



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

# AUSSPREDPLAN

## Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... 2

1. Acronyms..... 4

2. Definitions..... 5

3. Authorising Environment..... 7

    3.1. Authority..... 7

    3.2. Amendments..... 7

    3.3. Version Details..... 7

4. Introduction ..... 8

    4.1. Purpose..... 8

    4.2. Scope..... 8

    4.3. Out of Scope..... 8

    4.4. Principles ..... 8

        Consideration of diverse groups..... 9

5. Roles and Responsibilities..... 9

    5.1. Lead Minister ..... 9

    5.2. Australian Government Coordinating Agency ..... 10

    5.3. Lead Coordinating Senior Official ..... 10

    5.4. Sector Lead Agencies..... 11

        Australian Space Agency (ASA)..... 11

        Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) ..... 11

    5.5. Enabling Agencies ..... 12

6. Operational Activities..... 13

    6.1. Overview ..... 13

    6.2. Phases and Activities..... 13

        STANDBY..... 13

        ALERT ..... 13

        ACTIVE..... 14

        Deactivation and Post-Event ..... 15

    6.3. Coordination Arrangements..... 16

        Crisis Communication and Public Information ..... 16

        National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)..... 17

        Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR)..... 17

    6.4. Liaison Officers ..... 17

    6.5. Inter-Agency Communications..... 18

7. Requests for Assistance.....	18
7.1. Domestic.....	18
7.2. International .....	18
8. Financial Arrangements .....	18
9. Associated Documents & Legislation .....	18

# 1. Acronyms

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<b>AGCMF</b>	Australian Government Crisis Management Framework
<b>ANSTO</b>	Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
<b>ARPANSA</b>	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
<b>ASA</b>	Australian Space Agency
<b>CASP</b>	Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning
<b>CCT</b>	Australian Government Crisis Coordination Team
<b>COMDISPLAN</b>	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan
<b>DACC</b>	Defence Assistance to the Civil Community
<b>DCG EMR</b>	Deputy Coordinator General, Emergency Management and Response
<b>Defence</b>	Department of Defence
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>HAZMAT</b>	Hazardous Material
<b>LO</b>	Liaison Officer
<b>NCM</b>	National Coordination Mechanism
<b>NCM-AUSGOV</b>	Australian Government National Coordination Mechanism
<b>NED</b>	National Emergency Declaration
<b>NEMA</b>	National Emergency Management Agency
<b>NSC</b>	National Security Committee of Cabinet
<b>NSR</b>	Australian Government National Situation Room
<b>PM&amp;C</b>	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
<b>RFA</b>	Request for Assistance

## 2. Definitions

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<b>Australian Government Coordinating Agency</b>	The agency required to lead the coordination across the Australian Government for a significant crisis caused by an identified hazard under the AGCMF. This agency also leads the consequence management activities within its agency functions and sector-specific responsibilities.
<b>Australian Government Crisis Communication Guidelines</b>	Provides guidance on coordinating whole-of-Australian Government crisis communication, including development and dissemination of talking points, media holding lines and response strategies for media management and collaboration with state and territory operations centres.
<b>Australian Government Crisis Management Framework</b>	The Australian Government's capstone policy framing Australia's national crisis management arrangements.
<b>Early recovery</b>	The immediate and short-term measures for the restoration and improvement of the livelihoods, health, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities of a crisis-affected community.
<b>Enabling Agency</b>	An Australian Government agency that administers relevant programs, provides specialist technical, scientific, intelligence or information capabilities or conducts any other enabling activities to support consequence management activities.
<b>Lead Coordinating Senior Official</b>	The designated senior official within an Australian Government Coordinating Agency who is responsible for leading the coordination for a significant crisis.
<b>Lead Minister</b>	The Australian Government minister responsible for leading coordination in response to a significant crisis caused by an identified hazard under the AGCMF.
<b>Liaison Officer</b>	A person from any agency embedded into another to facilitate the communication and relationships required to support the coordinated action of operational arrangements.
<b>National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)</b>	The peak senior officials' crisis coordination mechanism providing a national picture of crisis to governments and key stakeholders. The NCM provides the convening mechanism to bring together Australian Government, state and territory government and non-government representatives immediately before, during and after a crisis.
<b>Preparedness</b>	Near-term and longer-term arrangements to ensure that, should a crisis occur, the required resources, capabilities and services can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.
<b>Relief</b>	Meeting the essential needs of food, water, shelter, energy, communications and medicines for people affected by a crisis event.

