

Emergency Management Policy

Classification	Policy
Strategic reference	Goal 4 Organisational : Effective governance and organisational efficiencies
Relevant legislation	Local Government Act 1999 & State Emergency Management Plan
Relevant documents	Emergency Management Plan
Responsible officer	Manager Property and Development Services
Version	2.0
Date adopted	21 February 2024
Date of effect	6 March 2024
Next review date	21 February 2027

1. 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 (SEMP) and the Local Government Emergency Management Framework (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 Southern Mallee District Council is enabled and supported by the legislations and delegations.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to:

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

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3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Southern Mallee District 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 in Section 4.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The Southern Mallee District Council will undertake the following roles and responsibilities

4.1. Disaster Risk Reduction

Southern Mallee District 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 plan, climate change plans)
- Partner with local stakeholders in addressing priority emergency risks
- Build and promote disaster resilience

4.2. Incident operations

Southern Mallee District 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.

4.3. Recovery

Southern Mallee District 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
- Advocate for grants and other funding assistance to support disaster recovery.

5. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

In addition to this policy, Southern Mallee District Council will maintain an Emergency Management Plan, Incident Operations 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 Southern Mallee District Council's strategies and business, financial and other plans. Council will maintain its commitment to locally relevant plans that have been developed. Where Council resource commitments have been made in these plans they will be subject to its normal strategic and business planning processes.



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6. SUPPORT TO CONTROL AGENCIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Southern Mallee District 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)

6.1. Local Government Functional Support Group

Southern Mallee District 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 State Emergency Management Plan.

7. POLICY REVIEW

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every three years or as necessary.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

This document is available on Council's website www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au and at the principal office of the Southern Mallee District Council at Day Street, Pinnaroo SA 5304.

9. ADOPTION & AMENDMENT HISTORY

The table below sets out the adoption, review and amendment history of the policy.

Version No:	Issue Date:	Authorised by:	Description of Change:	Minutes Reference:
1.0	19 August 2020	Council	Council adopted Emergency Management Policy	Ordinary Council 19 August 2020
2.0	21 February 2024	Council	Essentially no changes made other than dates	Ordinary Council 21 February 2024



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