AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS DISASTER ASSISTANCE PLAN

(AUSASSISTPLAN)

APRIL 1998

EMA
Emergency
Management
Australia

CONTENTS LIST

ANNEXES

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN)

AUTHORITY

The Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN) is prepared and maintained by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), in conjunction with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), as a contingency plan to meet requests from overseas countries for Australian physical and technical assistance following a disaster of any type. AUSASSISTPLAN covers provision of such assistance during the immediate post-impact (or emergency) phase after a disaster when use of Commonwealth Government resources is involved. It does not provide for a response which uses only resources of non-government organisations, nor for longer term reconstruction assistance.

Although AUSASSISTPLAN may be activated for the provision of assistance to any country, most response operations are likely to be mounted to relieve the effects of disasters in Papua New Guinea and the countries of the South Pacific.

A H Hodges,AM
Director General
Emergency Management Australia

April 1998

ENDORSEMENT

This plan is endorsed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

J Munro
Director
Humanitarian and Emergencies Section
Australian Agency for International Development

April 1998

DISTRIBUTION LIST

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

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	COMSPTAS	1
	HSCD	1
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Industry, Science and Tourism	EMLO	1
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	ACRES	1
Primary Industries and Energy	EMLO	1
	AQIS	1
Prime Minister and Cabinet	EMLO	1
Social Security	EMLO	1
Transport & Regional Development	EMLO	1

OTHER COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES

Airservices Australia	EMLO	1
Australian Customs Service	EMLO	1
	Sub-Collector, Canberra	1
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	AusSAR	1
Centrelink	EMLO	1
Telstra	EMLO (Canberra)	1
	EMLO (Melbourne)	1
	EMLO (International)	1

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS MISSIONS

The Australian Ambassador	Jakarta	1
	Manila	1
	Pohnpei	1
The Australian High Commissioner	Apia	1
	Honiara	1
	Nauru	1
	Nuku'alofa	1
	Port Moresby	2
	Port Vila	1
	Suva	1
	Tarawa	1
	Wellington	1
The Australian Consul-General	Honolulu	1
	Noumea	1

OTHER AUTHORITIES

The Ambassador of France, Canberra,	1
The Ambassador of the United States of America, Canberra	1
The High Commissioner for New Zealand, Canberra	1
United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva	1
United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, SPPO, Suva	1
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, Pacific Regional Office	1
Australian Red Cross Society	1
The Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA)	1
Pacific Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Wellington	1
CPO Noumea	1

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA (INTERNAL)

DGEMA	1
DPPC	1
DBM	1
DML	1
ADEM	1
ADCD	1
ADPOL	1
OEMO	1
EMDO	1
MDAP	1
MIDNDR	1
National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC)	4
EMLO Room	6
Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI)	2
Spare	<u>20</u>
Total	**<u>120</u>**

AUSASSISTPLAN

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT

AusAID and EMA will review AUSASSISTPLAN on a regular basis. Recommendations for amendments or suggestions for improvements may be forwarded at any time to:

       The Director General
       Emergency Management Australia
       PO Box 1020
       DICKSON ACT 2602   (Attention: ADEM)
       Phone   02 6266 5165
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Entry of amendments in this copy of AUSASSISTPLAN is to be noted in the columns below.

Amendment No	Issue Date	Amended By	Date
Complete re-issue	December 1997		

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED IN OVERSEAS DISASTER RESPONSE OPERATIONS

The following abbreviations and acronyms may be encountered during overseas disaster relief operations. Some may be unfamiliar to particular users of AUSASSISTPLAN.

ACCT	Association de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique (French)
ACFOA	Australian Council for Overseas Aid (NGO)
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (Gov)
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (A group of developing countries supported by the European Union)
ACR	Australian Catholic Relief (NGO)
ACRES	Australian Centre for Remote Sensing
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADCD	Assistant Director Civil Defence (EMA)
ADEM	Assistant Director Emergency Management (EMA)
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADG AHR	Assistant Director General, Africa and Humanitarian Relief Branch (AusAID)
ADHQ	Australian Defence Headquarters
ADPOL	Assistant Director Policy (EMA)
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (NGO)
AEMI	Australian Emergency Management Institute (EMA)
AGSO	Australian Geological Survey Organisation (Gov)
AHR	Africa and Humanitarian Relief Branch (AusAID)
ALCC	Air Load Coordination Cell (RAAF Richmond)
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority (Gov)
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ARC	Australian Red Cross (NGO)
ARL	Australian Radiation Laboratory
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency
ASA	Airservices Australia (Gov)
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ATTU	Air Transportable Telecommunications Unit
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development (Gov)
AusSAR	Australian Search and Rescue (Gov)
AVA	Australian Volunteers Abroad (NGO)
CAA	Community Aid Abroad (NGO)
C and F	Cost and Freight (All costs up to arrival at destination are met by the supplier except insurance.)
CARAVEL	The Australia Joint Service Plan which supports AUSASSISTPLAN
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CHOGRM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIF	Cost Insurance Freight (All costs up to arrival at the destination are met by the supplier)
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMDISPLAN	Commonwealth Government Disaster Response Plan (Domestic)

COMSPTAS	Commander Support Australia (Defence)
CRRERIS	Commonwealth Regional Renewable Energy Resources Information System
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Gov)
DAEMI	Director Australian Emergency Management Institute (EMA)
DAP	Direct Aid Program
DBM	Director, Business Management (EMA)
DCOORD - A	Director of Coordination - Army
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DGEMA	Director General, Emergency Management Australia
DGDFHS	Director General Defence Force Health Service (Defence)
DGJOP	Director General Joint Operations and Plans (Defence)
DGPI	Director General Public Information (DGPI)
DHA	Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
DHFS	Department of Health & Family Services (Gov)
DIGS	Development Import Grants Scheme
DIMA	Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs (Gov)
DIST	Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
DJOPS	Director of Joint Operations (Defence)
DML	Director, Media Liaison (EMA)
DNCPP	Director, Naval Current Policy and Plans (Defence)
DNSDC	Defence National Stores and Distribution Centre
DOSIA	Director of Support and International Affairs (Defence)
DPIE	Department of Primary Industries and Energy
DPPC	Director Policy, Planning and Coordination (EMA)
EAC	Emergency Assistance Coordination
EC	European Community (now the European Union)
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMDO	Emergency Management Development Officer (EMA)
EMLO	Emergency Management Liaison Officer
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
EU	European Union
EWC	East-West Centre (Honolulu) (A post-graduate research & training centre)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)
FAS	Free Alongside (Supplier covers costs to the point of embarkation but not including loading)
FAA	Federal Aviation Agency (US)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency (of the South Pacific Forum)
FOB	Free On Board (Supplier covers costs until completion of loading)
FRANZ	Agreement between France, Australia and New Zealand on information exchange on disaster relief issues
FPSP	Foundation for the People of the South Pacific (NGO)
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia

