

20 December 2022

Matthew Brocklehurst
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State Emergency Service
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Via email: matthew.brocklehurst@ses.tas.gov.au

Dear Matthew

Draft Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements Review (Issue 3)

Thank you for providing the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) with an opportunity to make a comment on the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) (Issue 3) Review.

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with Peter Koob, Senior Planning and Education Officer to discuss our feedback, and acknowledge the amendments made to the draft document. As agreed at this meeting, we engaged with Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators and Recovery Coordinators to inform our feedback on specific areas. This specific feedback is provided in Appendix 1. We have also provided general commentary below against broader policy issues and observations.

We recognise the critical statutory role the TEMA plays in outlining roles, authorities, and responsibilities for emergency management in Tasmania across the full spectrum of emergency management - prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The previous TEMA recognised that response and recovery agencies will work in partnership with individuals and communities to ensure Tasmania's safety during and after emergencies. It is critical that the next version of the TEMA reflects the full spectrum of emergency management in a consistent way.

Local government considers that the revised TEMA does not adequately explain recovery to the same extent as the other phases of emergency management. A substantial part of the previous recovery section has been removed, with the TEMA noting that the detail for recovery is provided within the State Recovery Plan. However, the State Recovery

Plan is dated and requires review. The TEMA should ensure that the recovery chapter provides similar detail to that provided in the other phases of emergency. Clearly articulating these responsibilities and duties across all recovery documents would provide clarity to all stakeholders about their roles.

If you have any further questions in relation to this submission please contact Rebecca Stevenson, Senior Policy Advisor, on 03 6146 3740 or bec.stevenson@lgat.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dion Lester
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Appendix 1 - Specific comments

Specific feedback relating to sections of the Draft Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) is provided below:

Key Points of Review	TEMA Reference	Comment
Ensuring roles and responsibilities of councils and municipal committees are correct	p. 19 Tasmania's emergency management sector	<p>The TEMA refers to each level of government having different roles and responsibilities in emergency management, including state government and municipal councils having legislative, organisational arrangements and lines of reporting.</p> <p>We note municipal committees have responsibility for emergency planning not councils.</p>
Municipal Coordinator and Recovery Coordinator roles	p. 20 Municipal level responsibilities	<p>The TEMA refers to the detailed roles and responsibilities of a Municipal Coordinator and Recovery Coordinator. These detailed responsibilities are included within the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>, and it is therefore suggested the detail be removed and is replaced with a reference to the Act.</p>
Ensuring roles and responsibilities for agencies and support agencies are clearly articulated	p. 34 Support agencies - volunteers	<p>The table identifies Municipal councils as the primary support agency for Volunteers.</p> <p>Volunteering Tasmania is the primary support agency for registering volunteers as per section 3.11.3.</p>
	p. 35 Support agencies – animal welfare	<p>Other support agencies should be the same for both animal welfare (pets & companion animals) and (livestock).</p> <p>Municipal councils (if facilities available) with the addition of RSPCA as another support agency.</p>

Key Points of Review	TEMA Reference	Comment
		Municipal councils (if facilities available) should be removed from wildlife as they hold no responsibilities for wildlife.
	p.72 Evacuation roles and responsibilities – care for children	<p>The table identifies parents/guardians as holding both primary and support responsibility.</p> <p>Municipal councils have experienced instances during evacuation and scenario exercises where this is not achievable. In some instances, children have become separated from parents/guardians for multiple reasons, for varying durations.</p> <p>Support by the Department for Education, Children and Young People is suggested.</p>
	p.73 Evacuation roles and responsibilities – alternative emergency accommodation	<p>The table identifies Municipal councils as holding primary responsibility for alternative emergency accommodation.</p> <p>This is not a function of councils and should be the responsibility of DPAC following the closure of the Department of Communities.</p>