

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2030



Contents

Executive summary	4
Purpose	5
Plan context.....	6
Emergency risk assessments.....	13
Prevention	16
Preparedness.....	18
Response	20
Recovery.....	22
Plan implementation.....	24
Glossary.....	25

Executive summary

Emergencies can occur at any time, often with little warning, and may quickly extend beyond local boundaries. Such events can significantly impact people, infrastructure, the environment and essential services.

The City of Tea Tree Gully has experienced emergencies in the past and recognises that changing social, environmental and economic conditions may increase exposure to hazards such as heatwaves, bushfires, storms and flooding. Council acknowledges the importance of understanding these risks and takes a proactive, coordinated approach to managing potential impacts.

Local government plays an important role in emergency management because of its knowledge of local conditions, strong community connections and access to local resources. Working collaboratively alongside emergency services, State Government and key partners; councils contribute to reducing risks, supporting preparedness, and assisting with response and recovery when emergencies occur.

The roles and responsibilities of local government in emergency management are established in the *Emergency Management Act 2004*, *Local Government Act 1999*, *State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)* and the *Local Government Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF)*. This Emergency Management Plan aligns with those arrangements and translates Council's Incident Management Policy into clear objectives that guide its approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

This Emergency Management Plan forms part of the City of Tea Tree Gully's commitment to emergency management and supports a coordinated and planned approach to managing the impacts of emergencies on the community.



Purpose

This Emergency Management Plan ('Plan') establishes Council's strategic direction for emergency management and implements Council's Incident Management Policy.

The Plan describes how Council contributes to:

- The prevention and preparedness of emergencies
- Risk mitigation
- Response and recovery support activities.

The Plan follows the comprehensive emergency management model adopted across South Australia, encompassing prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR), and identifies responsibilities, priorities and improvement actions.

The Plan is intended for Elected Members, partner agencies, emergency management stakeholders and community members seeking to understand Council's role in emergency management. Key emergency management terms and acronyms used in this Plan are explained in the glossary.

It is important to note that this Plan is **not** an operational response or recovery manual.



Prevention

Activities to understand risk and reduce likelihood or consequences.



Preparedness

Activities to decrease impact and ensure effective response.



Response

Measures to minimise effects and provide immediate relief.



Recovery

Restoring or improving community assets and resilience



What this Plan does

- Explains how Council contributes to PPRR
- Describes roles, responsibilities and priorities
- Supports coordination and collaboration with emergency services, government agencies and partner organisations



What this Plan does not do

- Replace the role of emergency services
- Provide emergency warnings or response instructions
- Direct or control emergency response operations
- Cover internal business continuity arrangements

Plan context

In developing the City of Tea Tree Gully Emergency Management Plan, the following contextual information has been considered.

South Australian emergency management arrangements

The SEMP establishes how emergencies are managed across South Australia, including the roles of control agencies, support agencies and participating organisations such as local government.

Under the SEMP, local government provide an enabling and support role. Councils work alongside emergency services and State Government to support response and recovery, drawing on local knowledge, community connections and available resources.

Councils participate in the Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG), led by the Local Government Association. The LGFSG coordinates local government support during emergencies and builds sector capability.

Legislative context

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires councils to consider risks when making decisions and managing services and assets. This includes responsibilities to:

- Support the welfare and wellbeing of communities
- Protect areas from natural hazards and reduce their impacts
- Provide and maintain infrastructure
- Plan for future changes that may affect costs or service delivery.

Councils must also consider broader regional, State and national objectives when developing plans and policies.

The LGEMF provides guidance on how councils contribute across the four PPRR phases.

Link to Council policies and arrangements

This Plan supports Council's Incident Management Policy, which links State emergency management arrangements with Council's own processes.

The Incident Management Policy is supported by Council's:

- Incident Management Framework
- Incident Operations Manual
- Business Continuity Plan.

These documents describe how Council organises its internal response and support activities during emergency events.

