



Emergency Management Policy

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Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
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Introduction

Emergencies have the potential to disrupt the strategic and operational activities of council and adversely impact communities.

The roles of local government in emergency management are informed by the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and the Local Government Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF). They are enabled by the Local Government Act 1999, which outlines the requirement for councils to consider risks (including emergency risks) as follows:

- make informed decisions (section 6);
- take measures to protect their area from natural hazards (section 7);
- provide infrastructure for community and for development (section 7);
- ensure the sustainability of the council's long-term financial performance (section 8);
- assess the maintenance, replacement or development needs for infrastructure (section 122);
- identify anticipated or predicted changes in any factors that make a significant contribution to the costs of the council's activities or operations (section 122).

In addition, the Local Government Act requires council's to "*give due weight, in all its plans, policies and activities to regional, state and national objectives and strategies concerning the economic, social, physical and environmental development and management of the community*" (section 8).

Emergency management in the Mid Murray Council is enabled and supported by a number of legislations and delegations

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Define Mid Murray Council's roles and responsibilities in emergency management
- Ensure that Mid Murray Council maintains appropriate delegations and authority to undertake its emergency management responsibilities
- Ensure that Mid Murray Council prepares and maintain appropriate emergency management documents
- Support Mid Murray Council to maintain safe working practices during emergencies
- Support Mid Murray Council to maintain effective protection for council workers, assets and liabilities associated with emergency management activities.

Scope

This policy applies to Mid Murray Council in exercising powers and functions under the various Acts and agreements to which it is a party in the State of South Australia. The scope of emergency management activities is limited to those listed in Section 4.

Policy Statement

The Mid Murray Council will undertake the following roles and responsibilities in accordance with the SEMP and LGEMF.



Disaster Risk Reduction

In accordance with the SEMP, Mid Murray Council will:

- build and promote disaster resilience
- undertake cost-effective measures to mitigate the effects of emergencies on local communities, including routinely conducting emergency risk assessments
- systematically taking proper account of risk assessments in land-use planning to reduce hazard risk
- represent community interests in emergency management to other spheres of government and contribute to decision-making processes
- ensure all requisite local emergency planning and preparedness measures are undertaken
- undertake public education and awareness to support community-preparedness measures

In accordance with the LGEMF, Mid Murray Council will:

- Understand and communicate current and emerging disaster risks
- Integrate disaster risk into existing plans and decision-making (e.g. long-term financial plan, asset management plan, climate change plans, public health plans)
- Partner with local stakeholders in addressing priority emergency risks
- Strengthen disaster resilience in communities through community development.

Incident operations

In accordance with the SEMP, Mid Murray Council will:

- ensure an adequate local council emergency response capability is in place, including resources for the local volunteers
- ensure appropriate local resources and arrangements are in place to provide and support emergency relief and recovery services to communities
- participate in post-emergency assessment and analysis.

In accordance with the LGEMF, Mid Murray Council will:

- Develop a locally relevant risk based suite of incident operational arrangements.
- Build capability of council to participate in the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG).

Recovery

In accordance with the SEMP, Mid Murray Council will:

Leadership

- Provide senior representation on local recovery committees
- Provide representation at community meetings
- Identify community impacts
- Liaise with the State agencies to determine potential recovery services
- Act as media spokesperson for local recovery issues
- Appoint a local recovery coordinator (if not provided by the State, it may form part of an existing positions role for the required period).



Community liaison

- Open lines of communication with local recovery service providers
- Establish communications with the community
- Support relief/recovery centres
- Provide support in assessing, mapping and informing the community of the impacts of the disaster on the council area
- Support liaison between the local recovery coordinator and the local recovery committee
- Provide support and coordination to local volunteer efforts.

Community development

- Appoint a community development officer (if not provided by the State, it may form part of an existing positions role for the required period)
- Support State agencies to identify impacts and areas of need
- Implement community development packages (if not provided by the State)
- Support recovery centres
- Coordinate local recovery service providers.