HOM	Head of Mission (Senior Australian diplomatic representative in a foreign country)
HQAST	Headquarters Australian Theatre (Defence)
HSCD	Head, Strategic Command Division (Defence)
HES	Humanitarian and Emergencies Section (AusAID)
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Authority
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation (UN)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross (NGO)
IDA	International Development Association (NGO)
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organisation (UN)
IMF	International Monetary Fund (UN)
IMO	International Maritime Organisation (UN)
IOPCF	International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITI	International Training Institute
ITU	International Telecommunications Union (UN)
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NGO)
MATU	Mobile Air Terminal Unit
MDAP	Manager, Disaster Awareness Program (EMA)
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ)
MIDNDR	Manager, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (EMA)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding (between countries)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (US)
NDC	National Disasters Committee (Solomon Islands)
NCC	National Council of Churches in Australia (formerly ACC) (NGO)
NEMCC	National Emergency Management Coordination Centre
NGO	Non-government organisation
NSB	Nuclear Safety Bureau
OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
ODA	(1) Official development assistance (Australian)
	(2) Overseas Development Agency (UK)
OEMO	Overseas Emergency Management Officer (EMA)
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (US)
OSB	Overseas Services Bureau (NGO)
OTIA	(1) Office of Territorial and International Affairs (US)
	(2) Office of Technical International Assistance (US)
PAS	Public Affairs Section (AusAID)
PEP	Pacific Energy Program
PIDP	Pacific Islands Development Program (US)
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PRAS	Pacific Regional Advisory Service
PRT	Pacific Regional Team (AusAID)

PTC	Pacific Telecommunications Council
PTWC	Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (in Hawaii)
ROU	Record of Understanding (between Australian Government Department and another party)
SCF	Save the Children Fund (NGO)
SES	State Emergency Service
SAS	Small Activities Scheme
SITREP	Situation Report
SPC	South Pacific Commission (Regional organisation with membership from all regional nations, including French Territories, and from major donors)
SPF	South Pacific Forum (Regional organisation with membership from independent countries including Australia and New Zealand)
SPPO	South Pacific Programme Office (UNOCHA)
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SWP	South West Pacific
TCWC	Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
TES	Territory Emergency Service
TTPI	Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (US)
UNCTC	United Nations Centre for Trans-National Corporations
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Team)
UNDAT	United Nations Development Advisory Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force(s)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USP	University of the South Pacific
VCDF	Vice Chief of the Defence Force
WCC	World Council of Churches (NGO)
WFP	World Food Programme (UN)
WHO	World Health Organisation (UN)
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation (UN)
WVA	World Vision Australia (NGO)

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.   As a developed country, Australia accepts humanitarian responsibility for providing aid to countries in need. This responsibility extends to provision of assistance to countries affected by disasters.

1.2.   The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade for managing Australia's overseas aid program including Australia's assistance to overseas countries after disasters. This assistance may be financial, technical or physical, and the appropriate response to a particular disaster will be decided by the Minister and/or AusAID.

1.3.   By Ministerial agreement, AusAID may call upon Emergency Management Australia (EMA), as AusAID's agent, to prepare contingency plans and to coordinate the operational aspects of a post-impact (emergency) phase response to an overseas disaster employing Commonwealth physical or technical resources. The Minister for Defence will be kept informed of the progress of response operations.

1.4.   The Ministerial agreement relates principally to provision of assistance to Papua New Guinea and the countries of the South Pacific but it also permits EMA to be tasked to coordinate a response outside this area of primary concern. This plan has been designed for use in coordinating relief after a disaster anywhere in the world.

1.5.   Regional countries are at risk from a wide range of natural and technological disasters although the degree of risk varies from country to country. Annex A lists these countries and the degree of risk to which they are subject. The Annex also lists the Australian Missions accredited to each of these nations.

1.6.   Provision of Australian assistance for search and rescue operations, emergency or medical evacuation outside disaster periods, is not covered by AUSASSISTPLAN. Such assistance is provided under separate arrangements between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Australian Search and Rescue (AusSAR) or the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as appropriate.

SECTION 2 AIM

2.1.   The aim of AUSASSISTPLAN is to detail the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian emergency assistance, using Commonwealth physical and technical resources, following a disaster in another country.

SECTION 3 APPLICATION OF THE PLAN

3.1.   AUSASSISTPLAN deals primarily with the response phase of post-disaster assistance. If Commonwealth resources are to be used, either alone or in combination with physical or technical resources of non-government organisations (NGOs), or the private sector,

the plan may be activated and EMA may be called upon to coordinate the relief operation on behalf of AusAID through the National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC) at EMA Canberra. Responsibility for coordinating provision of longer term (reconstruction) assistance remains with AusAID.

3.2.　　　　AUSASSISTPLAN is not activated when NGOs provide direct assistance to equivalent organisations in a country affected by a disaster, unless Commonwealth Government resources are involved in the operation.

3.3.　　　　Commonwealth and NGO resources may be involved in a <u>combined</u> disaster response operation, in which case AUSASSISTPLAN will apply. Circumstances in which a combined response operation may occur and relevant coordination responsibilities are as follows:

a.　　　　if AusAID considers it appropriate for <u>part</u> of the Australian assistance to be provided by NGOs - EMA coordinates the overall response using AUSASSISTPLAN;

b.　　　　when provision of the assistance requested by an affected country can only be provided by calling on both Commonwealth and NGO resources - EMA coordinates the overall response using AUSASSISTPLAN; and

c.　　　　when AusAID authorises use of Commonwealth Government owned, hired or leased transport resources for carriage of NGO assistance to NGOs in the affected country - EMA coordinates transport arrangements while AusAID or an appointed NGO coordinates the remainder of the response. AUSASSISTPLAN may be activated for transport arrangements.

SECTION 4　PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

4.1.　　　　EMA will follow the principles outlined below when AUSASSISTPLAN is activated. Supporting agencies are asked to follow the same principles when formulating their support plans:

a.　　　　assistance provided under AUSASSISTPLAN will be designed to alleviate distress or preserve life and property according to the stated needs of the affected country;

b.　　　　assistance will not be provided or transported by the Commonwealth Government unless the request for the assistance has been approved by the disaster management authorities of the affected country;

c.　　　　as far as possible, the priorities set by the requesting government will be followed. If no priorities are set, EMA will decide priorities based on experience. Safety of life will be the ultimate criteria;

d.   the most effective available resource(s) capable of meeting the need will be used. This will require a flexible approach to problem solving and willingness to use alternative strategies in pursuit of the ultimate aim;

e.   there must be continuous liaison between all responding authorities and agencies, both government and non-government, but liaison with disaster management authorities in the affected country must, as far as practicable, be through the Australian diplomatic mission and AusAID;

f.   the effectiveness of the response to requests must be continuously assessed; and