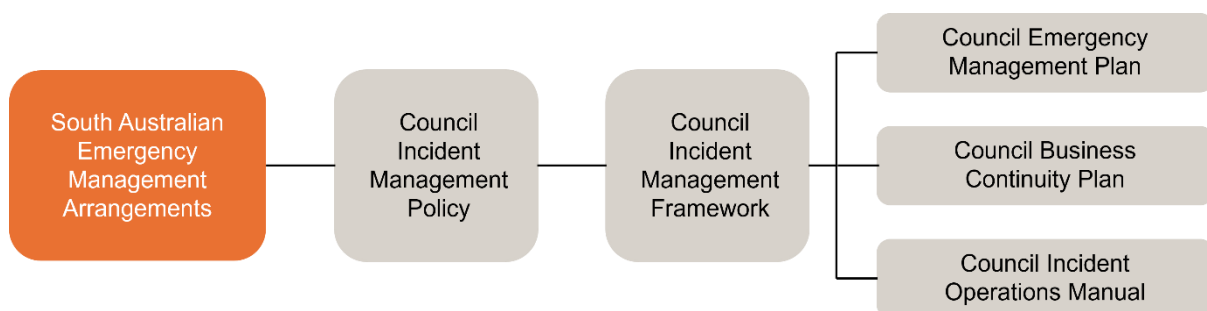
Council also participates in regional emergency management arrangements, including:

- Northern Adelaide Zone Emergency Management Committee
- Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee.

Link to other Council plans

The Plan aligns with other Council strategies and plans, including:

- Strategic Plan 2030, which recognises increasing extreme weather risks
- Environmental Management Framework, which references impacts from bushfires, floods, storms and heatwaves
- Bushfire Mitigation Framework
- Regional plans, including:
 - Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Area Plan
 - Northern Adelaide Zone Emergency Management Plan
 - Resilient East Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan.



Community profile

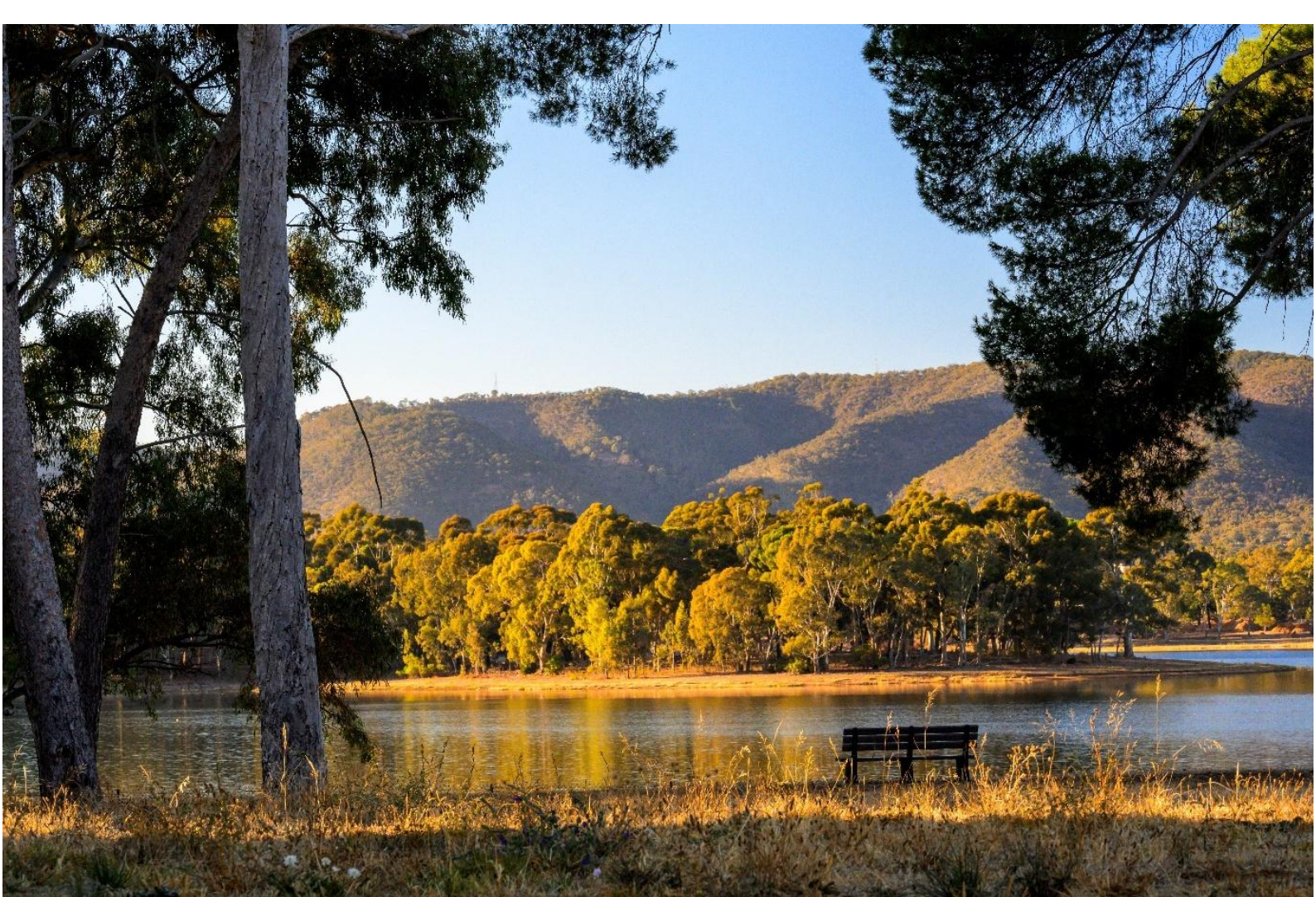
The City of Tea Tree Gully is located in the Mount Lofty Ranges foothills in north-eastern Adelaide. With Council boundaries from the CBD ranging as close as 9km and up to 25km, the City is home to approximately 104,000 residents across 42,000 households.

