MidCoast Local Emergency Management Plan November 2023

Part 1 – Administration

Authority

The MidCoast Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) has been prepared by the MidCoast Local Emergency Management Committee in compliance with the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989.

It is intended this is an organic document that is reviewed and updated as revised or new information becomes available.

APPROVED

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LEMO

MidCoast Local Emergency Management Committee

Dated: 1 December 2023

ENDORSED

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REMO

MidCoast Regional Emergency Management Committee

Dated: 1 December 2023

Contents

Abbreviations

CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CMG	Consequence Management Guide
EMO	Emergency Management Officer
	Local = LEMO / Regional = REMO / State = SEMO
EMPLAN	Emergency Management Plan
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EOCON	Emergency Operations Controller
	Local = *LEOCON* / Regional = *REOCON* / State = *SEOCON*
ERM	Emergency Risk Management
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LGA	Local Government Area
NSWRSA	NSW Reconstruction Authority
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SEIFA	Socio-economic Indexes for Areas
SES	State Emergency Services
SIMS	Spatial Information Management System
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

Purpose

This plan details arrangements for the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the MidCoast Local Government Area.

It encompasses arrangements for:

- emergencies controlled by combat agencies;
- emergencies controlled by combat agencies and supported by the LEOCON;
- emergency operations for which there is no combat agency; and
- circumstances where a combat agency has passed control to the LEOCON.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- define participating agency and Functional Area roles and responsibilities in preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies;
- set out the control, co-ordination and liaison arrangements at the local level;
- detail activation and alerting arrangements for involved agencies; and
- detail arrangements for the acquisition and coordination of resources.

Scope

The plan describes the arrangements at the local level to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. The plan also provides policy direction for the preparation of Sub Plans and Supporting Plans.

Arrangements detailed in this plan are based on the assumption that the resources, upon which the plan relies, are available when required.

The effectiveness of arrangements detailed in this plan are dependent upon all involved agencies preparing, testing and maintaining appropriate internal instructions, and/or standing operating procedures.

Prevent, Prepare, Respond, Recover - PPRR

The following key principles are noted in the *SERM Act* and are applied to emergency management in New South Wales to provide a comprehensive approach.

Prevention: to eliminate or reduce the level of the risk or severity of emergencies

Preparation: to enhance capacity of agencies and communities to cope with the consequences of emergencies

Response: to ensure the immediate consequences of emergencies to communities are minimised

Recovery: measures which support individuals and communities affected by emergencies in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of physical, emotional, environmental and economic well-being.

Principles

The following principles are applied in this plan:

- The ERM process is to be used as the basis for emergency planning in New South Wales. This methodical approach to the planning process is to be applied by Emergency Management Committees at all levels.
- Responsibility for preparation, response and recovery rests initially at local level. If local agencies and available resources are not sufficient, they can be augmented by those at regional level.
- Control of emergency response and recovery operations is conducted at the lowest effective level.
- Agencies may deploy their own resources from their own services, outside the affected local area or region, if needed.

- The LEOCON is responsible, when requested by a combat agency, to coordinate the provision of resources support.
- Emergency preparation, response and recovery operations should be conducted with all agencies carrying out their normal functions wherever possible.
- Prevention measures remain the responsibility of authorities/agencies charged by statute with the responsibility.

Test and Review Process

The MidCoast LEMC will review this Plan every three (3) years, or following any:

- activation of the Plan in response to an emergency;
- legislative changes affecting the Plan;
- exercises conducted to test all or part of the Plan.

Part 2 – Community Context

Annexure A – Community Profile

General – Regional profile

The MidCoast Council area is located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, approximately 320 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD and 170 kilometres north of the Newcastle CBD.

The area is bounded by Port Macquarie Hastings Council in the north, the Pacific Ocean in the east, Port Stephens Council in the south and Dungog and Upper Hunter Shire Councils in the west, and Walcha Shire Council to the northwest.

MidCoast is a large and diverse region containing 195 towns, villages and localities. Spanning an area of 10,052km2, MidCoast Council is the largest Council area in the Hunter covering 30.5% of the region and 1.25% of NSW. The MidCoast ranges from beaches and coastline, to mountains and hinterland, with green spaces and national parks in between. This landscape is characterised by pristine waterways, striking scenery and an abundance of natural treasures.

The MidCoast is home to the Gathang speaking Aboriginal people, the Biripi and Worimi. The MidCoast has a population of approximately 93,800 people living in around 40,000 households.

The MidCoast is a popular location with many retirees moving from the Central Coast and the Sydney basin. They are seeking a 'sea change' or 'tree change', while still being close to Sydney and Newcastle. Most of our population growth has occurred in people aged 60 and over who make up 38.5% of our population.

The median age of our population is 54, well above the National and State median of 39, making the MidCoast population one of the oldest in NSW. While the region is a popular place for raising young children, who make up 19% of the population, we experience a sharp decrease in numbers of youth (aged 18 and over).

Although educational opportunities are improving, there is still often a need for young people to leave the region to pursue higher education or employment opportunities. In our community, 6.9% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, more than double the State and National averages (2.9% and 2.8% respectively). With 8.2% of our population reporting they need assistance with their day-to-day lives, we have higher than the NSW average of people living with a disability. We also have a supportive community, with 20% of our population volunteering.

