



State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR Incidents (State CBR Plan)

Table of Contents

PREFACE	3
AIM	3
OBJECTIVES	4
PRINCIPLES.....	4
APPLICATION AND ACTIVATION.....	4
AUTHORITY	5
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK	6
POLICY CONTEXT	6
GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION.....	6
AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES	7
RESPONSE	12
OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	12
COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS.....	12
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	14
INTERSTATE AND FEDERAL ARRANGEMENTS - REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE	15
MEDIA AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS	15
RECOVERY	17
REVIEW	18
APPENDIX A TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS	19
APPENDIX B RELATED PLANS	21
APPENDIX C LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT	22
APPENDIX D STATE CORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	23

PREFACE

1. The Queensland government has a number of agencies that traditionally respond to emergency incidents within their standard roles, responsibilities and capabilities. These incidents have generally been localised and have not impacted on the community at large. The management of such incidents has occurred through existing legislation, the application of standard operating procedures by each responding agency and established inter-agency operating arrangements.
2. International and high-profile events have highlighted the need for governments to enhance their capability and capacity to respond to chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) incidents resulting from natural, accidental, terrorist or criminal sources. The nature of these incidents presents a greater threat to the community and requires specific coordination, command and control arrangements for effective whole-of-government management.
3. A CBR attack is defined as the threatened release or release of CBRN material to cause damage or harm to people, animals/plants, property or the environment.
4. Response to a terrorist-related CBR incident will be a multi-agency approach managed by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in accordance with the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986* and utilising the arrangements outlined in the *Queensland Counter Terrorism Plan (QCTP)*. The State CBR Plan compliments the above legislation and arrangements.
5. Managing the consequences of a CBR incident may also require activation of the Queensland Disaster Management System. The activation may depend on the incident, potential for significant impact on a community, capabilities required, capacity requirements are exceeded and the level at which the incident can be effectively managed.
6. The *State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR Incidents (State CBR Plan)* builds on existing capabilities of responding agencies while recognising the specific arrangements for managing accidental or deliberate releases of CBR agents into the community. It follows that the primary focus of the plan is on initial management response.
7. The State CBR Plan is supported by three functional plans, which provide the operational arrangements during either a chemical, biological or radiological agent release. The legislated lead agency (or hazard management agency) is indicated in brackets:
 - State of Queensland Chemical/HazMat Response Plan (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services);
 - State of Queensland Biological Response Plan (Queensland Health);
 - State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan (Queensland Health).

Aim

8. The aim of the State CBR Plan is to outline the responsibilities and arrangements for the preparedness and initial management of CBR incidents, whether the result of accidental or deliberate origin.

Objectives

9. The objectives of the State CBR Plan include:
 - to outline the broad arrangements for the preparedness and initial response management to CBR incidents, whether the result of accidental or deliberate origin, in Queensland;
 - to outline the strategic coordination arrangements between Queensland government agencies and other agencies that may be involved in managing a CBR incident; and
 - to support the arrangements outlined in the *Queensland Counter-Terrorism Plan* (QCTP) and the *State Disaster Management Plan* (SDMP).

Principles

10. The State CBR Plan and the supporting functional plans are underpinned by the following principles:
 - a planning and preparedness methodology based on sound risk analysis;
 - cooperative and coordinated response arrangements recognising the role of the lead agency (or hazard management agency), combatant agencies and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Commonwealth agencies in maintaining security arrangements in accordance with the *National Counter Terrorism Plan* (NCTP) and Queensland disaster management arrangements;
 - cooperative and consultative relationships amongst Queensland state and local government agencies in the delivery of the State CBR Plan; and
 - regular monitoring and improvement by the State CBRN Committee.

Application and activation

11. The State CBR Plan applies to Queensland government agencies as identified in the Plan and is supported by agency specific plans, procedures and protocols that detail their roles and responsibilities.
12. The State CBR Plan can be activated when a CBR incident is determined by the lead agency or the QPS if there is reasonable belief that an incident is of deliberate origin. The extent of the arrangements depends on the scale and impact on the community and the capacity of the agencies to manage.
13. Activation of the Plan may also occur when there is a need for:
 - operational coordination to monitor potential threats or response operations;
 - operational coordination to support response operations being conducted by a designated combat agency; and
 - coordination of resources in support of response operations.

