



Uralla Shire Council
Local Emergency
Management Plan
Parts 1-2 UNRESTRICTED
September 2022



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 3,214km² 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% |
| C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves | 487.2 | 0.163% |
| C2 Environmental Conservation | | |
| C3 Environmental Management | 79.6 | 0.027% |
| C4 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, 10.8% of the population were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| People | 2,743 |
| Male | 46.4% |
| Female | 53.6% |
| Median age | 45 |



| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Families | 726 |
| Average children per family | |
| for families with children | 1.9 |
| for all families | 0.6 |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| All private dwellings | 1,291 |
| Average people per household | 2.3 |
| Median weekly household income | \$957 |
| Median monthly mortgage repayments | \$1,278 |
| Median weekly rent | \$220 |
| Average motor vehicles per dwelling | 1.8 |

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC14051>

The age group split is as follows:

| Age | Uralla (NSW) | % |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Median age | 45 | -- |
| 0-4 years | 155 | 5.6 |
| 5-9 years | 187 | 6.8 |
| 10-14 years | 165 | 6.0 |
| 15-19 years | 168 | 6.1 |
| 20-24 years | 119 | 4.3 |
| 25-29 years | 115 | 4.2 |
| 30-34 years | 142 | 5.2 |
| 35-39 years | 139 | 5.0 |
| 40-44 years | 160 | 5.8 |
| 45-49 years | 151 | 5.5 |
| 50-54 years | 208 | 7.6 |
| 55-59 years | 210 | 7.6 |
| 60-64 years | 236 | 8.6 |
| 65-69 years | 217 | 7.9 |
| 70-74 years | 144 | 5.2 |
| 75-79 years | 90 | 3.3 |
| 80-84 years | 75 | 2.7 |
| 85 years and over | 72 | 2.6 |

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC14051>

The median age of people in Uralla was 45 years. Children aged 0-14 years made up 18.4% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 21.7% of the population.

The types of families in 2016 were as follows:

| Family composition | Uralla (NSW) | % |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Couple family without children | 326 | 45.2 |
| Couple family with children | 260 | 36.0 |
| One parent family | 127 | 17.6 |
| Other family | 9 | 1.2 |

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC14051>

Of the families in Uralla, 36.0% were couple families with children, 45.2% were couple families without children and 17.6% were one parent families.

Household types in 2016 were as follows:

| <u>Household composition</u> | Uralla (NSW) | % |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------|
| Family households | 720 | 66.4 |
| Single (or lone) person households | 342 | 31.5 |
| Group households | 23 | 2.1 |

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC14051>

In Uralla, of all households, 66.4% were family households, 31.5% were single person households and 2.1% were group households.

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.

| Hazard | Risk Description | Likelihood Rating | Consequence Rating | Risk Priority | Combat / Responsible Agency |
|---|---|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 |

| Hazard | Risk Description | Likelihood Rating | Consequence Rating | Risk Priority | Combat / Responsible Agency |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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.

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