g.   the open sharing of accurate information and its consolidation in regular situation reports will be a high priority.
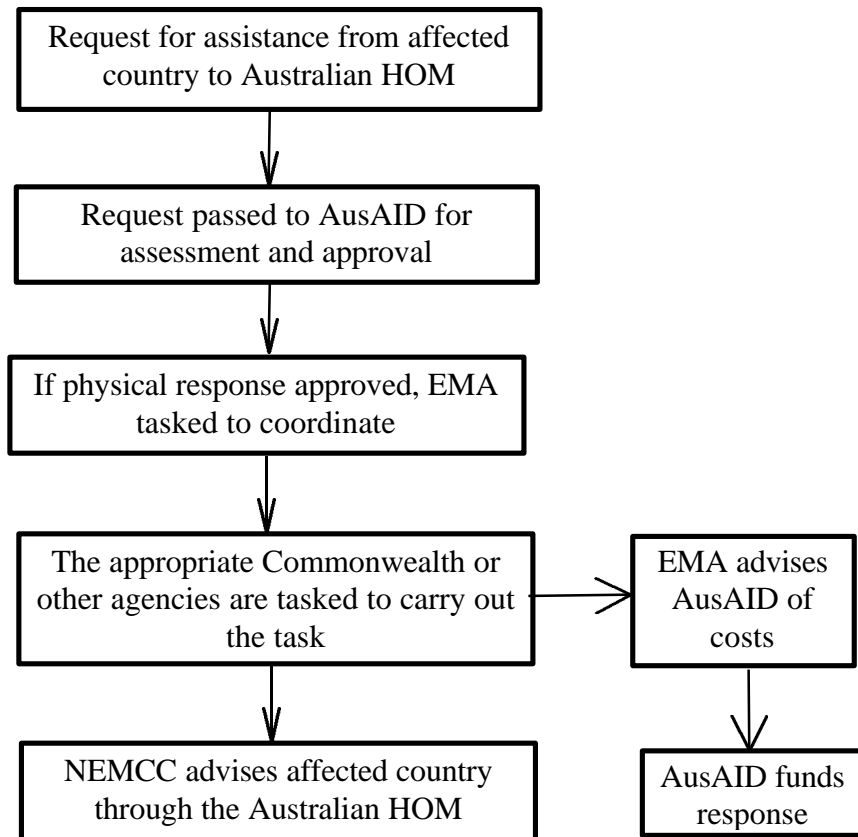
SECTION 5   EXECUTION

5.1   OUTLINE

5.1.1.   AUSASSISTPLAN is activated through a series of readiness phases, identified by colour codes, which are related to the likelihood of requests for Australian assistance from an overseas country. Disasters and emergencies vary and the initial activation may begin with any phase. Requests for Australian assistance are normally passed by the government of a disaster-affected country to the head of the appropriate Australian diplomatic mission (HOM). Requests for assistance in disasters in the French Pacific Territories (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna) are normally passed through the Australian Consul-General in Noumea.

5.1.2.   The HOM forwards the request to AusAID who, in consultation with DFAT, will decide whether Australia will respond to the request and the size and type of response to be provided. If a physical or technical response is approved, AusAID will ask EMA to coordinate that response within any stated guidelines. DGEMA is authorised to task any appropriate Commonwealth Government or other Australian resources to meet requests. Costs are monitored and all expenses paid by AusAID. The outline system is shown in diagrammatic form on page 4.

5.1.3.   Under AUSASSISTPLAN, NGOs may request movement of relief supplies in Commonwealth Government funded transport to the disaster affected country. Transport requests will only be met if the need for the supplies and their suitability has been confirmed by the national disaster management agency in the affected country through the Australian HOM.

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┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│  Request for assistance from     │
│  affected country to Australian  │
│  HOM                             │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
                 │
                 ▼
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│  Request passed to AusAID for    │
│  assessment and approval         │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
                 │
                 ▼
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│  If physical response approved,  │
│  EMA tasked to coordinate        │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
                 │
                 ▼
┌─────────────────────────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐
│  The appropriate Commonwealth or │───────▶│  EMA advises │
│  other agencies are tasked to    │        │  AusAID of   │
│  carry out the task              │        │  costs       │
└─────────────────────────────────┘        └──────────────┘
                 │                                  │
                 ▼                                  ▼
┌─────────────────────────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐
│  NEMCC advises affected country  │        │  AusAID funds│
│  through the Australian HOM      │        │  response    │
└─────────────────────────────────┘        └──────────────┘
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5.2   ACTIVATION OF AUSASSISTPLAN

5.2.1.   The NEMCC continuously monitors hazards and events in the Australian region that may cause disasters. AusAID and other relevant agencies are advised if the impact of a hazard is likely to be serious enough to require provision of Australian assistance. If activation of AUSASSISTPLAN is likely, the NEMCC will provide Situation Reports (SITREPs) to agencies that might be involved in a response.

5.2.2.   When it is apparent that Australian assistance may be required, or when a request has been received, the NEMCC, in consultation with the Humanitarian Relief Section (HES) of AusAID, will activate AUSASSISTPLAN at the appropriate readiness phase and advise appropriate agencies. Changes to readiness phases will be promulgated as they occur. Readiness phases are.

a.   **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE.** When the NEMCC considers there **may** be a request for Australian physical assistance, it will issue the codewords **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE** with a summary of the situation. This warns that the potential requirement for disaster relief assistance has been identified. Agencies are required to warn the resources that may be required. These will normally be nominated in the NEMCC message either by name or by reference to the table in Annex B.

b.   **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW.** When the NEMCC considers that a request for Australian physical assistance is **imminent**, it will issue the codewords **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** with a summary of the situation**.** This warns of the need to increase readiness levels which may have to be maintained for an initial period of up to 72 hours. Before the end of the nominated period, the NEMCC will review the need to remain at this level of readiness. Unless a different readiness period is specified, or the resources to be brought to high readiness are individually designated, all warned resources are to be brought to the indicated level of warning or readiness to move as listed in Column e of Annex B.

c.   **AUSASSISTPLAN RED**. When a request for assistance has been received, a response approved and resources to meet the request identified, the NEMCC will send a tasking message containing the codewords **AUSASSISTPLAN RED** to the appropriate agency(ies). This message will signify that a response to a request for Australian physical assistance has been approved and **nominated resources are to be committed**. The message is applicable only to designated resources and deployment will be in accordance with coordinating instructions issued by the NEMCC. **AUSASSISTPLAN RED** will remain in force for those resources until deployment is completed.

d.   **AUSASSISTPLAN GREEN.** When there is no further expectation that Commonwealth assistance will be sought, or when the assistance has been delivered, or loaned resources returned, a message will be sent containing the codewords **AUSASSISTPLAN GREEN**. On receipt of this message, resources may be stood down from any warning or readiness to move. Depending on the circumstances, this phase may be applicable to designated resources or to all resources. Details will be given in the message.

5.2.3.   When a request for assistance is received by the NEMCC, a Request Number will be allocated to each different item required. This number consists of the NEMCC Incident Number, followed by the country name followed by the next sequential request number (eg NEMCC 04/97/Fiji/3). This number should appear on all communications relating to that request and be marked on packages and containers sent in response.

5.3 AUTHORISATION

5.3.1.   DGEMA or a nominated representative may initiate AUSASSISTPLAN in response to information received on a developing situation but will normally only do so after consultation with HES Section of AusAID. **AUSASSISTPLAN RED** will not be declared without the approval of AusAID.

5.3.2.   Internal agency authorisations for deployment of resources in response to AUSASSISTPLAN tasking are the responsibility of the tasked agency.

5.3.3.   AUSASSISTPLAN states of readiness will normally be promulgated by facsimile. The message heading will contain the name of the country concerned and the type of disaster, e.g. AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE - VOLCANO - SOLOMON ISLANDS.