A blend of residential suburb and natural landscape, the Council area includes significant natural open spaces, walking and cycling trails, major facilities such as Westfield Tea Tree Plaza, Modbury Hospital, Civic Park and the O-Bahn busway.

Modbury is the one of the main business districts for Adelaide's north-east.

Council has a strong understanding of its local community, services and infrastructure. This knowledge helps inform emergency planning and support across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

A snapshot of the Council is provided on the following page. Further detailed information can be found in the [City of Tea Tree Gully Community Profile](#).



City profile



9,521 ha
Total land area



579 km
Sealed roads

1,234 km
Kerbs and gutters

584 km
Sealed footpaths

98 km
Unsealed footpaths

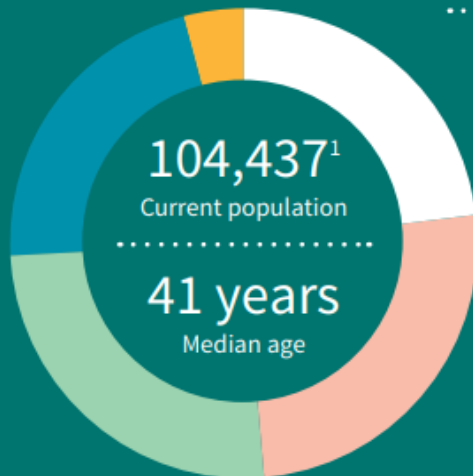


606
Parks and reserves

1,305 ha
Open space

500,000+
Street and reserve trees

124
Playgrounds



- 0-19 years (23.1%)
- 20-39 years (30.5%)
- 40-59 years (25.8%)
- 60-79 years (21.3%)
- 80+ (5.1%)