<b>Response</b>	Actions taken in anticipation of, during, or immediately after a crisis to ensure that its impacts are minimised, and that those affected are supported as quickly as possible.
<b>Sector Lead Agency</b>	An Australian Government agency that contributes to whole-of-Australian Government crisis coordination activities and leads the consequence management activities relevant to agency functions and sector-specific responsibilities.
<b>Space debris re-entry event</b>	The uncontrolled re-entry of space objects that may impact and pose risks to Australia.

## 3. Authorising Environment

### 3.1. Authority

The Australian Government Space Re-entry Debris Plan (AUSSPREDPLAN) derives its authority from the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF). The AGCMF outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Australian Government in preparing for, responding to and recovering from crises. It is the Australian Government's capstone policy framing Australia's national crisis management arrangements.

The AGCMF is underpinned by a range of national plans that set out hazard and sector-specific crisis management arrangements. AUSSPREDPLAN is one such plan.

AUSSPREDPLAN is prepared and maintained by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in close consultation with relevant Australian Government agencies. AUSSPREDPLAN is approved by the Deputy Coordinator General of the Emergency Management and Response Group (DCG EMR) in NEMA.

### 3.2. Amendments

Recommendations for amendments or suggestions for improvement may be forwarded to:

Deputy Coordinator General  
Emergency Management and Response Group  
National Emergency Management Agency  
[EMRCoordination@nema.gov.au](mailto:EMRCoordination@nema.gov.au)

### 3.3. Version Details

Version #	Date of Issue	Brief description of change
2.2	April 2025	Administrative review to align with the updated Australian Government Crisis Management Framework
2.1	2017	Administrative review
2.0	2014	AUSSPREDPLAN supersedes AUSCONPLAN-SPRED
1.0	1998	AUSCONPLAN-SPRED

## 4. Introduction

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### 4.1. Purpose

Re-entering space debris can have a harmful impact on Australia's people and environment, and may have radiological or nuclear implications.

AUSSPREDPLAN is the relevant plan that manages the risk posed by re-entering space debris which may impact Australia. It provides guidance on communication and potential coordination arrangements utilised to manage the risk of re-entering space debris impacting Australia.

### 4.2. Scope

AUSSPREDPLAN outlines how the Australian Government will support the states and territories in the event that space debris should impact within their jurisdictions. It also details how this support should be requested and how it will be managed. The plan identifies roles and responsibilities for key Australian Government agencies and committees in supporting the response to the re-entry of space debris.

### 4.3. Out of Scope

AUSSPREDPLAN does not supersede jurisdictional space debris re-entry plans. States and territories have primary responsibility for enacting the operational response to space debris re-entry events.

AUSSPREDPLAN does not address the provision of Australian Government-organised non-financial assistance to overseas countries. Separate plans cover these arrangements.

AUSSPREDPLAN does not supersede existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), agreements or interstate sharing arrangements between jurisdictions, other Australian Government agencies, and commercial entities.

### 4.4. Principles

Crisis events are typically variable, which requires flexible responses. Therefore, a principles-based approach should be adopted, including:

1. Unity of effort will be encouraged, through a collaborative and coordinated approach, without removing individual agencies' legislative, ministerial and constitutional responsibilities.
2. Flexibility, improvisation and scalability in the system will be promoted, given the potential complexity and severity of space debris re-entry crises.
3. Decentralisation of decision-making, supported by centralised strategic coordination and decentralised execution.
4. Support forward-looking decision-making and risk management with anticipatory analysis.
5. Foster interoperability and integrate civilian capabilities.
6. Be responsive and support elected officials' decision-making and crisis leadership.
7. Involvement of impacted jurisdictions in decision-making regarding any offers of, or request for, assistance.
8. AUSSPREDPLAN can be activated for the coordination and communication of Australian Government activities in response to a space debris re-entry event.
9. Related Australian Government plans will support the Australian Government either as part of standing arrangements or – where additional Australian Government resources are required – by activating the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN). If non-financial assistance is required from overseas, the arrangements in the Australian Government Reception of International Assistance Plan (AUSRIAPLAN) will be utilised.



