



Earthquake

STATE HAZARD PLAN

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Department of Fire and
Emergency Services

APPROVED BY

State Emergency Management
Committee

RESOLUTION NUMBER

XX/XXXX

VERSION NUMBER

X.XX

DATE OF APPROVAL

XX XXXX XXXX

DATE OF EFFECT

XX XXXX XXXX

REVIEW DATE

XX XXXX XXXX

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Amendments Table

Date	Details	Amended by
September 2004	Review and re-write of 1999 version.	
September 2006	Amend 2004 version, congruous with the provisions of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> .	
May 2011	Complete revision.	
May 2016	Complete revision including statement of fact amendments	Department of Fire and Emergency Services and SEMC Secretariat
December 2021	Version 1.00 – Initial release of State Hazard Plan Earthquake approved by SEMC (Resolution Number 100/2021).	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
December 2022	Version 1.01 – Amendments approved by SEMC Executive Officer (Resolution Number 17/2021). Statement of fact changes and updated hyperlinks to new SEMC website as per amendments table December 2022 .	SEMC Business Unit

Date	Details	Amended by
October 2023	Version 1.02 - Consequential amendments approved by SEMC to reflect change in terminology from 'welfare' to 'emergency relief and support' and related terms (resolution number 77/2023) outlined in State EM documents amendments table October 2023 .	SEMC Business Unit
XXXX 2026	Proposed Version 2.00 - Draft presented for broad consultation as part of the 2026 comprehensive review.	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

The SEMC acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples throughout the state of Western Australia as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work and volunteer. We recognise Aboriginal peoples' continued connection to land, waters and community, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

This document was designed to be viewed electronically and aims to meet the West Australian Government's accessibility and inclusivity standard, including meeting the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.2 (WCAG 2.2) at level AA. If anything in this document is inaccessible to you, or you are experiencing problems accessing content for any reason, please contact the State Emergency Management Policy Branch at semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au.

All of the State emergency management legislation and documents can be accessed via the [State Emergency Management Framework](#) page of the State Emergency Management Committee website.

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Part One:

Introduction

The State Hazard Plan Earthquake outlines the strategic emergency management arrangements for the prescribed hazard of earthquake.

1.1 Authority

Section 18 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* requires the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) to prepare emergency management plans. The SEMC has delegated the preparation of the State Hazard Plan Earthquake (the Plan) to the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) under State Emergency Management (EM) Policy 1.5.4.

The *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* regulation 17(2) prescribes the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner as the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for earthquakes.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), on behalf of the FES Commissioner, is responsible for the development, maintenance, review and exercising of the Plan, in accordance with State Emergency Management Policy 1.5.

1.2 Scope

This Plan covers emergency management arrangements within the geographic boundaries of WA, for the hazard of earthquake. The scope extends to all areas in which WA legislation is applicable.

The Plan is intended to inform WA stakeholders of prevention and mitigation strategies, as well as outline preparedness, response and recovery arrangements relating to earthquake emergencies within WA. The Plan defines the roles and responsibilities relating to the management of earthquake emergencies within WA.

The Plan refers to a range of existing acts, regulations, policies, plans and guidelines that support the management of earthquake emergencies in WA. It does not duplicate the information contained in these, instead provides directions to websites and other sources where further information can be obtained.

1.3 Hazard Definition

An earthquake is the sudden release of energy that causes the ground to shake. Most earthquakes in the world happen around active tectonic plate margins. However, Australia sits in the middle of the Indo-Australian tectonic plate, and earthquakes experienced in Australia are known as intraplate earthquakes. Australia is on the fastest-moving tectonic plate, it rubs against other plates as it moves north, and stress builds up in the middle of the plate. Intraplate earthquakes occur when this stress is suddenly released, as rocks deep underground break and move along a fault line.

Intraplate earthquakes are less frequent and do not follow easily recognisable patterns. While some parts of the country are more likely to experience earthquakes than others, large earthquakes can occur anywhere across the continent, and without warning. Earthquakes can vary in strength and size (known as magnitude), last from a few seconds to several minutes, and are often followed by aftershocks that may be of similar or greater strength than the initial event.

The size of an earthquake is known as its magnitude. Magnitude is a measure of the energy released at the source of an earthquake (the epicentre) and is determined from measurements recorded by seismographs. Magnitude is a logarithmic scale, meaning that an increase in magnitude by one unit represents more than 30 times the amount of energy the event releases. In Australia, this is typically reported as Local Magnitude (MLa). Seismographs measure the seismic waves generated by the interaction between blocks of rock on either side of a geologic fault. There are two main types of seismic waves: body waves, which travel through the inner layer of the Earth's crust and surface waves, which move along the Earth's surface. Typically, surface waves are responsible for most of the damage in an earthquake.

The other common measure of earthquakes is intensity, which describes the effects and experience of an earthquake at a specific location. This will vary across the landscape for a single earthquake and can be significantly different in even a small area. The intensity of an earthquake depends on factors such as magnitude, distance from the epicentre, depth of focus,

topography and local ground conditions.

Earthquakes in Australia are usually caused by movements along faults as a result of compression in the Earth's crust. Earthquakes can be caused by:

- underground volcanic forces
- the breaking of rock under the Earth's surface
- a sudden movement along an existing fault line.

Earthquakes can trigger other hazards (such as fire, structural collapse, and hazmat events) and have a range of impacts.

1.4 Roles and Responsibilities

The HMA has delegated the function of Controlling Agency for the hazard of earthquake to DFES.

A coordinated response to an earthquake emergency requires emergency management agencies and support services to undertake a variety of agreed and legislated roles and responsibilities. Each agency with a role or responsibility under this Plan is required to have appropriate documented operational procedures that clearly detail how they will carry out their responsibilities in accordance with this Plan. These arrangements should align with and complement other agencies roles and responsibilities outlined under the State Emergency Management Plan (State EM Plan).

Additionally, agencies affected by or contributing to the effective management for the hazard of earthquake should maintain a Business Continuity Plan to enable continuity of operations during an emergency.

Minimising risk and increasing resilience to earthquakes is a shared responsibility in which all sectors of the WA community have a role. Shared responsibility means that everyone understands their risk and understands their own responsibility and the responsibility of others to manage that risk (Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, 2023). This effort extends to all owners and occupiers, private sectors and industries, and all levels of

government.

Information regarding the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies under this plan are detailed in Appendix C.

1.5 Related Documents and Legislation

This Plan is to be read in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Framework including the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*, State Emergency Management Policy (State EM Policy), State EM Plan, relevant State Hazard Plans, State Support Plans, State EM Procedures and Guidelines.

This Plan is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) 2025
- State Planning Policy 34 Natural Hazards and Disasters
- State Health Emergency Response Plan, Department of Health WA
- Relevant Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)
- Relevant State Hazard Plans:
 - Collapse
 - Energy Supply Disruption
 - Fire
 - HAZMAT
 - Severe Weather
 - Tsunami

Legislation and codes relevant to this plan include but are not limited to:

- *Building Act 2011*
- *Building Regulations 2012*

- *Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 1998*
- *Fire Brigades Act 1942*
- *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- National Construction Code, Australian Building Codes Board
- AS1170.4 – 2024 Structural Design Actions Part 4: Earthquake Actions in Australia.

1.6 Assurance and Continuous Improvement

The management of earthquake emergencies is improved through collaboration and the sharing of knowledge between all stakeholders.

In support of this approach, anyone with a role or responsibility in managing the hazard of earthquake should engage with subject matter experts to ensure they maintain ongoing awareness of risks associated with earthquakes, and understand contemporary approaches to prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Additionally, DFES as the Controlling Agency will undertake reviews of operational performance to improve emergency management outcomes. DFES will review all aspects of earthquake incident management to ensure that it:

- Complies with relevant legislation
- Complies with the State Emergency Management Framework

When undertaking reviews DFES will:

- Consider feedback from all agencies involved
- Consider feedback from impacted stakeholders
- Ensure that opportunities for improvement and lessons are identified
- Take steps to implement identified actions to improve operational performance
- Make outcomes from the review process available where appropriate.

In accordance with State EM Policy statement 5.11.3 debriefs, reviews and analysis should be conducted by all state agencies following an event.

Where required and in accordance with the State EM Plan section 5.7.2, the HMA will provide post-operational response to SEMC.



Part Two:

**Prevention and
Mitigation**

While the occurrence and the magnitude of earthquakes cannot be prevented, proactively reducing exposure and vulnerability to earthquake hazards, and mitigating their impacts, can reduce longterm financial and social costs to communities, lessen impacts on the built and natural environments, and improve the resilience of the broader community. In WA, a range of prevention and mitigation strategies and projects have been developed and implemented to enhance planning and reduce risk associated with earthquakes.

2.1 Responsibility for Prevention and Mitigation

Responsibility for earthquake risk reduction and mitigation is shared across all levels of government, infrastructure and service providers, owners and occupiers, and the broader community. While the HMA provides hazard specific leadership for earthquake prevention, many key mitigation measures described in section 2.4—particularly land-use planning, building regulation and infrastructure design and maintenance—sit with planning authorities, local governments, owners and occupiers and industry regulators.

Prevention and mitigation roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies under this plan are detailed in Appendix C.

2.2 Hazard Risk Profile

Geoscience Australia (GA) develops the [National Seismic Hazard Assessments \(NSHA\)](#) for Australia. The 2023 National Seismic Hazard Assessment (NSHA23) is the most recent assessment and represents the best available national data for earthquake hazard.

According to the NSHA23, large areas of WA are seismically active relative to the rest of the continent, as shown in Figure 1. This figure represents the likelihood of a significant earthquake event occurring in the next 50 years with orange and red indicating a higher probability of occurrence. WA has two of Australia's most seismically active regions, the northwest and southwest seismic zones.

As recently as July 2019, Western Australia experienced Australia's equal largest recorded earthquake, a magnitude 6.6 event that occurred approximately 200 km off the coast of Broome. The 1968 Meckering earthquake (magnitude 6.5), which resulted in major damage, ranks as Australia's second largest recorded earthquake. Other significant earthquakes include the Meeberrie earthquake in 1941 (magnitude 6.3) and the Cadoux earthquake in 1979 (magnitude 6.1).

Earthquakes can be felt over long distances, with impacts experienced hundreds of kilometres away from the epicentre. During the Meckering earthquake, the McDonald Building at the corner of Barrack and Murray St, Perth CBD, 100 km away, was damaged. During the 2023 Gnowangerup earthquake (magnitude 5.0), nearly half of the people who reported feeling it were in the Perth metropolitan area, approximately 300km away.

Earthquakes in WA have several distinct components that influence their occurrence and risk, particularly their shallow depths and the occurrence of earthquake swarms.

Most earthquakes in WA are shallow, occurring in the top 10km of the Earth's crust. In shallow earthquakes, the strong seismic waves are closer to the surface, resulting in more intense surface shaking. This means that communities close to the epicentre will feel the earthquake more than a deeper earthquake of the same magnitude. The very shallow depths (often less than 5km) of WA earthquakes can result in damage from relatively low-magnitude events, causing damage to the built environment.

Western Australia is prone to earthquake swarms, which are sequences of moderate-magnitude events in a localised area. These swarms can last for months to years, with repeated quakes experienced in these areas over that time. The Arthur River Swarm started in January 2022, with over 380 earthquakes recorded within a 20km radius over the following 2 years, ranging in magnitude from 2.0 to 4.8. Repeated exposure to lower-magnitude earthquakes can result in damage not typically seen at lower magnitudes events, including building cracking and minor damage to fixtures.

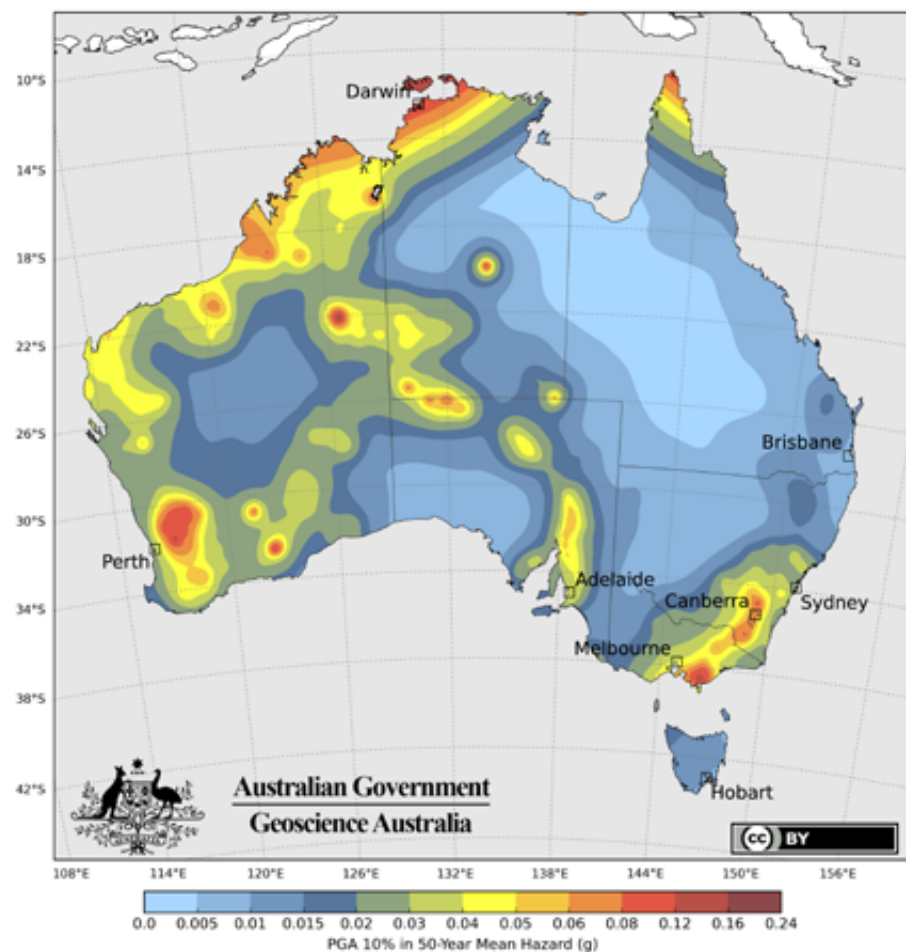


Figure 1: Hazard Map for a 10% probability in 50 years

2.2.1 Consequential hazards, risks and impacts

Earthquakes pose a high risk to people, the economy, public administration and infrastructure and can trigger other hazards (such as energy supply

disruption and collapse). A significant earthquake event has the potential to produce widespread and long-lasting consequences across the community.