There are a number of challenges that impact on the socio-economic health of our community. With high levels of retirement and unemployment, and low levels of education attainment, the household incomes in the MidCoast are significantly lower than other regions. The MidCoast is the 26th most disadvantaged Council area in NSW (out of 131 areas) with a SEIFA index of 943.

Location of MidCoast centres

Landform and Topography

The MidCoast Council area is predominantly rural, with expanding urban areas and some industrial and commercial land uses. The Council area encompasses a total land area of approximately 10,060 square kilometres, from the rugged mountains and forested areas to the lakes, fertile rivers and spectacular coast which spans an impressive 192 kilometres.

It includes the Manning River valley, the Wallis, Smiths and Myall Lakes systems, the northern foreshore of Port Stephens, the agricultural hinterland and the rugged, forested ranges of the Barrington Tops, Woko and Tapin Tops National Parks.

We are a region rich in cultural pride and connection to the landscape and we embrace the spirit of reconciliation. Being well known for our natural beauty, our region encompasses 58 national parks and reserves, five coastal lagoons, one marine park, an internationally recognised wetland in the Myall Lakes, eight Aboriginal Places and the magnificent World Heritage listed area of the Barrington Tops.

Some of the rich natural assets include:

- World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia in Barrington Tops National Park
- Manning River is the only double delta river in the Southern Hemisphere and the only permanent multiple entrance river in the world other than the Nile in Egypt
- Internationally recognised Ramsar Wetlands in the Myall Lakes National Park
- Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park
- The state's most important nesting site for the endangered little tern located on the Manning River entrance sand shoals at Farquhar Inlet and Harrington
- A site of international importance for migratory shorebirds – the Port Stephens estuary and its population of the eastern curlew
- Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS) including Kiwarrak-Khappinghat and Crowdy Bay
- Wallis Lake supports the largest area of seagrass in any estuary in NSW, comprising 35% of the State's total area of seagrass, as well as unique sponge communities and a breeding colony of pelicans

Major lakes & rivers include:

- Manning River (Wingham, Taree, Lansdowne)
- Gloucester River (Gloucester)
- Avon River (Gloucester)
- Lower Myall River
- Wallamba River (Nabiac)
- Myall River (Bulahdelah)
- Karuah River
- Wallis Lake
- Myall Lake
- Smiths Lake

Major National Parks include:

- Barrington Tops National Park
- Ghin-Doo-Ee National Park
- Myall Lakes National Park
- Wallingat National Park
- Crowdy Bay National Park

ONE WORLD HERITAGE LISTED AREA

10,052 km²

8 PROTECTED ABORIGINAL PLACES under National Parks and Wildlife Act

192km of coastline

58 NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES

195 towns villages & localities

5 COASTAL LAKES & LAGOONS

ONE MARINE PARK

Climate

The MidCoast area has a warm to hot climate with wet and humid summers, and mild drier winters mostly on the coast. Further inland, Barrington Tops is a World Heritage Listed wilderness area has an alpine climate that regularly receives winter snow fall. There is an annual average rainfall of up to 1,315mm at the Chichester Dam site, some 38kms from the inland town of Gloucester.

Taree Long Term Average

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
Mean Max (°C)	29.0	28.3	26.8	24.3	21.4	18.9	18.8	20.2	23.0	24.7	26.0	27.7	24.1
Mean Min (°C)	18.4	18.2	16.8	13.6	10.0	7.9	6.7	6.8	9.4	12.0	15.0	16.7	12.6
Mean Rain (mm)	94.3	148.8	200.5	100.5	78.6	93.0	66.2	44.0	49.3	81.8	108.5	90.0	1169.2
Median Rain (mm)	89.9	129.4	109.5	55.2	66.0	55.9	52.8	32.4	35.5	59.1	100.2	61.8	973.0
Mean Rain Days	13.2	13.8	15.0	13.8	11.6	13.2	11.2	9.2	9.9	11.2	12.9	13.1	148.8

Forster Long Term Average

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
Mean Max (°C)	26.6	26.5	25.7	23.9	21.3	18.9	18.4	19.5	21.7	22.8	23.9	25.5	22.8
Mean Min (°C)	19.5	19.5	18.0	15.3	12.1	10.0	8.8	9.2	11.8	13.9	16.4	18.1	14.3
Mean Rain (mm)	109.0	120.2	150.4	126.0	113.8	121.3	84.4	70.2	66.2	77.8	83.8	92.7	1221.7
Median Rain (mm)	77.0	78.3	101.6	81.2	78.0	78.3	55.6	48.6	43.0	51.4	70.9	72.4	1118.0
Mean Rain Days	8.4	8.8	10.2	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.0	7.3	7.2	8.3	8.7	8.1	102.2

Gloucester Long Term Average

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
Mean Max (°C)													
Mean Min (°C)													
Mean Rain (mm)	113.8	122.0	124.4	74.1	64.9	66.1	49.5	44.4	50.3	66.2	81.1	100.6	982.4
Median Rain (mm)													
Mean Rain Days	9.1	9.4	10.1	7.8	7.6	7.0	6.4	6.0	6.3	7.4	8.0	8.7	94.7

Bureau of Meteorology river monitoring stations for the Manning River, Wallis Lake, Myall Lake, Karuah River and Chichester River are available her - Latest River Heights - Mid North Coast (NSW) (bom.gov.au)

Land Use

There are rural and coastal centres that support the main centres - some are 'satellite suburbs', while others are self-reliant given their distance from the larger centres. These centres include Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest, Gloucester, Wingham, Hallidays Point, Harrington and Old Bar. Our rural centres like Gloucester and Wingham, play a significant role for the economy and the industry they provide. In addition, there are a large number of villages and localities, each with their own unique character.