10. This plan should be read in conjunction with the AGCMF and its supporting Handbook to clarify the responsibilities of the key Australian Government agencies involved and how information should flow between them.
11. The arrangements within AUSSPREDPLAN are not dependent on, nor should they be a hindrance to, the activation of other relevant plans and standing arrangements.
12. States and territories will manage the response to any space debris re-entry events within their borders.
13. The Australian Government has an obligation to notify the launching authority and the Secretary-General of the United Nations of space debris return in Australia and recover (if practicable) and return space debris to the launching authority under international agreements.
14. For requests that are non-urgent/non-lifesaving in nature, the Australian Space Agency (ASA) retains the right to call for (as a co-chair) the convening of a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) through NEMA. The NCM can work with any jurisdiction, commercial or non-government organisation to scope whether they can fulfil the request.

## Consideration of diverse groups

Under AUSSPREDPLAN, decisions and crisis communication made through preparedness, response, and early recovery phases need to consider the particular needs of people who may be disproportionately at risk of harm and ensure their inclusion in planning. This may include, but is not limited to:

- People with disability.
- People that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- First Nations communities.
- Refugee and migrant populations.
- People experiencing or at risk of gender-based violence.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other non-binary, non-cisgender (LGBTQIA+) people.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

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Under AUSSPREDPLAN, ministers, senior officials and their agencies have clear responsibilities to ensure Australian Government coordination and response activities are well-aligned and responsive as the impacts and consequences of the crisis evolves.

The roles of the Lead Minister, the Australian Government Coordinating Agency, the Lead Coordinating Senior Official, Sector Lead Agencies and Enabling Agencies under AUSSPREDPLAN are outlined below.

### 5.1. Lead Minister

Under the AGCMF, the **Lead Minister** under AUSSPREDPLAN is the Minister for Emergency Management. The Minister for Emergency Management is responsible for:

- Overseeing a coordinated Australian Government response to crisis and coordinating with Australian Government and jurisdiction counterparts.
- Exercising executive responsibilities and decision-making in consultation with Australian Government ministers with relevant interests.
- Responding to requests for Australian Government assistance from states and territories, under the auspices of COMDISPLAN.
- Ensuring there are systems and procedures available so that they are readily contactable.
- Ensuring the office of the Minister for Emergency Management maintains business continuity plans in the event that the office is affected directly by a crisis.

- Acting as the key Australian Government spokesperson in alignment with a whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications strategy.
- Recording the decisions and actions relevant to the crisis.

Should a crisis require Tier 4 coordination as defined by the AGCMF, the Prime Minister will become the Lead Minister. The Prime Minister may delegate some or all responsibilities to another minister.

## 5.2. Australian Government Coordinating Agency

The **Australian Government Coordinating Agency** for AUSSPREDPLAN is NEMA. NEMA is responsible for:

- Monitoring crisis events that may impact the interests and responsibilities of agencies across the Australian Government.
- Supporting the Lead Coordinating Senior Official in making decisions and recommendations on the level of coordination and response required.
- Preparing and positioning to lead the response to re-entry of space debris.
- Coordinating the operational response through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Team (CCT).
- Activating COMDISPLAN if required.
- Coordinating Australian Government non-financial assistance to the states and territories under the formal request arrangements described in COMDISPLAN.
- Facilitating shared situational awareness, including through the Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR) and National Coordination Mechanism (NCM).
- Providing a central point of communication between the Australian Government and states and territories in managing the associated risks from space debris re-entry, via the CCT.
- Distributing notifications of space debris re-entry from the NSR to relevant stakeholders, detailing the location(s) of re-entry and anticipated risk(s).
- Developing and coordinating of a whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications strategy and ensuring the dissemination of crisis communications products and public information (such as whole-of-Australian Government talking points and briefing materials).
- Undertaking a Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP) process to scope the situation and determine requirements and gaps, in consultation with relevant Australian Government agencies, jurisdictions and other relevant organisations.
- Maintaining business continuity plans to ensure the agency can continue to perform its role if it is affected directly by a crisis.
- Conducting a post-response evaluation and supporting the integration of relevant lessons identified into the continuous improvement of the Australian Government's crisis management arrangements, including AUSSPREDPLAN.