Impacts can extend well beyond the immediate area, disrupting critical infrastructure, supply chains and essential services, and affecting multiple sectors simultaneously. Earthquakes can initiate cascading and consequential impacts, including loss of power, communications failure, transport disruption and damage to water and gas networks that compound over time and significantly increase the complexity.

These interdependencies, combined with aftershocks and secondary hazards, increase the scale and complexity of consequences. As a result, managing a major earthquake incident is inherently complex, requiring coordinated, multi-agency and whole-of-government effort in response and recovery.

Potential impacts identified through [SEMC's State Risk Profile](#) include:

- **People:** Earthquakes can cause significant numbers of fatalities and injuries. Further casualties may arise during earthquake emergencies where damaged roads restrict access to incident locations and health facilities. Most earthquake deaths and injuries are caused by the collapse of unreinforced masonry or other structures.
- **Economy:** Earthquakes can result in substantial economic loss to communities and businesses through damage to residential, commercial and industrial buildings. They can disrupt the supply chain (roads, trains, ports) and essential services (gas, water, power, petrol, communications).
- **Public Administration:** Evacuation centres may be overwhelmed, where many people are displaced and require temporary accommodation. Emergency management agencies could require interstate support to assist with service provision. Debris and waste management may also be challenging.
- **Infrastructure:** Damage to infrastructure providing essential services may take months to repair. Water and wastewater infrastructure may be badly damaged as their components are underground or in hard contact

with the ground.

- **Social setting:** Damage to residential buildings could result in a significant number of displaced people. This displacement may, in turn, generate psychological and emotional stress within the community. Loss of heritage and cultural buildings may also impact the community.
- **Environment:** Environmental contamination may occur as a result of asbestos becoming airborne due to building collapse or through wastewater and chemicals entering rivers and the marine environment.

2.3 Capability Assessment

The [SEMC Emergency Management Capability Framework](#) defines capability as the collective ability to reduce the likelihood and consequences of an emergency event across the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) spectrum. Capability is underpinned by five core elements: people, resources, governance, systems and processes.

Assessing capability in the context of identified risks and impacts supports the targeted development of capability.

The credible worst-case earthquake scenarios outlined below provide a capability baseline for assessing and developing emergency management capability. These scenarios are based on analysis of historical earthquake events, including the 1968 Meckering and 1979 Cadoux earthquakes, as well as Perth and York scenario modelling conducted in 2020.

2.3.1 Urban earthquake scenario

A magnitude 4.4 earthquake impacts Perth resulting in:

- the damage of 80,500 buildings, including the complete destructions of 10 residential buildings and 1,550 being rendered uninhabitable
- no deaths but slight to moderate injuries totaling 170
- 4,350 people requiring temporary housing.

2.3.2 Regional earthquake scenario

A magnitude 5.3 occurs near York on a busy weekend resulting in:

- The damage of 462 buildings, including significant impact on residential buildings
- 8 deaths, 1 severe injury and a further 3 slight to moderate injuries due debris from buildings falling onto the streets and sidewalks
- 11 houses being rendered uninhabitable.

2.4 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

While an earthquake cannot be prevented, its impacts can be mitigated through a range of strategies, including, adhering to building codes, promoting seismic reinforcement initiatives and conducting public education campaigns. This section outlines the strategies currently undertaken in WA.

2.4.1 Planning and development controls

Under the Western Australian planning framework, authorised under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, State and local planning controls must be consistent with State planning policies, including State Planning Policy 3.4 – Natural Hazards and Disasters.

The integration of earthquake risk management into State and local land use planning and development frameworks provides a key mechanism for reducing risk. This includes ensuring that strategic planning instruments, such as planning strategies, schemes, and structure plans, as well as subdivision and development applications, appropriately consider and address earthquake risk.

Incorporating earthquake risk treatment measures within these processes supports informed decision-making, particularly in areas identified as vulnerable to seismic activity.

Additional Strategies

- Responsible Agency: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage: Incorporation of earthquake risk management and associated treatment measures into State and local land use planning and development frameworks and processes.
- Responsible Agency: Local Governments: Development and implementation of local land use planning strategies, instruments, and controls that appropriately consider and address earthquake risk treatment measures

2.4.2 Building standards and codes

Application and enforcement of the National Construction Code for new buildings, and for existing buildings subject to significant redevelopment, can reduce structural vulnerability and contribute to improved resilience of the built environment to earthquake impacts. Building construction standards in Western Australia are established by the State, primarily through the adoption of the National Construction Code (as amended from time to time). Administration and enforcement of these standards is undertaken primarily by local governments under the *Building Act 2011*.

To mitigate impacts, since 1994,¹ there has been a requirement for all structures in Australia to be designed and built to a standard that:

- minimises the risk of loss of life from structure collapse or damage in the event of an earthquake
- improves the expected performance of structures
- improves the capability of structures that are essential to post-earthquake recovery to function during and after an earthquake and to minimise the risk of damage to hazardous facilities.

Notes

¹ Standards Association of Australia, Committee BD/6 and Standards Association of Australia, AS 1170.4-1993.

² Australian Standard - Structural Design Actions. Part 4: Earthquake Actions in Australia.

These requirements and standards continue to evolve in accordance with progress in our understanding of seismic activity in WA as well as developments in building technology.² The increased rigour in these standards and modelling advancements have strengthened resilience of buildings to earthquake events, to ensure performance is proportionate to the hazard risk.

Most post-1995 buildings that are not residential homes are designed for a 500-year average recurrence interval (ARI) level of ground shaking, with more important structures designed for rarer events. Tall modern buildings and structures built in the cyclonic regions of the state are more resilient as severe wind demands tend to be greater than earthquake.

2.4.3 Retrofitting and infrastructure resilience

As noted in section 2.4.2, changes to building standards have reduced the vulnerability of new construction to earthquake hazard. However, much of the pre-1995 building stock remains vulnerable to earthquake. This vulnerability is particularly high for unreinforced masonry construction and poorly detailed reinforced concrete framed buildings. Structural retrofit of high-risk assets can greatly reduce community risk.

While some guidance is available for the retrofit of buildings, such as in AS 3826-1998 *Strengthening Existing Buildings for Earthquake* (AS 1998), retrofit for earthquake vulnerability is not mandated and rarely undertaken. Structural retrofit of facilities which provide essential services following a rare earthquake event is particularly important. DFES collaborates with a range of stakeholders to research and promote such strategies as outlined below.

To support continuity of essential services, government agencies, essential service providers, network operators and other relevant bodies should

prioritise the retrofit or replacement of vulnerable infrastructure to withstand earthquake impacts and enable rapid recovery.

2.4.3 Research and monitoring

The State Government is undertaking a scenario planning project called WA UNHaRMED, to develop and implement a decision support system for land use planning. This project seeks to investigate current and future risk to natural hazards for climate change adaptation to ensure liveable and resilient cities and regions. The risk to earthquake is being modelled along with other hazards such as bushfire, coastal inundation and riverine flooding.

DFES partners with Geoscience Australia and other research institutes on collaborative projects to inform earthquake mitigation strategies.

2.4.5 Community education and engagement

DFES, in collaboration with local governments and GA, contributes to the development of education programs and materials to inform and educate the public on earthquake notification, risk and management.

This could include the HMA providing -

- Information about earthquake risk in WA, including likelihood and impacts
- Promoting awareness of retrofitting, securing heavy items, and safer property choices
- Broad community education for people living in higher risk seismic zones
- Public information products explaining what increases or reduces vulnerability.

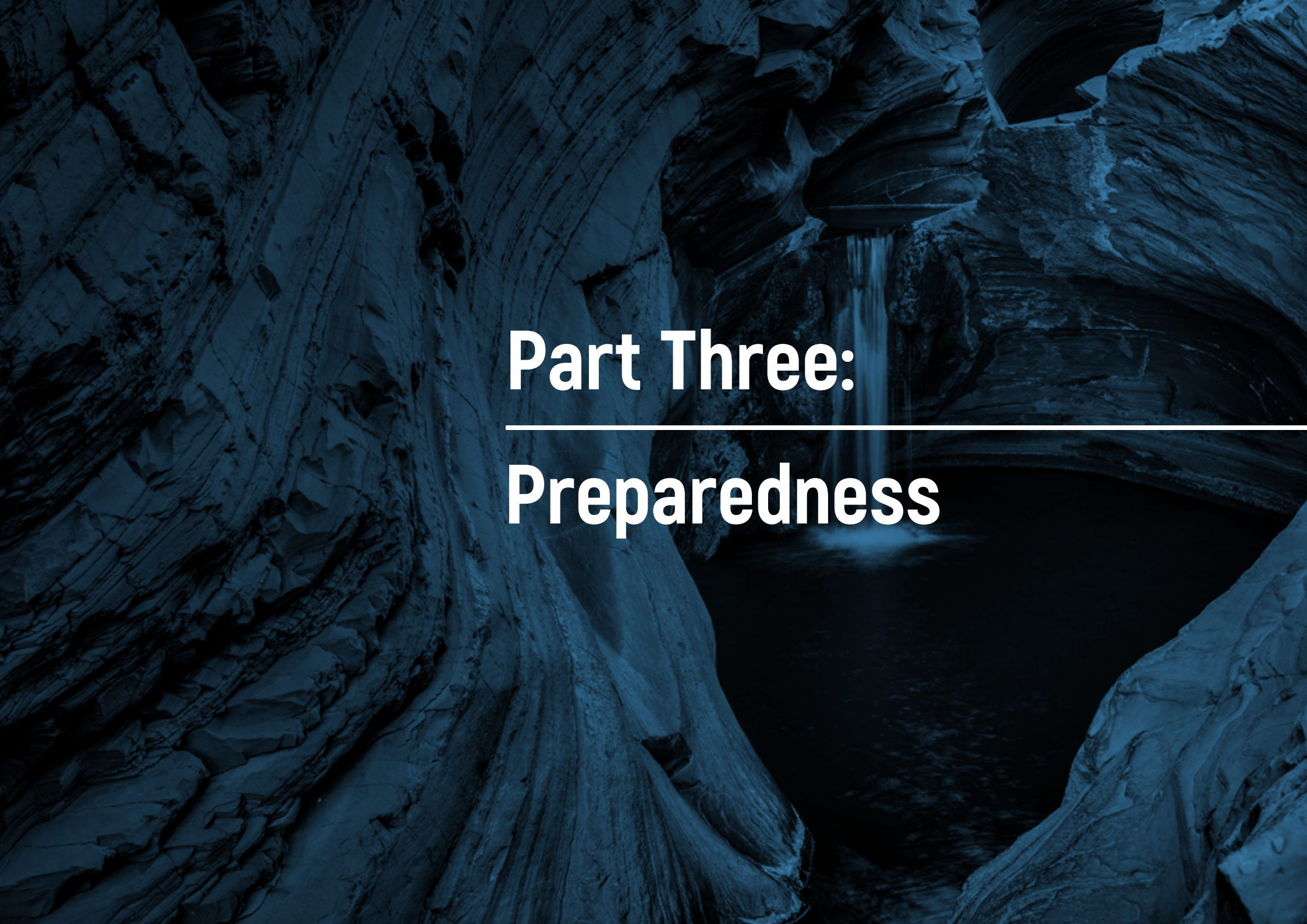
2.4.6 Risk Treatment Strategies

The State has adopted several key risk reduction strategies associated with earthquake emergencies. These strategies are outlined in Table 1.

Strategy	Responsible Organisations
Use of the National Seismic Hazard Assessment to target earthquake preparedness and planning activities.	Geoscience Australia (GA)
Participation in research directed towards better understanding the seismicity of the State.	DFES and GA
Participation in research directed towards understanding the impact of earthquakes on communities and critical infrastructure.	DFES and GA
Application and enforcement of the <i>Building Codes of Australia</i> and informed land use planning for vulnerable areas.	Local governments
Participation in research and development programs directed towards risk treatment strategies.	DFES, GA and local governments
Targeted provision of earthquake advice to the community to enhance hazard awareness and community resilience.	GA and DFES

Strategy	Responsible Organisations
Identification of suitable buildings for designated Evacuation Centres.	Local governments, in consultation with the Department of Communities
Ensuring the sustainability of service delivery of critical infrastructure through design and maintenance standards.	Essential services and network operators
Providing advice in relation to the design and maintenance status of critical infrastructure services and access routes in 'at higher risk' communities.	Essential services and network operators
Structurally retrofitting, where necessary, facilities, which provide essential services following any earthquake event.	All relevant agencies, industry owners, occupiers and operators
DFES provides information for communities to "prepare your property" on the website.	All community members, shared responsibility

Table 1 Earthquake Risk Reduction Strategies

A dark, blue-toned photograph of a rocky canyon. The rock walls are layered and textured, with a small waterfall cascading down the right side into a pool of water at the bottom. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

Part Three:

Preparedness

3.1 Responsibility for Preparedness

Preparing for the hazard of earthquake requires a collaborative approach and active commitment from owners and occupiers, the private sector, industry and all levels of government. Preparedness roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies under this plan are detailed in Appendix C.

