



AREA OF OPERATION: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

AREA OF INTEREST: ASIA-PACIFIC

AREA OF CONSEQUENCE: GLOBAL

SITUATION

Tsunami Warning

- A 9.0 magnitude earthquake along Tonga-Kermadec fault has triggered a tsunami warning for the east coast of Australia. Emergency alerts have been issued, urging coastal evacuations along the east coast. Misinformation has spread quickly on social media further splintering public confidence in official sources.
- Emergency Services authorities on Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island are being contacted by JATWC staff. The expected arrival time of tsunami waves are 12:15PM in local DST for Norfolk Island and 12:45PM AEDT for Lord Howe Island.
- COMDISPLAN has been activated for the whole of Australia in anticipation of requests for assistance from jurisdictions.
- The consequences from significant and widespread mis/disinformation are now fully apparent, with civil unrest in major cities, protests and clashes with police in Melbourne and Brisbane.

New Zealand Earthquake

- In New Zealand a 7.9 magnitude earthquake impacted the West coast alpine region on the South Island on 29th January 2026, causing significant damage to critical infrastructure (power, road, rail and water systems). Approx. 15 thousand Australian citizens and their families reported to be impacted.
- AUSRECEPLAN has been activated, and a repatriation operation has been launched to include military and chartered flights. Damaged critical infrastructure, disrupted communications, and resource scarcity continue to impact operations and communities. At least 10,000 people have already been repatriated.

MyGov Outage

- Outages to MyGov and Services Australia digital payment systems (child support, Medicare, Centrelink) reported, with people unable to access accounts or payments for at least three days so far. This has exacerbated distrust in government and over stretched crisis management system.

HPAI

- The national health system is overwhelmed with human patients showing flu-like symptoms with no bird contact.
- Widespread H5 HPAI ongoing infections and deaths across bird populations (wild and agricultural), with a confirmed case in a seal.

Fuel Supply

- Ongoing fuel supply disruptions continue, impacting a range of sectors. Operating costs for airlines have significantly increased, resulting in airfare price increase. Air travel is significantly reduced and many Australians are not travelling, impacting tourism and local economies.
- Power supply and demand imbalances resulting in widespread blackouts and load shedding.

Severe Weather

- A Category 5 Tropical Cyclone impacted Port Hedland on 1 February 2026, damaging critical infrastructure, business, homes and communications. Recovery efforts are now underway.
- NSW and Victoria have been impacted by a strong east coast low; recovery efforts have been hampered by ongoing flooding impacting resupply efforts to isolated communities.
- Communities across Australia are still in active recovery from previous severe events (heatwave, flooding, TC, fires, severe weather, etc.).
- Previous and ongoing hazards continue to be heavily monitored due to Higher Risk Weather Season.
- The peri-urban fire near Hobart is now under control, with fires still burning in bushland west of Hobart. Firefighting resources are stretched thin and emergency response agencies are actively engaged in early relief operations.
- Heatwaves are now reducing across Western Australia, however there are still widespread rolling blackouts effecting millions of Australians as the heatwave conditions move east.

