



**WARRUMBUNGLE  
SHIRE**

**Local Emergency  
Management Plan**

**Sept 2020**



## Part 1 – Administration

### Authority

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

APPROVED

.....  
**Chair**

**Warrumbungle Local Emergency Management Committee**

Dated:

ENDORSED

.....  
**Chair**

**Warrumbungle Regional Emergency Management Committee**

Dated:

Amendments

DATE	ITEM	PAGE	BY
Nov 18	Added Road Closure SOP to Sub Plans	14	P.Southwell
Nov 18	Added Animal Destruction & Disposal CMG to Sub Plan	14	P.Southwell
May 20	Revision of EM Plan – Updating Shire Census Information	Various	P.Southwell

## Contents

<b>Part 1 – Administration .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Authority.....	2
Contents.....	3
Purpose.....	4
Objectives .....	4
Scope.....	4
Principles .....	5
Test and Review Process .....	5
<b>Part 2 – Community Context.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Annexure A – Community Profile .....	6
General.....	6
Landform and Topography .....	6
Climate .....	6
Shire Map .....	7
Land Use and Population / People .....	8
Transport Routes and Facilities.....	9
Economy and Industry.....	10
Annexure B – Hazards and Risks Summary.....	11
Annexure C – Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies.....	13
<b>Part 3 – Restricted Operational Information.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Annexure D – Community Assets .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Key Resources and Locations.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Key Infrastructure .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Annexure E – Vulnerable Facilities List.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Annexure F – Consequence Management Guides .....	15
Annexure G – Local Media Contacts .....	15

## Purpose

Details arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Local Government Area(s) covered by this plan.

It encompasses arrangements for:

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

## Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

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

## Scope

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

- Arrangements detailed in this plan are based on the assumption that the resources upon which the plan relies are available when required; and
- The effectiveness of arrangements detailed in this plan are dependent upon all involved agencies preparing, testing and maintaining appropriate internal instructions, and/or standing operating procedures.

## Principles

The following principles are applied in this plan:

- a) The Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process is to be used as the basis for emergency planning in New South Wales. This methodical approach to the planning process is to be applied by Emergency Management Committees at all levels.
- b) Responsibility for preparation, response and recovery rests initially at Local level. If Local agencies and available resources are not sufficient they are augmented by those at Regional level.
- c) Control of emergency response and recovery operations is conducted at the lowest effective level.
- d) Agencies may deploy their own resources from their own service from outside the affected Local area or Region if they are needed.
- e) The Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) is responsible, when requested by a combat agency, to co-ordinate the provision of resources support. EOCs would not normally assume control from a combat agency unless the situation can no longer be contained. Where necessary, this should only be done after consultation with the Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON) and agreement of the combat agency and the appropriate level of control.
- f) Emergency preparation, response and recovery operations should be conducted with all agencies carrying out their normal functions wherever possible.
- g) Prevention measures remain the responsibility of authorities/agencies charged by statute with the responsibility.

## Test and Review Process

The Warrumbungle Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) will review this Plan every three (3) years, or following any:

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

## Part 2 – Community Context

### Annexure A – Community Profile

#### General

This plan covers the area contained within the Warrumbungle Shire Council. The Shire covers an area of 12,380 sq. kms and forms 1.5 percent of the State It has a population of approximately 9384 a small drop of 204 from the 2006 Census

The Shire is bounded by, Coonamble Shire, Dubbo Regional Council, Gilgandra Shire, Gunnedah Shire, Mid-Western Shire Councils (Mudgee), Narrabri Shire, Upper Hunter Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire

The townships of Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran are the major centres in the district.

There are also several small villages such as Bugaldie, Cobbora, Kenebri, Leadville, Merrygoen, Neilrex, Purlewaugh, Uarabry, Ulamambri, Weetaliba and Yearinan.

[See Map on Page 7]

#### Landform and Topography

The Castlereagh River bisects the Shire and flows from Coonabarabran to Mendooran and to Gilgandra. Flooding on the river causes problems at Coonabarabran, Ulamambri Binnaway and Mendooran townships and also many rural areas on the floodplain.