Authority

14. The State CBR Plan is a threat specific plan of the SDMP and is authorised under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.
15. The State CBR Plan is noted by the Queensland Counter Terrorism Committee (QCTC) and Queensland Disaster Management Committee.
16. Noting by the QCTC and QDMC signifies the Queensland Government agency's continuing commitment to support the State CBR Plan through:
 - working in partnership and carrying out agreed roles and responsibilities to ensure a coordinated approach to CBR incident management;
 - communicating the State CBR Plan within their agency to relevant personnel;
 - developing, implementing and reviewing the necessary agency-specific plans, procedures and protocols that support the State CBR Plan;
 - delivering agency-specific training to prepare for and respond to CBR incidents;
 - participating in multi-agency exercises and training programs, such as the Joint Emergency Services Training (JEST) course; and
 - supporting the State CBRN Committee by providing agency representation.

Authorisation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*

**Assistant Commissioner
Queensland Police Service
Executive Officer Queensland Disaster Management Committee**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

Policy context

17. The State CBR Plan is established under two significant national and state policy areas being the disaster management and counter-terrorism arrangements.
18. Queensland government has the primary operational responsibility for dealing with a terrorist incident within Queensland under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements*. The QCTP outlines the State arrangements for managing acts of terrorism and their consequences within Queensland.
19. The State CBR Plan is a sub-plan under the QCTP and is to be read in conjunction with the QCTP, the NCTP and National Counter-Terrorism Handbook (issued on a restricted basis) and any agency specific plans developed as a result of either of these plans.
20. The State CBR Plan is also threat specific plan under the SDMP, which outlines the State arrangements for the disaster management system.

Governance and coordination

State CBR (CBRN) Committee

21. The State CBRN (Queensland) coordinates multi-agency preparedness within Queensland for the consequence management of terrorist and other major incidents involving CBRN agents, which is consistent with the National CBRN Security Strategy and strategic directions provided by the National Counter-Terrorism Committee CBRN Security Sub-Committee.
22. The State CBR Committee has the following functions:
 - Coordinate Queensland's multi-agency preparedness for the consequence management of major incidents involving CBRN agents;
 - Monitor the effectiveness of Queensland's CBR Plans, including measures and reporting requirements.
 - Review and update of Queensland's CBR Plans;
 - Consider the implications for CBRN security policy in light of the Queensland's capacity and capabilities, having regard to the National CBRN Security Strategy;
 - Ensure that the strategic directions from the Australia New Zealand National Counter-Terrorism Committee CBRN Security Sub-Committee, and Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) and other relevant national committees as they relate to CBRN are delivered within the Queensland environment;
 - Monitor the actions being taken in Queensland to implement Council of Australian Governments (COAG) decisions in relation to hazardous materials;
 - Provide advice to the QCTC and QDMC on the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery as it relates to CBRN in Queensland;
 - Share information, analysis and where applicable guidance, on the operational and technical aspects of CBRN matters including the linkages to national and international partnerships; and
 - Oversee preparedness of Queensland agencies through joint agency simulation of CBRN incidents and consider Queensland's CBRN training and exercising requirements in conjunction with other relevant bodies.

23. The Chair of the State CBRN Committee is appointed for a two year term by the Chair of the QDMC, and secretariat support is performed by QFES.
24. The membership of the State CBRN Committee consists of representatives primarily from the following agencies (and any other agencies as required):

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education
Department of Environment and Science	Queensland Police Service
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ)	Queensland Ambulance Service
Queensland Health	

25. The State CBRN Committee reports to the QCTC and the QDMC, and the activities of the State CBRN Committee are reported to the Queensland Security Cabinet Committee (QSCC) annually through the QCTC Annual Report.

Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee

26. In 2002, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements established a cooperative framework to ensure that national counter-terrorism arrangements are effective. In support of this framework, all jurisdictions agreed to a cooperative approach to counter-terrorism legal regimes, national coordination and intelligence, nation-wide prevention, response, investigation and consequence management arrangements. To support the national framework and meet Queensland's obligations under these arrangements, the Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee (QCTC) was established in 2004, to provide whole-of-government leadership and coordination for Queensland's counter-terrorism preparedness and capabilities. The QCTC reports annually to the Queensland Security Cabinet Committee (QSCC) and progresses its work on counter-terrorism activities through formal meetings, out-of-session communications and the activities of its working groups and sub-committees.