The population of the MidCoast is forecast to grow to 100,100 people by 2041, generating the need for approximately 8,000 more dwellings (DPIE, 2019). This is an estimated growth rate of 0.3% over a 25-year period. Much of this growth is expected to occur in or near our coastal towns and villages.

Land Use Zone / Type / Classification	Area	% of LGA
Environment Protection Zones	235,752.818Ha	23.3%
Employment Zones	1,229.764Ha	0.1%
Residential Zones	5,571.629Ha	0.5%
Large Lot Residential	5,031.603Ha	0.5%
Rural Zones	737,192.502Ha	73.1%
Village Zone	1,333.857Ha	0.1%
Recreation Zones	1,618.209Ha	0.1%
Waterways zones	15,260.777Ha	1.5%
Infrastructure Zones	3,078.847Ha	0.3%
Other	5,026.287Ha	0.5%
TOTAL	*1,006,070.006Ha*	*100%*

Population and People

Total Population estimate
97,237
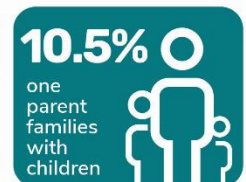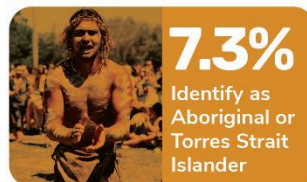ABS ERP 2022

SEIFA index of disadvantage 2021
- 943

Aboriginal
The Biripi and Worimi people are the traditional owners of all the lands that cover the MidCoast.

Across the MidCoast 7.3% of the population identify as Aboriginal (Regional NSW average 6.6%)

Disability
8,714 people (or 9% of the population) in the MidCoast Council area reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. The MidCoast Council area's disability statistics relate directly to need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability.

5.3% AGED BETWEEN 18-24 often due to limited opportunities for higher education and employment

3.2% speak a language other than English at home

50,484 DWELLINGS (NIEIR)

17.5% Couples with dependent children

9% need assistance due to a disability

10% BORN OVERSEAS

54 YEARS median age

7.3% Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

15.7% of our community volunteer

10.5% one parent families with children

Ageing

The MidCoast Council area has a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than Regional NSW.

Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) 17,287 – 17.9% (State average 13.3%)

Seniors (70 to 84) 19,383 – 17.9% (State average 13.3%)

Frail aged (85 and over) 3,884 – 4.6% (State average 2.8%)

Unemployment

6% of people in the MidCoast were unemployed (2,228) (State average 4.6%, Regional NSW average 6.6%)

Disengaged youth

(aged 15-24 not employed or in education)

In 2021, 14.5% (1,178) of the MidCoast Council area's population aged 15 to 24 years were not employed or attending an education institute compared to 10% in Regional NSW.

Homeless

Estimated to be 300 for the region.

Links to the 2021 population information noted above:

Population highlights | MidCoast Council | Community profile
Locality snapshots | MidCoast Council | Community profile

Population by age

Age group	Population
0 – 4 years	3,909
5 – 11 years	6,872
12 – 17 years	6,305
12 – 25 years	12,109
25 – 34 years	7,596
24 – 44 years	8,388
45 – 54 years	10,914
55 – 64 years	15,419
65 – 74 years	17,654
75 – 84 years	10,535
85 years +	3,887

Population Density

In 2021, the population density in the MidCoast Council area was 9.6 per square kilometre. This figure was higher compared to Regional NSW, which had a population density of 3.6 persons per square kilometre (the Regional NSW however, does include very large areas of non-residential land). It is important to note that this varied across the Council area. Population density ranged from a low of 0.8 persons per square kilometre in Western Rural to a high of 495.8 persons per square kilometre in Forster - Tuncurry.

The five suburbs with the highest population densities were:

- Forster - Tuncurry (495.8 persons per square kilometre)
- Forster - Green Point (429.9 persons per square kilometre)
- Taree (349.1 persons per square kilometre)
- Old Bar - Wallabi Point (164.8 persons per square kilometre)
- Tuncurry - Darawank (141.5 persons per square kilometre)

Transport Routes and Facilities

The region is reasonably connected. The Pacific Highway, connecting Sydney and Brisbane, runs North South through the region, providing ready access to Newcastle, Newcastle Airport, Port Macquarie Airport and to Sydney and Brisbane markets. The North Coast railway line provides passenger and rail freight services to Sydney and the Taree Regional Airport has the ability for both passenger and freight services but has very limited services operating.

There are also important transport routes through Gloucester on the Western edge of the MidCoast which link the New England and Hunter regions.

Limited public transport is available across the region.

In 2021, 68.5% of the MidCoast Council area's employed population travelled to work by car compared to 64.5% in Regional NSW.