Baradine township also experiences local flooding along Terridgerie Creek

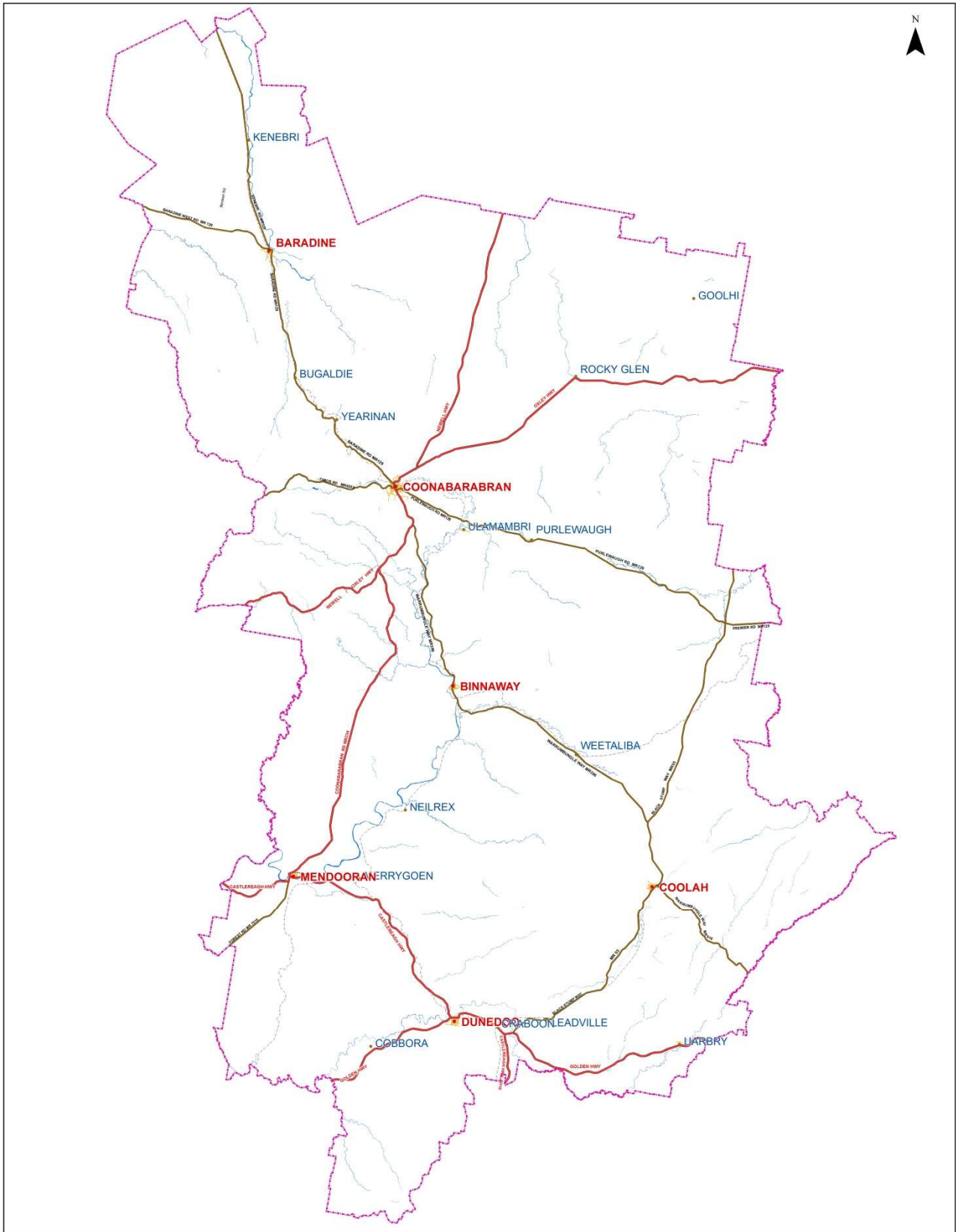
The Talbragar River and the Coolaburragundy Creek flows from east to west towards Dunedoo in the southern part of the shire.

The Liverpool Range and Warrumbungle Range are the predominant land features with the Piliga Forest extending to the north west of the shire

#### Climate

The shire has a warm subtropical climate, with hot summers and cool winters. Temperature extremes have historically ranged from 42.6 C° to -9.0 C°

The average yearly rainfall ranges in the 600 to 700 mm range. Rainfall is both during summer from tropical influence, and during winter with cold southerly changes.



**DISCLAIMER**  
 The Warrumbungle Shire Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy and quality of information available on this map. The Warrumbungle Shire Council can not guarantee and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for any damage or loss occurred as a result of the use of this map.

