

Emergency Management Planning Reform

Sub-plans and complementary plans

Emergency management plans, including their sub-plans, are prepared under Part 6A of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) to provide integrated, coordinated and comprehensive arrangements for emergency management at the state, regional or municipal levels.

Any plans that are prepared outside Part 6A of the Act are known as complementary plans.

Sub-plans

What is a sub-plan?

- A sub-plan to an emergency management plan (EM plan) at state, regional or municipal level may be needed to detail more specific arrangements that either vary from or contextualise the EM plan.
- A sub-plan forms part of the EM plan under which it is prepared. This is consistent with the status of sub-plans prepared under the existing State Emergency Response Plan (SERP), which will be replaced by the SEMP.
- The obligation to comply with an EM plan under the Act also applies to a sub-plan, being part of the relevant EM plan.

In what circumstances can a sub-plan be prepared?

- As with all plans prepared under Part 6A of the Act, sub-plans are multi-agency plans. A single agency does not have the authority to prepare a sub-plan under the Act. The relevant preparer of an EM plan must agree to the rationale for preparing a sub-plan.
- In determining if a sub-plan is needed, particularly in operational response, the following factors should be considered:
 - the need to outline more complex or specific arrangements than those in the main emergency management plan, or to vary that plan
 - the need for a multi-agency plan that will outline arrangements for managing an emergency
 - if a hazard-specific sub-plan, whether the emergency is likely to have significant consequences
 - where several emergencies are appropriate for a sub-plan, and they are managed using similar arrangements, they should be addressed in a single sub-plan.



What requirements apply when preparing a sub-plan?

- As a sub-plan forms part of an EM plan, it is subject to the same requirements as an EM plan under the Act. This includes requirements for consultation, approval, publication, review, and assurance.
- Approved sub-plans are published on the EMV website.
- [Ministerial guidelines](#) address the preparation of EM plans, including sub-plans. Those preparing an EM plan, including sub-plans, are required to have regard to these guidelines.

What will happen to existing State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) sub-plans?

- Once the SEMP takes effect, the SERP will no longer be in effect. Existing SERP sub-plans will be provided to the State Crisis and Resilience Council (SCRC) for approval to take effect as SEMP sub-plans.

Complementary plans

What are complementary plans?

- EM plans prepared under the Act do not replace the need for more specific plans for particular industries, sectors, agencies, and emergencies. For example, specific plans are required in the energy and water industries under industry-specific legislation.
- Any such plans prepared outside Part 6A of the Act are known in EM plans as complementary plans.

Who prepares complementary plans?

- Complementary plans are generally prepared by a relevant agency, for a specific purpose.
- Complementary plans are often prepared under specific statutory requirements, governance arrangements, and/or authorising environment.

Are existing arrangements to prepare complementary plans affected by the planning reform?

- Complementary plans do not form part of EM plans prepared under the Act, and as such are not subject to approval, consultation and other requirements under that Act.
- Agencies can continue to prepare complementary plans in the same way as they do currently. However, agencies that prepare complementary plans are encouraged to develop them in a way that complements EMPs prepared under the Act. This will promote an integrated approach to planning.

What is the relationship between emergency management plans and complementary plans?

- Complementary plans will continue to play an important role in outlining emergency management arrangements for particular industries, emergencies, and/or agencies.
- EM plans prepared under the Act will refer to complementary plans as relevant and appropriate, to outline a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated set of arrangements for emergency management.