27.3%
of residents
born overseas

15.11%
undertaking
voluntary work

49.5%
with tertiary
qualifications



42,017²
Number of
dwellings



6,296
Registered businesses

\$4.2B
Gross Regional
Product

1. Estimated Residential Population in 2025 – Remplan

2. Estimated number of dwellings in the CTTG region in 2025 – Remplan



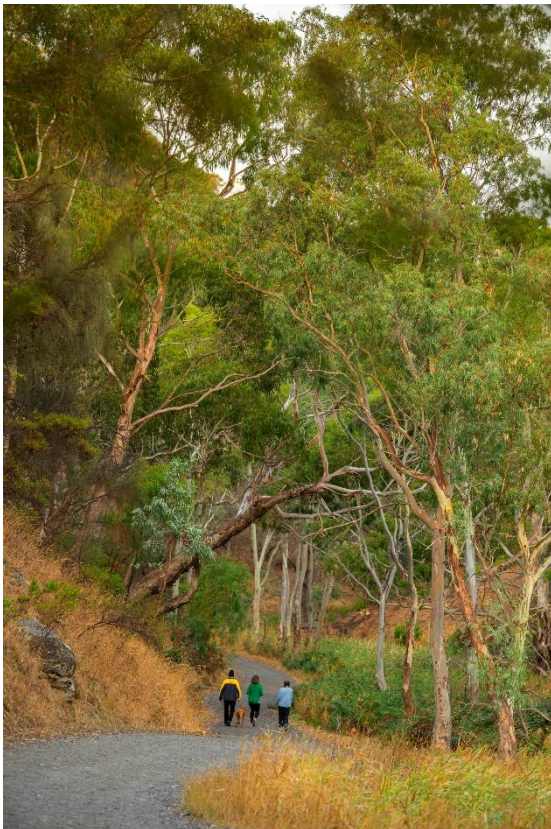
Natural assets

- Anstey Hill Recreation Park
- Civic Park
- Cobbler Creek Recreation Park
- Dry Creek
- Golden Fields
- Little Para River
- River Torrens Linear Park



Major infrastructure

- Civic Centre and library
- Lower North East Road
- Modbury Hospital
- North East Road
- O-Bahn busway
- Service Centre (works depot)
- TAFE SA
- Westfield Tea Tree Plaza



Council and community values

Council assets, services and community priorities are outlined in the Strategic Plan 2030 and the Annual Business Plan and Budget. These assets and values contribute to community wellbeing and quality of life but may be disrupted during emergencies.



Understanding what our community values helps guide how we plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Key community assets include:

- Parks, reserves and natural areas
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Walking trails and cycling paths
- A diverse, inclusive community
- A growing local economy
- Health and wellbeing services
- Roads and public transport
- Community facilities, events and development programs

When these assets are disrupted, there can be impacts on daily life, access to services, social connection and overall wellbeing.

Community wellbeing and inclusion

Community wellbeing data shows strong connections with local services and spaces. Many residents regularly use Council facilities, footpaths and parks, and most can access health services and essential destinations locally.

Some community members may be at increased risk during emergencies, including:

- Older people
- People with disability
- People with chronic health conditions
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Council considers these needs when planning for emergencies and aims to support inclusive and accessible approaches.

Scope and exclusions

This Plan focuses on community emergency risks that fall within Council's influence and responsibilities.

It does not address internal risks to Council's operations or services. These are managed through Council's Business Continuity Plan and other internal procedures.

Emergency management is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, organisations and the community.

Partners in emergency management

Council works closely with a range of partners, including:

- South Australia Police
- Country Fire Service
- Metropolitan Fire Service
- State Emergency Service
- Modbury Hospital
- Westfield Tea Tree Plaza
- Neighbouring councils.

Council also participates in regional emergency management committees and networks.



Emergency risk assessments

The City of Tea Tree Gully has undertaken emergency risk assessments to identify the risks most relevant to Council and the community. Priority hazards include:

- Bushfire
- Flood
- Storm
- Heatwave
- Human disease.

