Emergency Management Policy

Council Policy

Renmark Paringa Council

Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
Relevant Legislation	Local Government Act 1999, Emergency Management Act 2004
Adopted	February 2020
Reviewed	June 2024
Next Review	June 2025

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Define Renmark Paringa Council's roles and responsibilities in emergency management
- Ensure that Renmark Paringa Council maintains appropriate delegations and authority to undertake its emergency management responsibilities
- Ensure that Renmark Paringa Council prepares and maintains appropriate emergency management documents
- Support Renmark Paringa Council to maintain safe working practices during emergencies
- Support Renmark Paringa Council to maintain effective protection for council workers, assets and liabilities associated with emergency management activities.

Introduction

Emergencies have the potential to disrupt the strategic and operational activities of council and adversely impact communities.

The roles of local government in emergency management are informed by the State Emergency Management Plan[1] (SEMP) and the Local Government Emergency Management

[1] State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)

Framework[2] (LGEMF). They are enabled by the Local Government Act 1999, which outlines the requirement for councils to consider risks (including emergency risks) as follows:

- make informed decisions (section 6);
- take measures to protect their area from natural hazards (section 7);
- provide infrastructure for community and for development (section 7);
- ensure the sustainability of the council's long-term financial performance (section 8);
- assess the maintenance, replacement or development needs for infrastructure (section 122);
- identify anticipated or predicted changes in any factors that make a significant contribution to the costs of the council's activities or operations (section 122).

In addition, the Local Government Act requires council's to *"give due weight, in all its plans, policies and activities to regional, state and national objectives and strategies concerning the economic, social, physical and environmental development and management of the community"* (section 8).

Emergency management in the Renmark Paringa Council is enabled and supported by several legislations and delegations as listed in **Annex 1**.

Scope

This policy applies to Renmark Paringa Council in exercising powers and functions under the various Acts and agreements to which it is a party in the State of South Australia. The scope of emergency management activities is limited to those listed under "Application of the Policy".

Definitions

Emergency Management – the management of emergencies by council before during and after an incident, through disaster risk reduction, operational response and recovery response.

Emergency Risk – effect of uncertainty on objects due to emergency situations within community and council.

State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) - Provides the overarching details of the arrangements and structures in place to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies within South Australia.

Local Government Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF) – a framework that provides a holistic approach to emergency management within the Local Government sector.

Application of the Policy

The Renmark Paringa Council will undertake the following roles and responsibilities in accordance with the SEMP and LGEMF.

[2] LGA SA Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF)

Disaster Risk Reduction

In accordance with the LGEMF, Renmark Paringa Council will:

- Understand and communicate current and emerging disaster risks
- Integrate disaster risk into existing plans and decision-making (e.g. strategic plans, risk frameworks, asset management plans, climate change plans)
- Partner with local stakeholders in addressing priority emergency risks
- Strengthen disaster resilience in communities through community development.

Incident operations

In accordance with the LGEMF, Renmark Paringa Council will:

- Develop a locally relevant risk-based suite of incident operational arrangements.
- Build capability of council to participate in the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG)
- Participate in incident operations in accordance with the i-Responda operating platform.

Recovery

In accordance with the LGEMF, Renmark Paringa Council will:

- Provide leadership, co-ordination and advocacy when the community is impacted by disasters
- Plan for recovery to establish the principles, structures, partnerships and approaches that will guide council
- Secure grants and other funding assistance to support disaster recovery.

Emergency Management Documents

In addition to this policy, Renmark Paringa Council will maintain an Emergency Management Plan, Incident Operations Arrangements, Recovery Arrangements and any other supporting documentation that:

- Describes the strategies and actions that council will take to implement this policy
- Identifies relevant local, regional and state emergency management plans and arrangements that impact upon council
- Responds to guidance for council provided by the SEMP and other emergency management plans, strategies, frameworks and guidelines
- Identifies linkages between emergency management objectives and Renmark Paringa Council's strategies and business, financial and other plans.

Council will maintain its commitment to locally relevant plans developed in consultation with Renmark Paringa Council. Where Council resource commitments are made in these plans, they will be subject to normal strategic and business planning processes of council.

Maintain Delegations

Renmark Paringa Council will maintain relevant emergency management delegations as listed in **Annex 1**.

Financial spending during emergencies

Financial spending during emergencies will be governed under Council's Procurement Policy, in particular the section referring to 'Exemptions from this Policy' enabling the waiving of requirements of the Procurement Policy in circumstances where there is an emergency situation.

Arrangements for financial spending during emergencies are also detailed in the Renmark Paringa Incident Operations Arrangements.

Support to control agencies and emergency services

Renmark Paringa Council works within the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012. Occasionally council staff and/or equipment will be requested to support control agencies and emergency services in managing an emergency.

When council resources are made available to support control agencies and emergency services this will be in accordance with:

1. Council's Incident Operations Arrangements
2. LGASA Mutual Protection guide for incident operations
3. The Local Government Incident Operations guide (including i-Responda)

Local Government Functional Support Group

Renmark Paringa Council is a participating organisation of the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG). The LGFSG has the responsibility of "Coordinating response from local government during an emergency" in accordance with Section 2.2 of Part Two of the SEMP.

Protection

To maintain effective workers compensation and liability coverage, council when supporting the emergency services and control agencies in incident operations will:

- Apply appropriate risk management principles; and
- Have regard to the arrangements of the LGA Asset Mutual Fund, the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme and LGA Mutual Liability Scheme.

To achieve this, council resources will operate in line with the i-Responda operational platform and LGFSG operational arrangements.

References/Related Documents

This policy will be available for inspection at the Renmark Paringa offices listed below during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from the council's website at https://www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/council/council-documents/policiesandbylaws

Related Documents:

- Renmark Paringa Emergency Management Plan
- Renmark Paringa Incident Operations Arrangements
- Renmark Paringa Recovery Arrangements

Document Control

Version #	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment
1.0	25/02/2020	Council	New Policy
1.1			Minor grammatical corrections and updates

Annex 1 – Legislation and Delegations

Act or Regulations	Delegations
Local Government Act 1999	Yes
Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (bushfire)	Yes
Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (via State Emergency Management Plan)	
Public Health Act 2011, *South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013,* *South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013,* *South Australian Public Health (General) Regulations 2013*	Yes
Work Health and Safety Act 2012	Yes
Food Act 2001	Yes
Road Traffic Act 1961, *The Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014 and* *The Road Traffic (Road Rules – Ancillary And Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*	Yes
Environment Protection Act 1993 and *the Environment Protection (Waste To Resources) Policy 2010*	Yes
Development Act 1993 and *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*	Yes
Burial and Cremation Act 2013 and Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014	Yes
Native Vegetation Act 1991	Yes
Local Government (Stormwater management) Amendment Act 2007	Yes
Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2010	Yes