5.4 PROVISION OF COMMONWEALTH PHYSICAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

5.4.1.　　It is not possible to forecast which resources will be needed to respond to a particular disaster, nor is it possible to give precise warning times for activation of resources. However, the following points should be noted:

a.　　**AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** is normally activated for only 72 hours to avoid holding resources at short notice to move for unnecessarily long periods;

b.　　where more than one agency is nominated in Annex B, EMA will specify which agency is to provide the support, or nominate a coordinating agency if a combined response is required.

c.　　when possible, readiness phase messages will specify the serials from Annex B that should be warned or brought to notice to move;

d.　　notice to move times listed in Annex B are a guide to the maximum response times that agencies should plan to meet;

e.　　EMA will attempt to provide the longest possible warning to all concerned; and

f.　　although detailed preparatory instructions and directions remain the responsibility of individual departments and authorities, EMA, as coordinating authority, is to be informed of all actions being undertaken by those agencies. EMA's coordinating role does not diminish the responsibility of Ministers and Chief Executives for administering their agencies and authorising use of resources.

5.5 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LIAISON OFFICERS (EMLOs)

5.5.1.　　Provision and deployment of Commonwealth physical resources to assist overseas authorities combating a disaster will be coordinated by the NEMCC through nominated Commonwealth Agency Emergency Management Liaison Officers (EMLOs) who are their agency's first point of contact for matters relating to disasters and emergencies. Their role in disaster response is to facilitate the provision of assistance from their agency. Details of their duties are given in the EMA publication "Guide for Emergency Management Liaison Officers".

5.5.2.　　EMLOs normally operate from their usual workplace but must be prepared to meet for briefings and in committee as required. EMA provides training and equips EMLOs with copies of Commonwealth plans, including this plan, Standing Operating Procedures for the NEMCC, EMLO Instructions and NEMCC Contact Lists.

5.5.3.　　EMLOs are contacted when **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE** is issued, kept informed of developments and may be called to the NEMCC for briefing. When **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** is issued, EMLOs of agencies with warned resources must remain contactable by telephone at all hours and be prepared to attend the NEMCC if necessary.

5.5.4.   Departments and agencies that do not have designated EMLOs, and are only occasional participants in disaster response operations, should nominate a contact person to be the focal point for discussions with the NEMCC during any operation in which they are involved.

5.6   DEFENCE FORCE ASSISTANCE

5.6.1.   The ADF capacity for quick reaction as well as the special skills and training of its personnel, and their capacity to be self supporting in a disaster environment, mean that there may be considerable reliance on this element of Australian Government response to an overseas relief operation. NEMCC contact with the Defence Force will be through Headquarters Australian Theatre (HQAST). On occasions it may also be necessary for the NEMCC to liaise with Australian Defence Headquarters (ADHQ).

5.6.2.   Defence Attaches and Advisers in overseas missions may be allocated specific liaison duties by the HOM but otherwise have no direct emergency relief responsibilities. These officers are normally briefed by EMA before taking up their appointments.

5.7   PURCHASING OF STORES AND SERVICES

5.7.1.   Any decision to purchase stores and services to meet requests for Australian Government physical assistance will be made by EMA in consultation with AusAID. AusAID will normally be responsible for purchasing and arranging delivery of stores to a location nominated by EMA. If an EMLO or EMLO Committee is required to purchase or hire goods, supplies or services, they are to do so in consultation with EMA and AusAID which will provide advice on period contracts and suitable procurement sources. Close liaison between the supplier and the NEMCC, AusAID, the EMLO or EMLO Committee is required. EMA or AusAID may authorise direct liaison between suppliers and in-country contacts where necessary to define specifications for technical stores. When such liaison is authorised, both parties are to be made aware that only stores requested through AusAID and EMA will be funded or transported by the Commonwealth Government.

5.7.2.   Financial arrangements for purchasing and hiring goods and services are detailed in Section 7.

5.8   OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE/ADVICE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

5.8.1.   Agencies in Australia receiving offers of assistance from individuals or non-government organisations, or enquiries about how such assistance may be sent to the affected area, should redirect these offers or enquiries to EMA.

5.8.2.   Agencies receiving advice about goods for sale or services available for hire are to redirect the advice to EMA.

5.9 COORDINATION OVERSEAS

5.9.1.   The HOM is the senior Australian Government representative in any foreign country. When disaster assistance is being provided by the Australian Government, the HOM or an appropriate delegate will coordinate provision of this assistance within the country and liaise as necessary with national authorities. DGEMA may offer the HOM the assistance of a member of the EMA coordination staff.

5.9.2.   The HOM may ask relief teams/individuals to respond to tasking by a nominated national government authority. Teams or individuals operating in this way and receiving requests to perform inappropriate or unreasonable tasks should refer such requests to the HOM. If there is no resident HOM, an alternative coordinating authority will be nominated. Before any private organisation hired by the Australian Government departs Australia, it will be briefed on coordination arrangements by EMA.

5.10 LIAISON WITH OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES

5.10.1.   Under an agreement known as the FRANZ Agreement, Australia, New Zealand and France have agreed to coordinate their responses to disasters in the South Pacific. During regional relief operations, the NEMCC will keep contact points nominated by France and New Zealand informed of Australian activities. Staff will liaise with these contacts to reduce duplication of effort, and make best use of resources and capabilities. Contact will also be made as appropriate with coordinating authorities of other responding nations and with the OCHA South Pacific Programme Office (SPPO) in Suva.

5.10.2.   Communication with High Commissions and Embassies in Canberra will normally be handled by AusAID and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

5.11 COMMAND

5.11.1.   Australian relief teams deployed overseas as a result of AUSASSISTPLAN remain under command of their agency senior officers.

5.12 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

5.12.1.   As soon as possible after their participation in an overseas disaster response operation ends, agencies are to advise the NEMCC by telephone or facsimile of the following:

a.   any part of the task they had been asked to carry out which was not completed;

b.   any requirements for recovery of personnel, equipment or stores; and

c.   any suggestions for improvements or additions to this plan or other procedures used during the operation.

5.13   DEACTIVATION OF AUSASSISTPLAN

5.13.1.   At a time mutually agreed between AusAID, EMA and the HOM, the response phase will be terminated and **AUSASSISTPLAN GREEN** declared. This declaration will not necessarily signify the end of all relief operations. Some physical resources deployed during the response phase may be required to remain in-country to complete assigned tasks or perform reconstruction tasks. The **AUSASSISTPLAN GREEN** message will list resources for which deployment and recovery remain the responsibility of EMA, and those which are considered to be performing reconstruction tasks and whose continued deployment becomes the responsibility of AusAID. The message will specify the date from which any change of responsibility will take effect.

5.14   SUPPORTING PLANS

5.14.1.   Complementary and supporting plans should be prepared by Commonwealth agencies and other supporting organisations and forwarded to EMA. If required, EMA will provide assistance with formulation of these supporting plans.

SECTION 6   LOGISTICS

6.1   MOVEMENT OF RESOURCES

6.1.1.   Movement of all Australian Government physical resources to assist an overseas government combating a disaster, and of all NGO resources being carried in Government-owned or chartered aircraft or ships, will be coordinated through the NEMCC. Priorities for movement will be set by EMA after considering priorities allocated by the national government concerned, the HOM and AusAID, and the capabilities of the means of transport.

6.1.2.   NGO resources being dispatched to meet a request for assistance from an equivalent organisation in a disaster affected country may be transported by the Commonwealth Government on a "space available" basis, provided that the movement has been approved by the disaster management agency of the recipient country. Priorities for transportation of NGO stores will be allocated by AusAID in consultation with the HOM and relevant NGOs.