COMDISPLAN remains the mechanism for the Australian Government to provide non-financial assistance to an affected state or territory.

## 5.3. Lead Coordinating Senior Official

The **Lead Coordinating Senior Official** for AUSSPREDPLAN is DCG EMR. DCG EMR is responsible for:

- Ensuring NEMA is prepared and positioned to coordinate Australian Government actions in response to a crisis or crises caused by the re-entry of space debris.
- Authorising phase changes for AUSSPREDPLAN.
- Advising and supporting the Minister for Emergency Management in executing their responsibilities.
- Assessing the level of crisis coordination required, and establishing, reviewing and adapting the appropriate tier of coordination over the course of the crisis.
- Overseeing and coordinating the AUSSPREDPLAN response.

- Liaising with state and territory counterparts to target response efforts.
- Facilitating agreement to whole-of-Australian Government coordination priorities and objectives.
- Engaging and collaborating with counterparts in Sector Lead Agencies and Enabling Agencies.
- Convening and chairing AGCMF crisis forums, including NCMs, and briefing the National Security Committee of Cabinet (NSC) as required.
- Maintaining oversight of any requests for, or offers of, assistance received by Australian Government agencies from state, territory or foreign governments.
- Coordinating production of whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications products in alignment with the crisis communications strategy.
- Overseeing a post-response evaluation and the integration of lessons identified into relevant plans and processes.

## 5.4. Sector Lead Agencies

Sector Lead Agencies are responsible for:

- Monitoring crisis events that may impact the agency's interests and responsibilities.
- Conducting sector-specific responses and consequence management activities within their own portfolio, including coordination across jurisdictional equities as required.
- Deploying Liaison Officers (LOs) to the NSR as required to support shared situational awareness.
- Proactively contributing to the whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications strategy, dissemination of crisis communications products and public information (such as whole-of-Australian Government talking points and briefing materials).
- Engaging with counterparts in states, territories and/or international jurisdictions.
- Maintaining business continuity plans to ensure the agency can continue to perform its role if it is affected directly by a crisis.
- Maintaining records of decisions and actions relevant to the crisis.

Further agency-specific roles and responsibilities of Sector Lead Agencies under AUSSPREDPLAN are outlined below.

### Australian Space Agency (ASA)

- Where possible, provide advice on tracking and mapping space debris re-entry, impact sites and areas/nature of risk to the NSR in a timely manner.
- Where possible, identify any space debris when it is found and investigate its country of origin.
- Notify the launching authority and the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the debris discovery, coordinate the recovery of the debris (if practicable) and return the debris to the launching authority (if requested) in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), states and territories.
- Provide advice on conventions and agreements detailed within the *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space* (1997).
- In the event of an accident, event or emergency associated with space activities authorised under the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act* (2018), the Minister of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources must appoint a person as the investigator (the Act, s88).

### Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)

- In the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency, provide radiation protection advice to all levels of government and the public in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the Australian Government Radiological and Nuclear Event Plan (AUSRNEPLAN).

- If required, support state and territory governments by providing public health and environmental protection advice and/or services to governmental decision-makers, the public and the scientific community. This may include:
  - Location and characterisation of likely sources of radiological or nuclear threat.
  - Collection and monitoring of measurement data (such as, but not limited to, from field teams or fixed monitoring).
  - Prediction of dispersion of radiological material.
  - Technical analysis and assessment of simulated and actual data.
- Provide advice regarding the health environment.

## 5.5. Enabling Agencies

For the purposes of AUSSPREDPLAN, the roles and responsibilities of key agencies involved in supporting the preparedness, response and early recovery in the event of space debris re-entry crises are outlined in the table below.

