

## 3.1 Prevention and Mitigation

### Principle

- 3.1.1 Maintaining a proactive and rigorous approach to hazard research, risk assessment and risk reduction is an important investment that works to ensure the sustainability and long term economic success of Tasmanian communities. These activities inform preparedness work that assists to reduce risk, damage/impact and losses (including psycho-social, infrastructure, economic and environmental) from emergencies, for a safer Tasmania.

### Legal Requirements

- 3.1.2 Broad responsibilities for mitigating the effects of hazards are mainly allocated through State legislation, regulations and other regulatory instruments. A number of important examples include: *General Fire Regulations 2000*, *Building Act 2000*, *Building Code of Australia*, *Water Management Act 1999*, *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*, *Security-sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005*, *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, *Animal Health Act 1995*, *Gas Act 2000*, and the *Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995*. A summary of other legislation that is relevant to Tasmanian emergency management is provided in Appendix 5.3.
- 3.1.3 The *Emergency Management Act 2006* and *Local Government Act 1993* establish other provisions and powers to complement hazard-specific legislation. These are summarised in the next 2 paragraphs.
- 3.1.4 The *Emergency Management Act 2006*:
- provides additional powers for inspections and risk assessments (Sections 36-39). These are described in more detail in Section 3.3 of this plan
  - includes a range of protections which are afforded to emergency management workers and committees (Sections 55, 56, 57 and 58)
  - outlines what a person must not do with respect to emergency management workers (eg impede, resist, obstruct workers etc). See Section 60.
  - provides delegation models for the Premier, Minister, identified committees and authorised officers (Section 31).
- 3.1.5 The *Local Government Act 1993* and the accompanying *Local Government Buildings and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* make councils responsible for, inter alia, public health, safety, community welfare, sanitation, cleansing and some water supply matters. These requirements support the partnership between State Government and councils to reduce risks to communities through prevention and mitigation activities.

## Current Tasmanian Arrangements

### Prevention and Mitigation Strategies for Emergency Management

- 3.1.6 In Tasmania, a broad prevention and mitigation strategy for emergency management has been evolving since 2001 with the implementation of the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Management Project. This strategy provides a framework to meet Commitment 3, Recommendation 4 from the 2002 COAG report (*Natural Disasters in Australia, Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements*). The strategy includes the following elements:
- maintaining effective partnerships across State Government departments and between the three spheres of Government including the alignment of prevention and mitigation measures with other important public policy objectives
  - facilitating technical and consultation frameworks
  - implementing ongoing community education and awareness programs
  - making available and accessing mitigation funding support from Commonwealth and State funding programs for research, risk assessment and risk reduction activities
  - refining and implementing land use planning policies and other guidelines that are particularly relevant to development in areas which are subject to a significant risk from natural hazards and climate change.

### Protective Security Practices

- 3.1.7 Protective security practices to minimise the effects of intentional violence are based on the collection and communication of intelligence and good-practice information. It is also acknowledged that owners and operators of businesses within industry are best placed to assess their own risks and prepare security plans, when given appropriate information and guidance.
- 3.1.8 The principles underpinning Tasmania's protective security practices are outlined in Tasmania's Security Context and Capability Statement and these relate to:
- preventing radicalisation and engaging with the community
  - collecting and disseminating intelligence and good-practice information
  - managing risk in partnership between Governments at all levels and industry
  - enacting legislation where appropriate, adopting an all-hazards approach, and aligning counter-terrorism arrangements with other emergency management arrangements
  - establishing response capabilities, specific to intentional violence including counter-terrorism.

### Research

- 3.1.9 To better understand the risks to Tasmanian communities, the SEMC maintains a State research program. These studies focus on important hazards of concern and inform risk assessment and risk reduction priorities.
- 3.1.10 Regional and Municipal Committees have research, risk assessment and risk reduction responsibilities in partnership with State Government and relevant local authorities.
- 3.1.11 There is a variety of funding programs available to assist with prevention and mitigation activities. In Tasmania, the State Emergency Service coordinates access to funding programs for emergency management, and information about current funding programs including application forms and guidelines can be found on its website ([www.ses.tas.gov.au](http://www.ses.tas.gov.au)).