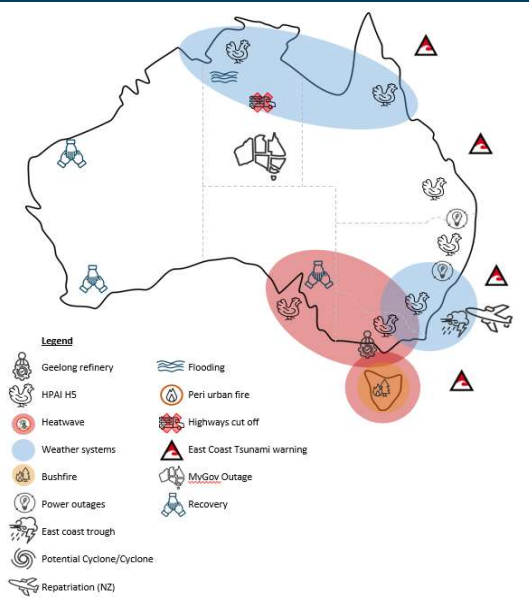


Figure 1: Overview of National Situation

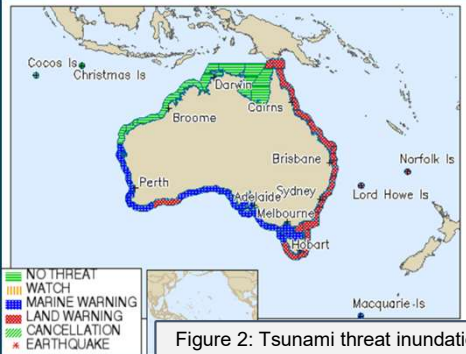


Figure 2: Tsunami threat inundation



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MOST LIKELY

- Active response plans/arrangements across multiple sectors (biosecurity, cyber security, natural hazard, energy supply, international repatriation from NZ).
- Significant casualties due to potential tsunami and natural hazard impacts in Australia and NZ.
- Pause in repatriation efforts until impacts from potential tsunami are known.
- Repatriation of foreign nationals from Australia occurring.
- Majority of Australian port operations would be impacted by potential tsunami.
- National Emergency Declaration, and relevant Australian and jurisdictional emergency legislation active.
- Mis/disinformation resulting in breakdown in social cohesion, and widespread civil unrest which would be compounded by impacts from potential tsunami and MyGov outage.
- Significant ongoing disruptions and backlogs in social support networks due to outages of Centrelink, Medicare, etc.
- Mortuary capacity stretched.
- Cash shortage, potential run on banks.
- Health systems overwhelmed with increased hospital presentations due to potential human transmission of H5 infection and effects of other hazards including fire and heat.
- Nationwide staffing shortages affecting response and recovery efforts.
- Multiple activations of COMDISPLAN and RFAs under consideration by active CCT.
- H5 HPAI continuing to spread through Australia via wild bird and other species movement, requiring response activities.
- Nationwide impacts, including H5 HPAI significantly disrupting supply chains and food security.
- Fuel supply impacts due to fuel disruption ongoing, requiring prioritisation.
- Jurisdiction capacity to respond to concurrent threats and support domestic reception and evacuation operations overwhelmed.
- Ongoing distrust in government.
- Widespread evacuation operations due to tsunami warning.
- Widespread supply chain impacts (due to lack of fuel supply, critical infrastructure damage, etc.).
- Ongoing severe weather conditions.
- Relevant jurisdictional plans will be activated.
- Panic buying by communities.

MOST DANGEROUS

- Uncontrolled human-to-human transmission of H5 HPAI
- H5 HPAI uncontrolled spread among agricultural populations leading to significant impacts to food security
- Jurisdictional response is overwhelmed or unable to coordinate due to loss of infrastructure
- Australian Government cannot sufficiently support demand for access to essential services.
- Breakdown of jurisdiction and industry relationships.
- Mass casualty events due to potential tsunami.
- Continuity of Jurisdictional and Australian Government executive government disrupted.
- Foreign nationals unable to be repatriated from Australia, resulting in people unable to access Australian support systems.
- Widespread, prolonged power outages and potential tsunami event overwhelm critical infrastructure causing significant impacts to emergency services, communities and industries.
- Distrustful communities do not comply with, and undermine, government efforts for evacuations and response operations.
- Widespread community isolations caused by compounding natural hazards and critical infrastructure disruptions.
- Widespread civil unrest – community concern for novel events, mis/disinformation, looting of fuel, etc.
- Any new natural or human-induced hazard events occur.
- Aftershocks causing further damage and/or generating further tsunami warnings requiring further response operations.
- Failure of financial systems (banking, loss of power).
- Mortuary systems overwhelmed.
- Widespread looting for essential resources, i.e. food and fuel.
- Widespread power supply issues, water supply and telecommunications impact emergency services capacity.
- Inappropriate/ineffective prioritisation results in fuel shortages impacting aviation and maritime asset.
- Inability to accommodate displaced and evacuated populations (domestic evacuations and international repatriations).



AREA OF OPERATION: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Other countries will be impacted by potential tsunami
- NED has been activated
- Able to mitigate the spread of H5 HPAI within the agricultural sector and human populations
- Prime Minister is the Lead Minister and national spokesperson
- Unable to mitigate spread of H5 HPAI within wild bird and wildlife populations
- All Australian Government, jurisdictional agencies and relevant international agencies are actively communicating and coordinating efforts
- NRSC and national RFAs will be fully utilised, and prioritisation will be required
- International support has been offered, will be considered and will require coordination and prioritisation
- By the end of the planning period social support systems will be somewhat operational
- Domestic health sector resource sharing is possible
- APS surge capacity is available to support prolonged Australian Government operations
- Relevant Australian Government, state/territory emergency response plans are activated
- Jurisdictions will be responding to multiple hazards
- Ongoing and additional events will occur (HRWS runs until April)
- Fuel restrictions are in place and may increase
- Crisis management system-wide fatigue (resources, personnel)
- Crisis management coordination functions are enlivened and coordinating with each other (including National Cabinet, NSC, CCT, CCOSC, NCM, Recovery IDC, and IDETF)

AREA OF INTEREST: ASIA-PACIFIC

KNOWN

- All travel is reduced, and many Australians are not flying, limiting domestic travel, impacting tourism and local economies.
- Confirmed human to human transmission of H5 HPAI has occurred nationally and internationally.
- Impacts from tsunami will be widespread with significant fatalities predicted, even with widespread evacuations enacted.
- DFAT working with NZ Government to repatriate 15,000 Australians impacted by earthquake. At least 10,000 people have been repatriated so far.
- Formal repatriation efforts have commenced but experiencing logistical challenges.
- Outages to government payment systems, furthering distrust in government and hampering relief efforts nationally.
- Bushfires near Hobart are under control.
- Nationwide emergency/recovery services are responding to multiple hazards.
- Multiple infrastructure systems continued to be stretched.
- Multiple jurisdictions in active recovery.
- Mis/disinformation are now rampant and widespread, fuelling civil unrest and distrust in government.
- Widespread flooding from mid New South Wales to Victoria has isolated communities and is hampering resupply efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All relevant Australian Government Agencies continue to conduct response and recovery activities and consider requirements for surge support to assist Tier response.
- Consider COEG thresholds.
- Update national crisis communication strategy to reflect concurrent hazards.
- Recommend PM continues to convene NSC and National Cabinet (to consider resource prioritisation).
- Communicate the establishment of CRLO's into jurisdictions.