Additionally, each Enabling Agency is generally responsible for:

- Administering relevant programs.
- Providing specialist technical, scientific, intelligence or information capabilities.
- Supporting or conducting any other enabling activities to support consequence management activities.
- Deploying LOs to the CCT (based in the NSR) as required to support shared situational awareness.
- Proactively contributing to the whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications strategy, dissemination of crisis communications products and public information (such as whole-of-Australian Government talking points and briefing materials).
- Engaging with counterparts in states, territories and/or international jurisdictions as required, in coordination with NEMA.
- Maintaining business continuity plans to ensure the agency can continue to perform its role if it is affected directly by a crisis.
- Maintaining records of decisions and actions relevant to the crisis.

Enabling Agency	Responsibilities
Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide specialist field deployable resources and assets to support space debris re-entry operations.</li> </ul>
Bureau of Meteorology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and products, if required, on weather-related issues and conditions which may affect the re-entry and impact of space debris, dispersion forecasts and the risk posed.</li> </ul>
Department of Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the receipt of information on possible space debris re-entry events and advise NEMA, through the NSR, in a timely manner.</li> <li>• In accordance with Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) policies and procedures, be prepared to provide resources to assist space debris re-entry response and recovery operations.</li> </ul>
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice on diplomatic issues.</li> <li>• Liaise with relevant foreign governments on space debris re-entry, providing information where relevant, and advise NEMA and other relevant agencies of information gained through this process.</li> <li>• Notify the launching authority and/or the Secretary-General of the United Nations where appropriate.</li> </ul>

Enabling Agency	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the reception of international assistance through the arrangements outlined in AUSRIAPLAN, if required.</li> </ul>
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide situation briefs to the Prime Minister, and if required, the Cabinet.</li> <li>PM&amp;C may elect to co-chair NCM meetings, as outlined in the AGCMF.</li> </ul>
Geoscience Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide advice on tracking and mapping space debris re-entry.</li> </ul>

## 6. Operational Activities

### 6.1. Overview

AUSSPREDPLAN has three phases: STANDBY, ALERT and ACTIVE. DCG EMR has the authority to initiate phase changes under AUSSPREDPLAN.

DCG EMR or delegate will authorise a phase change from STANDBY to ALERT or ACTIVE if an emergency or crisis is imminent or has occurred. The NSR will advise relevant Australian Government agencies and jurisdictions of phase changes to AUSSPREDPLAN.

### 6.2. Phases and Activities

AUSSPREDPLAN consists of three phases:

- STANDBY (default).
- ALERT (when an object is identified as a potential re-entry risk, or is likely to re-enter and impact Australia or its territories).
- ACTIVE (when an object has impacted Australia or its territories, and an Australian Government response is required).

Post-impact activity is managed under relevant state and territory arrangements.

#### STANDBY

AUSSPREDPLAN is maintained in STANDBY phase as the default condition. Under STANDBY the following activities are undertaken by NEMA:

- Monitor potential situations.
- Contingency planning for potential responses.
- Undertake training and exercises in the use of AUSSPREDPLAN.

#### ALERT

ALERT phase is declared when a space debris re-entry event is likely and allows for jurisdictions and agencies to be brought to an enhanced level of preparedness. DCG EMR or delegate can authorise a phase change to ALERT.

Relevant international space agencies monitor the decaying orbit of space debris and may provide advice to ASA on likely re-entry paths and risks to Australian interests. ASA will pass on information related to space debris re-entry, its imminence and its associated risk to NEMA, through the NSR.

Thereafter, under ALERT, the following activities are undertaken:

NEMA will:

- Advise states and territories, Australian Government agencies and other relevant stakeholders of the phase change to ALERT and the details of the debris re-entry and its associated risks, through the NSR.
- If required, convene NCM meetings to discuss the debris re-entry, its associated risks, and any assistance requested to support state and territory operations.
- Update and disseminate risk assessments and situation reports via the NSR as new information is obtained and analysed.
- Activate a CCT if necessary.
- Confirm the readiness, capability and capacity of Sector Lead Agencies, Enabling Agencies and states and territories to respond to a space debris re-entry event.
- Conduct crisis planning, using the CASP methodology.
- Work with whole-of-Australian Government partners to develop implementation plans, determine timings and consider constraints.