Queensland Disaster Management Committee

27. The QDMC is established under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and is responsible for developing the policy and planning framework to ensure effective disaster management arrangements for the State, including disaster mitigation and disaster planning and preparation at a State level and for coordinating whole-of-government response and recovery operations prior to, during and after an event. This includes accessing interstate and/or Australian government assistance when local and State resources are exhausted or not available. The QDMC is responsible for the development and management of the SDMP.

Agency responsibilities

28. Depending on whether the incident is chemical, biological and/or radiological and also whether the release is accidental or deliberate, agencies will either have a lead and/or support role.
29. It follows that each agency has specific roles during the management of a CBR incident and is also responsible for the safety, protection, training and management of their own personnel.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

30. Under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* the QFES is responsible for the protection of persons, property and the environment from the effects of hazardous materials and the promotion of safety and other procedures in the event of a chemical incident. It follows that QFES is the lead agency for the implementation of the State Chemical/HazMat Plan.
31. QFES provides combatant and preventative services in respect to incidents or potential incidents involving hazardous materials, and it follows that QFES procedures regarding CBR may be extended to

cover hazardous materials other than chemicals where the lead agency has requested assistance. In such circumstances, QFES provides incident management support and expertise to the recognised lead (or hazard management) agencies as required.

32. The QFES Research and Scientific Branch provides:
 - An expert mobile advisory service for CBR incidents;
 - Specialist training for emergency services for response to CBR incidents; and
 - Sample management, including retrieval and liaison with Queensland Health and other agencies.
33. QFES administers the provisions of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and is responsible for the coordination of the Queensland Disaster Management System and the management of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC), which may require activation depending on the context of the CBR incident and the impact on the community.

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

34. The QPS is responsible for security issues for maintaining public order under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld) (*PPRA*). The QPS also has the power to invoke the provisions of the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986* (*PSPA*) that provides broad additional powers during specific emergencies.
35. A State police officer of at least the rank of assistant commissioner (CBRE commander) may declare a CBR emergency.
36. Under the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986* (Qld) (*PSPA*) the QPS in specific emergencies is responsible for:
 - Control and coordination of the incident (includes the on and off-site emergency environment);
 - Coordination of response agencies;
 - Securing the incident scene from unauthorized entry or departure; and
 - Crowd and traffic control.
37. Where a CBR incident results from terrorist activity security aspects are managed by the QPS in line with the QCTP and the NCTP.
38. QPS is the controlling and coordinating authority across all agencies when the incident is the result of terrorist or criminal action and/or in circumstances where a CBR emergency is declared under the provisions of the *PSPA*. In this capacity QPS maintains plans and capabilities for the control and coordination of the incident and the coordination of response agencies the controlling and coordinating authority across all agencies when the incident is the result of terrorist or criminal action and/or in circumstances where a CBR emergency is declared under the provisions of the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*. In this capacity QPS maintains plans and capabilities for the control and coordination of the incident and the coordination of response agencies.

Queensland Health

39. Queensland Health is responsible for administering the *Public Health Act 2005* and the *Radiation Safety Act 1999*, and is the lead agency for the implementation of the State of Queensland Biological Response Plan and State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan.
40. Under the provisions of the *Public Health Act 2005*, Queensland Health is responsible for preventing, controlling and reducing risks to public health and responding to public health emergencies. Authorised persons are appointed under the Act who have the necessary powers to take any action required to remove or reduce the public health risk.
41. Queensland Health administers the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* through its Radiation Health Unit, and is the lead agency for radiation safety and control in Queensland. Under the Act, inspectors have powers to take emergency actions to control radiation sources and to ensure that adequate controls are in place to protect the health and safety of all persons and the environment. Additionally, officers

of the Radiation Health Unit have been delegated specified powers under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* for circumstances concerning land affected by radioactive material.

42. In addition, Queensland Health provides:
- Advice and direction on biological and radiological incidents;
 - Public health advice and direction;
 - Advice on the clinical and medical management of casualties;
 - Hospital or other health facility based multi-casualty response as required;
 - On-site medical or public health teams;
 - Off-site laboratory analysis of hazardous materials, including biological agents;
 - Provide advice about decontamination;
 - Provide advice about storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials; and
 - Access to specific pharmaceuticals for use in CBR emergency situations

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

43. The *Ambulance Service Act 1991* prescribes that the QAS is responsible for:
 - On-site medical care; and
 - Establishment of casualty collection, initial triage, treatment and transport areas in the cold zone.

