (which is usually related to the coordination of supporting resources) |

### Civil Defence and Australian Defence Force Assistance

- 3.3.78 Under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, the Director State Emergency Service is responsible for the coordination of civil defence measures in consultation with the State Controller and the Senior Officer, Joint Operation Support Section of the Australian Defence Force based at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart.
- 3.3.79 The Australian Defence Force maintains capabilities to assist civil authorities (eg Police, Fire etc) and other organisations on a request basis under two sets of arrangements enabled by the *Defence Act 1903*, known as:
- a. Defence Force Aid to Civilian Authorities (DFACA) where force is likely to be required in threat/terrorist situations, and
  - b. Defence Assistance to Civilian Communities (DACC) where force is not likely to be required in emergency and non-emergency situations. Appendix 5.11 provides more details on these arrangements.

### National Coordination

- 3.3.80 National coordination for response to emergencies is dependent on efficient and effective communications between the Prime Minister and the First Ministers and is underpinned by the following principles:
- a. the States and Territories have primary responsibility for the management of emergencies within their jurisdictions
  - b. when emergencies occur, the Commonwealth Government provides certain forms of physical and financial assistance to the States and Territories when requested, and may also provide financial or other assistance to individuals directly affected by an emergency
  - c. the Commonwealth Government has specific responsibilities in relation to national security and defence, border control, aviation and maritime transport, quarantine, astronomical and meteorological observations, enforcement of Commonwealth legislation and international relations.
  - d. the Prime Minister and affected First Ministers will:
    - i communicate where appropriate to coordinate response to emergencies that require inter-governmental effort and resources
    - ii consult in relation to policy, strategy and public messaging (including key leadership messages).

### Summary

- 3.3.81 Figure 5 shows a summary of response processes for emergency management in Tasmania.

Figure 5: Summary Processes for Response for Tasmanian Emergency Management

