



# **Uralla Shire Council Local Emergency Management Plan**

**Parts 1 – 2 UNRESTRICTED**

**January 2021**



## Part 1 – Administration

### Authority

The Uralla Shire Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) has been prepared by the Uralla Shire Council and the New England Area Local Emergency Management Committee in compliance with the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989.

APPROVED

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**Chair**

**New England Local Emergency Management Committee**

Dated:

ENDORSED

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**Chair**

**New England Regional Emergency Management Committee**

Dated:

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## Purpose

Details arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Local Government Area(s) covered by this plan.

It encompasses arrangements for:

- emergencies controlled by combat agencies;
- emergencies controlled by combat agencies and supported by the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON);
- emergency operations for which there is no combat agency; and
- circumstances where a combat agency has passed control to the LEOCON.

## Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- define participating organisation and Functional Area roles and responsibilities in preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies;
- set out the control, co-ordination and liaison arrangements at the Local level;
- detail activation and alerting arrangements for involved agencies; and
- detail arrangements for the acquisition and co-ordination of resources.

## Scope

The plan describes the arrangements at Local level to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and also provides policy direction for the preparation of Sub Plans and Supporting Plans:

- Arrangements detailed in this plan are based on the assumption that the resources upon which the plan relies are available when required; and
- The effectiveness of arrangements detailed in this plan are dependent upon all involved agencies preparing, testing and maintaining appropriate internal instructions, and/or standing operating procedures.

## Principles

The following principles are applied in this plan:

- a) The Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process is to be used as the basis for emergency planning in New South Wales. This methodical approach to the planning process is to be applied by Emergency Management Committees at all levels.
- b) Responsibility for preparation, response and recovery rests initially at Local level. If Local agencies and available resources are not sufficient they are augmented by those at Regional level.
- c) Control of emergency response and recovery operations is conducted at the lowest effective level.
- d) Agencies may deploy their own resources from their own service from outside the affected Local area or Region if they are needed.
- e) The Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) is responsible, when requested by a combat agency, to co-ordinate the provision of resources support. EOCs would not normally assume control from a combat agency unless the situation can no longer be contained. Where necessary, this should only be done after consultation with the Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON) and agreement of the combat agency and the appropriate level of control.
- f) Emergency preparation, response and recovery operations should be conducted with all agencies carrying out their normal functions wherever possible.
- g) Prevention measures remain the responsibility of authorities/agencies charged by statute with the responsibility.

## Test and Review Process

The New England Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) will review this Plan every three (3) years, or following any:

- activation of the Plan in response to an emergency;
- legislative changes affecting the Plan; and
- exercises conducted to test all or part of the Plan.

## Part 2 – Community Context

### Annexure A – Community Profile

#### General

Uralla Council lies along the top of the Great Dividing Range on the eastern edge of the New England Tablelands in north-western NSW. The Council covers an area of 3,214km<sup>2</sup> with an elevation of between 1,250 metres and 640m ASL. The council is bordered by Armidale Regional Council, Gwydir, Tamworth, and Walcha Council areas.

The Council population of 6,370 are mainly located in the population centres of Uralla, Bundarra, Arding and Invergowrie (rural residential subdivisions), Kentucky, Rocky River and on farms centred upon these villages and rural subdivisions. The council headquarters is located in the town centre of Uralla. The Shire is bisected north/south by the New England Highway which runs through the town of Uralla. The Highway carries large volumes of diversified local and interstate traffic, from heavy transport, tourist and interstate coaches to private vehicles. .

The Council is responsible for the servicing of its local and regional roads with the RMS responsible for the servicing of the New England Highway through the entire length of the Shire.

The commercial base of the council area is centred upon primary production and pastoral activities of which: wool, fat stock production (sheep and cattle), stock breeding, as well as tourism.

Council provides potable water supplies to Uralla and Bundarra and waste water collection and treatment for Uralla.

#### Landform and Topography

The Shire is located on the Great Dividing Range and includes scenic rolling farmland. The headwaters of the Gwydir River are located in the Shire.

The town of Uralla is located at an elevation of 1,012 m above sea level, whilst Bundarra lies 660m above sea level.