Approved B-Double routes information and maps are available from NSW Combined Higher Mass Limits (HML) and Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Map < Heavy vehicles > Transport for NSW

Economy and Industry

Unique to the MidCoast, there are two main population precincts, Taree and Forster-Tuncurry, each with differing economic drivers. Taree offers a wide range of regional services and facilities that are utilised across our region, including the Manning Base Hospital, Taree Regional Airport, schools and sporting, entertainment and cultural facilities. Large tracts of industrial land also support a focus on industry. In contrast, Forster-Tuncurry centres around lifestyle, ideally located between the coast and lakes, both tourism and retirement living drive the economy. This has led to extensive shopping, entertainment and service facilities to support both residents and visitors.

There are also a number of rural and coastal centres that support the main precincts – some are 'satellite suburbs', while others are self-reliant given their distance from the larger centres. These centres include Gloucester, Wingham, Tea Gardens - Hawks Nest, Harrington, Old Bar, Hallidays Point, and Pacific Palms.

Much of the rural area is used for livestock farming, primarily dairy and beef cattle with a growing poultry industry. Oyster farming and fishing are also important industries that occur in the coastal locations.

The region is also a key holiday destination. During the summer months the population swells with tourists coming to enjoy the regions pristine coastline and beaches, coastal lakes, lagoons and other environmental attractions. Popular year-round attractions include the Barrington Tops National Park and other National Parks and reserves.

Diverse economy

The MidCoast economy is supported by a range of industry sectors that relate to the size and diversity of the region. Top 5 employment industries are:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Construction
- Retail Trade
- Education and Training
- Accommodation and Food Services

Industries such as Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Manufacturing also employ a significant number of people.

$222 MILLION TOURISM OUTPUT

$5.9 BILLION TOTAL OUTPUT

$328 MILLION BUILDING APPROVALS

30,242 JOBS

+ $2.5 BILLION VALUE ADDED

$3.45 BILLION GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

Business

There are over 6,500 registered businesses in the MidCoast with a fifth of these being in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industries. In addition, the following sectors have the highest Gross Value Add (GVA – an indicator of how productive each industry sector is at increasing the value of its inputs):

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Construction
- Education and Training
- Retail Trade
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

Employment

Our area supports over 30,000 jobs. Health Care and Social Assistance are the largest employers in the area generating over 6,000 local jobs.

Development growth

Over $328 million of development was approved by Council in the 2021-22 financial year. Of this, approximately $255 million was for residential construction and $73.5 million was for commercial construction.

Warnings & Evacuation Centre Definitions

National Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a new national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire, flood, storm, extreme heat and severe weather. The System uses a nationally consistent set of icons, like those below.

Australia's fire and emergency services aim to provide you with timely and relevant information during emergencies.

See icons on the next page.

BUSHFIRE

Fire Danger Ratings

The Fire Danger Ratings have been simplified to be an action-oriented fire danger rating system.

Across the country, fire and emergency services are applying nationally consistent colours, signs and terminology. This means that wherever you go in Australia, and whatever the season or bushfire fuels you're surrounded by, you can understand the level of threat and what you need to do to stay safe.

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System uses four easy to recognise rating levels, each with a message to encourage you to take action to protect yourself and others in the face of bushfire risk.
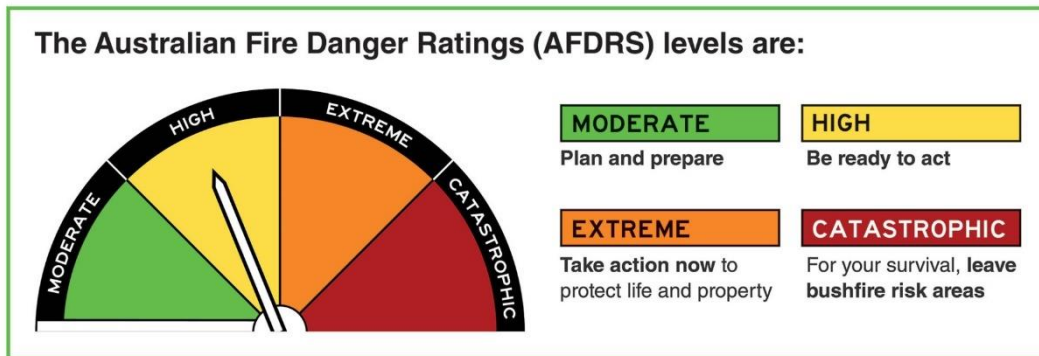
Evacuation Centres

An evacuation centre is a designated building specifically selected as a safer location not anticipated to be adversely affected by the hazard. These evacuation centres provide affected people with basic essentials including accommodation, food and water.

Neighbourhood Safer Places

Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) – An NSP is a building or a space within the community that has been designated as such by the Commissioner of the Rural Fire Service. It provides for improved protection of human life during the onset and passage of a bush fire.

A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a place of last resort during a bush fire emergency. They are to be used when all other options in a Bush Fire Survival Plan cannot be put into action safely. A NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY.

More information in relation to Neighbourhood Safer Places NSP-Guidelines.pdf (nsw.gov.au)

Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a new national approach to information and Calls to Actions for hazards like bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat and severe weather.

