

## FEEDBACK FOR COUNCIL DIRECTIONS PAPER

### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

#### PRINCIPLES

These principles are that a council's emergency management responsibilities and actions should:

- reflect the council's strengths and capabilities and align to its normal business functions
- complement those of other agencies, businesses and the public
- be engaged only where the council is the best-placed organisation to do so (meaning it should not be used as an intermediary on behalf of other agencies, particularly for processes over which it has no control or ownership)
- be applicable to emergencies of different scales and complexity
- be consistent with its capability and capacity, along with its other legislative responsibilities and core business
- provide a platform to collaborate and build partnerships with other councils to enhance the delivery of services.

#### Our comments

We strongly agree with these principles. We particularly endorse the principle that councils' emergency management actions should be scalable and able to meet local or wider need.

In saying this, we totally acknowledge – as does the paper – that the adequate resourcing of councils to perform these functions has to be addressed in a sustainable fashion.

Red Cross also strongly endorses the principle about building partnerships with other councils – this is where strength comes from, and we believe these partnership models must be supported.

Description number	Active verb agreement
1	Yes
2	Yes
3	Yes
4	Yes
5	Yes
6	Yes
7	No - Lead
8	Yes
9	Yes
10	Yes
11	Yes
12	Yes
13	Yes
14	Yes
15	Yes
16	Yes
17	Yes
18	Yes
19	Yes
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25	Yes
26	Yes
27	Yes
28	Yes
29	Yes
30	Yes
31	Yes
32	Yes
33	Yes
34	Yes
35	Yes
36	Yes
37	Yes
38	Yes
39	Yes
40	Yes
41	Yes
42	Yes
43	Unknown
44	Yes
45	Yes
46	Yes
47	Yes

48	Yes
49	Yes
50	Yes
51	Yes
52	Yes
53	Yes
54	Yes
55	Yes
56	Yes
57	Yes
58	Yes
59	Yes
60	Yes
61	No - work with
62	Yes
63	Yes
64	Yes
65	Unknown
66	Yes
67	Yes
68	Yes
69	Yes
70	Yes
71	Yes
72	Yes
73	Yes
74	Yes
75	Yes
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77	Yes
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82	Yes
83	Yes
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93	Yes
94	Yes
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96	Yes
97	Yes
98	Yes
99	Yes
100	Yes
101	Yes
102	Unknown
103	Yes
104	Yes
105	Yes
106	Yes
107	Yes
108	Yes
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110	Yes
111	Yes
112	Yes
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114	Yes
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131	Yes
132	Yes
133	Yes
134	Yes
135	Yes
136	Yes
137	Yes
138	Yes
139	Yes
140	Yes
141	Yes
142	Yes
143	Yes
144	Yes
145	Yes

146	Yes
147	Yes
148	Yes
149	Maybe
150	Maybe
151	Yes
152	Yes
153	Yes
154	Yes

**Red Cross feedback on Councils & Emergencies directions paper**

Comments

Council has best knowledge and access to it

As long as it is in partnership with communities  
Be given time to do this

In particular in relation to smaller or single household emergencies

Possibly most important task in recovery - in partnership

Including sufficient training in self-care and working with impacted people

Support for collaborations is critical

Including 'single incidents'  
Including debriefing opportunities  
With appropriate support from other agencies such as Red Cross

Although we would hope that the impacted community had a key role in forming the committee and leading it

Ensure council staff are continually supported in their own mental health and wellbeing and trained for roles

This is too much for most local governments - needs to be organised beforehand

All agencies have a role here

With support from other agencies ongoing  
This is critical

In partnership, ensuring that trained volunteers or staff with Psychological First Aid expertise also accompany

At a local level, including 'single incidents'

In partnership with local community groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders

In partnership with community groups



Needs strong support from DHHS  
Needs strong support from DHHS