6.2   RELIEF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

6.2.1.   Following an overseas disaster, adequate support for Australian Government assistance teams and equipment may not be available in-country. Provision of support from Australia may also be difficult. EMA will keep agencies advised of the situation in the affected country, and will advise of any known special circumstances affecting a particular request that an agency may be asked to meet.

6.2.2.   In meeting a request for assistance from overseas, agencies should:

a.   advise the NEMCC of any special loading, unloading or transport requirements for stores or equipment;

b.   confirm through the NEMCC whether any special tools, fuels or trained operators required for particular items of equipment are available in the affected country (the NEMCC will arrange technical liaison contacts where necessary);

c.   arrange an initial seven day supply of these resources from Australia if they are not available in the affected country and provide details of transport requirements;

d.   arrange for personnel to be self-supporting for up to seven days unless advised otherwise;

e.   confirm the validity of passports of personnel in relief teams to the NEMCC as early as possible (see paragraph 6.3.2 below); and

f.   arrange for any pre-departure medical requirements (e.g. vaccinations, malaria prophylaxis, water purification tablets) to be met. Advice on requirements can be obtained through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services offices in capital cities, or through the ACT Department of Health in Canberra.

6.3 DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES

6.3.1.   Any necessary diplomatic clearances for relief aircraft and ships are to be sought through regular diplomatic channels. The NEMCC is to be advised of any difficulties.

6.3.2.   To assist the HOM to arrange any necessary clearances, agencies dispatching relief personnel are to provide the following details to the NEMCC when personnel are identified:

> Surname,
> First Names,
> Nationality,
> Date of Birth,
> Passport Number,
> Rank (Defence Force Personnel), and
> Identity Card Number. (Defence Force Personnel).

The NEMCC will forward the information to the HOM.

6.3.3.   Relief personnel who do not hold valid passports may be permitted to enter a disaster affected country with approval of the government of that country. To enable the Australian HOM to obtain immigration approval and issue any necessary Document of Identity, it is vital that the above information be provided as early as possible.

6.3.4.   Visas may be required for entry to some regional countries. Special instructions will be promulgated by the NEMCC if visas are needed.

6.4 PACKAGING OF RELIEF STORES

6.4.1.　　　Stores being sent to disaster affected countries may have to be handled by non-mechanical means and stored in the open until used. Whenever possible, stores consignments should be broken down into component packages weighing not more than 25 kg and packed for storage in the open. Special handling or storage instructions, such as "KEEP DRY" or "KEEP REFRIGERATED" are to be clearly marked on at least three sides. It is recommended that bales and cartons are secured with metal or reinforced plastic banding.

6.5 IDENTIFICATION OF RELIEF STORES

6.5.1.　　　All stores supplied under AUSASSISTPLAN are to be clearly identified on at least three sides of the outside of each separate container, and on the wrapping of any consolidated consignment, with an identifying label containing at least the following:

a.　　　　the word AUSASSISTPLAN followed by the name of the country to which the stores are being consigned and the type of disaster, e.g. "AUSASSISTPLAN - FIJI - CYCLONE";

b.　　　　the Request Number allocated to that request (see Para 5.4.1) by the NEMCC, e.g. "NEMCC 04/97/Fiji/16";

c.　　　　a brief description of the contents of the container, package or consignment, e.g. "MILK POWDER", "WATER CONTAINERS" or "MEDICAL SUPPLIES";

d.　　　　any addressee details provided by EMA; and

e.　　　　any special handling instructions required.

6.5.2.　　　Supplies provided by NGOs to meet NEMCC requests are to be packaged and marked as in Paras 6.4.1 and 6.5.1. Supplies provided by NGOs to meet in-country NGO requests for which Commonwealth Government transport has been approved, are to be marked as in sub-paras 6.5.1 a and c, and are also to carry the name and address of the intended recipient. Where possible, food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies should be identified and colour coded in accordance with recommendations of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS). Details of these recommendations are held by ARC National Office and the NEMCC.

6.6 DANGEROUS GOODS

6.6.1.　　　Regulations on carriage of dangerous goods in ADF and civilian ships and aircraft may differ but both are stringent. Where materials being supplied to meet a request from a disaster affected country are potentially dangerous, they must be properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled and in proper condition for transport, appropriate to the mode, according to provisions of:

a.　　　　Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail;

b.   International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and its Australian Supplement;

c.   International Civil Aviation Organisation's Instructions for the Safe Transport of
          Dangerous Goods by Air; or

d.   Australia Post Postal Guide.

6.6.2.   Suppliers providing response resources that might be considered hazardous should
seek advice from the movement authority, through the NEMCC, about consignment
requirements and any other special-to-movement agency requirements or restrictions.
Mechanical stores may need to be purged of oil and fuel and steam cleaned before carriage.

6.7 EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE EXPORT CONTROL ACT

6.7.1.   The NEMCC will seek exemption from DPIE, on an operation-by-operation basis,
of goods prescribed under the Export Control Act (mainly foods or food items) from all
conditions and restrictions under the Act, subject to their being exported as emergency aid
during the response phase of a disaster. This exemption will be provided subject to the
limitation that it only applies:

a   to goods being provided as disaster aid to another country during the response (or
         emergency) phase of the disaster;

b.   to goods being provided by, or on behalf of, a Commonwealth Government
         agency;

c.   to goods being provided by NGOs or ARC to satisfy requests put to these
         organisations by a Commonwealth Government agency;

d.   to goods being provided by NGOs or ARC in response to requests from in-country
         NGOs, if the Commonwealth Government is providing or arranging transport to
         the disaster area; and

e.   during the period that AUSASSISTPLAN is activated.

6.8 QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

6.8.1.   Overseas countries have various quarantine restrictions relating to the importation
of animal and vegetable products. When fresh food, animal or plant materials are being
considered for dispatch as part of the response to a request or when there is doubt about
eligibility for entry of any relief supplies, supplying agencies are to inform the NEMCC which
will seek advice from the HOM.

6.9   EXPORT CLEARANCE NUMBERS (ECNs)

6.9.1.   The NEMCC will obtain Export Control Numbers (ECNs) from Australian Customs for items for which it coordinates supply and transport. Other agencies supplying items for which the NEMCC only coordinates transport are to obtain their own ECNs. Relief stores will not be loaded unless ECNs have been provided to Australian Customs at the point of departure.

6.10   CONSIGNMENT ADVICE

6.10.1.   The NEMCC is to be advised of the following details when resources are dispatched to the nominated departure point:

a.   number of packages;

b.   weights and dimensions of packages;

c.   any special handling or storage requirements; and

d.   any possible quarantine or export release requirements.

6.11   COORDINATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT-SUPPLIED STORES

6.11.1.   Agencies arranging for supply of stores from non-government sources are to advise the supplying agency of the requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.4 to 6.10 in relation to packaging, identification, dangerous goods, exemptions, quarantine and consignment advice.

6.12   PRE-POSITIONING OF RESOURCES

6.12.1.   Pre-positioning of resources in an overseas country may be carried out in special circumstances, but will not be normal practice. Resources should not be moved without authorisation from AusAID relayed through the NEMCC.