### Risk Assessment

- 3.1.12 Management Authorities for prevention and mitigation are responsible for having processes in place so they can provide specialist advice to support hazard-specific risk assessments in Tasmania. At the municipal level emergency risk management processes are used to understand and maintain awareness of local hazards, the risk they pose to the community and to prioritise risk treatment strategies.
- 3.1.13 Committees and Sub-Committees take this advice into account when setting their work program and preparedness Management Authorities apply it when updating plans.
- 3.1.14 Risk assessment and risk management activities are completed in line with processes set out in:
- current national/international standards (eg AS/NZS 4360 Risk Management)
  - national risk assessment guidelines for emergency management including the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines and Emergency Management Australia's (EMA) Manual 5 Emergency Risk Management Applications Guide.

### Risk Reduction

- 3.1.15 The identification and implementation of risk treatments, controls or mitigation strategies occurs after emergency risk assessments are conducted. Risk reduction strategies may be categorised in a number of ways. Appendix 5.6 provides more details about the categories summarised as:
- levels of autonomy (eg behavioural, procedural and physical controls)
  - nature of control (eg process or physical)
  - life cycle phases (eg PRRR, operational phases/elements).
- 3.1.16 Risk reduction programs and projects are managed between relevant stakeholders in line with research and risk assessment findings that have been validated and accepted. Outcomes of the programs and projects are reported progressively through the consultation framework by Management Authorities for prevention and mitigation and/or the SEMC Advisory Agencies.

### Current Themes in Prevention and Mitigation

- 3.1.17 Research and risk assessment themes in Tasmania are currently considering:
- climate change impacts on frequencies and intensity of flooding, severe winds, storm surge and coastal erosion and wildfire
  - flooding
  - land stability and debris flow
  - severe winds
  - storm surge and coastal erosion
  - tsunami
  - wildfire.
- 3.1.18 Current themes in risk reduction focus include but are not limited to:
- business continuity management
  - physical prevention works and activities
  - building capacity
  - land use planning reforms.

- 3.1.19 Business continuity management augments comprehensive emergency and enhances resilience by providing accepted methods for analysing critical inputs and process for operational continuity. The Local Government Association of Tasmania has developed a guideline for councils, and at State level the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the State Security Unit (for critical infrastructure protection) are particularly involved.
- 3.1.20 A significant investment is currently directed towards a range of physical preventative works and activities including flood modification structures and levees, strategic wildfire fuel reduction burning and coastal foredune protection.
- 3.1.21 Building capacity is an important mitigation strategy. This can include but is not limited to developing skill and knowledge sets and tangible resources related to:
- plan management, equipment and infrastructure enhancements
  - developing and/or maintaining tangible assets and/or resources (eg stockpiles, hazard specific response equipment and deployable kits)
  - risk management, project management and business system integration, community education and awareness programs (eg psychological first aid).
- 3.1.22 Land use planning has been identified as one of the most effective prevention and mitigation strategies that can be harnessed by State and local planning authorities to reduce the likelihood/consequences of emergencies (particularly those arising from natural hazards). The intent of this approach is to deliver long term community safety outcomes and to minimise the exposure of the community and Governments to ongoing/long term costs from natural disasters. The threat of climate change, its predicted impacts on sea levels and frequency and intensity of natural hazard events are also key drivers for the integrated approach which considers natural hazards in land use planning schemes. A range of complementary initiatives for achieving an integrated approach are currently being undertaken including but not limited to:
- Natural Disaster Mitigation Program
  - Regional Planning Initiative
  - Standard Schedules Project
  - State Coastal Policy
  - Tasmanian Emergency Management Spatial Information System Project
  - Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change.

## Summary

- 3.1.23 Figure 2 shows a summary of prevention and mitigation processes for emergency management in Tasmania.

**Figure 2: Summary Processes for Prevention and Mitigation in Tasmanian Emergency Management**