Department of Environment and Science

44. DES is the lead agency for administering the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
45. The Act provides for the protection of the environment from the effects of contaminants of all kinds and includes powers to investigate and remediate land that may be contaminated as a consequence of a CBR incident.
46. Some of the powers under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* have been shared with Local Government under delegation arrangements.
47. The Department provides an Incident Response Unit that coordinates an all-hours incident response service to provide expert assessment and advice on:
 - impacts and potential harm of incidents on environmental values;
 - priorities for protection of environmental values;
 - contaminant containment and treatment measures;
 - environmental harm mitigation measures;
 - cleanup measures for environments and wildlife; and
 - transport and disposal of wastes and contaminated materials.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries BioSecurity Queensland a Service of DAF

48. Biosecurity Queensland is the lead agency for responding to animal and plant health emergencies, invasive plant and animal and also chemicals and contaminants in the food chain that occur in Queensland. Management of emergencies is coordinated under arrangements outlined in the Biosecurity Queensland Emergency Operations Manual (BEOM). The BEOM is an agreed managements plan and set of operational principles and procedures that will operate in the event of incidents and emergencies falling within the Biosecurity Queensland portfolio. Biosecurity Queensland has responsibility for compliance with animal welfare codes and standards including during an emergency as required by the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

Resources Safety & Health Queensland (RHSQ)

49. RHSQ is responsible for safety advice in the areas of explosives, petroleum and gas through the:
 - Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate duties as outlined under the Petroleum and *Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*; and
 - Explosive Inspectorate as outlined in the *Explosives Act 1999*.

50. Under the *Explosives Act 1999* the Explosives Inspectorate provides advice on explosives issues and responds to explosives emergencies for all commercial explosives (excluding improvised explosive devices and military explosives ordnance) including high explosives, detonators, pyrotechnics, fireworks, ammunition, propellants, security sensitive ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate emulsions. Contact with Explosives Inspectors at any time should be made through Police Communications Centres or on the explosives 24/7 emergency response number 1300-739-868.
51. Under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate responds 24/7 and provides advice on incidents and emergencies relating to petroleum and gas (natural gas, LPG, and related flammable gases and all petroleum and gas related activities, along with geothermal and carbon storage drilling activities).

Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education

52. WHSQ is responsible for administering the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
53. WHSQ's goal is to foster safe and healthy work environments for all workers and other persons at Queensland workplaces, and the key outcome is a reduction in work-related death, injury and disease.
54. As part of this work, WHSQ provides advice on and undertakes compliance and enforcement activities associated with major hazard facilities, hazardous chemicals and occupational hygiene matters. This includes oversight of the safe use, handling, storage or generation of hazardous chemicals and the licensing of major hazards facilities such as refineries, chemical plants and large fuel and commercial storage sites.

RESPONSE

55. The safe management of a CBR incident requires a multi-agency approach between the lead agency and the combatant agency or agencies as per the authority and responsibility under the relevant legislation and as identified in this Plan.
56. Specific agency response procedures are not covered in this Plan, as this is the responsibility of individual agencies.

Operational arrangements

57. The relevant agencies will initially respond to the incident according to the manner in which the incident manifests. In many instances, QAS, QFES and QPS will respond first to a CBR incident, which may subsequently be identified as being a deliberate or terrorist act.
58. As soon as there is reasonable suspicion that a release, or the threatened release, of a CBR agent be the result of a terrorist or criminally instigated action, QPS will be the controlling and coordinating authority for the response across all agencies and the Queensland counter terrorism arrangements activated. Refer to the QCTP for the operational and coordination arrangements.
59. CBR incidents where there is no suspicion of a deliberate or threatened release are to be managed in accordance with the established arrangements.

Coordination arrangements

60. The coordination arrangements are designed to be flexible in application depending on the nature of the CBR incident. Communication, however, is the constant and clear lines of communication allow for an effective and measured response to a CBR incident.