Legend	
	WSC Boundary
	Highways
	Regional Rds

WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL  
 Shire Towns and Villages



## Land Use

The shire is predominantly rural with areas of heavy timber through to open grasslands. The land ranges from a high points of over 1100 metres for both, Coolah Tops National Parks at Coolah and also the Warrumbungle National Park at Coonabarabran, to a low point of 349 metres at the Talbragar River, Elong Elong.

The main rural industries include sheep and cattle farming, wheat and various crops as well as some small manufacturing and local sawmill operations

Agricultural land use in the Warrumbungle Shire is predominantly used for livestock grazing, utilising a total of 720,585 ha and accounting for 85.1 percent of total agricultural land use.

Cropping on the other hand utilises 125,236 ha, accounting for 14.4 percent of total agricultural land use. In combination, livestock grazing and cropping utilises 845,821 ha, accounting for 68.3 percent of the total land use.

The remaining 31.6 % (392,179 ha) of total agricultural land use in the Warrumbungle Shire is utilised for:

- Remnant vegetation and woodland unsuitable for grazing or cropping;
- Commercial forestry plantations;
- Wetlands or swamps unsuitable for grazing or cropping;
- National Parks, Environmental protection of sensitive ecosystems; and
- Farm infrastructure i.e. houses, sheds, roads etc.

## Population and People (ABS Census 2016)

The Locality of Coonabarabran, has a population of 3290, with 2537 in the township. It is situated on the Castlereagh River in the northern part of the Shire. It is also the junction for the Oxley Highway and the Newell Highway.

The Locality of Coolah has a population of 1290, and is situated on the Coolaburragundy River in the eastern portion of the Shire. It is also the Junction of Black Stump Way MR55 (Mudgee - Gunnedah), Warrumbungle Way MR396 (Coolah - Coonabarabran) and Main Road 618 (Coolah - Merriwa).

The Locality of Baradine, with a population of 760, lies to the north of Coonabarabran. While the Locality of Binnaway, near the middle of the shire, with a population of 602, is situated on the Castlereagh River.

The Locality of Dunedoo, with a population of 1221, is situated on the Talbragar River in the southern portion of the Shire. It is also the junction of Castlereagh Highway SH18 (Mudgee - Mendooran) and Golden Highway SH27 (Newcastle - Dubbo).

The Locality of Mendooran, with a population of 559, is situated on the Castlereagh River in the south western portion of the Shire. It is also the junction for Castlereagh Highway 18 and Main Road 334 (Mendooran - Coonabarabran).



The indigenous community makes up a large proportion of the Warrumbungle LGA population compared to the State. Unlike the general population of the Warrumbungle LGA which is declining, the indigenous population is increasing by approximately 2.3 per cent per annum

## Transport Routes and Facilities

### Road

Warrumbungle Shire has several major highways running through the area including the Newell Highway (National) Oxley Highway, Golden Highway and Castlereagh Highway (State Highways).

The Newell Highway is part of the National Highway network, it runs parallel to the eastern coast about 400 kilometres inland and is an important inland route between Melbourne and Brisbane. It carries a significant level of interstate freight by semi trailers and B-double trucks.

Traffic volumes recorded by the RMS in 2019 indicated traffic flows of the Newell Highway within the township of Coonabarabran, of around 4100 to 4400 vehicles per day. The Oxley Highway is an east-west artery connecting the coast at Port Macquarie with the New England plateau, the western plains and western NSW. Within the Warrumbungle Shire it connects Coonabarabran to Gunnedah and Tamworth to the east. Traffic volumes recorded by the RMS in 2019 indicated traffic flow to the east of Coonabarabran, around 5000 vehicles per day.

The Golden Highway is a state highway connecting the Hunter Valley near Singleton to Dubbo in central western NSW. The route traverses the southern areas of the Warrumbungle Shire via Dunedoo. Traffic volumes recorded in 2019 indicated traffic flows in the order of 2300 to 2900 vehicles per day.

The Castlereagh Highway crosses the Shire between Dunedoo and Mendooran, forming part of the route from the Golden Highway in the south, through to Gilgandra, Coonamble and on to Walgett in the north west of NSW. The road is constructed to a two lane two way rural highway standard. Traffic volumes recorded at Mendooran in 2019 indicated traffic flows for the Castlereagh Highway in the order of 900 to 950 vehicles per day.