In accordance with the LGEMF, Mid Murray Council will:

- Provide leadership, co-ordination and advocacy when the community is impacted by disasters
- Plan for recovery to establish the principles, structures, partnerships and approaches that will guide council
- Secure grants and other funding assistance to support disaster recovery

Emergency management documents

In addition to this policy, Mid Murray Council will maintain an Emergency Management Plan, Incident Operations Arrangements, Recovery Arrangements and any other supporting documentation that:

- Describes the strategies and actions that council will take to implement this policy
- Identifies relevant local, regional and state emergency management plans and arrangements that impact upon council
- Responds to guidance for council provided by the SEMP and other emergency management plans, strategies, frameworks and guidelines
- Identifies linkages between emergency management objectives and Mid Murray Council's strategies and business, financial and other plans.

Council will maintain its commitment to locally relevant plans developed in consultation with Mid Murray Council. Where Council resource commitments are made in these plans they will be subject to normal strategic and business planning processes of council.

Council's emergency management documentation will be reviewed in line with council's procedures.



Maintain delegations

Mid Murray Council will maintain relevant emergency management delegations as listed Legislative Framework / Other References

Financial spending during emergencies

Arrangements for financial spending during emergencies are undertaken as per Councils Procurement Policy. The Policy and supporting procedures contains processes to be followed by the Council in its procurement activities. There may be emergencies, or procurements in which the methods included in this Policy will not necessarily deliver best outcome for the Council, and other market approaches may be more appropriate. Where there is a significant public risk if the procurement is delayed by process requirements, such as emergency situations threatening life and property or to enable the prompt return to business under Council's Business Continuity Plan, the Chief Executive Officer is delegated by Council to expend funds as required. The Chief Executive Officer will provide Council with a report as soon as practical regarding the emergency situation actions taken.

Support to control agencies and emergency services

Mid Murray Council works within the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012. Occasionally council staff and/or equipment will be requested to support control agencies and emergency services in managing emergencies

When council resources are made available to support control agencies and emergency services this will be in accordance with:

1. Council's incident operations arrangements
2. LGASA Mutual Protection guide for incident operations
3. The Local Government Incident Operations guide (including i-Responda)

Local Government Functional Support Group

Mid Murray Council is a participating organisation of the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG). The LGFSG has the responsibility of "Coordinating response from local government during an emergency" in accordance with Section 2.2 of Part Two of the State Emergency Management Plan.

Protection

To maintain effective workers compensation and liability coverage, council when supporting the emergency services and control agencies in incident operations will:

- Apply appropriate risk management principles; and
- Have regard to the arrangements of the LGA Asset Mutual Fund, the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme and LGA Mutual Liability Scheme.

To achieve this, council resources will operate in line with the i-Responda operational platform and LGFSG operational arrangements.



Availability/Accessibility

This Policy and Council's Fees and Charges Register are available to be downloaded free of charge from Council's website: www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

This Policy is available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours. Hard copies, for a fee in accordance with Council's schedule of Fees and Charges can be provided upon request.

Legislative Framework / Other References

Act or regulations	Delegations
<i>Local Government Act 2007</i>	Yes
<i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (bushfire)</i>	Yes
<i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (via State Emergency Management Plan)</i>	
<i>Public Health Act 2011, South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013, South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013, South Australian Public Health (General) Regulations 2013</i>	Yes
<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012</i>	Yes
<i>Food Act 2001</i>	Yes
<i>Road Traffic Act 1961, The Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014 and The Road Traffic (Road Rules – Ancillary And Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014</i>	Yes
<i>Environment Protection Act 1993 and the Environment Protection (Waste To Resources) Policy 2010</i>	Yes
<i>Development Act 1993 and Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i>	Yes
<i>Burial and Cremation Act 2013 and Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014</i>	Yes
<i>Local Government (Stormwater management) Amendment Act 2007</i>	
<i>Coast Protection Act 1972</i>	
<i>Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2010</i>	

Definitions

State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)

Local Government Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF)

Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG)

Document History

This Policy shall be reviewed at least every four (4) years or more frequently if legislation or Council requires.

Version	Adopted	Minute No	Description of Change
1	11 July 2017	19554/4	Provision of Council Resources to Support the Emergency Services in Emergencies Policy Adopted
2	19 November 2019	20865/7	New Policy replaces Provision of Council Resources to Support the Emergency Services in Emergencies Policy