6.13   CARRIAGE OF ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL

6.13.1.   All passengers in NEMCC arranged aircraft and ships must be authorised by the NEMCC. Authorisation will only be given for the carriage of personnel who are not involved in the relief operation if the government of the disaster-affected country, through the Australian HOM, has approved their entry into the country and confirmed that the passenger(s) have priority over relief assistance. If commercial means of transport are available, carriage of such personnel in relief aircraft will not normally be considered.

6.14 EVACUATION OF EXPATRIATES AND TOURISTS

6.14.1.　　Evacuation from a disaster area in NEMCC arranged transport may occur if the government of the affected country or the HOM requests such evacuation, and approval is given by the DFAT through AusAID. Before evacuation can take place, the NEMCC will arrange appropriate clearances with the transport operator concerned and ascertain any relevant limitations. Details of those being evacuated will be passed to the Consular and Passports Branch, DFAT. Arrangements for reception of evacuees in Australia are detailed in a separate plan known as COMRECEPLAN which will be activated by EMA if necessary.

6.14.2.　　If evacuation of personnel is being considered, aircraft and shipping operators must be warned so that they can equip their aircraft and ships with any necessary safety or other equipment.

SECTION 7　FINANCE

7.1　General

7.1.1.　　The Australian response to an overseas disaster is normally funded by AusAID.

7.1.2.　　Agencies requested to provide resources to meet overseas requests for assistance are to provide the NEMCC with estimates of costs involved in providing that assistance. The NEMCC will assess estimates before authorising deployment of the most cost-effective resources for the task. In order to facilitate the control of funds, agencies are also asked to provide the NEMCC with daily estimates of expenditure incurred. The NEMCC will maintain a summary of estimated and actual expenditure for each operation and provide periodic reports to AusAID until the operation ends.

7.2　Commonwealth Government Arrangements

7.2.1.　　All approved Commonwealth Government costs attributable to an overseas disaster response are a charge to AusAID and are recoverable from AusAID in accordance with Section 29 of the Finance Manual.

7.2.2.　　Unless advised otherwise, it is the responsibility of individual agencies to meet, or make adequate financial arrangements to meet, initial costs incurred arising from provision of their support during implementation of this plan. AusAID will subsequently reimburse costs associated with provision of authorised support. Full cost records with supporting details are to be maintained and accounts forwarded to:

> The Director,
> Humanitarian and Emergencies Section
> Australian Agency for International Development
> GPO Box 887
> CANBERRA　ACT　2601.

for processing, as soon as possible after the support is provided.

7.3 Commercial, NGO and Other Government Arrangements

7.3.1.　　Before authorising supply and/or deployment of resources from sources outside the Commonwealth Government, the NEMCC will ascertain whether suppliers require Purchase Orders. If required, Purchase Order numbers will be obtained from AusAID and included in the authorisation.

7.3.2.　　Accounts for purchase, rent or lease of goods, supplies or services, and for any transport and other costs incurred under provisions of AUSASSISTPLAN are to be forwarded for settlement to AusAID at the address shown at paragraph 7.2.2.

SECTION 8   COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 GENERAL

8.1.1.　　All messages concerning provision of assistance under this plan are to carry the codeword AUSASSISTPLAN as the first word of the text. If the message refers to a particular request, the NEMCC allocated Request Number should be added.

8.1.2　　All telephone messages, tasking and instructions are to be confirmed by facsimile message as soon as possible.

8.2 COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE AFFECTED COUNTRY

8.2.1.　　Availability of communications to a disaster-affected country will depend on the extent of damage caused in the disaster. International telephone and telex links to capital cities and main centres of population usually survive disasters although their use may be restricted. Communications to rural areas are less robust and may not be restored for some time. This is particularly true in South Pacific countries where communications to outer islands can take some time to restore. Where possible, normal telecommunications links will be used for communication between EMA/AusAID and the HOM/national government authority of the affected country. All messages concerning deployment, relief and return of Australian assistance should copied to the NEMCC, DFAT, and AusAID.

8.2.2.　　If normal telecommunications to the affected country are inadequate, arrangements will be made for an emergency link to be established as early as possible. Any available network, including the amateur network, may be used but the first choice is likely to be the use the portable satellite terminals held by EMA. These can provide voice, fax and data links, but their capacity is limited and traffic may have to be prioritised. Messages for passage over this link are to be passed to the NEMCC for dispatch.

8.2.3.　　Departments and authorities should keep messages to be passed through temporary networks to an absolute minimum in number and length. EMA reserves the right to delay, abbreviate or even reject unsuitable traffic where overloading of emergency communications circuits is becoming a problem. It should be noted that passing of administrative traffic through Australian Missions and the DFAT network is subject to the approval of the HOM or DFAT. Access to this link may be limited after a disaster.

8.3 MEDIA

8.3.1.   Media releases relating to the overall coordination of overseas disaster responses are the responsibility of the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of AusAID. Releases relating to operational aspects of the response will be made by EMA's Director of Media Liaison who will coordinate activities with PAS. Agencies making releases relating to assistance provided in response to individual requests are asked to copy these to the NEMCC.

8.4 MEDIA RELATIONS TEAM

8.4.1.   Following a disaster, the workload imposed on Australian mission staff by media enquiries may interfere with the performance of their primary roles. At the request of the HOM, AusAID may arrange for a Media Relations team with appropriate agency representation to be provided at the earliest opportunity to perform any or all of the following tasks:

a.   assist the HOM in handling media enquiries;

b.   provide news items and pictures to Australian media outlets; and

c.   publicise Australia's relief operations.

SECTION 9   CONSULAR ENQUIRIES

9.1.1.   Enquiries from the public concerning safety of Australian citizens believed to have been in the area affected by a disaster should be referred to the Consular Enquiries Section of DFAT. Enquiries concerning other nationals should be referred to the Diplomatic Mission of the affected country in Australia.

SECTION 10   REVIEW AND TRAINING

10.1 REVIEW

10.1.1.   AUSASSISTPLAN will be reviewed by EMA and AusAID every three years.

10.2 TRAINING

10.2.1.   Training in the use of AUSASSISTPLAN will be carried out at two levels. Staff joining EMA and newly-nominated EMLOs will receive an introduction to the plan with explanation of its use from EMA coordination staff. Additional training to cover areas of concern can be provided on request.

10.2.2.   At suitable intervals, training exercises will be conducted for those agencies/individuals with a role under the plan. Table-top exercises will be conducted each year unless the plan has been activated to **AUSASSISTPLAN RED** level in the past 12 months. A full simulation exercise will be conducted at least every three years and more frequently if necessary.

AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS AND DISASTER THREATS IN THE REGION

1.   The regional countries for which Australia may provide disaster assistance, and the Australian Missions responsible for contact with those countries, are:

a.	Cook Islands	Australian High Commission Wellington;
b.	Federated States of Micronesia(FSM)	Australian Embassy Pohnpei;
c.	Fiji	Australian High Commission Suva;
d.	French Polynesia	Australian Consul-General Noumea;
e.	Indonesia	Australian Embassy Jakarta
f.	Kiribati	Australian High Commission Tarawa
g.	Marshall Islands	Australian Embassy Pohnpei
h.	Nauru	Australian High Commission Nauru
i.	New Caledonia	Australian Consul-General Noumea
j.	Niue	Australian High Commission Wellington
k.	Palau	Australian Embassy Pohnpei
l.	Papua New Guinea	Australian High Commission Port Moresby
m.	Philippines	Australian Embassy Manila
n.	Samoa	Australian High Commission Apia
o.	Solomon Islands	Australian High Commission Honiara
p.	Tokelau	Australian High Commission Wellington
q.	Tonga	Australian High Commission Nuku'alofa
r.	Tuvalu	Australian High Commission Suva
s.	Vanuatu	Australian High Commission Port Vila
t.	Wallis and Futuna	Australian Consul-General Noumea

2.   The following table provides an assessment, drawn from a variety of sources, of the natural disaster risks to which these countries may be exposed. All countries may also be subject to the risk of land, sea or air transport disasters and to disasters resulting from the inappropriate handling or use of chemicals and the failure or inappropriate use of technology.

ANALYSIS OF NATURAL DISASTER THREATS

DISASTER TYPE	CYCLONE (including storm surge)	FLOOD	EARTHQUAKE	TSUNAMI	LANDSLIP	VOLCANO	EPIDEMIC	DROUGHT	FROST	BUSH FIRE
COUNTRY										
Cook Islands	M2	M1	L2	L2	L3	0	L2	L2	0	L3
Fiji	H1	M1	L2	L2	L2	L3	L3	M2	0	L2
FS Micronesia	M1	M2	L2	L2	L3	0	L1	M1	0	L3
French Polynesia	L1	L3	L3	L1	L3	0	L2	L2	0	L3
Indonesia	L3	H2	H1	H1	H2	H1	L2	M2	M2	H2
Kiribati	L3	0	L3	L1	0	0	L1	M1	0	L2
Marshall Islands	L1	0	L2	L2	0	0	L2	M1	0	L3
Nauru	0	0	L3	L3	L3	0	L2	H1	0	L3
New Caledonia	H1	L3	M2	L1	L3	L3	L2	M2	0	L3
Niue	M1	0	L2	L3	L3	0	L2	M2	0	L3
Palau	L1	L3	L2	L2	L3	0	L2	L1	0	M3
Papua New Guinea	M2	H1	H1	L1	H1	H1	L2	M1	M1	L3
Philippines	H1	H1	H1	L1	H1	H1	L2	M2	0	M2
Samoa	M1	M1	M1	L2	L3	L2	L2	M2	0	M2
Solomon Islands	H1	M1	M1	L1	M2	M2	L2	L2	0	H3
Tokelau	M2	L3	L3	L2	0	0	L2	L2	0	L3
Tonga	M1	L2	M1	L2	L3	M2	L2	L2	0	L3
Tuvalu	M1	0	L3	L1	0	0	L2	M2	0	L3
Vanuatu	H1	L2	M1	L2	L3	H1	L2	L2	0	L3
Wallis and Futuna	M1	L3	L3	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	0	L3

KEY   **LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE**   **MAX EXPECTED LEVEL OF SEVERITY**

H = High   1 = Major

M = Medium   2 = Moderate

L = Low   3 = Minor

O = No significant threat

NOTE: All regional nations are vulnerable to technological (or man-made) disasters. The risk of such disasters is increasing with the growing use of fossil fuels and agricultural and other chemicals.

SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR AUSASSISTPLAN

1.		It is not possible to forecast the resources that may be requested by overseas countries to relieve the effects of any particular disaster. The range of countries and hazards and the differing levels of disaster management capability will influence requests. This Annex lists the major resources that may be requested and the Commonwealth agencies that might be expected to arrange their provision. Agencies should note that they may be tasked to arrange provision of resources listed even if they do not own them. The tables are expressed in general terms and should not be seen as restrictive. In an emergency or disaster, when life and property is at stake, any Commonwealth Government resource may be tasked to meet a need. During a disaster response operation, the NEMCC and AusAID will use available information to make regular assessments of the resources that need to be alerted.

2.		AUSASSISTPLAN messages will designate the readiness phase required. Unless specific serials from this Annex are designated, all listed resources should be alerted or brought to the stated level of readiness. If necessary, the AUSASSISTPLAN message may vary the level of readiness in the Annex, particularly if a quick reaction is needed. If a country has indicated that it may require assistance additional to that listed in the Annex, the AUSASSISTPLAN message will also list these resources and the department or agency responsible for warning or bringing them to readiness.

3.		Agencies are to advise the NEMCC whenever they are unable to meet a resource requirement.

4.		Experience indicates that some resources are more likely than others to be included in the earliest requests for assistance. These resources, are brought to a higher degree of readiness on issue of the codewords **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW**. This degree of readiness is '12 hours notice to move' (12 hours NTM) which is defined as the elapsed time from the resource being tasked to move to the time at which it is expected to be positioned at the departure point ready to move. Under exceptional circumstances, the higher degree of readiness required by **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** may be applied to additional serials.

5.		Initially, **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** will remain in force for 72 hours, unless cancelled or extended by the NEMCC. Before the end of this period, the NEMCC will review requirements and advise whether alerted resources may revert to a lower degree of readiness. DGEMA may cancel **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** and adjust the readiness phase to **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE** within the 72 hour period, and this will usually be done once resources to meet initial requests have been dispatched.

6.		When the decision is made to deploy particular resources for disaster relief purposes, the relevant serials will be brought to readiness phase **AUSASSISTPLAN RED** and will remain at that phase until their return.

SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

PROVISION OF COMMONWEALTH PHYSICAL SUPPORT

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1.	**RECONNAISSANCE/SURVEY**				
a.	General Reconnaissance	Defence	Warning	12 hours	In major impact disasters, 6 hours notice to move may be requested on declaration of **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW**
b.	Photographic reconnaissance	Defence	Warning	12 hours	As for 1a
c.	Multi-sensor survey	Defence/AGSO	Warning	12 hours	As for 1a
d.	Satellite imagery	DIST (AUSLIG)	Warning	Warning	Request for imagery capture if needed
2.	**COMMUNICATIONS**				
a.	Basic communications necessary to establish an alternative control system for local authority.	Defence	Warning	12 hours	To include personnel to operate equipment.
b.	Establishment of long haul communications into and out of the disaster area.	EMA/Defence/ Telstra	Warning	12 hours	a. Operators may be required. b. Portable satellite terminals may be included.
c.	Line repair teams.	Telstra	Warning	12 hours	Additional to existing regional plans.

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
d.	Repair teams for local comms & broadcast services	Telstra	Warning	Warning	
e.	Repair of Navigation Aids	AMSA/ASA	Warning	Warning	Marine or Aviation Aids
f.	Aviation and marine communications support	Defence/Telstra/ ASA/AMSA	Warning	Warning	May be required for Air Traffic Control, Coastal Radio or other nets. ATTU may be required for ADF Ops
3.	**HEALTH SERVICES**				
a.	Aeromedical evacuation teams	Defence	Warning	12 hours	For deployment with RAAF transport aircraft.
b.	Supplementary medical teams	Defence	Warning	12 hours	Including Triage and Surgical Teams.
c.	Additional medical/health stores	Defence/DHFS	Warning	12 hours	This could include consumable and non-consumable health supplies.
d.	Major medical capability	Defence	Warning	12 hours	Elements of field hospital facilities supplemented as necessary. Availability depends on current commitments
e.	Medical Escort Teams	Defence	Warning	12 hours	To escort evacuees on military & civil transport aircraft.