Emergency risk assessments are completed in line with national guidelines and Council's risk management procedures. These risk assessments support Council to:

- Prioritise prevention and preparedness activities
- Undertake informed decision-making.

Identified risks to Council and the community for each priority hazard are summarised below.

Hazard	Risk to Council and the community
Bushfire	• Loss of life and serious injury to community members • Impact on native flora and fauna • Fire risk from recreational parks
Flood	• Loss of life and serious injury to community members • Damage to infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges) • Impact on access routes • Localised flash flooding • Flooding of watercourses • Infrastructure failure (dams and water infrastructure)
Storm	• Injury to community members • Damage to Council and private property • Damage to essential services (e.g. power) causing impacts to businesses • High winds affecting the structural integrity of trees • Increase in Council resources needed for clean-up
Heatwave	• Loss of life and serious injury to community members • Impact to vulnerable community members • Impacts on Council infrastructure and assets (e.g. roads and parks) • Impacts to trees and vegetation • Interruption to Council services and works
Human disease	• Loss of life or illness to the community • Impact on healthcare services • Business interruption to Council and businesses • Impact on wellbeing and social connectivity

Emergency management objectives

Based on the risk assessments and broader context, Council's emergency management objectives are:



Prevention

Our goal: Reduce the impacts of emergencies by understanding risks and taking action to minimise them.

How we will achieve our goal:

1. Increase understanding of local emergency risks for Council and the community.
2. Build community awareness and confidence to support informed decision-making through trusted emergency information.
3. Ensure strong plans and strategies are in place to help reduce the impacts of emergencies on people, assets and the environment.



Preparedness

Our goal: Strengthen readiness across Council and the community before emergencies occur.

How we will achieve our goal:

1. Maintain robust plans, systems and resources so Council is ready to support emergency response operations.
2. Ensure Council staff are trained, capable and able to participate safely in emergency support roles.
3. Support community preparedness by promoting and directing residents to trusted emergency information and resources.



Response

Our goal: Provide safe and coordinated response support during an emergency.

How we will achieve our goal:

1. Continuously improve Council's systems and processes to effectively support emergency services and the community during incidents.
2. Contribute to community awareness of emergency events that are occurring.



Recovery

Our goal: Support community recovery and strengthen resilience after emergencies.

How we will achieve our goal:

1. Work in partnership with recovery agencies to identify and support community recovery needs consistent with Council's role, capacity and resources.
2. Restore Council facilities and services following an emergency, and where feasible, enhance resilience to reduce the impacts of future events.