	Advice An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.	**Watch & Act** There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.	**Emergency Warning** An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.
Bushfire	⚠	⚠	⚠
Extreme Heat	⚠	⚠	⚠
Flood	⚠	⚠	⚠
Storm	⚠	⚠	⚠
Cyclone	⚠	⚠	⚠
Other	⚠	⚠	⚠

Advice
- Prepare now
- Stay informed
- Monitor conditions
- Stay informed/threat is reduced
- Avoid the area
- Return with caution
- Avoid smoke

Watch & Act
- Prepare to leave/evacuate
- Leave/evacuate now (if you are not prepared)
- Prepare to take shelter
- Move/stay indoors
- Stay near shelter
- Walk two or more streets back
- Monitor conditions as they are changing
- Be aware of ember attacks
- Move to higher ground (away from creeks/rivers/coast)
- Limit time outside (cyclone, heat asthma)
- Avoid the area
- Stay away from damaged buildings and other hazards
- Prepare for isolation
- Protect yourself against the impacts of extreme heat
- Do not enter flood water
- Not safe to return
- Prepare your property (cyclone/storm)

Emergency Warning
- Leave/evacuate (immediately, by am/pm/hazard timing)
- Seek/take shelter now
- Shelter indoors now
- Too late/dangerous to leave

Community Information

Communications

The LEOCON will coordinate localised messages, in consultation with the combat agency, that will be distributed through the appropriate LEMC agency's social media. The LEOCON may also hold live Facebook updates to provide local information to the MidCoast community as an event unfolds. Official communication channels are noted below.

In an emergency – call 000

State Emergency Service (SES) 132500 (flood & storm emergencies only)
MidCoast Council (02) 7955 7777 Open Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Social media
- Rural Fire Service
  NSW Rural Fire Service - Mid Coast District | Facebook
- SES
  Mid North Coast NSW SES | Taree NSW | Facebook
- Manning Great Lakes Police
  Manning-Great Lakes Police District | Taree NSW | Facebook
- MidCoast Council
  MidCoast Council | Taree NSW | Facebook

Websites
- Essential Energy
  Essential Energy - Home
- SES Mid North Coast
  Mid North Coast | NSW State Emergency Service
- MidCoast Council – Emergencies on the MidCoast
  Home - MidCoast Council (nsw.gov.au)
- Register Find Reunite
  Letting others know you are safe in an emergency | Australian Red Cross

Apps – stay up-to-date
- Hazards Near Me
  Hazards Near Me app | NSW Government
- Emergency Plus
  emergencyplus.com.au
- Live traffic
  Check road and traffic conditions with Live Traffic NSW | Service NSW

Radio
- ABC Mid North Coast 95.5FM
  ABC Mid North Coast

Weather Forecast
- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
  New South Wales Forecasts (bom.gov.au)

Resources
- **My Fire Plan** Visit https://www.myfireplan.com.au
- **RFS Bush fire survival plan** https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resouces/bush-fire-survival-plan
- **Preparing for emergencies** Emergency preparedness guide | Australian Red Cross

Recovery

Recovery plays an important part of any event. Coordinated disaster recovery supports affected communities in the reconstruction of infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.

Community recovery from disasters can be a complex and often lengthy process, with different communities recovering at different rates.

The best outcomes are achieved by ensuring recovery strategies align with community need and are led by the affected community.

This requires a collaborative, coordinated, adaptable and scalable approach where the responsibility for disaster recovery is shared among all sectors of the community including individuals, families, community groups, businesses and all levels of government.

The four stages of an emergency are noted and defined on page 5 – Prevention, Preparation (before), Response (during) and Recovery (after) – and are all closely intertwined. Each area influences the other.

The *Recovery* phase begins during the *Response* phase and is focused on the longer-term support and recovery of individuals, households and communities.

Below diagram demonstrates the stages of an event, based on the size and scope, and how each stage overlaps. This plan predominately relates to the Response phase highlighted in the red box below.
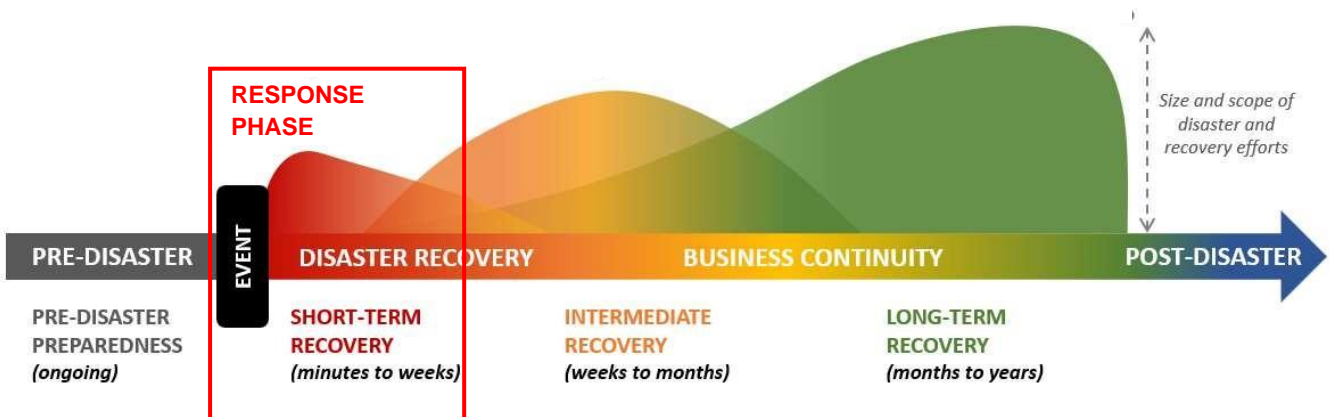
Annexure B – Hazards and Risks Summary