Other main routes include the :

- (i) Black Stump Way that runs north – south from the Golden Highway, through Coolah to the Oxley Highway at Mullaley.
- (ii) Warrumbungle Way connects Coonabarabran to Coolah and providing a connection to the Hunter Valley via the Golden Highway.
- (iii) Forest Road provides a connection south of Mendooran to Dubbo thus providing Coonabarabran with an alternate route to Dubbo

### Air

Coonabarabran has an airport, which has closed its passenger services and is now used for mail/ parcel freight, charter flights, private planes and Flying Club.

Coolah has a gravel airstrip and a helipad at the hospital, while Baradine has a sealed airstrip. These strips are used for non-commercial flights and by the air ambulance. The nearest airports to the Shire with regular passenger services, are located at Narrabri, Gunnedah and Dubbo.

The Shire's airspace is traversed by both international, domestic air traffic and Airforce Aircraft.

## Rail

There are currently no passenger rail services to the Warrumbungle Shire. The nearest passenger railway stations to the Shire are Narrabri and Dubbo.

Country link services go from Baradine, Coonabarabran to Dunedoo then onto Lithgow. and onto the Lithgow Sydney Rail link. Bus service goes from Dubbo to Newcastle through Dunedoo..

The remaining freight line operates in the Shire from Dubbo to Werris Creek line, via Dunedoo, Mendooran, Binnaway.. This line mainly carries grain shipments. The Binnaway to Gwabegar line, via Coonabarabran and Baradine has operations suspended, with grain transported from silos along this line now being moved by truck. The likelihood of this line re-opening is low.

The Dubbo to Newcastle rail line goes from Dubbo through Merrygoen, Dunedoo, Gulgong, Ulan, with coal trains go via Sandy Hollow to Newcastle.

Iron ore is also carried from Cobar to Newcastle Dunedoo and Ulan to Newcastle

Heritage and historical societies do run occasional railway tours using steam and diesel locomotives on some of these lines.

## Economy

Although there is a wide range of income levels in the Warrumbungle Shire, there is a tendency towards the lower level of weekly individual income with 68 percent of individuals earning less than \$1000 per week and 44.5 percent earning less than \$400 per week.

The "poverty line" in Australia is \$994.68 per week for a family of two in March 2019 (*University of Melbourne: June 2019*). A large proportion of the households in the Warrumbungle Shire live below the 'poverty line'.

## Industry

The estimated number of employed persons in the Warrumbungle Shire was 3335 persons in 2016, representing a slight increase from 2006

The Agriculture & Forestry sector is the most significant economic contributor in the LGA, accounting for 921 people or 27.6 %. The Rural Sector is well above the NSW benchmark however in the Warrumbungle Shire, has been declining and between 2006 and 2016, employment in rural areas declined a further 3.6 percent

The Warrumbungle Shire economy is largely driven by resources based industries in particular agriculture in the areas of sheep, cattle and cropping.

Secondary (goods-based) industries are significantly less represented, than the State or National figures, in particular the manufacturing and construction industries. These industries remain stagnant at the present time

## Annexure B – Hazards and Risks Summary

A Local Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Study has been undertaken by the Warrumbungle Local Emergency Management Committee identifying the following hazards as having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity. These hazards have been identified as having the potential to create an emergency. The Warrumbungle Emergency Risk Management Study should be referenced to identify the complete list of consequences and risk descriptions.

Hazard	Risk Description Element of Risk is People / Life	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Ranking / Risk Priority / Rank %	Combat / Responsible Agency
Bushfire	The risk is death and injury to people from exposure to fire.	Almost Certain	Major	1. Extreme 76	REFERRAL to NSW Rural Fire Service, who are the primary response agency for fires occurring in rural fire districts,
Hazardous materials	The risk is death and injury directly from exposure to Hazardous Material or through developed diseases.	Likely	Moderate	2. High 45	RERERRAL to NSW Fire Brigade (HAZMAT) who are the primary response agency.
Fire - Industrial / Commercial / Explosion	The risk is death and injury directly from a fire or from an explosion	Possible	Moderate	3. High 36	REFERRAL to NSW Fire Brigade (USAR) and NSW Rural Fire Service