3.1.1 Owners and occupiers

Owners and occupiers should undertake appropriate preparedness actions for earthquake with an understanding of their legislative and regulatory responsibilities, and their risk.

State agencies and public authorities involved in the management of earthquake should provide guidance and support to owners and occupiers to assist them in understanding their risks and plan appropriately.

3.1.2 Private sector and industry

The private sector and industry must prepare for the hazard of earthquake in accordance with their legislative and regulatory requirements. Preparedness actions must be relative to their level of risk and should acknowledge the surrounding risk profile and neighbouring preparedness arrangements. In accordance with regulatory frameworks, the private sector and industry are required to have emergency plans in place which may include preparedness provisions specific to a site or locality that may have broader implications on surrounding areas.

Where implications are identified, industry and private sector should be encouraged to table their plans at their relevant Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) for awareness. Relevant agreements or sections of their emergency plans may be referenced within the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) to provide greater understanding of the management of earthquake within their district.

In certain areas, some industry groups have established mutual aid agreements and/or systems that contribute to reducing the effects of an

emergency through rapid response and improved response capability.

State agencies and public authorities involved in the management of earthquake are available to provide guidance and advice to organisations on risk identification and preparedness measures

3.1.3 State agencies and public authorities

Each state agency and public authority undertakes a range of actions and activities to prepare for earthquake aligned to their legislative and regulatory requirements, and in support of broader community earthquake preparedness activities.

As the HMA, the FES Commissioner requires DFES to maintain a state of preparedness to provide an appropriate level of readiness to respond to earthquake. Local governments, combat and support agencies will also maintain a level of preparedness relative to the risk within their area(s) of responsibility.

As nominated Controlling Agencies, DFES, and local governments will assess their level of preparedness and undertake a range of pre-emptive activities. This may include a range of actions at state and/or district/regional and/or local level by the relevant agency and/or local government(s).

Controlling Agencies are responsible for the following preparedness activities within their respective areas of responsibility:

- provide the community with information and education and engage them in earthquake risk management prior to, and during an incident.
- establish response arrangements for each area of responsibility including mutual aid arrangements.
- train response personnel to allow a competent, coordinated, effective and safe incident response.
- undertake pre-incident planning and exercising to validate response arrangements and identify additional training needs.

DFES, in conjunction with local governments should identify and where possible, ensure suitable facilities and equipment are available to support the command, control and coordination functions at a state and/or district/ regional and/or local level

3.2 Planning and Preparedness Arrangements

This Plan establishes the framework for developing local, regional and state preparedness arrangements for the hazard of earthquake.

Planning at all levels is to include clear arrangements for the identification, prioritisation, sourcing, acquisition, maintenance and management of resources necessary to support preparedness and response activities.

3.2.1 Local arrangements

Under the Emergency Management Act 2005, local governments are responsible for developing and maintaining Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) which should include comprehensive emergency management (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery) arrangements. The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) advises and assists the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district. Where earthquake plans are developed at the local level, they should be consistent with the State Hazard Plan Earthquake.

DFES in collaboration with LEMCs and DEMCs may develop Local and District earthquake plans to address prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

3.2.2 Regional/district arrangements

Regional and district preparedness arrangements for earthquake are critical due to the potential for widespread and simultaneous impacts across multiple local government areas. Unlike hazards with more localised effects,

a significant earthquake may disrupt infrastructure, essential services and access across an entire district, requiring coordinated planning and response beyond individual local jurisdictions.

District-level arrangements should therefore prioritise integrated, multi-agency coordination, ensuring that planning reflects the scale, complexity and interdependencies associated with earthquake impacts.

District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs) play a key role in supporting regional and district preparedness by:

- Facilitating a shared understanding of earthquake risk across multiple local government areas
- Supporting the development of inter-agency response pre-plans that consider district-wide impacts
- Identifying critical infrastructure, essential services and key dependencies that may be affected across the district
- Promoting coordinated planning for resource sharing, support arrangements and surge capability
- Supporting the integration of local arrangements into a broader district-level approach

Regional and district arrangements should recognise that:

- Local impacts may exceed the capacity of individual local governments due to simultaneous demands across multiple areas
- Access constraints (e.g. damaged roads, disrupted communications) may limit immediate external support
- Coordination of resources, information and priorities will be required at a district level to support an effective response

Accordingly, preparedness activities should include the development and

testing of district-level coordination arrangements, including:

- Multi-agency exercising of earthquake scenarios with widespread impacts
- Pre-identified coordination structures aligned to incident escalation and complexity
- Mechanisms for sharing situational awareness across agencies and jurisdictions
- Planning for prioritisation of resources where multiple communities are impacted simultaneously

These arrangements should be regularly reviewed and strengthened to ensure they remain effective in managing the complex, cascading and systemic impacts associated with earthquake emergencies

3.2.3 State arrangements

Preparedness arrangements at the state level guide and support regional/district and local arrangements for the management of earthquake emergencies. Given the potential for earthquakes to result in widespread, simultaneous and complex impacts, state-level preparedness focuses on ensuring that resources, personnel and specialist capabilities are capable of supporting a coordinated and scalable response across the State.

As the HMA, the FES Commissioner is responsible for the overall provision and management of resources, personnel and specialised response capabilities required to physically respond to an earthquake event. This includes ensuring that capability is appropriately developed, maintained and positioned to support rapid deployment, while recognising the potential for disruption to infrastructure, access and logistics following an earthquake.

State-level preparedness arrangements include the development and sustainment of specialist capabilities such as Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), which are critical to safely locating, accessing and extricating persons from collapsed structures and complex environments. These

capabilities require dedicated training, equipment and readiness arrangements to ensure they can be effectively deployed in high-risk and time-critical conditions.

In addition, state arrangements include the prioritisation, procurement, pre-positioning and ongoing management of specialised equipment, vehicles and resources, ensuring they remain accessible, operational and appropriately protected from the potential impacts of earthquake events and associated secondary hazards.

3.2.4 Interstate assistance arrangements

Should the scale of an earthquake emergency be such that the total resources of the State cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation, DFES and/or the WA Government may seek assistance from other states and territories, the Australian Government or from overseas.

The Australasian Arrangement for Interstate Assistance (AIA) provides a framework for mutual assistance between Australasian fire services, emergency services and land management agencies. It supports the timely and meaningful exchange of fire and emergency management capability between Australian states and territories and between Australia and New Zealand. It does not replace any existing bilateral agreements that may exist between jurisdictions. It caters for occasions when significant resource deployments are requested for response to large scale events.

The AIA was developed and is maintained by the National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC), a division of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, in consultation with the Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC). The CCOSC of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has endorsed the AIA as the basis for sharing fire and emergency service resources across state boundaries and between Australian states and territories and New Zealand. The Commonwealth, through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), co-chairs CCOSC and is integral to this arrangement. The CCOSC and NRSC are primary points of contact for any request made through the AIA for an interstate deployment.

3.2.5 National arrangements

GA is Australia's national authority for earthquake information and advice. Through the National Earthquake Alerts Centre (NEAC), GA monitors, analyses and reports on significant earthquakes to alert the Australian Government, State and Territory Governments and the public about earthquakes in Australia and overseas.

GA has a series of remote sensing stations which enable the determination of the severity and location of an earthquake. The sensor network is connected to alarms and instruments in Canberra which alert GA who interpret the seismic activity and pass relevant information to the Australian Government's NSR and DFES. The notification system provides coverage 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

3.2.6 Australian Government and international assistance arrangements

The Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN), facilitates the provision of Australian Government Non-Financial Assistance to States and Territories, following a formal request. This assistance can include but is not limited to planning expertise, provision of geospatial services, counselling, advice, niche capabilities, management of external resources; and physical assistance. The State arrangements and process for requesting Australian Government assistance are detailed in State EM Policy section 5.10, State EM Plan section 5.6 and State EM Response Procedure section 4.20.

3.3 Preparing the Community

Preparing the community for earthquake requires a proactive and coordinated approach to building awareness, understanding and capability across all segments of the population.

Due to the unpredictable and no-notice nature of earthquakes, community preparedness must emphasise immediate protective actions, self-reliance in the initial phase of an event, and an understanding of the potential for

widespread disruption to infrastructure and services.

DFES works collaboratively with local governments, communities and volunteers to raise awareness and understanding of risks. Local governments and state agencies encourage and support measures to help prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

Local governments are encouraged to implement locally developed community education programs.

Media and public information strategies should be reviewed annually to ensure appropriate communication of earthquake information to the community.

3.3.1 Education and engagement

DFES, in collaboration with state agencies, local governments and community stakeholders, delivers education and engagement activities to improve community awareness of earthquake risk and preparedness.

Education initiatives focus on increasing understanding of:

- The sudden onset and unpredictable nature of earthquakes
- Immediate personal safety actions during shaking
- Preparedness measures within homes, workplaces and community settings
- The potential for cascading impacts, including disruption to essential services and infrastructure
- The importance of reporting their experience through GA's Felt Report tool

Engagement activities are designed to build community resilience by:

- Promoting shared responsibility in managing risk
- Encouraging the development of household and organisational emergency plans

- Supporting community participation in preparedness activities and exercises, including The Great Shake Out.
- Providing accessible and culturally appropriate information to reach diverse communities

Programs may include targeted engagement with schools, businesses, vulnerable populations and high-risk environments to ensure preparedness messaging is relevant and actionable

3.3.2 Community specific arrangements

Community-specific arrangements support localised preparedness and recognise that the impacts of earthquake will vary depending on geographic, demographic and built environment factors.

Local governments, supported by DFES and relevant agencies, should incorporate earthquake considerations into Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), including:

- Identification of community vulnerabilities and at-risk populations
- Consideration of evacuation, shelter and safe assembly locations where appropriate
- Planning for disruption to essential services, communications and transport networks
- Integration of earthquake scenarios into local planning, exercising and community engagement activities

Communities with unique risk profiles—such as remote, regional, industrial or high-density urban environments, should develop tailored preparedness arrangements that address their specific exposure, dependencies and recovery challenges.

These arrangements should be tested, reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they remain effective and aligned with broader state emergency management arrangements.

3.4 Preparing for Response and Recovery

Preparing for response and recovery from an earthquake requires a coordinated and capability-based approach across all agencies with roles and responsibilities under this Plan.

Identifying, developing and securing access to critical response-enabling resources, expertise and arrangements is an essential component of earthquake preparedness. Due to the potential for widespread, simultaneous and prolonged impacts, preparedness must consider the likelihood that infrastructure, access and routes and essential services may be disrupted, limiting the availability and movement of resources during the initial phases of response.

To ensure this Plan operates effectively, agencies are required to understand their roles, maintain appropriate capability and ensure that personnel are trained in their respective operational arrangements.

Preparedness activities should support the rapid transition from initial response to sustained operations and recovery, recognising the complex, cascading and systemic impacts that may arise from a significant earthquake event.

Emergency management agencies and support services are required to provide their own resources in the first instance and request additional assistance through established arrangements where required.

3.4.1 Training and Exercises

Exercises and training are critical to ensuring that preparedness arrangements remain effective, coordinated and fit for purpose across all levels of emergency management.

Agencies with roles and responsibilities under this Plan should undertake regular training and participate in exercises to develop and maintain the capability required to respond to earthquake incidents.

Exercises must be conducted in accordance with State EM Policy 4.8:

- **Local level**, to validate Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and test community-facing response activities
- **District level**, to assess coordination across multiple local governments and agencies, including district-wide response and recovery arrangements
- **State level**, to test whole-of-government coordination and strategic decision-making for large-scale earthquake scenarios

These exercises should include the testing of State Emergency Management arrangements, including the State Hazard Plan Earthquake, to ensure interoperability between agencies and alignment of operational and strategic responses.

Given the potential for earthquake events to generate widespread impacts and trigger cascading hazards, exercises should also be designed to test the simultaneous activation of multiple State Hazard Plans. This includes exercising the complexity of coordinating response and recovery arrangements where overlapping hazards (such as collapse, fire, hazardous materials or tsunami) are occurring concurrently or sequentially.

Accordingly, exercises should incorporate:

- Multi-hazard scenarios requiring concurrent activation of multiple SHPs
- Whole-of-system coordination across hazard management agencies and support organisations
- Integration of response and recovery activities under conditions of uncertainty and disruption
- Decision-making processes involving competing priorities and resource constraints across hazards

Exercise activities should reflect the characteristics of earthquake events, including no-notice onset, widespread impacts, disruption to infrastructure

and communications, and the requirement for sustained, multi-agency coordination across both response and recovery phases.

Lessons identified through exercises are to be captured and incorporated into continuous improvement processes to strengthen state emergency management arrangements and enhance readiness for complex, multi-hazard emergencies

3.4.2 Resources

The ability to effectively respond to an earthquake is dependent on the availability, capability and coordination of resources across all agencies.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring they have access to the appropriate personnel, equipment and expertise required to fulfil their roles under this Plan. Given the complexity and variability of earthquake impacts, resource requirements are likely to vary significantly depending on the scale, location and consequences of the event.

Resources required for earthquake response may include a broad range of capabilities, such as urban search and rescue, engineering assessment, medical support, logistics, infrastructure restoration and community support services.

Preparedness activities should therefore focus on ensuring that:

- Personnel are appropriately trained and capable of operating in disrupted and high risk environments
- Equipment and resources are maintained, accessible and suitable for deployment in complex conditions
- Arrangements are in place to support the mobilisation, prioritisation and allocation of resources where multiple demands exist simultaneously

Consideration should also be given to the potential limitation of resources due to infrastructure failure, access constraints and competing priorities across impacted areas.