MidCoast LEMC — Local Emergency Management

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RISK GUIDELINES (https://www.aidr.org.au/media/7600/aidr_handbookcollection_nerag_2020-02-05_v10.pdf)

Risk Assessment Criteria

Risk rating = consequence rating x likelihood rating

Risk Rating = C x L		Consequence rating						Likelihood rating					
		People - Death & Injury / Illness	Economic	Infrastructure / Networks (column added to enhance localised criteria)	Social Settings	Environmental	Public administration	Recurrent risk: Once in 100,000 years Single event: Less than 0.01% per year	Recurrent risk: Once in 10,000 years Single event: 0.01% to <0.1% per year	Recurrent risk: Once in 1000 years Single event: 0.1% to <1% per year	Recurrent risk: Once in 100 years Single event: 1% to <10% per year	Recurrent risk: Once per 10 years Single event: 10% to <63% per year	Recurrent risk: Once or more per year Single event: Probability greater than 63%
		A	B	C	D	E	F	Extremely rare	Very rare	Rare	Unlikely	Likely	Almost Certain
		Maintain public safety	Protect & enhance the local economy	Failure of key buildings, services & structures	Protect existing community structures and the lifestyle enjoyed by the people of the region	Sustain and enhance the physical and natural environment	Ensure sound public administration and governance	1	2	3	4	5	6
Severe (or catastrophic)	5	Deaths directly from emergency greater than 1 in 10,000 people for population of interest Significant Impact on hospital / health network	Decline of economic activity, and/or Loss of asset value greater than 4% of gross product produced by the area of interest Failure of a significant industry or sector in area of interest as a direct result of emergency event	Critical Infrastructure destroyed / Inoperable for significant period of time electricity, telecommunications, water, sewer, road & bridge network, buildings, NBN / internet, key buildings (hospital)	The community of interest's social connectedness is irreparably broken, such that the community ceases to function effectively, breaks down and disperses in its entirety level of being able to provide essential retail - supermarket, deliveries, fuel, displaced housing, retail	Permanent destruction of an ecosystem or species recognised at the local, regional, state or national level, and/or severe damage to or loss of an ecosystem or species recognised at the national or state level, and/or Significant loss or impairment of an ecosystem or species recognised at the national level	Governing bodies are unable to deliver their core functions to be effective Local, State & Federal Government services are restricted, impacted or not available ?	High	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Major	4	Deaths directly from emergency greater than 1 in 100,000 people for population of interest	Decline of economic activity, and/or Loss of asset value greater than 0.4% of gross product produced by area of interest Significant structural adjustment required by identified industry to respond and recover from emergency event	Critical Infrastructure inoperable / unusable for extended period of time	The community of interest's social connectedness is significantly broken, such that extraordinary external resources are required to return the community to functioning effectively, with significant permanent dispersal	Minor damage to ecosystems or species recognised at the national level, and/or Significant loss or impairment of an ecosystem or species recognised at the state level, and/or Severe damage to or loss of an ecosystem or species recognised at the local or regional level	Governing bodies encounter severe reduction in the delivery of core functions Governing bodies are required to divert a significant amount of available resources to deliver core functions or seek external assistance to deliver the majority of their core functions	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Moderate	3	Deaths directly from emergency greater than 1 in 1,000,000 people for population of interest	Decline of economic activity, and/or Loss of asset value greater than 0.04% of gross product produced by area of interest Significant industry or business sector is significantly impacted by the emergency event, resulting in medium-term (i.e. more than one year) profit reductions directly attributable to the event	Critical infrastructure inoperable / unusable for short period of time	The community of interest's social connectedness is broken, such that community requires significant external resources to return the community to functioning effectively, with some permanent dispersal	Minor damage to ecosystems and species recognised at the state level, and/or Significant loss or impairment of an ecosystem or species recognised at the local or regional level	Governing bodies encounter significant reduction in the delivery of core functions Governing bodies are required to divert some available resources to deliver core functions	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
Minor	2	Deaths directly from emergency greater than 1 in 10,000,000 people for population of interest	Decline of economic activity, and/or Loss of asset value greater than 0.004% of gross product produced by area of interest Significant industry or business sector is impacted by the emergency event, resulting in short-term (i.e. less than one year) profit reductions directly attributable to the event	Non-critical infrastructure inoperable / unusable for extended period of time	The community of interest's social connectedness is damaged, such that community requires some external resources to return the community to functioning effectively, with no permanent dispersal	Minor damage to ecosystems and species recognised at the local or regional level	Governing bodies encounter limited reduction in delivery of core functions	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Insignificant	1	Deaths directly from emergency less than 1 in 10,000,000 people for population of interest	Decline of economic activity, and/or Loss of asset value less than 0.004% of gross product produced by area of interest Inconsequential business sector disruption due to emergency event	Non-critical infrastructure inoperable / unusable for short period of time	The community of interest's social connectedness is disrupted, such that the reprioritisation/reallocation of existing resources is required to return the community to functioning effectively, with no permanent dispersal	No damage to ecosystems at any level	Governing bodies' delivery of core functions is unaffected or within normal parameters	Very low	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Medium

Risk Rating Matrix

A Local Emergency Risk Management (ERM) review has been undertaken by the MidCoast Local Emergency Management Committee identifying the following hazards as having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity. An assessment of each of these hazards has been undertaken against the above risk matrix from the National Emergency Risk Guidelines. These hazards have been identified as having the potential to create an emergency.