Sector Lead and Enabling Agencies also have responsibilities during ALERT:

- All Sector Lead and Enabling Agencies are to monitor the situation and undertake contingency planning.
- All Sector Lead and Enabling Agencies will identify their capacity to support space debris re-entry operations and place elements on alert as required.
- ASA will endeavour to provide NEMA with regular situation reports on the progress of the re-entry of the space debris.
- DFAT will maintain contact with relevant government/s through diplomatic channels and provide information to NEMA where relevant.
- Australian, State and Territory Governments may implement an observer program to report on re-entry sightings and provide information to the NSR on likely impact sites for the duration of the re-entry period.

States and territories will identify their potential requirements for Australian Government non-financial assistance in the event an impact occurs and advise NEMA, through the CCT. Any Australian Government non-financial assistance provided to states and territories will occur through COMDISPLAN.

If a space debris re-entry event occurs unexpectedly, AUSSPREDPLAN will automatically move from STANDBY to ACTIVE.

If the re-entry does not affect Australian territories or its Search and Rescue Region, NEMA will notify all agencies to stand down and the plan will revert to STANDBY phase.

ALERT phase automatically reverts to STANDBY phase after 72 hours unless advised otherwise.

## ACTIVE

All confirmed or suspected debris impact sites are to be reported to NEMA. Where an event has occurred, DCG EMR or delegate can authorise the activation of AUSSPREDPLAN. Under ACTIVE, the following activities are undertaken:

NEMA will:

- Advise appropriate stakeholders that AUSSPREDPLAN has been activated, through the NSR.
- Stand up a CCT to coordinate the whole-of-Australian Government response.
- Host an NCM meeting and advise the attendees of the situation and any received or likely requests for assistance.

- Establish a crisis communications cell, in line with advice provided in the Australian Government Crisis Communications Guidelines.
- Conduct a crisis planning process using the CASP methodology, developing subsequent planning products, informed by crisis intelligence.
- Consider and action any requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance, through COMDISPLAN.
- Provide stakeholders with regular situational awareness and ongoing monitoring and reporting, including through feeding relevant information into the CCT.
- Regularly brief the Australian Government agencies and involved jurisdiction(s) on the status of Task Requests.

Sector Lead Agencies are to manage the impacts of the event relevant to their portfolio, as outlined in the Roles and Responsibilities section above.

All debris impact sites are to be treated as a serious Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) situation with appropriate protocols applied until expert advice recommends otherwise. First responder authorities are to:

- Isolate the site.
- Manage the site as a HAZMAT situation.
- Secure a safe exclusion zone around the debris to contain it.
- Consider decontaminating and/or quarantining of members of the public, personnel and equipment that have come into contact with the debris or who are within proximity of the impact site.

State and territory HAZMAT experts will examine the debris and impacted areas, provide advice on whether a HAZMAT situation exists, and provide any ongoing management requirements. The Australian Government, through ARPANSA, will provide specialist detection support (including HAZMAT experts) if required.

### ***Categorisation of coordination response***

As the nature of a crisis changes over time, the Australian Government may shift and adapt coordination arrangements in accordance with the severity and complexity of the crisis. NEMA will consistently monitor and discuss the tiered arrangements and determine what level of coordination is required for a given crisis.

Tier 4 coordination may be triggered by a space debris re-entry event where the complexity and severity of impacts and consequences requires the highest level of coordination across the full span of Australian Government interests.

If a space debris re-entry crisis requires Tier 4 crisis coordination under the AGCMF, as agreed by relevant agencies, including NEMA and PM&C, the Lead Minister role will transition to the Prime Minister who may wish to delegate some, or all, responsibilities to another minister.

During a space debris re-entry crisis requiring Tier 4 coordination, the roles of Australian Government Coordinating Agency, Sector Lead Agencies and Enabling Agencies remain the same. PM&C's responsibilities will increase as they act as a conduit between NEMA and the Prime Minister. NEMA may wish to consider surge arrangements and additional requests for LOs to be embedded into the NSR, if required.

### **Deactivation and Post-Event**

Upon completion of all active Task Requests and confirmation of no further intention to require Australian Government non-financial assistance (through COMDISPLAN), coordination or communications, DCG EMR or delegate will approve the deactivation of AUSSPREDPLAN, which will then revert to STANDBY as the default condition.