Agencies should maintain flexibility in their approach to resource management and be prepared to adapt to changing conditions throughout the response and recovery phases

3.4.3 Evacuation planning

Evacuation planning is a critical component of earthquake preparedness and must account for the potential for widespread disruption to infrastructure and access routes.

Unlike hazards where evacuation may be pre-emptive or targeted, earthquake evacuation may occur under conditions where road networks, buildings and essential services have already been impacted, requiring flexible and adaptive planning approaches.

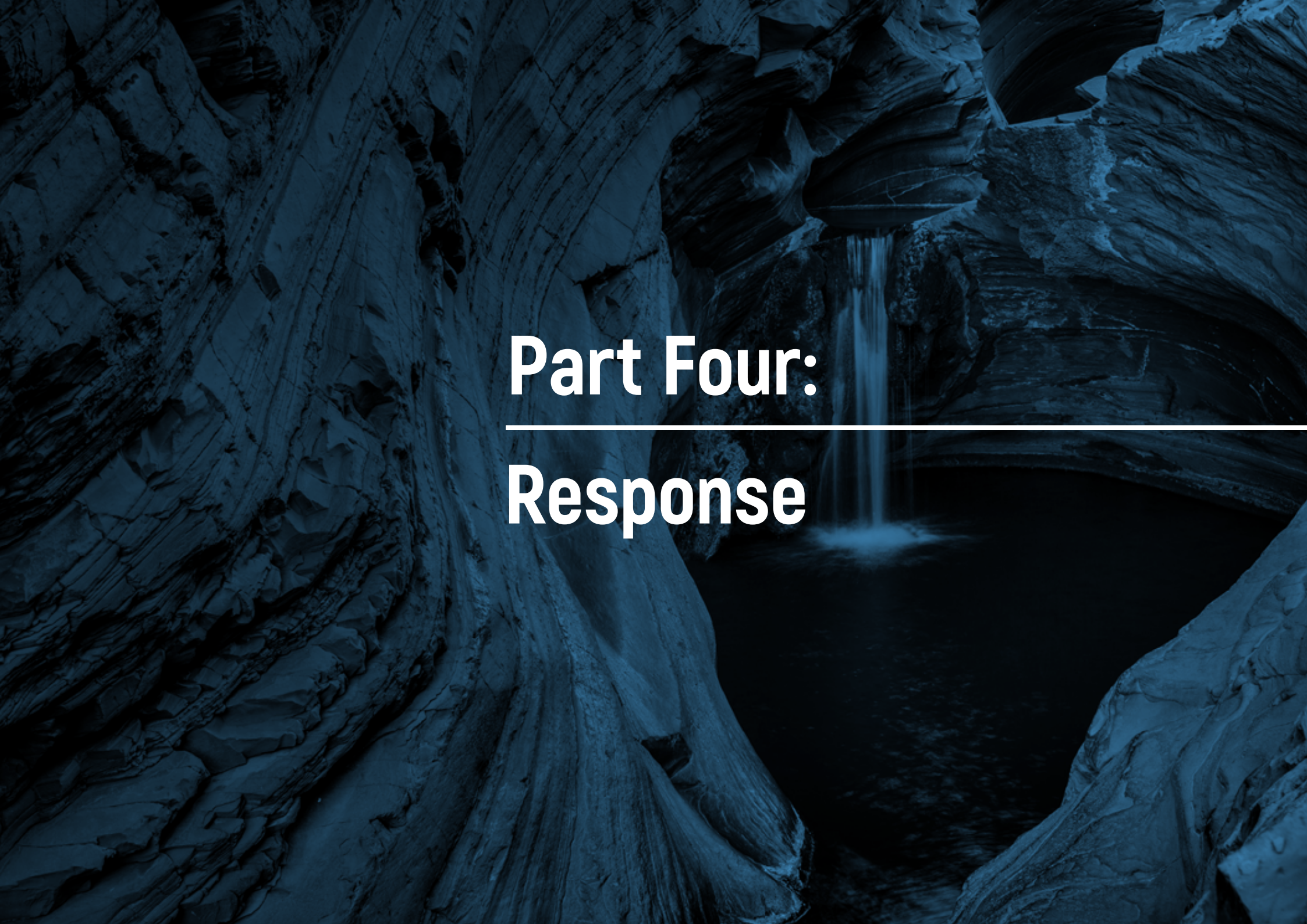
Evacuation planning should be undertaken at the district level, recognising that:

- Multiple communities may be affected simultaneously
- Primary evacuation routes may be compromised due to road damage, debris or congestion
- Access to evacuation centres and facilities may be limited due to structural damage or safety concerns

District evacuation planning should therefore include:

- Identification of alternate evacuation routes, including contingency options where primary routes are unavailable
- Consideration of the suitability and structural integrity of evacuation centres and facilities
- Planning for reduced accessibility and the need for decentralised or localised evacuation options
- Integration with broader district coordination arrangements to prioritise movement and support where required

Evacuation arrangements should be regularly reviewed and exercised to ensure they remain effective under conditions of disruption and uncertainty, and aligned with State Emergency Management policies, plans and supporting guidelines.



Part Four:

Response

4.1 Responsibility for Response

As the HMA, the FES Commissioner is responsible for the coordination of a response to the hazard of earthquake across Western Australia. An effective response requires collaboration between owners and occupiers, the private sector, industry, state agencies and public authorities, recognising that earthquake events may result in widespread, simultaneous and complex impacts across multiple jurisdictions and sectors.

In fulfilling this responsibility, the FES Commissioner ensures that response arrangements are scalable, coordinated and aligned across all levels of emergency management, including the activation and integration of local, district and state-level arrangements as required. This includes establishing appropriate command, control and coordination structures to support a unified approach to managing the emergency.

4.1.1 Controlling Agency

Controlling Agency arrangements for the response to an earthquake are determined in accordance with Western Australian emergency management arrangements.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is the Controlling Agency for earthquake response across Western Australia. As the Controlling Agency, DFES is responsible for developing and implementing rapid, effective, coordinated and integrated response arrangements for earthquake emergencies.

Other agencies and organisations will support earthquake response operations in line with their respective roles and responsibilities as outlined in this Plan, the State EM Policy and the State EM Plan.

Where required, DFES will coordinate the involvement of supporting agencies to ensure that response activities are appropriately managed, prioritised and aligned to the scale and complexity of the earthquake event.

4.1.2 Multiple hazards

In the event that another type of hazard occurs as a consequence of an earthquake, the designated HMA or Controlling Agency for the consequential emergency will be required to assist in combatting the effects of that emergency.

In accordance with State EM Plan section 5.1.2, 'where a subsequent hazard caused by the initiating hazards presents a significantly greater risk, management of the incident may be transferred to the relevant Controlling Agency for the subsequent hazard by agreement between the two agencies.

Given the nature of earthquake events, it is likely that multiple concurrent and cascading hazards will occur, resulting in a complex operating environment across several hazard domains. The HMA will engage relevant Controlling Agencies and supporting organisations at the earliest opportunity to ensure a coordinated, integrated and scalable response.

This coordination will be embedded within incident management arrangements at all levels, supporting a unified, whole of system approach to managing the response and enabling the transition to recovery.

4.2 Response Arrangements

When DFES assesses that an earthquake emergency will require a significant response, it will activate emergency resources and emergency management agencies which are proportionate to the intensity and, where possible, proximal to the location of the earthquake. This approach is consistent with DFES' commitment to incorporating local knowledge into its management structures and may include the activation of relevant local or district plans and the deployment of regionally or centrally based emergency personnel as required.

4.2.1 Local arrangements

Local arrangements are critical during the initial phase of an earthquake

event, particularly where impacts are immediate and widespread.

DFES coordinates the deployment of resources, including individual resources, specialist teams and task forces, to support response operations as required. Local agencies may also provide resources in support of neighbouring jurisdictions or as part of broader coordinated arrangements.

Spontaneous volunteers may provide a valuable role in supporting initial response activities following an earthquake. However, the use of spontaneous volunteers is at the discretion of the Controlling Agency and must be managed to ensure safe and effective coordination.

As recommended within State EM Policy, local governments should develop and maintain plans and processes to manage spontaneous volunteers during emergency events.

Where earthquake emergencies involve cascading hazards or complex impacts, response will be undertaken by the appropriate emergency management and support agencies, operating within their respective areas of responsibility.

4.2.2 Regional/district arrangements

Coordination of regional and district resources will be supported through DFES regional or district structures, including Regional Operation Centres (ROC) and/or the Metropolitan Operations Centre (MOC), as appropriate.

Requests for additional response support that exceeds regional or district capability may be escalated to the State Operations Centre (SOC) for further coordination and allocation of resources.

4.2.3 State arrangements

DFES, as Controlling Agency is responsible for activating and controlling the response to an earthquake emergency in WA and will implement arrangements that utilise identified emergency management agencies and support services to deliver an effective and coordinated response.

Soon after receiving advice of a damaging earthquake, DFES and all agencies with responsibilities for managing the event will collectively plan for the integrated management of impacts and consequences through established coordination structures, including the State Operations Centre (SOC), All Hazards Liaison Group (AHLG), MOC and relevant ROCs, Operational Area Support Groups (OASG), Incident Management Teams (IMT) and Incident Support Groups (ISG) established by DFES in response to the incident. While responsibility for resourcing and response activities initially rests with the Incident Controller (IC) at the local level, DFES coordinates the mobilisation and management of resources at the state level, providing strategic oversight of resource prioritisation, allocation and coordination across affected areas to ensure resources are directed to where they are most needed. The scale of activation is proportionate to the scale and requirements of the emergency, and the implementation of response plans.

4.2.4 Interstate assistance arrangements

Requesting Interstate Assistance

Where state resources are assessed as insufficient to meet the operational requirements of a significant earthquake emergency, DFES may request interstate or international assistance through established national resource sharing arrangements. This includes engagement with the AFAC National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC), which coordinates and facilitates interstate and international deployments of emergency management personnel and resources under nationally agreed arrangements such as the Arrangement for Interstate Assistance (AIA).

Requests for interstate assistance can be made by the FES Commissioner, directly to other jurisdictions or through these nationally agreed mechanisms to facilitate the timely deployment of personnel and resources.

All deployments are to be managed and undertaken in accordance with the policies, procedures and operational requirements of the providing and receiving agencies.

Requests for assistance may also be supported through Australian Government mechanisms, including the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN), where appropriate, to supplement state capability. These arrangements enable the timely mobilisation of additional resources to support a scalable and coordinated response to large and complex earthquake events.

All requests for Australian Government Non-Financial Assistance are to be made in accordance with State EM Response Procedure 4.20. Further information on the Australian Government Non-Financial Assistance arrangements can be found in State EM Policy section 5.10 and State EM Plan section 5.6.

In large-scale or catastrophic events involving widespread structural damage and concurrent rescue operations across multiple locations, requests for national and international assistance should be considered early and be coordinated centrally through the SOC.

Where the scale of the incident exceeds local and regional capacity, the event is to be managed as a single, state-level incident under a centralised command structure. This ensures consistent prioritisation, resource allocation, and integration of incoming Australian Government and international capabilities.

Consistent with international USAR doctrine, arrangements should support the establishment of:

- A single On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) to coordinate international and interstate USAR resources;
- A USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) to manage tasking, prioritisation, and oversight of USAR operations across multiple worksites; and
- Integration of all deployed teams under a unified coordination framework led by the State's Local Emergency Management Agency.

The application of structured Assessment, Search and Rescue (ASR) levels, sectorisation, and formal worksite identification is critical to managing

complex, wide-area incidents. These activities may occur concurrently across the incident area and require central coordination to avoid duplication, gaps in coverage, and unmanaged risk. This approach should be consistent with State Hazard Plan Collapse and recognises that large-scale collapse events may present as multiple localised incidents but must be managed as a single, complex emergency requiring coordinated state-level control and nationally consistent USAR arrangements.

Providing Interstate Assistance

Assistance to interstate, overseas and other jurisdictions for earthquake emergencies will be coordinated at a State level by DFES. This will include determination of the process involved and recognition of pre-existing arrangements for inter-jurisdictional assistance by other agencies where such arrangements exist.

The Minister must be notified prior to any deployment of any agency personnel.

4.3 Incident Notifications

The NEAC will send an email to DFES for all earthquakes. The NEAC will advise DFES of earthquakes 4.5 magnitude or greater for any area in WA. The NEAC will also advise a DFES representative directly when an earthquake of 3.5 magnitude or less occurs, if it is determined to have struck within or near heavily populated areas, or if reports of damage or felt reports are received.

These notifications then enable emergency managers to inform the community of earthquakes in their local region and for the appropriate level of emergency response and assistance to be dispatched.

DFES Communication Centre (COMCEN) is central to state-wide earthquake monitoring, reporting and the coordination of initial response activities. Requests for assistance from the community are received through established reporting channels, including Triple Zero (000), 132 500 and other agreed communication pathways. DFES COMCEN will assess and disseminate

information as required and ensure appropriate notification and activation of response arrangements. Any earthquake-related incidents reported directly to an agency must be communicated to DFES COMCEN as soon as practicable to support a coordinated and consistent statewide response.

If the event results in significant impact to the State and has the potential to attract national attention, DFES should send Situation Reports to the Australian Government's National Situation Room (NSR) regarding actions taken for this event. This will assist in maintaining a Whole-of-Australian-Government situational awareness and support requests for interstate and national assistance should any be required.

4.4 Incident Management

Controlling Agencies are required to apply the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) for the management of earthquake response in Western Australia. Incident management structures may vary based on pre-existing plans and arrangements and/or in accordance with the scale, complexity and impacts of the earthquake event.