AREA OF CONSEQUENCE: GLOBAL

UNKNOWN

- The extent of impact from potential tsunami across the east coast.
- Impacts to NRSC resource sharing arrangements for New Zealand operations.
- If the potential tsunami will impact AUSRECEPLAN repatriation efforts.
- Impacts of forecast conditions.
- Impact to life due to multiple and concurrent events.
- The amount of emergency and temporary accommodation available in Australia to support displaced persons (domestic) and repatriated Australians from New Zealand.
- Capacity of national health systems to manage increased presentations.

TRIGGER POINTS OF CONCERN

- Tsunami impacts East Coast of Australia or Australian External Territories.
- Uncontrolled human-to-human transmission of H5 HPAI.
- Significant spread of H5 HPAI – geographical or scale across other agricultural industries.
- Another hazard compounds the crisis management system pressures, resulting in catastrophic impacts to critical infrastructure (water, power, telecoms, liquid fuel).
- National health sector failure (including aged care), capacity overwhelmed by concurrent hazard impacts.
- National response capacity failure or mass governance failure, resulting in inability to effectively coordinate and communicate.
- Mass casualty event occurs (domestic or international).
- Internal borders are closed impacting movement of response personnel and resources



	LINES OF EFFORT	SUCCESS CONDITIONS	COURSES OF ACTION
1	Provide near-real time situation awareness and briefing products to relevant stakeholders	Ongoing situational awareness was provided in a timely and accurate manner to all relevant stakeholders ensure a single source of information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hold NCMs to provide situational awareness to all stakeholders2. Identify and utilise multi-sector stakeholders to conduct whole of nation strategic planning, maintained for future impacts and recovery efforts3. Disseminate event notifications, event dashboards and relevant situational products
2	Coordinate the repatriation of Australian citizens and approved foreign nationals from New Zealand	The Australian Government has supported the ongoing repatriation efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain international CCT to support repatriation efforts2. IDETF to coordinate Australian Government operations3. NCM to coordinate Domestic reception arrangements4. Maintain LO's to relevant areas
3	Coordinate Australian Government response and recovery activities	Australian Government supported jurisdictional response through timely and effective application of response and recovery activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sustain CCT activations2. Sustain CPO/LOs into Jurisdictions3. Continue to respond to RFAs4. Sustain Crisis Comms Cell5. Sustain Recovery IDC6. Continue sector specific NCM's to coordinate national action7. Continue to utilise multi-sector stakeholders to conduct whole of nation strategic planning sector complexity8. Continue to conduct NCM-AUSGOV for Australian government coordination9. Consider activation and implementation of Interim Australian Government Catastrophic Crisis Plan arrangements
4	Provision of essential humanitarian assistance	Humanitarian assistance was provided to ensure the minimisation of further harm to affected communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Utilise relevant NHEMS capabilities and providers2. Coordinate requests and offers of international assistance3. NCM specifically for humanitarian assistance requirements4. NCM- AUSGOV specifically for humanitarian assistance requirements5. Continue activation of NCM Not-For-Profits Protocol
5	Crisis communication and public messaging	Crisis communication was bolstered across relevant stakeholders to ensure consistent public messaging and rebuild trust in government	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Crisis Communication Cell was bolstered2. Crisis Communication Strategy reviewed and updated3. Whole of Australian Government Talking Points ongoing4. Continue monitoring community sentiment analysis5. Hold NCMs to coordinate crisis communications

STRATEGIC INTENT

The Australian Government, in partnership with Australian states and territories, is responding to the severe weather events across Australia. Ongoing H5 HPAI incursion with confirmed human cases, the nationwide fuel shortage, and repatriation of Australian Citizens and approved foreign nationals to mitigate the compounding impacts and consequences to the community, including those in relief and short-term recovery, with the anticipated impacts of the potential tsunami over the next 7 days to the 23 February 2026.

INCIDENT PRIORITIES

1. Preservation of human life
2. Provision of Australian Government support for humanitarian assistance
3. Protection or re-establish supply chains and critical infrastructure
4. Maintain and protect communications and public trust
5. Maintaining Law and Order
6. Conservation and protection of the environment
7. Protection of culturally significant sites, areas and objects

END STATE

The Australian Government has coordinated the ongoing repatriation of Australian citizens and approved foreign nationals from New Zealand. The Australian Government supported response and recovery activities for the concurrent and compounding domestic crises to preserve human life, provide humanitarian assistance, maintain critical infrastructure and support public messaging and law and order. The Australian Government has provided consistent communication and maintained trust in Government. Protection of the environment and culturally significant sites was provided where possible.