## Climate

Uralla is known for its cold winters and cool summers. In summer, temperatures exceed 30 degrees on average, only 21 days per year. In winter, there are an average of 40 frosty nights with subzero temperatures.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Record high	37.0 3-1-2014	36.3 10-2-1983	33.9 4-3-1965	31.6 4-4-1986	24.4 12-5-1967	22.8 4-6-1958
Average high	27.1	26.1	24.1	20.6	16.4	13.1
Average low	13.2	13.0	11.3	7.5	3.9	1.6
Record low	4.4 2-1-1972	4.1 3-2-2005	0.6 24-3-1967	-3.3 30-4-2008	-6.7 21-5-1965	-7.7 25-6-1986
Ave rainfall	104.4 mm	83.3 mm	59.7 mm	40.2 mm	44.9 mm	53.9 mm
Decile 5 rainfall	88.7 mm	67.6 mm	51.6 mm	34.9 mm	32.8 mm	44.0 mm
Ave rainy days (>0.1mm)	7.7	7.0	5.8	4.6	5.1	6.5

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Record high	21.1 28-7-1958	26.8 24-8-2000	28.2 28-9-1965	32.4 21-10-1988	35.1 19-11-1968	36.5 19-12-1990
Average high	12.2	14.2	17.7	21.2	24.3	26.5
Average low	6.3	1.1	3.7	7.0	9.8	11.2
Record low	-9.3 15-7-1970	-8.1 13-8-1964	-6.0 14-9-1972	-3.1 12-10-2003	-1.6 3-11-2003	1.3 7-12-2002
Ave rainfall	56.4 mm	55.1 mm	53.3 mm	71.8 mm	86.1 mm	88.4 mm
Decile 5 rainfall	48.8 mm	49.3 mm	45.6 mm	64.0 mm	80.4 mm	86.2 mm
Ave rainy days (>0.1mm)	6.7	6.4	5.9	7.0	7.9	7.8

(Records from BOM. Rainfall records exist for Uralla from 1901. Temperature records are regional)

## Land Use

The Shire is predominantly made up of rural grazing country.

Zoning within the towns of Uralla and Bundarra follow typical patterns of Residential, Rural and Industrial land.

Land Use Zone / Type / Classification	Area (Hectares)	% of LGA
B2 Local Centre	6.4	0.002%
B4 Mixed Use	7.9	0.003%
B6 Enterprise Corridor	5.3	0.002%
E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves	487.2	0.163%

Land Use Zone / Type / Classification	Area (Hectares)	% of LGA
E3 Environmental Management	79.6	0.027%
E4 Environmental Living	354.1	0.118%
IN1 General Industrial	23.9	0.008%
IN2 Light Industrial	11.1	0.004%
R1 General Residential	257.1	0.086%
R2 Low Density Residential	66.7	0.022%
R5 Large Lot Residential	2,559.6	0.854%
RE1 Public Recreation	27.1	0.009%
RE2 Private Recreation	35.0	0.012%
RU1 Primary Production	153,801.3	51.330%
RU2 Rural Landscape	141,836.9	47.337%
RU5 Village	63.2	0.021%
SP2 Infrastructure	6.7	0.002%
TOTAL LGA	299,630.1	100.00

## Population and People

The population of Uralla Shire was 6,048 in 2016. In 2016, 6.9% of the population were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The age group split is as follows:

Years	Percentage
Median age - 46	
0-4	5.1
5-9	6.7
10-14	7.4
15-19	6.1
20-24	3.9
25-29	3.5
30-34	4.4
35-39	5.1
40-44	6.2
45-49	7.0
50-54	7.7
55-59	8.2
60-64	8.1
65-69	7.4
70-74	5.6
75-79	3.4
80-84	2.1
85 and over	1.9



The types of families in 2016 were as follows:

Type	Number
Couples family with children	631
Couples family without children	752
One parent family	234
Other family	21

<https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/>

Household types in 2016 were as follows:

Type	Number
Family households	1,614
Single (or lone) person households	616
Group households	55
Average household size	3

<https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/>

### Transport Routes and Facilities

The New England Highway runs from the South of the Shire through Uralla and towards Armidale in the north. This is the primary transport route through the Shire. Thunderbolts Way runs in a north westerly direction from Walcha through the Shire intersecting the New England Highway in Uralla township and continues north west to Bundarra and on to Inverell.

The railway line runs through Wollun in the south of the shire, through Kentucky and Uralla then north to Armidale, where the line ends. .

The nearest airport is located at Armidale. There is also an airport at Tamworth in Tamworth Regional Council an hour to the south.

### Economy and Industry

In 2013, there were a total of 682 businesses in Uralla Shire as follows:

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	325
Mining	3
Manufacturing	17
Construction	80
Wholesale Trade	14
Retail Trade	30
Accommodation and Food Services	21
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	37
Information Media and Telecommunications	3
Financial and Insurance Services	12
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate	42
Professional, Scientific and Technical	33
Administrative and Support Services	6
Public Administration and Safety	3
Education and Training	3
Health Care and Social Assistance	11
Arts and Recreational Services	7
Other	39

Cattle and Sheep farms are the most common industries within the Shire.