Given the potential for widespread, simultaneous and cascading impacts, the focus of the IC and/or IMT may shift throughout the evolution of an earthquake incident. This includes movement through initial response, escalation and sustained operations, and into consolidation phases, where coordination of recovery activities becomes increasingly prominent.

As the incident progresses, response arrangements should support a structured transition to recovery-led operations, recognising the need to manage ongoing impacts, restoration of essential services and the broader consequences affecting the community.

4.4.1 Strategic Control Priorities

The State EM Policy (statement 5.1.6) identifies strategic control priorities for emergency response across all hazards. These priorities are not hierarchical; however, where there are concurrent risks or competing priorities, the

overarching principle of the protection and preservation of life must drive the identification and the prioritisation of all roles, decisions and actions associated with the emergency management response.

In the context of earthquake response, these priorities must be applied in a dynamic and complex operating environment characterised by no-notice onset, widespread impacts, infrastructure disruption and the potential for multiple concurrent hazards.

The Strategic Control Priorities are:

- Protection and preservation of life: this is the fundamental overarching priority for the State and includes prioritising the safety of:
 - emergency services personnel and
 - community members including at-risk community members, visitors and tourists located within the incident area
- Provision of community warnings and information: provision of timely, accurate and consistent information to support immediate protective actions and ongoing decision-making by the community.
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets: prioritisation of response actions to support the continuity and restoration of essential services, including health, communications, energy and transport systems.
- Protection of residential property: where possible, actions to reduce further damage and support community safety.
- Protection of assets supporting the livelihood of individuals and the financial sustainability of communities: recognising the potential for widespread economic disruption and the importance of supporting recovery.
- Protection of places of environmental and heritage significance: including consideration of damage resulting from building collapse, hazardous materials release and other secondary impact.

Controlling agencies should also consider the potential impact on cultural values and animal welfare from earthquake.

In applying these priorities, Incident Controllers and supporting agencies must consider the cumulative and cascading impacts of earthquake events, including the potential for constrained access, limited resources and competing priorities across multiple affected areas.

Decision-making should be adaptive and informed by situational awareness, ensuring that priorities are continuously reassessed as the incident evolves and transitions toward recovery.

4.4.2 Naming convention and incident number

The Controlling Agency is responsible for providing the incident name for each earthquake event they are managing. The naming of an incident must be representative of the affected location or impact area and be easily identifiable to responders and the community. Once an incident is named, it must consistently be referred to by that name for its duration.

DFES COMCEN is responsible for providing the incident number for all earthquake incidents once notified. The Controlling Agency must use this incident number, as well as the assigned name, to ensure consistency across reporting and coordination.

Where multiple incidents or impact areas arise from a single earthquake event, the Controlling Agency may establish a 'Complex of Incidents' to manage these collectively. A 'Complex of Incidents' can assist in improving the coordination and prioritisation of resources across multiple affected locations within a similar geographical area.

4.4.3 Incident levels

The declaration of an incident level is a critical component to ensure the IMT and the incident coordination structure are proportional to the size and complexity of the earthquake emergency, and that key emergency management stakeholders are engaged. State EM Response Procedure 4.2

enables one of three operational levels to be declared by the IC depending upon the incident conditions.

Typical conditions and the actions required for each of these levels can be found in Appendix D: Incident Levels and Actions Required.

Incident levels are used to describe the level of complexity:

- Level 1 earthquake incidents typically have a low level of complexity, that have a single or limited multi-agency response.
- Level 2 earthquake incidents typically have a medium level of complexity
- Level 3 earthquake incidents typically have a high level of complexity, requiring the coordination of a multi-agency response, recovery and significantly impacting the routine functioning of the community and infrastructure.

All earthquake incidents are regarded as level 1, unless declared otherwise.

DFES and supporting agencies will activate IMTs and mobilise resources appropriate to the scale, complexity and impacts of the emergency in accordance with the State's emergency management arrangements.

4.4.4 Incident management team structures

Appropriate IMT structures should be established by the Controlling Agency to support the incident:

- IMTs should be trained to a standard as recommended by the Controlling Agency when managing Level 1 or Level 2 incidents and should include personnel with local knowledge where practicable.
- Level 2 IMTs should include a Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Level 3 IMTs should include a Deputy Incident Controller, Safety Advisor and PIO
- Level 3 IMTs should be led by an agency endorsed Level 3 Incident Controller

Alignment of training standards across all agencies is essential to maintaining the safety of personnel and ensuring interoperability during earthquake incidents, particularly given the potential for multi-agency coordination in complex and high-risk environments. All IMT functional heads positions should be trained in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System and endorsed by their agency.

4.5 Public Information and Warnings

During the response to an incident, the responsibility for the management of public information remains with the HMA. The IC is responsible for authorising the issuing of alerts and warnings related to an earthquake, this includes authorising the release of information to the broader public and to those directly affected by the incident. Prior to the establishment of an IMT, this will sit with the DFES regions.

Emergency Management Agencies must share public information with one another during an incident. A single and coordinated approach for communicating public information and warnings is required when an earthquake impacts multiple areas of responsibility. Further details outlining emergency public information arrangements can be found in State EM Plan section 5.3.1 and State Support Plan Emergency Public Information.

4.5.1 Emergency WA

When an earthquake is detected by GA, an earthquake incident will appear instantly on Emergency WA with information about location, depth and magnitude.

If required based on magnitude and impact, DFES may issue detailed warnings to further inform community safety. Alerts and warnings will be published on the Emergency WA app and website, on the DFES emergency information line 13 DFES (13 3337), on DFES social media platforms and emailed to relevant stakeholders.

In addition to the above, DFES engages with a range of media to convey

information to the community through radio, television, online and print.

Where an earthquake has impacted power or telecommunications infrastructure, methods of communication not reliant on these services will be prioritised.

DFES will distribute earthquake notification messages to key stakeholders and responders to explain and guide immediate response actions to minimise impacts and maintain safety and security.

4.5.2 Australian Warning System

Western Australia has adopted the Australian Warning System (AWS), a nationally consistent approach to community warnings, for earthquake emergencies.

The AWS provides a standardised warning framework with three levels of warning, supported by consistent colours and icons to reflect the increasing or decreasing level of risk to life or property.

Warnings issued during an earthquake event are accompanied by an action statement, providing the community with a clear and concise call to action specific to their location and aligned to the current risks and impacts, including those arising from secondary hazards.

The frequency and detail of warnings will vary depending on the nature, scale and progression of the earthquake impacts. DFES will determine the timing and content of warnings to ensure they remain relevant and actionable for affected communities.

The Australian Warning System framework is outlined below.

Warning	Description
Advice	An earthquake has occurred or impacts are being assessed. There is no immediate danger. Stay informed and monitor conditions as they may change.

Warning	Description
Watch and Act	There is a possible or emerging threat to lives and homes due to earthquake impacts or associated hazards (e.g. structural damage, aftershocks, infrastructure failure). Take action to stay safe and prepare to respond.
Emergency Warning	There is a significant or immediate threat to lives and homes. You may be in danger and need to take immediate action. Follow emergency advice and instructions without delay.

4.5.3 Telephone Warning System

A Telephone Warning System (TWS) uses web-based technology to send alerts to landlines and mobile phones. It is an additional public information tool that can be used during an earthquake emergency where there is an imminent or ongoing threat, to alert people within a defined geographic area.

When an emergency warning area is identified or expanded due to earthquake impacts or associated hazards, a TWS may be utilised to support timely notification to affected communities

The IC or IC delegate can request activation of the TWS in support of incidents and emergencies.

4.5.4 Standard Emergency Warning Signal

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is a distinctive siren sound to alert the community that an emergency message is about to be broadcast. Its use is governed by State Emergency Management Response Procedure 4.3.

The HMA will authorise the use of SEWS to precede Emergency Warning messages delivered via broadcast media and public address systems. SEWS will only be used when people must take immediate action to reduce the risk of loss of life or serious harm.

4.5.5 Community Alerts

DFES will distribute earthquake notification messages to key stakeholders and responders to explain and guide immediate response actions to minimise impacts and maintain safety and security. Given the popularity and importance placed on social media by the community, DFES has incorporated several popular social media platforms into its community communication strategies, in addition to more conventional media platforms. Additionally, while DFES will engage with a range of media formats to convey information to the community, including radio, television and social media, the key platform to issue community alerts is the [Emergency WA](#) website.

NEAC Public Alerts

NEAC distribute earthquake notifications to the community through earthquake notification services. Member of the public can subscribe to receive earthquake notifications. Further information is available on the [GA website](#).

4.6 Controlling Movement during an Incident

The HMA has overall responsibility for ensuring effective evacuation strategies are implemented. For the hazard of earthquake, this has been delegated to the controlling agency, through the nominated incident controller. During an earthquake event, the management of movement of vehicles, people and animals within the affected emergency or operational area is the responsibility of the incident controller.

Further details outlining traffic management arrangements can be found within State EM Plan section 5.3.3 and the Traffic Management in Emergencies Guideline.

4.6.1 Evacuation

The decision to undertake an evacuation will be made by the IC.

Where there is the potential requirement for an evacuation centre to be

activated, the location of the evacuation centre(s) is determined by the HMA in consultation with the relevant local government(s) and the Department of Communities.

If evacuation is required, the HMA should activate the Department of Communities as a Support Organisation to provide Emergency Relief and Support assistance.

Evacuation planning for earthquake events should consider the potential for disruption to transport networks, including road damage and access constraints, and may require the use of alternative evacuation routes or decentralised evacuation options.

Further details outlining evacuation arrangements can be found in State EM Plan section 5.3.2, the WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline and the State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support.

4.6.2 Traffic Management During Emergencies

In order to ensure community safety, it is often necessary to alter the normal flow of traffic through an area affected by an emergency or its immediate surrounds. The DFES IC has overall responsibility for the management of traffic during an earthquake emergency.

It is acknowledged some agencies have traffic management responsibilities under legislation other than the Emergency Management Act 2005. It is recommended these agencies conduct those activities consistent with the framework created by the State EM Policy, Plan, Procedure and Guidelines.

Emergency management agencies supporting an earthquake emergency response should implement appropriate agency-specific procedures and training in accordance with State EM Plan section 5.3.3 for the conduct of immediate traffic management.

4.7 Support Services

During an earthquake emergency there may be a number of support services provided by relevant support organisations. These support services, including health services and emergency relief and support are outlined within State EM Policy section 5.9 and State EM Plan, section 5.3

4.7.1 Disaster Victim Identification

The WA Police Force are responsible for the emergency management activity – disaster victim identification (DVI). DVI activities will be coordinated with relevant agencies and organisations as required. Further information regarding DVI activities can be found within State EM Plan section 5.5.3.

4.7.2 Emergency Relief and Support

The Department of Communities, when required will provide emergency relief and support (ERS) services, as a prescribed support organisation. ERS services will be provided in accordance with the State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support.

4.7.3 Animal Welfare

In accordance with State EM Policy 5.9.7, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), are responsible for the coordination of animal welfare services during emergencies. Animal welfare services will be provided in accordance with State Support Plan Animal Welfare in Emergencies.

4.8 Declaration of an Emergency Situation or State of Emergency

The FES Commissioner has responsibility and powers in relation to natural disasters, including earthquake emergencies under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998. These powers are wide-ranging and are normally adequate

to respond to earthquake emergencies.

Should additional powers be required, the Emergency Management Act 2005 can be used to access emergency powers through the declaration of an 'Emergency Situation' or a 'State of Emergency'.

The State EM Plan provides further information on the arrangements for the declaration of an Emergency Situation (section 5.2.3) and a State of Emergency (section 5.2.4).

4.9 Funding Arrangements for Response

The State EM Policy describes the financial responsibilities of the HMA and Controlling Agencies during response to emergencies.

When prior arrangements are not established, costs for emergency response activities must be met by the HMA or Controlling Agency directing the response, unless it is the legislative responsibility of the Emergency Management Agency or other agencies or organisations supporting the emergency response to carry out that function or activity. Further information relating to funding arrangements during emergencies is outlined within State EM Policy section 5.12.



Part Five:

Recovery

Recovery involves restoring or improving livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities of a disaster-affected community. Recovery should support sustainable development and build back better, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

In WA, recovery activities are underpinned by the State Strategic Recovery Priorities:

- Community-centered and place-based
- Timely, responsive and accessible
- Restore and build back better
- Value First Nations Voice

Recovery begins at the onset of an emergency and runs concurrently with response, often continuing beyond the response phase. The extent and duration of recovery activity will depend on the nature, scale, complexity and consequences of the earthquake emergency.

5.1 Responsibility for Recovery

Under the State EM framework, recovery is a shared responsibility between affected communities, local governments, State agencies, essential service providers, industry, non-government organisations and the Australian Government where required. Recovery coordination arrangements are set out in Part 6 of the State EM Policy and State EM Plan and Part 5 of the State EM Procedure.

DFES, as controlling agency, will undertake the HMA's responsibilities of initiating and supporting early recovery activities.

The FES Commissioner, as the HMA for earthquake, is responsible for commencing recovery as soon as practicable during an emergency. DFES, as the Controlling Agency, will undertake the HMA responsibilities for initiating

and supporting early recovery activities on behalf of the HMA.