NEMA advises appropriate stakeholders through the NSR that AUSSPREDPLAN has been deactivated.



NEMA will collate and record internal and external feedback for all responses undertaken during the activation of AUSSPREDPLAN.

Lessons management processes are a critical element of AUSSPREDPLAN, and ensure that opportunities for continuous improvement of AUSSPREDPLAN and its associated arrangements are identified. Following deactivation, NEMA will conduct an after-action review and lessons identified activity and will participate in those after-action activities conducted by other parties. For Tier 3 or Tier 4 crisis coordination, a whole-of-Australian Government evaluation process is required under the AGCMF. The outcomes of the after-action reviews will be distributed across the Australian Government and will inform updates to AUSSPREDPLAN.

NEMA is responsible for the coordination of early recovery from space debris re-entry events.

### 6.3. Coordination Arrangements

Under the AGCMF, DCG EMR leads the coordination of responses to major space debris re-entry crises and whole-of-Australian Government preparedness efforts. As per the AGCMF, Senior Officials inform their ministers (namely the Lead Minister) who can then inform Cabinet and the Prime Minister if required.

Key mechanisms under the AGCMF that could be leveraged to respond to space debris re-entry events include the below.

#### Crisis Communication and Public Information

To ensure consistent messaging across government during AUSSPREDPLAN activations, DCG EMR, supported by NEMA, is responsible for coordinating whole-of-Australian Government key messages and public communication.

A crisis communication cell will be established to support consistent public messaging. This cell will prioritise and coordinate messages, including public safety messages and whole-of-Australian Government talking points. Agencies involved in the response will be requested to provide lead communications staff to form part of the cell. Agencies are responsible for providing timely and accurate information related to their responsibilities to support prompt updates and dissemination of crisis communication products.

The crisis communication cell will engage across governments, and with industry and stakeholders such as media outlets, to ensure information is provided to the public in a timely manner, thereby supporting safety messages and maintenance of public trust in crisis management systems. The crisis communication cell will also identify key government spokespeople and will establish a daily tempo of public information updates.

The crisis communication cell will be responsible for:

- Developing a whole-of-Australian Government crisis communications strategy.
- Coordinating crisis communications key messages and products with relevant states and territories.
- Determining products, channel and cadence of updates.
- Confirming key spokespeople and tempo of engagement.
- Liaising with media and public information officers across government, and other stakeholders including media outlets as required.
- Anticipating and resolving communication risks, including misinformation and disinformation.
- Incorporating and prioritising coordinated and consistent key messages across government, including public safety messages.
- Adjusting communications as the event, the media cycle and community needs evolve.
- Disseminating crisis communication products across the Australian Government, state and territory governments, industry and other stakeholders as required or deemed relevant.
- Supporting other areas of government that are organising media conferences.
- Supporting PM&C, the Prime Minister's Office and any other ministers on any crisis communication requirements.



## National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)

The NCM is the peak senior officials' crisis coordination mechanism for shared situational awareness, national coordination and synchronisation of effort under AUSSPREDPLAN. It may bring together relevant Australian, state, territory and local government officials, industry, peak bodies, non-government organisations (NGOs) and eminent individuals for coordination, communication and collaboration during near-term preparedness, response, relief and early recovery.

- The relevant DCG NEMA (or delegate) convenes and chairs the NCM on behalf of the Australian Government, supported by NEMA. PM&C may elect to co-chair an NCM. Other relevant Australian Government agencies may co-chair, at the request of the NEMA chair or where they are the Australian Government Coordinating Agency.
- Participation in the NCM is not limited or defined by membership. NCM participation is flexible and can be wide-ranging. In the context of their role in the NCM, participants bring information, expertise and experience from their sectors, and actively contribute to shared situational awareness and cross-sectoral coordination of priorities and actions.
- Attendees can be from Australian and state and territory governments, industry or NGOs. NCM participation is determined on a case-by-case basis and can be restricted when required, as with the Australian Government NCM (NCM-AUSGOV).
- The NCM may be informed by subsidiary sector-specific coordination forums or crisis coordination nodes.