A total of 427 businesses were non-employing businesses.

A total of 190 businesses employed between 1-4 employees.

A total of 65 businesses employed more than 5 employees.

## Annexure B – Hazards and Risks Summary

A Local Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Study has been undertaken by the New England Area Local Emergency Management Committee identifying the following hazards as having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity. These hazards have been identified as having the potential to create an emergency. The Uralla Shire Emergency Risk Management Report (June 2007) is referenced to identify the complete list of consequences and risk descriptions.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood Rating</b>	<b>Consequence Rating</b>	<b>Risk Priority</b>	<b>Combat / Responsible Agency</b>
Communicable diseases affecting animals.	An agriculture/horticulture incident that results, or has potential to result, in the spread of a communicable disease or infestation.	Possible	Moderate	Low	Department of Primary Industries
Communicable Diseases affecting human	Pandemic illness that affects, or has potential to affect, large portions of the human population	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Department of Health
Dam Failure	A dam is compromised that results in localised or widespread flooding.	Rare	Moderate	Low	Uralla Shire NSW SES
Dam Failure	Town water supply is lost	Rare	Major	Low	Uralla Shire
Earthquake	Earthquake of significant strength that results in localised or widespread damage.	Rare	Moderate	Low	LEOCON

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood Rating</b>	<b>Consequence Rating</b>	<b>Risk Priority</b>	<b>Combat / Responsible Agency</b>
Fire (Bush or Grass)	Major fires in areas of bush or grasslands.	Almost Certain	Major	High	NSW RFS FRNSW
Fire (Industrial)	Serious industrial fire in office complexes and/or warehouses within industrial estates.	Possible	Minor	Medium	FRNSW NSW RFS
Fire (Residential)	Serious residential fire in medium/high rise apartments.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	FRNSW NSW RFS
Flood (Flash)	Heavy rainfall causes excessive localised flooding with minimal warning time	Possible	Moderate	Medium	NSW SES
Hazardous Release	Hazardous material released as a result of an incident or accident.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	FRNSW
Infestation – insect/plant	An infestation of insects or plants may affect sections of the community bringing about quarantine and movement restrictions.	Possible	Minor	Medium	DPI/Health
Storm (severe) – snow and cold	Severe storm with accompanying lightning, hail, wind, and/or rain that causes severe damage and/or localised flooding.(includes tornado)	Possible	Major	Medium	NSW SES

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood Rating</b>	<b>Consequence Rating</b>	<b>Risk Priority</b>	<b>Combat / Responsible Agency</b>
Storm (severe) – electrical/wind/rain/hail	Storm events may affect sections of the community.	Likely	Major	High	NSW SES
Transport Emergency (Road)	A major vehicle accident that disrupts one or more major transport routes that can result in risk to people trapped in traffic jams, restrict supply routes and/or protracted loss of access to or from the area.	Likely	Moderate	Medium	LEOCON
Utilities Failure	Major failure of essential utility for unreasonable periods of time as a result of a natural or man-made occurrence.	Unlikely	Moderate	High	LEOCON

## Annexure C – Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies

Responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of appropriate sub and supporting plans rest with the relevant Combat Agency Controller or the relevant Functional Area Coordinator.

The sub/supporting plans are developed in consultation with the New England Local Emergency Management Committee and the community.

The plans listed below are supplementary to this EMPLAN. The sub/supporting plans have been endorsed by the LEMC and are determined as compliant and complimentary to the arrangements listed in this EMPLAN.

These plans are retained by the LEMO on behalf of the LEMC.

<b>Plan/Policy</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Combat / Responsible Agency</b>
<b>Uralla Shire Local Flood Plan 2013 - Updated 2017</b>	Identifies areas prone to flooding and determines development controls. Flood Emergency Plan to be developed	NSW State Emergency Service
<b>Kentucky Creek Dam Modified Dam Safety Emergency Plan August 2010</b>	Covers preparedness measures, response operations and immediate recovery measures from a dam break event	NSW State Emergency Service
<b>Snow and Ice Plan 2015</b>	Covers the operation and communication process within government agencies when snow or ice is detected on the New England Highway	Roads & Maritime Services
<b>Welfare response plan to be developed</b>	Covers evacuation centres and response plans	Other
<b>Memorandum of Understanding – Management of Road &amp; Traffic Incidents</b>	Clarifies roles of agencies in State Road Incidents	Other