Multi-Agency Threat Assessment Team

61. Specialist and multi-disciplinary support may be necessary to assist in coordinating and managing the overall incident. A Multi-Agency Threat Assessment Team (MATAT) may be established to provide an objective assessment of the feasibility and the potential consequences of the threat.
62. The MATAT reports to the commander of the Police Operations Centre and may be convened when:
 - an apparent CBR incident has occurred with a significant number of casualties;
 - there are indications of an impending crisis as the incident objective/s is unlikely to be achieved within an acceptable time frame or with the available resources; and/or
 - the incident has the potential to cause major impact on the general public, infrastructure or the environment and could require whole-of-government disaster management arrangements to be activated.
63. Within the CBR context, the MATAT has representatives with knowledge of hazardous materials and/or experience in the management of HazMat incidents and the impact on the community. This may include appropriate representatives from Queensland Government agencies such and other specialist agencies as required by the given situation.

Counter-terrorism arrangements

64. Strategic governance in the event of a terrorist incident is provided by the Queensland Security Cabinet Committee (QSCC) as articulated in the QCTP. An event may also require the activation of the disaster management system.

Queensland Security Cabinet Committee

65. The QSCC is chaired by the Premier and includes the Deputy Premier, Minister of State Development, infrastructure, and Planning; Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Minister for Police, Corrective Services; Commissioner, Queensland Police Service (QPS); and the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) as its core membership. Other Ministers and Directors-General may be invited to attend according to the nature of the situation
66. In the event of a terrorist incident in Queensland or elsewhere in Australia and/or on receipt of reliable intelligence suggesting a terrorist incident in Queensland is imminent, extraordinary meetings of the QSCC will be convened to provide leadership for the community and direction to Government agencies and coordinate the whole-of-government response to the incident.
67. The decision to convene the QSCC in relation to a crisis is made by the Premier. This will generally be based on advice from either the Commissioner, Queensland Police Service (QPS) or the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).
68. The QSCC is likely to be called on to consider a range of policy and strategic guidance issues. These could include:
 - The impact of the incident on Queensland in relation to:
 - The current and developing security situation, both locally and outside Queensland
 - Public safety/security measures
 - Casualties
 - Infrastructure and essential services
 - Decisions made by national authorities and other jurisdictions (for example in relation to aviation or maritime security)
 - Legal aspects, including jurisdiction over the incident and emergency powers to be invoked, and
 - Support to and/or from other jurisdictions, including Queensland contribution to an incident occurring outside Queensland.
 - Approval of Queensland's Public Information strategy and key messages (noting efforts to align strategies between jurisdictions and with the Commonwealth)
 - A decision as to whether the Premier or nominated QSCC Minister (Minister for Police, Corrective Services) makes a request to the Commonwealth for Defence Force Aid to the Civilian Authority (Part IIIA of the *Defence Act 1903*), and
 - Recommendations to the Prime Minister regarding any potential changes to the National Terrorism Public Alert level.

Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC)

69. The QDMC provides senior strategic leadership in relation to disaster management across all four phases – *prevention, preparedness, response and recovery* – in Queensland and facilitates communication between the Premier, relevant Ministers and Directors-General before, during and after disasters.

State Crisis and Communication Centre (SC3)

70. The SC3 is designed to meet the needs of contemporary leadership. Its composition is flexible and is tailored to meet the needs of the situation. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) manages SC3 arrangements providing the linkage between the SC3, the QSCC and the National Crisis Committee. Other Queensland Government agencies as appropriate provide a designated point of contact and subject matter input to the development of policy for the QSCC and NCC.
71. DPC coordinates information and policy advice from agencies to develop whole of government policy advice to support decision-making by the QSCC;
 - a. provides secretariat support to the QSCC;
 - b. supports Queensland's NCC member;
 - c. integrates information from the Police Operations Centre, State Disaster Coordination Centre and other agency operations centres as appropriate to provide situational awareness for Government and to compile the State situation report under the agreed national arrangements;
 - d. acts as a 'point of truth' and point of contact for incident-related information including Public Information for the Commonwealth through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre and other jurisdictions through their State Crisis Centres;
 - e. manages requests for support from the Commonwealth (e.g. Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority), and
 - f. manages terrorism policy submissions to the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee (if relevant).