Under this Plan, DFES will carry out the following recovery responsibilities:

- initiating recovery activities during response
- preparing an Impact Statement for Level 2 and Level 3 incidents, unless an exemption has been granted by the State Recovery Coordinator
- including local and State recovery representatives in incident management and support arrangements where response and recovery occur concurrently
- transitioning responsibility for ongoing coordination of recovery activities to the relevant local government, unless otherwise advised by the State Recovery Coordinator
- where recovery needs exceed local capacity, supporting escalation to the State Recovery Coordinator, State Recovery Coordination Group or an appointed State-level recovery coordinator or controller.
- less complex recoveries will be managed by local government with support from State Government through existing services and agency support, as required. Where recovery needs exceed the capacity of local government, the State may take an increased role, which may include appointing a State-level recovery coordinator or controller, convening a State Recovery Coordination Group, activating State Recovery Domains and deploying personnel and resources to plan and deliver recovery programs and activities.
- the Department of Communities may provide emergency relief and support services, and The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development provide support for animal welfare during and emergency as part of any recovery effort as a prescribed support organisation under the Emergency Management Regulations 2006. Additional State agencies and entities may provide assistance within relevant recovery functional areas when requested by the relevant State Recovery Coordinator or Controller.

This does not displace a local government's responsibility under section 36(b) of the Emergency Management Act 2005 to manage recovery in its district. Recovery coordination will be assessed and reassessed by the State Recovery Coordinator under the State Emergency Management Policy Part 6 Appendix E (R1–R4). All events commence at R1 unless the State Recovery Coordinator determines another level. Response levels and recovery coordination levels are separate determinations

5.2 Recovery Characteristics and Considerations

In addition to the consequential hazards and risks or impacts described in section 2.2.1 of this plan, the distinguishing characteristics and considerations of recovery following an earthquake emergency may include:

- no-notice onset and aftershocks: Recovery commences in an uncertain and dynamic environment. Access, building safety, public information and responder safety arrangements may need to be reviewed as aftershocks occur.
- structural damage and building safety: Damage to residential, commercial, public, health, aged care, school and heritage buildings may require rapid safety assessment, exclusion zones, temporary works, demolition, engineering advice and staged re-entry arrangements.
- displacement and temporary accommodation: Damage to residential buildings may result in displaced people requiring emergency accommodation, temporary accommodation pathways and longer-term housing support.
- critical infrastructure and lifeline disruption: Power, water, wastewater, gas, fuel, telecommunications, roads, bridges, rail, ports and health infrastructure may be disrupted and require prioritised restoration.
- cascading and concurrent hazards: Earthquakes may trigger collapse, fire, hazardous materials, tsunami, energy supply disruption, landslide,

liquefaction, subsidence, contamination and public health consequences.

- debris, waste and contamination: Large volumes of debris, asbestos, contaminated water, wastewater impacts and hazardous materials may require early environmental health, waste and clean-up coordination.
- economic and supply chain disruption: Businesses, agriculture, tourism, freight, essential services and local employment may be disrupted by damage, access constraints, service interruption and insurance processes.
- community wellbeing and psychosocial impacts: Recovery may need to address trauma, grief, uncertainty, community isolation, loss of homes, loss of heritage places and prolonged disruption to normal community functioning.
- support for groups at higher risk: Recovery arrangements should consider Aboriginal communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, older people, children, visitors, tourists, remote communities and people with limited transport, communications or support networks.
- multiple affected local governments: A significant earthquake may affect several local governments simultaneously and may require district, regional or State-level coordination to support local recovery

Recovery planning should also consider impacts caused by response measures, including evacuation, road closures, restricted access, building exclusion zones, isolation of unsafe areas and disruption to normal business and community activities. These measures may be necessary to preserve life and safety but can increase recovery needs if they are prolonged.

5.3 Early Recovery

DFES will commence early recovery activities at the onset of an earthquake emergency during response operations. Early recovery activities may extend after the response phase has finished and should be planned in consultation

with the relevant Local Recovery Coordinator, local government and State Recovery Coordinator where required.

5.3.1 Commencement of recovery

Initial recovery efforts will focus on supporting life safety, reducing harm, understanding impacts, establishing recovery governance and enabling safe access for recovery agencies and affected community members.

DFES is responsible for undertaking the activities outlined in State EM Plan section 6.2.1.1 to initiate recovery:

- notifying the State Recovery Coordinator for Level 2 and 3 incidents, and where there is a declaration of an emergency situation or state of emergency
- ensuring response activities consider recovery needs, State Strategic Recovery Priorities, and advice from local and state recovery coordinators
- including local and State government recovery representatives in incident support arrangements (e.g. Incident Support Group, Operational Area Support Group)
- identifying and monitoring impacts, advising local government and the State Recovery Coordinator, and
- preparing an Impact Statement if required
- activating State Support Plan arrangements as needed, for example emergency relief services under the State Support Plan: Emergency Relief and Support
- incorporating recovery information into community engagement and public information communications
- support urgent recovery activities, including site access, logistics, initial clean-up of public places and restoration of essential services where required for public safety

- support arrangements for safe access to affected areas, including consideration of structural safety, aftershocks, exclusion zones, hazardous materials, debris and damaged transport networks
- identify whether local government recovery capacity is likely to be exceeded and whether district, regional or State-level recovery coordination support is required.

5.3.2 Impact Statement

An Impact Statement will be prepared for all Level 2 and Level 3 earthquake incidents in accordance with State EM Plan section 6.2.1.2 and State EM Recovery Procedure 5.3, unless an exemption has been granted by the State Recovery Coordinator.

The Impact Statement should describe the known, emerging and anticipated consequences of the earthquake across the recovery environments and should be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including members of the ISG, affected local governments, Local Recovery Coordinators, the State Recovery Coordinator, essential service providers and relevant technical advisers.

For earthquake emergencies, the Impact Statement should consider:

- People and wellbeing: fatalities, injuries, missing persons, displacement, emergency accommodation demand, psychosocial impacts, public health risks and impacts on groups at higher risk.
- Built environment: residential, commercial, public, health, aged care, education and heritage building damage; uninhabitable dwellings; building safety; demolition; debris and temporary works.
- Critical infrastructure and lifelines: power, water, wastewater, gas, fuel, telecommunications, roads, bridges, rail, ports, airports, hospitals, emergency services facilities and local government assets.
- Economic environment: business interruption, supply chain impacts, agriculture, tourism, freight, employment, insurance issues and local

economic disruption.

- Natural environment: asbestos, hazardous materials, wastewater release, contaminated runoff, land instability, waterways, marine impacts, waste disposal and environmental monitoring.
- Local government capacity: staff availability, local facilities, depots, records, plant and equipment, ICT, customer service capacity, local roads and ability to lead recovery.

The following positions are authorised to approve an Impact Statement on behalf of the HMA:

- Incident Controller
- Deputy Incident Controller - Recovery, where appointed
- the relevant Regional Chief Superintendent or delegated DFES officer, in accordance with DFES arrangements.

Where an Impact Statement has been compiled, the approving officer should provide it to the appropriate recovery coordinator and the State Recovery Coordinator. Where multiple local governments are affected, the State Recovery Coordinator may assist with the most effective approach to endorsement, dissemination and recovery coordination.

5.3.3 Recovery public information and communications

During the response, the HMA is responsible for issuing public information about recovery (State EM Policy statement 5.6.20). This responsibility then transitions to local government during recovery (State EM Policy statement 6.11.1).

DFES will engage the relevant local government, including its recovery communications team or staff, early during the response phase as part of the provision of public information about recovery. Public information should be coordinated, timely, accessible and consistent across DFES, local government, State agencies, essential service providers and support

organisations.

Earthquake recovery public information should address, where relevant:

- aftershock safety, unsafe buildings, exclusion zones and re-entry arrangements
- emergency relief and support services, evacuation centres, recovery hubs and registration processes
- temporary accommodation, building safety inspections, demolition, insurance and tenancy matters
- restoration of water, power, wastewater, gas, fuel, telecommunications, roads and public transport
- debris, asbestos, contaminated water, waste disposal and clean-up requirements
- health, sanitation, food safety, mental health and psychosocial support
- business support, local economic recovery, grants and financial assistance where available
- what is known, what remains uncertain, the next update time and the agency responsible for each matter.

Where required, DFES may request assistance from the State Recovery Coordinator or Controller to coordinate State-level recovery information and advice from State and Commonwealth agencies. DFES will continue to assist with information about ongoing response activities and public safety after recovery coordination has transitioned.

5.4 Transition of Recovery Coordination

Where ongoing recovery activities are required, DFES will plan and manage the transition of ongoing recovery coordination to the relevant local government or governments, unless otherwise advised by the State Recovery Coordinator. Where the scale or complexity of recovery exceeds

local capacity, transition may be to an appointed State-level Event Recovery Coordinator or Controller in accordance with State EM Plan section 6.2.1.3.

5.4.1 Timing of transition

Hazard Management Agency/Controlling Agency, affected local government(s) and State Recovery Coordinator will commence transition of recovery coordination once its agreed affected areas have been made safe and accessible for recovery activities.. In earthquake emergencies, the timing of transition is likely to be influenced by:

- whether immediate life safety, rescue and urgent response operations are complete, contained or sufficiently separated from recovery activities
- status of aftershock risk advice and whether access arrangements can be managed safely
- whether unsafe buildings, exclusion zones, road closures and access restrictions are understood and documented
- whether essential recovery providers can safely access affected communities
- whether emergency relief and support arrangements are operating and sustainable
- whether the initial impact picture is sufficient to inform recovery priorities, including completion or substantial development of the Impact Statement
- whether the Local Recovery Coordinator, Local Recovery Coordination Group and any required State recovery coordination arrangements have been confirmed
- whether ongoing response operations, residual hazards and agency responsibilities are clearly documented
- whether public information arrangements and the transition of recovery communications have been agreed.

5.4.2 Transition briefing

As part of the transition from response to recovery, the Incident Controller or delegated representative is responsible for briefing the relevant local government, Local Recovery Coordinator and incoming State-level recovery coordinator or controller, where appointed.

The transition briefing will include:

- known, emerging and anticipated impacts
- recovery activities underway and agencies or organisations involved
- key risks, issues, residual hazards and safety controls relevant to recovery
- arrangements for the development, approval, endorsement and dissemination of the Impact Statement, where required
- details of continuing response operations and associated coordination arrangements
- status of evacuation, emergency relief and support, temporary accommodation and recovery hub arrangements
- critical infrastructure and essential service restoration priorities
- public information arrangements and agreed lead agency responsibilities
- funding, cost capture and reporting considerations
- outstanding decisions, actions and escalation points.

Where an earthquake emergency has impacted multiple local governments, the Incident Controller should seek advice from the State Recovery Coordinator on the most effective and efficient approach to briefing affected local governments and establishing district, regional or State recovery coordination arrangements.

Where established, the SECG may support state-level recovery coordination following an emergency unless or until a State Recovery Coordination Group is convened.

5.5 Concurrent Recovery and Response Operations

In circumstances where an earthquake emergency requires an extended response and concurrent recovery operations, DFES will establish arrangements to coordinate response and recovery activities with the relevant Local Recovery Coordinator and State Recovery Coordinator or Controller.

Where a Local Recovery Coordination Group or State Recovery Coordination Group has not yet been established, the Incident Controller should request that the relevant recovery coordinator consider participation in the IMT, ISG or OASG. Where a Local Recovery Coordination Group or State Recovery Coordination Group is established, recovery liaison arrangements should be implemented through the ISG and/or OASG to support information sharing and coordination between response and recovery functions.

Concurrent arrangements should ensure that response operations continue to prioritise life safety while enabling recovery agencies to safely commence relief, impact assessment, community engagement, temporary accommodation planning, essential service restoration, debris management and recovery needs assessment.

5.6 Recovery Operations

Following transition of recovery coordination, DFES, as the Controlling Agency for the initiating incident, will attend initial meetings of the State and/or Local Recovery Coordination Groups where invited to assist with understanding the emergency context, impacts, residual risks and response activities that may affect recovery.

Earthquake recovery operations should be structured around the recovery environments and the functional recovery requirements of the event. Recovery coordination should remain flexible and proportionate to the scale, complexity, duration and geographic spread of impacts.

Recovery operations may include:

- Community and wellbeing: emergency relief and support, registration and reunification, outreach, recovery hubs, psychosocial support, public health advice, support for groups at higher risk and community engagement.
- Built environment: building safety assessment, re-entry advice, demolition, temporary works, debris removal, public buildings, heritage places, roads, bridges, local government assets and reconstruction priorities.
- Essential services: prioritised restoration of power, water, wastewater, gas, fuel, telecommunications, transport, health services and emergency services facilities.
- Economic recovery: business continuity support, local industry liaison, agriculture and tourism impacts, freight and supply chain restoration, insurance liaison, grants advice and local procurement opportunities.
- Natural environment and waste: asbestos, hazardous materials, contaminated runoff, wastewater impacts, waste disposal, environmental monitoring, land instability and restoration of affected natural assets.
- Public information and engagement: community meetings, recovery updates, local communication channels, accessible information, Aboriginal engagement, CaLD communications and rumour management.
- Finance, funding and assistance: cost capture, relief measures, grant coordination, funding submissions, reporting, acquittal and betterment opportunities.
- Lessons and assurance: observations, debriefs, insights, lessons identified, improvement actions, post-operation reporting and monitoring of implementation.

DFES will assist relief and recovery agencies to deliver essential services in safe and accessible community-based locations, where requested and where this is consistent with ongoing response priorities and safety requirements

5.6.1 Recovery programming

Recovery programming should be based on the Impact Statement, community needs assessment, local recovery priorities and State Strategic Recovery Priorities. Likely earthquake recovery programs may include:

- emergency relief and support, including emergency accommodation, food, clothing, personal support, registration and reunification
- temporary accommodation and longer-term housing support for displaced people
- building safety assessment, re-entry management, demolition, temporary works and reconstruction advice
- critical infrastructure and lifeline restoration
- debris, asbestos, hazardous materials, waste and environmental clean-up coordination
- public health, sanitation, drinking water, food safety, mental health and psychosocial recovery support
- business and economic recovery, including business continuity support, grants advice and local industry liaison
- community recovery hubs and targeted outreach to affected communities and groups at higher risk
- insurance, legal, tenancy and documentation support, where available through relevant agencies or service providers
- community engagement, including place-based engagement, Aboriginal engagement and accessible communication
- reconstruction, betterment and mitigation opportunities to reduce future earthquake risk
- lessons management, assurance and post-operation review.