CMGs have been developed for the below **events** that have the potential to require multiple LEMC agencies and have a broader impact on the community v's an isolated **incident** or accident that is able to be managed through normal processes.

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	CMG	Combat / Responsible Agency
Agricultural Disease (Animal/Animal)	An agriculture/horticulture incident that results, or has potential to result, in the spread of a communicable disease or infestation.	Likely	Major	High	Yes	Department of Primary Industries
Bridge Collapse	Failure of a major bridge structure with or without warning owing to structural failure or as a result of external/ internal events or other hazards/ incidents.	Unlikely	Major	High	Yes	LEOCON
Building Collapse	Collapse of building owing to structural failure or impact from external/internal event of other hazards /incidents.	Rare	Moderate	Medium	No	FRNSW (USAR) LEOCON
Communicable Disease (Human/Animal)	Pandemic illness that affects, or has potential to affect, large portions of the human or animal population	Likely	Catastrophic	Extreme	Yes	Department of Health
Dam Failure	A dam is compromised that results in localised or widespread flooding.	Rare	Minor	Low	No	Dam Owners NSW SES
Earthquake	Earthquake of significant strength that results in localised or widespread damage.	Rare	Moderate	Medium	Yes	LEOCON
Fire (Bush or Grass)	Major fires in areas of bush or grasslands.	Almost Certain	Major	Extreme	Yes	NSW RFS FRNSW
Fire (Structural)	Serious industrial fire in office complexes and/or warehouses within industrial estates.	Likely	Minor	Medium	No	FRNSW NSW RFS
Flood (Riverine)	River flows exceed the capacity of normal river systems resulting in flood waters escaping and inundating river plains	Almost Certain	Major	Extreme	Yes	NSW SES
Hazardous Release	Hazardous material released as a result of an incident or accident.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	No	FRNSW
Heatwave	A sequence of abnormally hot conditions having the potential to affect a community adversely.	Likely	Major	Extreme	Yes	SEOCON

| Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	CMG	Combat / Responsible Agency
Landslip	Landslip/landslide resulting in localised or widespread damage.	Likely	Minor	Medium	Yes	LEOCON
Storm / Flash Flooding	Severe storm with accompanying lightning, hail, wind, and/or rain that causes severe damage and/or localised flooding (includes tornado)	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	Yes	NSW SES
Transport Emergency (Air)	Aircraft crashes in LGA resulting in large number of fatalities, injuries and/or damage to property.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	No	LEOCON
Transport Emergency (Road)	A major vehicle accident that disrupts one or more major transport routes that can result in risk to people trapped in traffic jams, restrict supply routes and/or protracted loss of access to or from the area.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	No	LEOCON
Transport Emergency (Sea)	A major accident that results in environmental damage and major recovery operation	Unlikely	Minor	Low	No	Relevant Port / Maritime
Tsunami	A tsunami wave of magnitude that presents a risk to land and marine elements.	Rare	Catastrophic	High	Yes	NSW SES
Utilities Failure	Major failure of essential utility for unreasonable periods of time as a result of a natural or man-made occurrence.	Likely	Minor	Medium	Yes	LEOCON

Also reference:

- National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines - National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) Handbook (aidr.org.au)
- Australian Warning System - Australian Warning System

Recovery Framework

A Recovery Framework has been developed to guide the decisions following an event and provide options for consideration depending on the size and type of event. The Recovery Framework is referenced in each CMG and the document is included at the end of the CMGs. While this EMPLAN does not include specific Recovery phase details, the aim is to commence immediate relief to affected communities while undertaking the Response phase to ensure there is a collaborative approach to support and build capacity to rebuild the MidCoast communities.

The Recovery 'phase' is not a singular period. Recovery will occur in a number of stages – immediate relief (short term), early recovery (medium term) and long-term recovery (long-term). We note that not all areas across the region will recover at the same time, and it is expected that some of the most highly impacted areas may require many years of rebuilding.

Recovery activities have short, medium and long-term timelines in four key areas: social, built environment, economic, and natural environment.
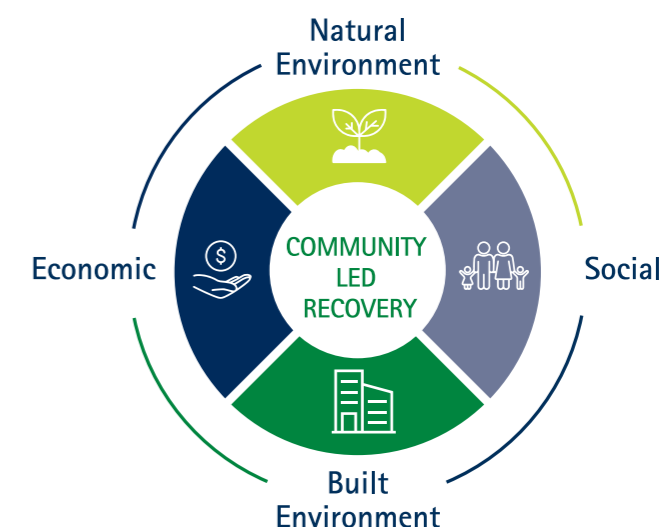
Annexure C – Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies

Responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of appropriate sub and supporting plans rest with the relevant Combat Agency Controller or the relevant Functional Area Coordinator.