Consequence management arrangements

72. Managing the consequences of a terrorist incident may require the activation of Queensland's disaster management system. This may involve the activation of local, district and/ or state disaster coordination centre, depending on the type and nature of the incident and the level at which the incident can be effectively managed.
73. Depending on the nature of the incident, it may be appropriate for the terrorist emergency commander (through the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC)) to recommend that disaster coordination centres or agency specific operations centres be activated. This advice should be conveyed to relevant disaster management agencies as soon as possible to ensure the timely activation of these centres. Disaster coordination centres coordinate information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations.
74. The declaration of a disaster situation can also be made under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, if necessary, to assist disaster management agencies manage the consequences of a terrorist incident. The decision by the DDC to request the declaration of a disaster should be made in consultation with the terrorist emergency commander, prior to the request being forwarded to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services.

Interstate and federal arrangements - request for assistance

75. Under the NCTP or other functional arrangements requests for inter-state or Commonwealth assistance will be in accordance with established protocols.
76. Requests for Commonwealth Government assistance in support of disaster management is to be forwarded through the appropriate District Disaster Coordinator to the State Disaster Coordination Centre Duty Officer for action in accordance with State and Commonwealth arrangements.

Media and public information arrangements

77. For a locally managed incident the lead agency, in partnership with the QPS, will have responsibility for providing information about the CBR incident.
78. In situations where the CBR incident is the outcome of a terrorist action, as lead agency the QPS is responsible for managing the media according to their standard arrangements, in consultation with the affected agencies or organisations. Once the SC3 is operating, media comment will be coordinated between the QPS, the SC3 and the Australian Government in accordance with the specified NCTP arrangements.

Public information in a crisis

79. The Queensland government arrangements for coordinating public information in a crisis can be activated to provide leadership for the many cross-government communication activities that occur as a result of an incident, and to assist agencies harmonise their activities and messages.
80. Should Queensland experience a crisis as a result of a CBR incident, whether it be a natural, accidental or terrorism related, it will be vital that the Queensland government coordinates and distributes reliable and consistent information to:
 - maintain public safety and meet public needs;
 - keep people informed and engaged; and
 - support Queensland Government crisis management activities.

Crisis Communication Network

81. The cornerstone of the arrangements is the establishment of a Crisis Communication Network, comprising communication heads and staff from relevant agencies. The Network is chaired by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and supported by the QPS media and Public Affairs Group.
82. Network members will:
 - represent their agency (noting that agencies retain responsibility for their own communication plans, products, activities and stakeholders' liaison);
 - provide input into the incident communication strategy;
 - work together to problem solve key communication issues that arise, such as information gaps or inaccuracies;
 - work together to share resources, including staff where appropriate;
 - share advice about key communication activities and mechanisms to distribute information; and
 - communicate advice from the Network to their agency, ministerial offices and stakeholders as relevant.

Forward deployment

83. Agencies retain responsibility for deploying media and communication officers to the scene of an incident as required for their purposes.
84. DPC (Communication Services) may also wish to have an officer at the scene. This decision would be made at the time, but may not be necessary given the Network enables sharing of such information between agencies.

Activation

85. At the time of an incident, DPC will discuss activation of the arrangements with the relevant strategic incident management group. It may be appropriate for the arrangements to be activated during any preparation phase available, as well as the response and recovery phases of an event.

Broad media guidelines

Type	Definition	Responsibilities
Political information	This comprises whole-of-government policy and initiative related information.	This type of information should only be provided by the Premier, Ministers, Directors-General, and/or authorised spokespersons.
Strategic information	This comprises information relating to the overall approach being taken in response to disasters or major incidents. It may also include specific departmental responses to particular events.	This type of information should only be provided by following persons after consultation with DPC (Communication Services): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Directors-General (or their appointed spokesperson);▪ the Police Commissioner (or appointed spokesperson); or▪ dedicated senior officers located in the State Disaster Coordination Centre and/or the Police Major Incident Room.
Tactical (operational) information	This comprises factual information relating exclusively to the operational components of a major incident response.	Media and inter-agency information should be provided by Media Liaison Officers or other assigned spokespersons identified by lead agencies. All media relations must be coordinated by the lead agency to ensure that operations and/or investigations are not prejudiced by media reporting and to build and hold public confidence. It should also be possible for tactical information to be provided, where appropriate, by authorised officers of these and other stakeholder response agencies.