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
f.	Public health measures to avoid epidemics & provide basic health services until normal services have been restored.	Defence/DHFS	Warning	12 hours	May include health inspectors, hygiene teams and vaccination teams in disaster area.
g.	Veterinary and quarantine health teams.	DPIE	Warning	Warning	To be deployed with appropriate medical supplies during animal disease emergencies and to provide for animal welfare.
h.	Water purification equipment & chemicals	Defence/DHFS	Warning	Warning	
4.	**TRANSPORT**				
a.	Rotary wing aircraft for emergency tasks.	Defence/ASA	Warning	12 hours	On receipt of **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE**, availability near the threatened or disaster area is to be passed to the NEMCC.
b.	Light fixed wing aircraft for emergency tasks.	Defence/ASA	Warning	12 hours (See Remarks)	On receipt of **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW**, availability is to be passed to the NEMCC.
c.	Transport aircraft (stores and/or passengers).	Defence/ASA	Warning (See Remarks)	12 hours	On receipt of **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE**, availability near the threatened or disaster area is to be passed to the NEMCC

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
d.	Light sea transport	Defence/AusAID/ AMSA	Warning (See Remarks)	12 hours (See Remarks)	a. RAN, AMSA and commercial shipping for evacuation, movement of stores etc. b. On receipt of **AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE**, availability in vicinity of threatened or disaster areas is to be ascertained. c. On receipt of **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW**, availability is to be passed to the NEMCC.
e.	Heavy sea transport	Defence/AusAID/ AMSA	Warning (See Remarks)	Warning (See Remarks)	See Notes for Serial 4 e.
f.	Specialist cargo handling equipment	Defence/AMSA/ ASA	Warning	Warning	May be needed to unload aircraft or ships
g.	Mobile Air Terminal Unit	Defence	Warning	12 hours	For coordination of unloading of supplies & personnel
6.	**WELFARE**				
a.	Emergency field accommodation (tents, bedding etc)	EMA/Defence	Warning	12 hours	**AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** notice only applies to Disaster Earmark Store at DNSDC Moorebank
b.	Emergency feeding facilities	Defence/AusAID	Warning	Warning	
c.	Construction of temporary accommodation	Defence	Warning	Warning	

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
d.	Water/sewage disposal/ electricity generating equipment.	Defence	Warning	Warning	If required for temp accommodation
e.	Mobile laundry and bath unit.	Defence	Warning	Warning	
f.	Consular support	DFAT	Warning	Warning	Support for Australian mission staff
7.	**DEBRIS CLEARANCE/REPAIR**				
a.	Engineer plant and operators.	Defence	Warning	12 hours	
b.	Building tradesmen.	Defence	Warning	Warning	
8.	**RESTORATION OF SERVICES**				
a.	Emergency generators.	Defence/EMA/ AusAID	Warning	Warning	AusAID may purchase from commercial sources
b.	Pumps and portable bulk liquid storage.	Defence	Warning	Warning	To store water, fuels etc
9.	**GENERAL STORES**				
a.	Tarpaulins and plastic sheeting	EMA/Defence	Warning	12 hours	a. EMA's Disaster Earmark Store will be used before other stocks are sought. b. Pre-positioning may be necessary if stocks are depleted in a particular area.

Serial	Type of Support	Responsible Department/Authority	Degree of Warning		Remarks
			AUSASSISTPLAN WHITE	AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
b.	Water pumps and bulk storage for potable water and other purposes.	EMA/Defence	Warning	12 hours	Outline of availability to be passed to NEMCC on receipt of COMDISPLAN YELLOW.
c.	Sandbags	EMA/Defence	Warning	12 hours	
d.	Temporary bridging	Defence	Warning	Warning	
e.	Fuel	Defence	Warning	Warning	May be needed for long-lasting aircraft and vehicle support if storage damaged
10.	**MARINE POLLUTION CONTROL**				
a.	Marine Pollution Control Teams and equipment	AMSA	Warning	12 hours	a. Application of **AUSASSISTPLAN YELLOW** will be advised on declaration. b. Departure point(s) will be designated after discussions with AMSA and transport operators
11.	**MEDIA RELATIONS**				
a.	Media Relations Team	AusAID/DFAT	Warning	Warning	To support HOM as appropriate. Composition of the team to be agreed between agencies

COMMONWEALTH ADVISORY, ANALYSIS AND LIAISON SERVICES

1.   In addition to the physical resources it can provide, the Commonwealth has a wide range of resources which can support disaster and emergency response operations from their normal locations. These resources can provide:

a.   specialist advice;

b.   scientific analysis and assessment; and

c.   liaison and conference networks that may be called upon to assist coordination of response operations.

2.   These resources may be called upon by the NEMCC to support AUSASSISTPLAN or to provide assistance to other countries.

3.   The full range of Commonwealth resources is constantly changing with improvements in technology and changes in areas of responsibility. The basic resources identified are:

Agency	Resource
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Marine and aviation search planning, marine pollution characteristics, movement, dispersal and response,
Department of Communications, the Information Economy & the Arts	Emergency broadcasting arrangements. Advice on broadcasting and archival protection, recovery and preservation.
Department of Transport and Regional Development AirServices Australia Civil Aviation Safety Authority	 Advice on aviation matters Advice on aviation matters
Department of Defence	Air photo analysis, advice on a wide range of operational, engineering, medical, social and other subjects.
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Liaison with foreign governments and Australian missions overseas regarding disasters, evacuations etc.
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	Radio (except WA) and mobile telecommunications networks in all states & territories; counsellors and interpreters in state capitals and regional centres. 24 hour entry operations centre in Canberra which can expedite entry of overseas experts; nationwide computer network.

Agency	Resource
Department of Health & Family Services	Computer network between capitals and major centres; epidemiologists and communicable disease experts to assist with epidemic prevention and response; health physics and nuclear safety advisers.
Australian Radiation Laboratories (ARL) Nuclear Safety Bureau (NSB) (The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) will be formed on 1 Jul 98 from the resources of ARL and NSB.)	Capability to conduct radio analysis of environmental and other samples (food, water etc); facilities for whole body monitoring of people exposed to radiation; national network of radiation fallout monitoring stations supported by computer models for assessment of radiation dose after a radiation release.
Department of Industry, Science & Tourism	
Australian Government Analytical Laboratories	Analysis of food and water.
Australian Institute of Marine Science	Advice on ocean current modeling and oil spill mapping.
ANSTO	Nuclear analytical laboratories with a wide range of monitoring and analysis capabilities including whole body monitoring and chemical radiation analysis.
AUSLIG	Advice on availability of maps and satellite imagery (ACRES).
CSIRO	Advice and analytical services on animal health and quarantine/biocontainment facilities; advice on building construction, bushfires, communications and imaging/sensing technologies.
Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE)	Advice on animal health and welfare, pesticide use and response. Australian Plague Locust Commission has radio and GPS equipped vehicles in QLD and NSW.
Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO)	Advice on geological matters.
Department of Workplace Relations & Small Business	
Worksafe Australia	Advice on industrial safety matters.