The sub/supporting plans are developed in consultation with the MidCoast LEMC and relevant stakeholders. State sub-plans are available from the NSW Government website State emergency management sub plans | NSW Government

The plans listed below are supplementary to this EMPLAN. The sub/supporting plans have been endorsed by the LEMC and are determined as compliant and complimentary to the arrangements listed in this EMPLAN.

These plans are retained by the LEMO on behalf of the LEMC.

Plan/Policy	Purpose	Combat / Responsible Agency
SES Great Lakes Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan 2013 (updated March 2017)	Covers the preparedness measures, the conduct of response operations and the coordination of immediate recovery measures from flooding and arrangements for management of coastal erosion.	NSW State Emergency Service
SES Gloucester Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan 2015 (updated March 2017)	Covers the preparedness measures, the conduct of response operations and the coordination of immediate recovery measures from flooding.	NSW State Emergency Service
SES Taree Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan 2013 (updated Feb 2015)	Covers the preparedness measures, the conduct of response operations and the coordination of immediate recovery measures from flooding and arrangements for management of coastal erosion.	NSW State Emergency Service
Airport Emergency Plan	Details the arrangements for control and coordination of the response to and the initial recovery from an emergency within the boundary of Taree Regional Airport.	Local Emergency Operations Controller
Mid North Coast Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan 2013	Details procedures for notification of a maritime incident, assessment of, and initial response to, the incident, establishment of response structure and escalation of the response.	Roads & Maritime Services

Plan/Policy	Purpose	Combat / Responsible Agency
Mid Coast (Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester) Bush Fire Risk Management & Operations Co-ordination Plans	The aim the plan is to detail the requirements for coordinated fire management practices, for the protection of, life and property, community assets and values, natural and cultural heritage and to decrease the severity of wildfires.	NSW Rural Fire Service
NSW Tsunami Emergency Sub Plan 2008	Covers arrangements for the emergency management of tsunami in NSW.	NSW State Emergency Service
MidCoast Council (Taree Region) Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Plan	To guide the actions Council will take before, during and after a coastal erosion emergency.	MidCoast Council
Bootawa Dam Safety Emergency Plan 2016	This plan defines responsibilities and procedures to identify conditions, which may endanger Bootawa Dam, in time to take remedial action and to notify public officials of possible, impending, or actual failure of the dam.	MidCoast Council
Hunter LLS Concept of Operations – Flood Emergencies	The Concept of Operations – Flood Emergencies provides the framework for Hunter Local Land Services during flood operations including response and recovery actions and roles and responsibilities of staff.	Local Land Services (Hunter)
Local Land Services Policy Livestock Transport Incidents	To identify the response of Local Land Services (LLS) in the event of a livestock transport incident and to identify the roles and responsibilities of LLS when attending livestock transport incidents.	Local Land Services
Local Land Services Procedure - Attendance at truck accidents requiring assessment and destruction of injured livestock	This LLS procedure details the response process livestock assessment and destruction.	Local Land Services

Functional Areas

Functional Areas are a category of services involved in preparations and response for an emergency across the MidCoast area. The following Functional Areas (with links to each Supporting Plan) are provided below and have been referred to in the MidCoast EMPLAN:

- **Agriculture and Animal Services**
  [Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (nsw.gov.au)](nsw.gov.au)
  Includes: NSW Department of Industry, Local Land Services
- **Telecommunications Services**
  NSW Telecommunications Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
  Includes: NSW Telco Authority (Government Radio Network), NBN Co, SingTel Optus Pty Ltd, Telstra Corporation, Vodafone Hutchison Australia Pty Ltd
- **Energy & Utility Services**
  NSW Energy and Utility Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
  Includes: Essential Energy, Origin Energy, MidCoast Council Water Services, Natural Gas providers, Fuel providers
- **Engineering Services**
  NSW Engineering Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
  Includes: Public Works Advisory (NSWPW)
- **Environmental Services**
  [Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (nsw.gov.au)](nsw.gov.au)
  Includes: EPA, DPI (Animal & Agriculture), NSW Public Works, TfNSW, NSW Maritime, NSW Health, NSW Police, F&R NSW, NSW RFS, NSW office of Water, SafeWork NSW, OLG
- **Health Services**
  NSW Health Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
  Includes: Medical Services, Ambulance Services, Public Health Services, Health Communications, HealthShare NSW, NSW Health Pathology, Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Local Health Network
- **Public Information Services**
  [Public Information Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (nsw.gov.au)](nsw.gov.au)
  Includes: NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, F&R NSW, NSW RFS, NSW SES, NSW Health, TfNSW, NSW DCJ, Dept Premier & Cabinet, Multicultural NSW, BoM
- **Transport Services**
  [Transport_Services_Supporting_Plan.pdf (nsw.gov.au)](nsw.gov.au)
  Includes: TfNSW, Security, Crisis & Emergency Management (SCEM)
- **Welfare Services**
  [Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan (nsw.gov.au)](nsw.gov.au)
  Includes: Disaster Welfare Service Branch (DWS), Office of Emergency Services (OEM), Dept Community & Justice (DCJ), Reconstruction Authority NSW

(Source: SERM Act).