86. At a CBR incident site, the lead agency should nominate an on-scene media spokesperson.

On-scene media spokesperson is authorised to:

- Provide tactical (operational) details such as action taken, the number of people involved in the event and, if relevant, their ages and sex provided it does not identify those people; and
- Positively describe the efforts of response agencies and individuals.
- Such information must only be provided after discussions with the media liaison representative of the lead agency.

On-scene media spokesperson is not authorised to:

- Comment about government or opposition policy matters (media enquiries should be referred to the relevant Minister's media advisor);
- Speculate on the cause of a disaster, or measures that may have prevented the disaster; or
- Identify patients and victims by giving their names to the media (only the police are authorised to release appropriate information about patients and victims).

RECOVERY

87. Recovery is an integral part of emergency and disaster management activities. It may commence during the response phase of an incident and may build up as response actions wind down until containment of the hazard.
88. Determination of when the emergency response phase is completed will be at the discretion of the lead agency. The formal handover of the site or situation to the identified lead recovery agency is dependant on the nature of the incident and whether QPS seeks control of the site to undertake an investigation. The lead agency Incident Controller should first consult with the QPS.
89. The State of Queensland *Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan* provides an agreed set of protocols for an efficient multi-agency approach to the recovery phase of a hazardous materials incident where it involves or has the potential to involve a recovery operation that is beyond the capability of a single state government agency.
90. Queensland Government agencies will take a lead recovery role when the entity (for example the owner / occupier) responsible for the incident site appears unwilling, unable or fails to demonstrate a capacity to, or be incapable of, accepting the responsibility for recovery. Where the entity has the capability and is accepting of responsibility for recovery then the designated government agencies will perform an oversight role only.
91. The State of Queensland *Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan* identifies the lead recovery agency for various hazardous materials releases and the recovery protocols.

REVIEW

92. The State CBR Plan will be reviewed every two years or sooner such as an event, or other as identified by the State CBRN Committee.
93. The State CBRN Committee will establish a CBR Working Group to conduct and coordinate the review with the relevant stakeholders.
94. Agencies should submit proposed amendments to the State CBRN Committee for evaluation; and following endorsement amendments to the Plan are to be issued to all stakeholders and will be placed on the QDMC website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

APPENDIX A TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS

95. **Command** The direction of members and resources of an agency/organisation in the performance of the agency/organisation's roles and tasks. Authority to command is established by legislation or by agreement within an agency/organisation. Command relates to agencies and operates vertically within an agency.
96. **Control** The overall direction of emergency management activities in an emergency or disaster situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan and carries with it the responsibility for tasking other agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.
97. **Coordination** The bringing together of agencies and resources to ensure an effective emergency response. It is primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources in accordance with the requirements imposed by the hazard or impact of an emergency. It operates vertically within agencies as a function of the authority to command, and horizontally across agencies as a function of the authority to control.
98. **CBR agent** A CBR agent is a chemical, biological or radiological agent.
99. **CBR incident** A CBR incident is the threatened release or release of CBR material to cause damage or harm to people, animals/plants, property or the environment
100. **Disaster** A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption (the Act).
101. **Emergency powers** The powers are contained in the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*. These powers authorise Queensland emergency response personnel, in a declared CBR emergency, the power to:
- detain;
 - give person directions to remain in, go to, or stay out of an area;
 - decontaminate;
 - medically examine and treat;
 - seize property; and
 - require name and address.
102. **Event** any of the following:
- (a) A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural thing happening;
 - (b) An explosion, fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak;
 - (c) An infestation, plague or epidemic;
 - (d) A failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure;
 - (e) An attack against the State;
 - (f) Another event similar to an event mentioned in paragraphs 91) to (e)
- Any event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions (the Act).
103. **Hazardous Material** All dangerous goods, combustible liquids and chemicals; or (b) any other substance with potential to cause harm to persons, property or the environment because of 1 or more of the following— (i) the chemical properties of the substance; (ii) the physical properties of the substance; (iii) the biological properties of the substance.
104. **Incident** Are usually events well within the capacity of local response agency such as fire, police and ambulance. The response agencies are able to provide support to each other without reference to any higher authority and no agency directs the actions of any other agency.