The role of the NCM under AUSSPREDPLAN includes:

- Facilitating whole-of-Australian Government coordination and decision-making.
- Facilitating discussion of whole-of-Australian Government strategic intent and agreed-upon tasks.
- Maintaining near real-time shared situational awareness, including discussion of current impacts.
- Clarifying priorities to ensure community safety and stabilise systems.
- Informing crisis communication strategies, including products and cadence.
- Ensuring national leadership and the maintenance of public trust in government systems.
- Directly engaging with industry and NGOs in alignment with strategic intent and agreed tasks.
- Recording and distributing agreed actions where required.

## Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR)

The NSR is the operational hub during a crisis that provides 24/7 all-hazards situational awareness, impact analysis and decision support through its crisis operations, intelligence and planning capabilities. Australian Government agencies, states and territories may be invited to deploy an LO into the CCT (based in the NSR) to facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication between the Australian Government and affected jurisdictions.

Situation reports from the NSR could include predictive analysis, impact assessments, actions being undertaken and activities to be prioritised. The National Joint Common Operating Picture (NJCOP) provides a near real-time, all-hazards platform designed to display all active significant crisis events. It provides a shared and common understanding both nationally and across borders during crisis events.

Agencies have a responsibility to keep the NSR informed of any relevant information relating to space debris, particularly if it has a domestic remit, so that the NSR can sustain situational awareness across the Australian Government.

## 6.4. Liaison Officers

Prior to or during an event, the CCT may request an LO from another Australian Government agency and/or jurisdiction to be deployed to the NSR, to assist in the coordination of Australian Government non-financial assistance or recovery assistance.

If required, a nominated NEMA LO will be deployed to accompany any Australian Government deployed capabilities, consistent with the arrangements prescribed within COMDISPLAN.

## 6.5. Inter-Agency Communications

While initial contact and liaison on matters relating to AUSSPREDPLAN may be made by telephone, the primary means of communication between NEMA and stakeholders will be by email. Alternative or overnight communication arrangements will be coordinated by the CCT as the situation demands. All telephone requests are to be confirmed by email as soon as possible.

Ongoing communications between the CCT and relevant agencies should be supported by the provision of regular situation reports or by the LO where deployed to the respective jurisdiction.

It is the responsibility of agencies to provide the CCT with appropriate contact details and to arrange internal distribution messages. All correspondence related to requests for assistance is documented by the CCT.

## 7. Requests for Assistance

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### 7.1. Domestic

During an AUSSPREDPLAN activation, when the total resources (government, community and commercial) of an affected jurisdiction cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation, the nominated official can seek non-financial assistance from the Australian Government in accordance with COMDISPLAN. For further information, see COMDISPLAN. Other national plans may also support the response.

### 7.2. International

The processes for offers of assistance, requests for international assistance, and coordinating the reception of international assistance are covered under the arrangements in the enabling AUSRIAPLAN. For further information, see AUSRIAPLAN.

## 8. Financial Arrangements

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The financial arrangements under AUSSPREDPLAN are consistent with those outlined in COMDISPLAN. Response options developed by NEMA will include cost estimates for the deployable capability, including extraordinary Australian Government costs associated with the deployment.

Financial arrangements for requesting agencies will be detailed in the formal Task Request sent to them from the CCT, and generally the purchase of assets and equipment where the life of the item extends beyond the current operation will be ineligible for reimbursement. Any ambiguity relating to costs should be clarified prior to acceptance of a task.

## 9. Associated Documents & Legislation

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Agencies should read AUSSPREDPLAN in conjunction with the following documents:

- Australian Government Crisis Management Framework ([Australian Government Crisis Management Framework \(pmc.gov.au\)](https://pmc.gov.au/)).
- Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) ([Australian Government Disaster Response Plan 2025 \(COMDISPLAN\)](#)).
- The *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020* ([Federal Register of Legislation - National Emergency Declaration Act 2020](#)) and NED Aide-Memoire.

- The *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* ([Federal Register of Legislation – Space \(Launches and Returns\) Act 2018](#)).
- Australian Government Radiological and Nuclear Event Plan (AUSRNEPLAN).
- Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP) Guidebook ([CASP Guidebook v.1.4 \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)).
- Exercise in a Box (toolkit available from NEMA).
- Lessons in a Box (toolkit available from NEMA).