Hazard	Risk Description Element of Risk is People / Life	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Ranking / Risk Priority / Rank %	Combat / Responsible Agency
Infrastructure failure -- Electricity	The risk is loss of heating and cooling resulting in people dying or being physically distressed. The risk is loss of Medical Equipment failure resulting in people dying or becoming seriously sick	Possible	Moderate	4 High 36	REFERRAL to LEMC
Flood	The risk is death and injury to people from drowning.	Possible	Moderate	5 High 36	REFERRAL to SES who are the primary response agency.
Storms / Tornado	The risk is people injured and killed from a direct impact of a tornados or severe Wind / Hail on a population centre.	Likely	Minor	6. High 27	REFERRAL to SES
Earthquake	The risk is people injured and killed through structural collapse.	Rare	Minor	7. Low 10	REFERRAL to NSW Police who are the coordinating authority
	<b>NOTE</b> Rank % - Catastrophic at Almost Certain = 100%				

## Annexure C – Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies

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

The sub/supporting plans are developed in consultation with the Warrumbungle LEMC and the community.

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

These plans are retained by the LEMO on behalf of the LEMC and public release versions of some of these plans are available on the Council Website.

Plan/Policy	Purpose	Combat / Responsible Agency
Bushfire Evacuation Plan	Bushfire Evacuation	Local Emergency Operations Controller
SES Flood Plan	Floods	State Emergency Operations Controller
Airport Emergency Plan	Aircraft Accident	Shire Council
Timor Dam Failure	Flood	Shire Council
SOP (LEMC)	Ambulance Assist	Ambulance & Rescue Agencies
SOP (LEMC)	Vertical Rescue	Rescue Agencies
SOP (LEMC)	Catering	All Agencies
SOP (LEMC)	Trees on Roads	Rescue Agencies
SOP (REGIONAL PLAN )	Road Closure (Event)	Local Emergency Operations Controller
Consequence Management Guide	Bushfire	RFS
Consequence Management Guide	Hazmat Incident	NSWF&R
Consequence Management Guide	Industrial Fire / Explosion	NSWF&R
Consequence Management Guide	Flood	SES
Consequence Management Guide	Storms / Tornado	SES
Consequence Management Guide	Electricity Failure > 8Hrs	LEMC / Essential Energy
Consequence Management Guide	Animal Destruction & Disposal	DPI / LLS / EPA

### Part 3 – Restricted Operational Information –

**NOTE** Restricted Operational Information sheets have been removed from the Public version of the EM Plan

These sheets contain personal contact information of both committee members and Evacuation Centre staff

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<b>EVACUATION CENTRE - Centre Name:</b>			
Click here to enter text.			
Street Address:	Click here to enter text.		
Suburb / Town:	Click here to enter text.		
Nearest Cross St or Landmark:	Click here to enter text.		
Coordinates:	Click here to enter text.		
Facility Owner:/ Manager	Click here to enter text.		
Facility Type:	Click here to enter text.		
<b>Contacts:</b>			
<b>Primary Activation Contact:</b>		<b>Alternate Activation Contact:</b>	
Name:	Click here to enter text.	Name:	Click here to enter text.
Telephone:	Click here to enter text.	Telephone:	Click here to enter text.
Mobile:	Click here to enter text.	Mobile:	Click here to enter text.
Other:	Click here to enter text.	Other:	Click here to enter text.
<b>Capacity</b>			
Short Term (2.0 m2 per person)	Click here to enter text.		
Long Term (4.0 m2 per person)	Click here to enter text.		
Time required to set –up	Click here to enter text.		
Last Audit Date	Click here to enter a date.		

## Annexure F – Consequence Management Guides

The following consequence management guides relate to hazards that are rated Extreme, High or Moderate or require significant multi agency coordination.

HAZARD	RATING	AGENCY
Bushfire	Extreme	RFS
Hazmat Incident	High	NSWF&R
Industrial Fire / Explosion	High	NSWF&R
Electricity Failure . > 8 Hrs	High	LEMC
Flood	High	SES
Storms / Tornado	High	SES

## Annexure G - Local Media Contacts

Radio Stations	Bus. Phn	A Hrs	Mobile	Fax
ABC - Dubbo	6881 1811		0417 277 551	
ABC - Tamworth	6766 5611			
ABC - Orange	6393 2540			
2DU - Dubbo	6882 7737			
2MO - Gunnedah (FM Repeater at Coona)	6742 2322			
NOW FM - Moree	6752 5352			
2WCR-FM - Coona	6842 5262			
Tree Rivers Radio - Dunedoo	6375 1015			
Tree Rivers Radio - Coolah	63771654			