105. **Multi Agency Threat Assessment Team (MATAT)** The MATAT is an advisory body drawn from various State and commonwealth agencies to provide advice to the Police Commander. The MATAT is chaired by a QPS officer.

106. **Police Forward Command Post (PFCP)** The police forward command post located within the cold zone, from which the Police Forward Commander controls and directs QPS activities and coordinates the activities of other agencies.

Terrorist act An action or threat of action where:

- the action is done or the threat is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause; and
- the action is done or the threat is made with the intention of:
 - coercing, or influencing by intimidation, the government of the Commonwealth or a State, Territory or foreign country, or
 - of part of a State, Territory or foreign country;
 - or intimidating the public or a section of the public.

Action falls within this definition if it:

- causes serious harm that is physical harm to a person; or
- causes serious damage to property; or
- causes a person's death; or
- endangers a person's life, other than the life of the person taking the action; or
- creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public; or
- seriously interferes with, seriously disrupts, or destroys, an electronic system including, but not limited to:
 - an information system; or
 - a telecommunications system; or
 - a financial system; or
 - a system used for the delivery of essential government services; or
 - a system used for, or by, an essential public utility; or
 - a system used for, or by, a transport system.

APPENDIX B RELATED PLANS

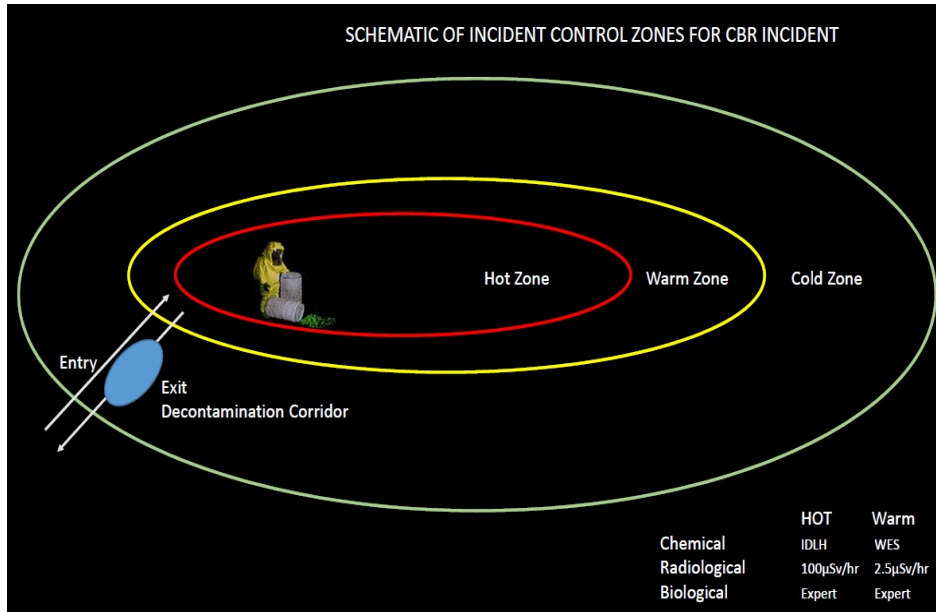
- 107. Queensland Counter-Terrorism Plan (2012), State of Queensland
- 108. Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (2016), State of Queensland
- 109. Queensland Recovery Plan (2016), State of Queensland
- 110. State of Queensland Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan (2018),
- 111. State of Queensland Chemical/HAZMAT Response Plan (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services);
- 112. State of Queensland Biological Response Plan (Queensland Health);
- 113. State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan (Queensland Health).

APPENDIX C LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

114. The following legislation provides the authority under which Queensland government agencies undertake their role within a CBR context:

- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994
- Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966
- Agricultural Standards Act 1994
- Ambulance Service Act 1991
- Animal Care and Protection Act 2001
- Apiaries Act 1982
- Biological Control Act 1987
- Biosecurity Act 2014
- Brands Act 1915
- Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988
- Disaster Management Act 2003
- Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Explosives Act 1999
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990
- Health Act 1937
- Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002
- Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004
- Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000
- Public Safety Preservation Act 1986
- Public Health Act 2005
- Radiation Safety Act 1999
- Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act 1987
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

APPENDIX D SCHEMATIC OF INCIDENT CONTROL ZONES



The values shown in the diagram are applied as guidance to describe the boundaries of the Hot, Warm and Cold zones where appropriate.