For more general information <https://dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/earthquake/recovery>

5.7 Recovery Funding and Assistance Arrangements

State Government provides a range of relief measures to assist communities recover from an eligible event. Event specific information about the availability and eligibility of these programs will be provided on [EmergencyWA](#), and other approved recovery communication channels.

Recovery funding and assistance for earthquake emergencies should be considered early, with agencies and local governments maintaining records of costs incurred in providing assistance and undertaking recovery activities. Cost capture should commence during response and continue throughout recovery.

Where an earthquake emergency meets relevant eligibility requirements, recovery funding may include State assistance, joint State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Australian Government assistance or other event-specific funding measures. Funding availability and eligibility will depend on the nature, scale and consequences of the event and any formal activation or approval requirements.

The State Recovery Coordinator will liaise with affected local governments, DFES and relevant State agencies to consider recovery funding needs and identify appropriate funding strategies. Funding considerations should include:

- emergency relief and support costs
- temporary accommodation and community support requirements
- clean-up, debris removal, asbestos and hazardous materials management
- restoration or reconstruction of eligible public assets

- business and primary producer support, where available
- community recovery, psychosocial support and recovery hub operations
- betterment and resilience opportunities where damaged assets are being rebuilt
- reporting, acquittal and audit requirements.

Where possible, recovery funding strategies should support the State Strategic Recovery Priorities and the principle of building back better, particularly for critical infrastructure, evacuation centres, public buildings and essential community assets vulnerable to future earthquake impacts.

The background of the slide is a dark blue, monochromatic photograph of a rocky canyon. The rock walls are steep and show clear horizontal sedimentary layering. In the center-right background, a small waterfall cascades over a rock ledge into a pool of water below. The overall lighting is dim, creating a moody and atmospheric scene.

Appendices

Appendix A: Distribution

This State Hazard Plan is available on the [SEMC website](#). The agencies below will be notified by the HMA (unless otherwise specified) when an updated version is published on this website.

- All agencies and organisations with responsibilities under this Plan
- National Emergency Management Agency (SEMC Business Unit to notify)
- Minister for Emergency Services (SEMC Business Unit to notify)
- State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), SEMC subcommittees and SEMC reference group members (SEMC Business Unit to notify)
- State Library of Western Australia (SEMC Business Unit to notify)

Appendix B: Terms and Acronyms

Terminology used throughout this document has the meaning prescribed in section 3 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* or as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary. In addition, the following hazard-specific acronyms apply.

B1: Glossary of terms

Acronym	Meaning
Earthquake	The sudden release of energy and resulting ground shaking caused by movements within the Earth's crust.
Fault Plane	Underground surface along which rock breaks and moves.
Tectonic Plates	Large plates forming the Earth's crust whose interactions cause seismic activity.
Liquefaction	Ground failure where saturated soil loses strength during shaking.
Subsidence	Ground sinking or settling due to seismic activity.
Landslide	Mass movement of earth material triggered by shaking.
Controlling Agency	An agency nominated to control the response activities to a specified type of emergency. The responsibility for being a Controlling Agency stems from either: • legislation other than the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> • by agreement between the relevant Hazard Management Agency and one or more agencies.
Emergency Relief and Support Services	Provision of immediate and ongoing social supports to alleviate, as far as practicable, the effects on individuals impacted by an emergency.
Evacuation Centre	An identified facility to support safe shelter for the evacuation of impacted people and communities
Local Recovery Coordinator	Responsible for the development and implementation of recovery arrangements for the local government, in conjunction with the Local Recovery Coordination Group (LRCG).
Local Recovery Coordination Group	Coordinate and support local management of the recovery process by assessing the consequences of the event and coordinating recovery activities to rebuild, restore and rehabilitate the social, built, economic and natural environments within the community during an emergency event.

Acronym	Meaning
Metropolitan Operations Centre	Responsible for supporting emergency incidents and maintaining situational awareness of emerging threats and risks across their designated DFES regions.
Owner and occupiers	Owners are individuals or entities that hold legal title to a property or land. Occupiers are individuals or entities that reside in or use a property or lands regardless of whether they own it. Owners and occupiers include individual tenure owners and occupants and extends to private sector and industry, and all levels of government (Local, State, Commonwealth).
Private sector and industry	In this Plan, the term "private sector" encompasses businesses and organisations that are not controlled by the government, including sole traders, partnerships, and for-profit companies, as well as some not-for-profit organisations that are not constitutional corporations. The term "industry" applies to range of economic sectors that may encompass the private sector; including but not limited to the mining and energy sectors, agriculture, manufacturing, building and construction, the services sector, technology and trade.
Public authority	Under section 3 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>, a 'public authority' is defined as: • a department of the Public Service established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (PSM Act) • an organisation specified in column 2 of Schedule 2 to the PSM Act • a non-SES organisation within the meaning of the term in section 3(1) of the PSM Act • a local government or a regional local government • a body that is established or continued for a public purpose under a written law • a body that is established by the Governor or a Minister • any other body or the holder of an office referred to in subsection (2) that is declared by the regulations to be a public authority.
Regional Operations Centre	Responsible for supporting emergency incidents and maintaining situational awareness of emerging threats and risks across their designated DFES regions.
State agency	In WA, a state agency refers to a government entity, department, or authority established by or under laws of the state, including departments, legislative authorities, and other bodies that are part of the Western Australian government sector.

Acronym	Meaning
State Emergency Management Framework	The State Emergency Management Framework is made up of legislation, policy, plans, procedures, guidelines and a governance structure to facilitate effective management of emergencies in WA.
State Operations Centre	The DFES State Operations Centre (SOC) coordinates the strategic activities of the FES Commissioner in delivering their emergency management responsibilities as a HMA under the provisions of WA Legislation.
State Recovery Coordinator	Coordinates and supports a whole-of-government approach to recovery efforts, including maintaining state recovery arrangements and plans, and supporting state-level recovery coordination through a State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG).
State Recovery Coordination Group	The SRCG is responsible for state-level recovery coordination and facilitation in complex or prolonged recovery operations.

B2: Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AHLG	All Hazards Liaison Group
AIA	Arrangements for Interstate Assistance
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ANZEMC	Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee
ARI	Average Recurrence Interval
CCOSC	Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee
COMDISPLAN	Australian Disaster Response Plan
DACC	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Acronym	Meaning
FES	Fire and Emergency Services
GA	Geoscience Australia
HMA	Hazard Management Agency
IC	Incident Controller
IMT	Incident Management Team
ISG	Incident Support Group
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
MOC	Metropolitan Operations Centre
NBN	National Broadband Network
NEAC	National Earthquake Alerts Centre
NRSC	National Resource Sharing Centre
NSHA	National Seismic Hazard Assessments

Acronym	Meaning
NSR	National Situation Room
OAM	Operational Area Manager
OASG	Operational Area Support Group
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
ROC	Regional Operation Centre
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SECG	State Emergency Coordination Group
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SOC	State Operations Centre
TWS	Telephone Warning System
WAPC	Western Australia Planning Commission

Appendix C: Roles and Responsibilities

The FES Commissioner requires DFES to discharge the duties of the HMA for the management of earthquake in WA. However, DFES requires the support and assistance of other organisations to ensure an integrated approach to earthquake management is achieved.

This appendix outlines the roles and responsibilities of agencies and organisations across the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) domains relating to the hazard of earthquake in support of the HMA. The State EM Plan, Appendix E outlines the roles and responsibilities for PPRR across all-hazards.

Organisations and agencies with a hazard specific role will undertake the agreed responsibilities, as detailed throughout this appendix. All agencies should maintain appropriate internal plans and procedures in relation to the specific agency responsibilities.

Note: The ability of each local government to meet the responsibilities identified in this State Hazard Plan should be considered by the HMA. Any specific considerations or constraints should be captured within in the LEMA

C1: Prevention and mitigation roles and responsibilities

Organisation	Prevention and Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Supporting the FES Commissioner in their role as the HMA in holding the overall responsibility for risk reduction aspects of earthquake events, within the limitations of legislation, resource capabilities and capacity. - Ensure the development and maintenance of response and risk treatment plans specific to earthquakes. - Recommend the adoption of risk treatment strategies to State, District and Local Emergency Management Committees. - Participate in research directed towards better understanding the seismicity of the State. - Participate in research directed towards understanding the impact of earthquakes on communities and critical infrastructure. - Participate in research and development programs directed towards risk treatment strategies. - Provide earthquake advice to the community.
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Incorporate earthquake risk treatment measures into state and local planning and development processes.

Organisation	Prevention and Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities
Essential services and network operators	a. Ensure the sustainability of service delivery of critical infrastructure through design and maintenance standards. b. Provide advice in relation to the design and maintenance status of critical infrastructure services and access routes in 'at higher risk' communities.
Geoscience Australia	a. Provide a National Seismic Hazard Assessment. b. 24/7 earthquake monitoring, detection and analysis via the National Earthquake Alerts Centre c. Participate in research directed towards better understanding the seismicity of the State. d. Participate in research directed towards understanding the impact of earthquakes on communities and critical infrastructure. e. Participate in research and development programs directed towards risk treatment strategies. f. Provide earthquake advice to the community. g. Participate in research and development of earthquake models and techniques to improve earthquake forecasting notification and mitigation.
Local Government Authorities	a. Develop and ensure appropriate local planning controls, consistent with objectives and requirements set by the Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC). b. Apply and enforce the Building Codes of Australia and informed land use planning for vulnerable areas. c. Participate in research and development programs directed towards risk treatment strategies. d. Identify suitable buildings for designation as Evacuation Centres in consultation with Department of Communities.
Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC)	a. Approve subdivision applications and has delegated powers for the determination of development applications to local governments and development assessment panels.

Organisation	Prevention and Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities
Government agencies, essential services, network operators, State Agencies and Public Authorities	a. Are recommended to structurally retrofit, where necessary, facilities, which provide essential services following any earthquake event.
Private sector and industry, owners, occupiers and operators of facilities	a. Are recommended to structurally retrofit, where necessary, facilities, which provide essential services following any earthquake event.
The Community	a. Are to identify specific risks and recommend mitigation steps, aligned to current shared responsibility principles or emergency management.

C2: Preparedness roles and responsibilities

Organisation	Preparedness Roles and Responsibilities
Community	b. Maintain awareness and participate in campaigns aligned to current shared responsibility principles of emergency management.
Department of Communities	a. Consult with local governments and Emergency Management agencies, to identify refuge sites and evacuation centres appropriate for the hazards identified within a local government area of responsibility. b. Prepare for the provision of emergency relief and support services as outlined in the State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support section 3.2.

Organisation	Preparedness Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Role: Supporting the FES Commissioner in their role as HMA. - Promote research, mitigation and resilience activities within communities to improve the management of future risks. - Promote all emergency management activities related to earthquake preparedness. - Develop, maintain, review and exercise this Plan, in consultation with key stakeholders. - Where areas susceptible to earthquake are identified as a risk to the community, may develop Local and District earthquake plans to address prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities. - Periodically test and validate local, regional/district and State earthquake plans. - Provide and manage resources and personnel required to physically respond to an earthquake event, including: - establish, equip, train and maintain an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force - prioritise, procure and allocate specialist equipment and vehicles - safely store equipment and vehicles in locations that provide ease of access but protection from the impacts of earthquakes (including land form or structural collapse, fire and hazardous materials). - Contribute to the development of education programs and materials to inform and education the public on earthquake notification, risk and management. - Promote community awareness of earthquake risk, personal protective activities and preparedness activities to reduce earthquake risk. - Annually review media and public information strategies to ensure appropriate communication of relevant hazard information to the community.
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage	Incorporate earthquake risk treatment measures into state and local planning and development processes.

Organisation	Preparedness Roles and Responsibilities
Emergency Management Agencies and support services with a response role or responsibility in this plan	a. Work with state based Controlling Agencies to establish arrangement that clearly define response responsibilities in accordance with relevant legislation. b. Are recommended to maintain appropriate public information arrangements, policy, plans and procedures in relation to their specific responsibilities. c. Are recommended to maintain a Business Continuity Plan to ensure they maintain capabilities in the event of an earthquake emergency. d. Plan to provide their own resources in the first instance and request additional resources from DFES if required.
Essential Service Providers	a. Are recommended to maintain a Business Continuity Plan to ensure they maintain capabilities in the event of an earthquake emergency impacting the state. b. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake planning committees, where practicable.
Geoscience Australia	a. Are recommended to maintain appropriate public information arrangements, policy, plans and procedures in relation to their specific responsibilities, via the National Earthquake Alerts Centre. b. Store and provide historical earthquake intelligence data and information. c. Contribute to the planning, installation and maintenance of new and improved earthquake warning/notification systems. d. Participate in community awareness programs on earthquakes.
Local Government Authorities	a. Develop local emergency management arrangements with the advice of the Local Emergency Management Committee. b. Identify and establish refuge sites and evacuation centres in partnership with Department of Communities. c. Participate in community awareness programs on earthquake risks.

Organisation	Preparedness Roles and Responsibilities
Private sector and industry owners and operators & operators of facilities	a. Are recommended to cooperate with their LEMC by participating in the local planning process.
Public Transport Authority	b. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake planning committees, where practicable.
WA Police Force	c. Participate in the development of emergency management arrangements. d. Participate in joint exercises with DFES and local government when requested.