Prevention

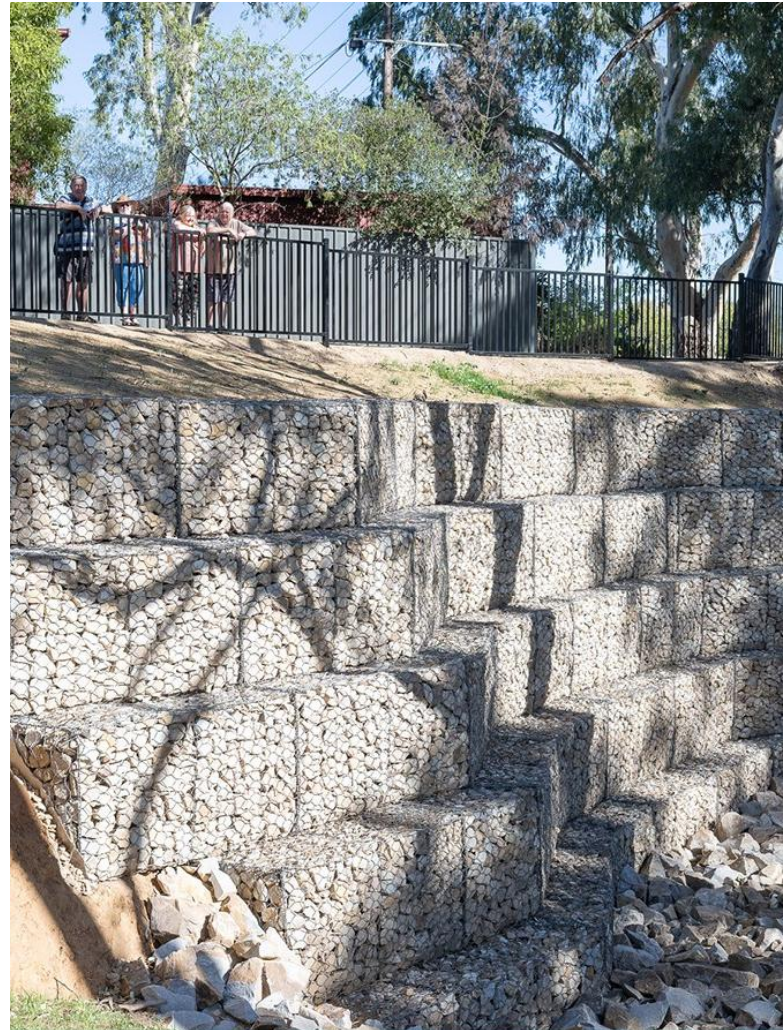
What prevention means

Prevention includes actions that avoid or reduce the likelihood or impacts of emergencies. It focuses on managing risk, strengthening resilience and avoiding the creation of new risks.

Council's role in prevention

Council contributes to prevention by:

- Undertaking business-as-usual risk reduction activities
- Understanding and communicating local risks
- Embedding risk considerations into planning and decision-making
- Working with partners and the community.



Prevention activities

Council undertakes the following business as usual prevention activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Public health measures | • Asset management planning |
| • Bushfire management planning | • Appointment of a Fire Prevention Officer |
| • Land management | • Building safety |
| • Tree and vegetation management | • Community development and resilience |
| • Road maintenance, renewal and upgrade | • Flood mapping and mitigation works |
| • Traffic management | • Provision of public information |
| • Waste management services | • Land use planning and development |
| • Stormwater infrastructure maintenance, renewal and upgrade | • Participation in Bushfire Management Committee and Zone Emergency Management Committee |

In addition to these ongoing activities, Council has identified the following actions to further strengthen its approach to prevention.



Prevention

Our goal: Reduce the impacts of emergencies by understanding risks and taking action to minimise them.

1. Increase understanding of local emergency risks for Council and the community

- a. Publish, update and share key local risk assessment insights with the community, Elected Members and relevant staff to support informed decision-making.
- b. Incorporate local emergency risk considerations into relevant Council planning, asset and policy discussions where appropriate.

2. Build community awareness and resilience to support informed decision-making through trusted emergency information

- a. Promote and amplify emergency information from trusted sources such as emergency services and state agencies.
- b. Use existing Council communication channels to share seasonal risk information (such as heatwaves, storms, bushfires) at key times of the year.
- c. Engage with new and existing residents in identified high-risk areas to provide information about relevant emergency hazards and risks.

3. Ensure strong plans and strategies are in place to help reduce the impacts of emergencies on people, assets and the environment.

- a. Maintain and review Council's Incident Management Policy, Emergency Management Plan and associated documents to ensure they remain current and aligned with state emergency management arrangements.
- b. Periodically review Council's emergency risk assessments for identified priority hazards to ensure they remain current and reflect changes in risk, context or available information.
- c. Consider emergency risk and resilience in relevant Council strategies, plans and programs, including infrastructure, land use and environmental planning.
- d. Use outcomes from emergency risk assessments and other relevant evidence to help inform priorities for mitigation, maintenance and investment where feasible.
- e. Ensure Council's business continuity management system reflects emergency risk assessment outcomes to help minimise community impacts arising from service disruption.

Preparedness

What preparedness means

Preparedness includes those activities undertaken before an emergency occurs that reduce the impact, extent and severity of incidents. Preparedness activities that support effective Council and community response focus on planning, training, exercising and communication before emergencies occur.