C4: Response roles and responsibilities

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Arc Infrastructure & Australian Rail track Corporation (ARTC)	a. Provide advice to DFES of the potential and actual impacts of earthquake on the State rail network. b. Communicate rail closures to the public. c. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. d. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG, as required. e. Provide a representative for SECG, if required. f. Provide engineering support, if required.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Communities	a. In consultation with DFES, and consideration of available resources, determine the number and location of evacuation centres to be opened during an earthquake emergency. b. Staff evacuation centres. c. Facilitate evacuee registrations. d. Participate in the emergency recovery arrangements for people affected by earthquakes. e. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. f. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required. g. Provide a representative for SECG if required.
Department of Defence	a. Provide a liaison officer or IMT representative for earthquakes where state-based Controlling Agency resources are working on Department of Defence land and/or with Department of Defence personnel. b. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. c. Provide a representative to the ISG/OSAG/AHLG, as required.
Department of Fire & Emergency Services	a. Discharge the duties of HMA and Controlling Agency for earthquake emergencies, in accordance with the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> and State EM Policy section 5 and State EM Plan section 5. b. Provide public information to impacted communities. c. Liaise with other relevant agencies to ensure response operations are coordinated. d. Liaise with local government in the provision of incident control centres in earthquake susceptible areas of the State. e. Facilitate the provision of assistance as required. f. Request activation of the State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG) and provide a representative for SECG if required. g. Establish relief funding and provide community advice on mechanism for application.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Health	a. Coordinate the health response in an earthquake situation, including the activation of the State Health Emergency Response Plan if required. b. Advise DFES on all medical and health aspects in relation to earthquake situation c. Through the hospital stream, provide acute medical care and relief to injured persons. d. Through the public health stream, provide environmental health, public health, mental health and communicable disease control services as required. e. Maintain an awareness of the readiness of health service infrastructure including assessment of impact on clinical services, response and/or evacuation requirements. f. Provide acute health services, particularly to those persons within the affected community who have chronic medical conditions. g. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. h. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required. i. Provide a representative for SECG if required.
Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation & Safety (LGIRS)	a. Assist in specific technical strategies that fall within the remit of LGIRS. b. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. c. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required.
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	d. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. e. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Pollution Response Unit)	a. To administer the pollution and waste management control provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> and the provisions of the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2006</i>. b. To be contactable and available on a 24/7 basis. c. Provide advice on potential dangers to the environment and preferred actions with respect to contamination control measures, decontamination (where required), neutralisation, clean up, minimisation of wastes, disposal of wastes and other actions to minimise or mitigate environmental impact. d. Provide on-site representative for technical advice and other such assistance that may be appropriate and available when required by DFES. e. Provide and co-ordinate environmental monitoring (such as particulates and dust, air toxins and contaminated water) during the emergency response and recovery phase for off-site impacts in the air or water using scientific instrumentation and/or sample collection as required. f. Determine the level of clean up, disposal and site restoration required and advise of any residual environmental impacts. g. Provide a written report and/or participate in post operation debriefs on the emergency as required. h. Coordinate/monitor long term clean-up, when required. i. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. j. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required.
Energy Suppliers and Network Managers	a. Disconnect and restore energy services as prioritised by DFES or the designated recovery authority. Restoration priority will include consideration of other lifeline interdependence requirements. b. Provide technical advice to DFES in relation to energy supply, disconnection and restoration. c. Assist in the provision of emergency energy as requested by DFES or the designated recovery authority. d. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. e. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Geoscience Australia	a. Provide an earthquake interpretation and notification service. b. Establish and maintain data collection networks and monitor earthquake events. c. Provide advice to DFES SOC if required.
Local Government Authorities	a. Provide resources to assist DFES when requested. b. Make available suitable local government buildings to be used as evacuation centres. c. Close and open roads within their jurisdiction, when requested by DFES. d. Provide details on road conditions to DFES. e. Provide a representative to the IMT/ISG/OASG as required. f. Appointment of a Local Recovery Coordinator.
Main Roads WA	a. Provide advice to DFES of the potential and actual impacts of earthquake on the State road network. b. Close and open State roads when requested to do so by DFES. This Plan recognises that the Commissioner of Main Roads (or delegated Officers) has the power to close or open roads under the <i>Main Roads Act 1930</i>. c. Communicate road closures to the public. d. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. e. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required. f. Provide a representative for SECG if required. g. Provide engineering support if required.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
National Emergency Management Agency	a. Work with state-based Controlling Agencies in accordance with legislative requirements and pre-established response arrangements. b. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. c. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG, as required.
Private sector and industry, owners, occupiers and operators of facilities	a. Immediately advise emergency services via 000 of emergencies triggered by an earthquake. b. Assist the emergency services in coping with earthquake-triggered emergencies at their facility by making available their own resources. c. Provide specialist/technical advice by telephone and/or by attending the scene of an emergency. d. Provide a written report and/or participate in post operation debriefs on the emergency as may be required, by the HMA.
Public Transport Authority	a. Provide advice to DFES of the potential and actual impacts of earthquake on the public transport system. b. Close and open transport services when requested by DFES. c. Communicate service closures to the public. d. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. e. Provide a representative for SECG if required.
St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd. (SJA)	a. Provide pre-hospital mass triage at the emergency site, pre-hospital care and transport of casualties to hospital by road. b. Participate in the ISG, OASG and SECG meetings as requested. c. Provide a liaison officer to the State Health Incident Coordination Centre as required. d. Responsible for tasking the emergency rescue helicopters.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Telstra	a. Provide advice regarding the provision of emergency communications services. b. Give priority consideration to emergency communications requirements of authorities responsible for hazard and emergency management within WA. Actual service provision and restoration priorities will depend on Telstra's network configuration, the safety and availability of staff, material availability, local community issues and national and local security issues. c. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC if required. d. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required. e. Provide a representative for SECG if required.
Traditional owner groups and corporations	a. Work with DFES to establish arrangements that clearly define response responsibilities in accordance with relevant legislation. b. Provide a liaison officer to the DFES SOC, if required c. Provide a representative to the ISG/OASG/AHLG as required.

Organisation	Response Roles and Responsibilities
Water Corporation	a. Participate in ISG, OASG and SECG meetings as requested. b. Assist with the provision of potable water to affected communities until normal services are restored. c. Provide a liaison officer(s) and other trained staff to operations and coordination centres as requested and appropriate. d. Provide or assist in the acquisition of resources and engineering services including earthmoving machinery and operators. e. Provide information on local conditions and hazards, environmental and water issues associated with waste disposal. f. Assist with the supply of water to affected areas through the provision of tanker access to Water Corporation resources (e.g. standpipes, pipelines and reservoirs). g. For emergencies affecting the Water Corporation drinking water supplies and critical assets, activate the joint agency coordination team (Department of Health and Water Corporation) and to manage the incident as a security incident as required. h. Provide a written report or participate in post-operation debriefs on the emergency as required by the HMA. i. Be contactable on a 24/7 basis.
Western Australia Police Force	a. Provide a WA Police Force representative as appropriate to assist the IMT in the provision of a coordinated response. b. Undertake the duties of the Local/District/State Emergency Coordinator as required. c. Provide liaison officers and/or representation to any ISG/OASG/ALHG and/or SECG as appropriate. d. Assist with evacuation. e. Assist with the management of traffic or persons at or near the scene of an incident, and/or facilitating the movement of emergency vehicles on request. f. Maintain public order where required. g. In the event of mass casualties, provide Disaster Victim Identification.

C5: Recovery roles and responsibilities

Additional State agencies and entities listed within State EM Policy Appendix F can provide assistance within relevant recovery functional areas, when requested by the relevant State Recovery Coordinator or Controller [State EM Policy section 6.7].

Organisation	Recovery Roles and Responsibilities
Community	a. Assist with long term clean up, when required.
Department of Fire & Emergency Services	Role: Supporting the FES Commissioner as HMA and DFES as Controlling Agency in of initiating and supporting early recovery activities. a. Initiating recovery activities. b. Where required, notifying the State Recovery Coordinator. c. In emergencies where response and recovery occur concurrently, establishing arrangements to coordinate response and recovery operations with relevant local and state-level recovery coordinators / controller Preparing an Impact Statement for Level 2 and 3 incidents unless an exemption has been granted by the State Recovery Coordinator.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (continued)	d. Including the Local Recovery Coordinator and others with recovery responsibilities in the incident management arrangements (ISG and OASG) e. Where required, coordinating the completion of an Impact Statement prior to the transfer of responsibility for management of recovery to the affected local government(s). f. Transitioning responsibility of any ongoing coordination of recovery activities to the relevant local government, unless otherwise advised by the State Recovery Coordinator. g. Establish recovery funding advice and application mechanisms.
Department of Health	a. Provide health advice and support to the designated recovery committee.
Energy Suppliers and Network Managers	a. Assist in the recovery process through infrastructure repair and reconstruction.

Organisation	Recovery Roles and Responsibilities
Local Government Authorities	a. Manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district as outlined in State EM Policy section 6.3 and State EM Plan section 6.5.
Main Roads	a. Assist in the recovery process through State road infrastructure repair and reconstruction.
Private sector and industry owners, occupiers and operators of facilities	a. Assist with long term clean up, when required.
Public Transport Agency	a. Assist in the recovery process through rail infrastructure repair and reconstruction. b. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake recovery committees, where practicable.
Relevant agencies listed with roles and responsibilities in this plan	a. Comply with their responsibilities identified in the State Emergency Management Policy section 6 and State Emergency Management Plan section 6.
Water Corporation	a. Assist in the recovery process through infrastructure repair and reconstruction.

Appendix D: Incident Levels

Table D: Typical conditions and actions required for incident levels by the Controlling Agency and/or Incident Controller.

Incident Level	Typical Conditions	Actions Required
Level 1 Earthquake incidents have a low level of complexity	a. There are no significant issues b. There is a single or limited multi-agency response c. The incident area is limited in extent (i.e. to one jurisdiction or district) d. The response duration is within a single shift e. Resources can be sourced from one local government district f. There is minimal impact on critical infrastructure g. There is minimal impact on the community (social, built, economic and natural) h. The incident can be managed by a Controlling Agency IMT only i. There is low potential for incident escalation to level 2.	a. Notify DFES COMCEN b. Consider the establishment of an Incident Support Group (ISG) c. Activate State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support as required.
Level 2 Earthquake incidents have a medium level of complexity	a. Requires a multi-agency response b. Requires coordination of multi-agency resources c. Has a duration covering multiple shifts d. May require delegation of a number of IMT functions e. Resources need to be sourced from district or State level f. There are multiple incident areas g. The incident involves multiple hazards h. There is a medium, actual or imminent impact on critical infrastructure i. There is a medium impact on the community (social, built, economic and natural)	a. Notify DFES COMCEN b. Complete an incident level declaration form in accordance with State EM Procedure 4.2 c. Undertake deliberate assessment of incident's potential impact against State Strategic Control Priorities, in line with section 4.1.5 of this Plan d. Consider if additional resources are required. Pre-established or pre-formed interagency IMTs may be utilised if required and available e. Provide an incident situation report to the HMA and the relevant local or district emergency coordinator f. Consider the establishment of an ISG

Incident Level	Typical Conditions	Actions Required
Level 2 Earthquake incidents have a medium level of complexity (continued)	g. There is potential for the incident or a requirement to be declared an "Emergency Situation"	h. Activate State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support as required i. DFES ROC/MOC to be established and available. All reporting and coordination of resourcing will go through DFES ROC/MOC to SOC j. Earthquake impact status to be regularly reported to DFES ROC/RDC or MOC/MDC including changes in incident status, values at risk and resourcing k. If the incident has the potential to escalate to a level 3 incident the FES Commissioner as HMA (or delegate) must be informed l. Consider establishing an Operational Area Support Group (OASG) FES Commissioner as HMA (or delegate) may: m. Appoint an Operational Area Manager (OAM) to undertake strategic management FES Commissioner as HMA (or delegate) is required to: n. Contact the State Emergency Coordinator to advise them of the current situation, potential level 3 declaration, and discuss activation of the State Emergency Coordination Group o. Consider the potential for an emergency situation declaration.
Level 3 Earthquake incident have a high level of complexity	a. Requires significant coordination of a multi-agency response b. There is an protracted response duration c. May require delegation of all IMT functions d. Evacuation and/or relocation of community is required e. There is significant impact on community (social, built, economic and natural)	a. Notify DFES COMCEN b. Complete an incident level declaration form in accordance with State EM Procedure 4.2 c. Undertake deliberate assessment of incident's potential impact against State Strategic Control Priorities, in line with section 4.1.5 of this Plan d. Utilise pre-formed inter-agency level 3 IMTs, if appropriate

Incident Level	Typical Conditions	Actions Required
Level 3 Earthquake incident have a high level of complexity (continued)	e. There is an actual or potential loss of life or multiple serious injuries. f. Resources need to be sourced from State, National and even international levels g. A declaration of an "Emergency Situation" or "State of Emergency" is likely.	h. Establish an ISG i. Activate State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support as required j. Consider establishing an OASG k. Establish a DFES ROC/MOC and SOC, with reporting and coordination of resourcing through DFES ROC/MOC to SOC l. Notify the State Recovery Coordinator (State EM Plan section 6.4) m. Provide appropriate notification of cessation of response operations to assist in the management of residual hazards FES Commissioner as HMA (or delegate) may: n. Appoint an Operational Area Manager (OAM) to undertake strategic management FES Commissioner as HMA (or delegate) is required to: o. Contact the State Emergency Coordinator to advise them of the current situation, potential level 3 declaration, and discuss activation of the State Emergency Coordination Group p. Consider the potential for an emergency situation declaration.