Council's role in preparedness

Council's role includes:

- Maintaining emergency management plans and arrangements to support effective emergency response
- Contributing to regional planning activities
- Providing training and awareness for staff
- Promoting trusted preparedness information to the community.



Preparedness activities

Council undertakes the following business as usual preparedness activities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Support community education and awareness campaigns | • Maintain situational awareness about potential and actual emergency events |
| • Amplify preparedness messaging from authorised agencies | • Undertake pro-active maintenance works before a period of increased risk |
| • Undertake emergency management training sessions and debriefs | • Ensure appropriate financial arrangements are in place |
| • Maintain documentation that describes Council's approach to providing emergency support | • Participate in the Bushfire Management Committee and Zone Emergency Management Committee |

In addition to these ongoing activities, Council has identified the following actions to further strengthen its approach to preparedness.



Preparedness

Our goal: Strengthen readiness across Council and the community before emergencies occur.

1. Maintain robust plans, systems and resources so Council is ready to support emergency response operations.

- a. Maintain Council's incident management and emergency support arrangements in alignment with state and regional frameworks.
- b. Review and exercise emergency management arrangements periodically to ensure roles, responsibilities and processes remain clear.
- c. Maintain systems and processes that support reliable communication, activation and coordination during emergency response activities.

2. Ensure Council staff are trained, capable and able to participate safely in emergency support roles.

- a. Provide appropriate emergency management training to members of the Council Incident Management Team and staff involved in emergency support roles.
- b. Maintain a register of staff who are trained and qualified to support emergency response activities.
- c. Ensure appropriate safety guidance, support and personal protective equipment are available to staff undertaking emergency support roles.

3. Support community preparedness by promoting and directing residents to trusted emergency information and resources.

- a. Promote preparedness resources and guidance from emergency services and relevant government agencies through Council communication channels.
- b. Use Council communication channels to encourage residents to take practical preparedness actions ahead of high-risk periods.
- c. Direct residents to trusted information sources, alerts and warnings provided by emergency services and relevant authorities.

Response

What response means

Response includes those actions before, during and shortly after an emergency that protect life, property and community wellbeing. Response activities focus on timely coordination, communication and the effective deployment of resources to help minimise the impacts of an emergency.

Council's role in response

Emergency services and other lead agencies are responsible for leading response operations.

Council supports response efforts:

- In line with its Incident Management Policy and Incident Operations Manual
- At the request of relevant lead agencies
- Subject to the safety, capability and availability of resources.

Council helps by providing local knowledge, resources, communication support and access to facilities.

When providing emergency support, Council operates within the i-Responda Framework and associated internal safety procedures.

Response activities

Council undertakes the following business as usual response activities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Implementation of Council's incident management arrangements | • Plant and equipment to support emergency services |
| • Environmental Health Services | • Specialised and skilled staff |
| • Local knowledge | • Vegetation management |
| • Waste management | • Communication |
| • Traffic management | • Community networks |
| • Flood mitigation | • Community facilities |

In addition to these ongoing activities, Council has identified the following actions to further strengthen its approach to response.





Response

Our goal: Provide safe and coordinated response support during an emergency.

1. Continuously improve Council's systems and processes to effectively support emergency services and the community during incidents

- a. Maintain and regularly exercise Council's Incident Management arrangements to support effective, coordinated emergency response.
- b. Maintain a Council Incident Management Team and i-Responda Employee Emergency Support Team to enable the safe, scalable and well-coordinated deployment of Council staff and resources in support of response operations.
- c. Participate in debriefs and after-action reviews following emergency events and exercises, and use identified lessons to inform continual improvement of incident management arrangements.

2. Contribute to community awareness of emergency events that are occurring

- a. Support the distribution and amplification of public information issued by emergency services and other authorised agencies during emergency events, where appropriate.
- b. Use Council communication channels to provide timely information about the impacts of emergencies on Council services, assets and community facilities.

Recovery

What recovery means

Recovery activities focus on restoring and improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities after emergencies. Recovery activities include restoring services, repairing infrastructure, supporting social and economic recovery and building community resilience.

Council's role in recovery

After a significant emergency, the State Government leads recovery activities.

Council supports recovery by:

- Contributing local knowledge
- Restoring Council services and facilities
- Working with recovery agencies
- Advocating for community recovery needs.

Council acts within its role, capacity and available resources.

Recovery activities

Council undertakes the following business as usual recovery activities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental health services• Animal management• Waste management• Traffic management• Road maintenance, renewal and upgrade• Stormwater maintenance, renewal and upgrade | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community development• Community grant programs• Advocacy for local recovery needs• Communication• Council facilities for relief and recovery• Building maintenance, renewal and upgrade |
|---|---|

In addition to these ongoing activities, Council has identified the following actions to further strengthen its approach to recovery.





Recovery

Our goal: Support community recovery and strengthen resilience after emergencies.

1. Work in partnership with recovery agencies to identify and support community recovery needs, consistent with Council's role, capacity and resources.

- a. Work with local, regional and state recovery agencies to support coordinated recovery activities following emergency events.
- b. Contribute local knowledge and information to assist with identifying community recovery needs and priorities.
- c. Advocate for appropriate recovery support and services through established local, regional and state recovery arrangements.

2. Restore Council facilities and services following an emergency, and where feasible, enhance resilience to reduce the impacts of future events.

- a. Restore Council services, assets and facilities impacted by an emergency as soon as practicable, prioritised according to community needs, safety and service continuity requirements.
- b. Where feasible, incorporate resilience-building improvements into repair, replacement or reinstatement works.
- c. Support the use of suitable Council facilities for emergency relief or recovery purposes, where requested by the relevant lead agency and where appropriate.

Plan implementation

Responsibility

Council's Manager Corporate Governance is responsible for coordinating and maintaining this Plan.

Resourcing this Plan

Council supports this Plan by:

- Budget planning
- Maintaining relevant services and capabilities
- Training staff for emergency management and support roles.

Financial arrangements and cost recovery processes relating to providing support during response and recovery to an emergency are detailed in Council's Incident Management Framework and Incident Operations Manual.

Monitoring and review

The Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed, with a complete revision every four years.

Lessons from emergencies and exercises are used to improve arrangements over time.



Glossary

Term	Meaning
Control agency	The agency with legislated responsibility for leading the response to a specific type of emergency (for example, the Country Fire Service for bushfires).
Emergency management	The planning, coordination and actions undertaken to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.
Incident Management Policy	Council's policy that outlines how it manages and supports emergency events, aligned with State emergency management arrangements.
Incident Operations Manual	An internal Council document that describes operational procedures for emergency support activities. This document is not publicly available.
i-Responda Framework	A risk management framework used by South Australian councils to support the safe deployment of resources during emergency support operations.
Local Government Emergency Management Framework (LGEMF)	A framework that describes the role of local government in South Australia's emergency management arrangements across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
Local Government Functional Support Group (LGFSG)	Comprised of the LGA as the lead agency and all 68 councils and Regional Local Government Associations as participating organisations, performing functional roles and capability that supports the agencies responsible for managing and coordinating emergency response and recovery.
Prevention	Actions taken to reduce the likelihood of emergencies or limit their potential impacts.
Preparedness	Activities taken before emergencies occur to ensure people, systems and resources are ready to respond effectively.
Response	Actions taken immediately before, during and shortly after an emergency to protect life, property and the environment.
Recovery	The process of restoring or improving the health, wellbeing and functioning of individuals and communities following an emergency.
SEMP (State Emergency Management Plan)	The plan that outlines how emergencies are managed within South Australia, including the roles of control agencies, support agencies and functional support groups.
Support agency	An organisation that provides assistance to the control agency during an emergency, within its responsibilities and capabilities.

May 2026

For more information contact
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CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better