



1.07 – EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY IN EMERGENCIES

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Policy is for Council to delegate authority for the General Manager to incur expenditure up to an amount of \$250,000 in cases where emergency or disaster works are urgent.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

In relation to Council's functions, Council is responsible to ensure the operation and safety of the functions it provides to the community. This includes, but not limited to, electricity, waste management, airport operations, telecommunications, infrastructure, and road network.

Further, in accordance with the *Disaster & Emergency Management Act 2001 (NI)* and accompanying statutory plan (NORDISPLAN), Norfolk Island Regional Council needs to maintain capability to respond to and manage an emergency for up to 48 hours and is then responsible for ongoing costs of the disaster recovery. This also incorporates compensation for any injury, loss or damage suffered by individuals as a consequence of exercise of powers by authorised officers. A claim cannot exceed \$10,000 and is directed by the Court.

The protection of life and property and a restoration of conditions to normal is the key priority.

3. POLICY SCOPE

That the General Manager to be authorised to incur urgent expenditure as defined in this Policy up to an amount up to \$250,000.

4. DEFINITIONS

Disaster

Means any occurrence (including flood, fire, storm, tempest, earthquake, eruption, epidemic of human, animal, or plant disease, hostilities directed by an enemy against Australia, and accident) that –

- a) Causes, or threatens to cause loss of life or injury to persons or animals or damage to property; and
- b) Is of such a nature or magnitude that extraordinary measures are required in order to protect human or animal life or property"

Emergency

Means any occurrence (including flood, fire, storm, tempest, earthquake, eruption, epidemic of human, animal, or plant disease, hostilities directed by an enemy against Australia, and accident) that –

- a) Causes, or threatens to cause loss of life or injury to persons or animals or damage to property; and
- b) Whilst not constituting a disaster should, in the opinion of the Minister be dealt with under this Act because of the diverse resources required in response to the emergency, the likelihood of the emergency escalating into a disaster, or for any other reason.

Response

Means any measure or measures taken in pursuance of the Disaster & Emergency Management Act 2001 (NI) during the continuance of a declared state of disaster or emergency to protect life or property, but does not include a recover operation.

Recovery operations

Recovery of the normal pattern of life of individuals, families, and communities affected by a disaster or emergency and include these:

- (a) restoration of essential facilities and services;
- (b) restoration of other facilities and services necessary for the normal functioning of a community;
- (c) provision of material and personal needs;
- (d) provision of means of emotional support.

Risk management approach to disaster and emergency management

The identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks followed by coordinated and economical application of resources to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (NI)

Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2001 (NI)

Norfolk Island Disaster and Emergency Plan 2018 (NORDISPLAN 2018)

The NORDISPLAN will be reviewed in accordance with section 8(1)(d) of the Act

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication

Council Ordinary Meetings; media, radio.

The Emergency Management Norfolk Island Committee (EMINIC), Functional Service Coordinators, Office of the Administrator, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC) will be informed of this policy.

6.2 Associated Documents

NORDISPLAN 2018

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for the following functional service areas – Airport, Border Force, Emergency Operations Centre, Fire Service, Health, Media and Public Information, Police, St Johns Ambulance, Transport, Resources, Welfare.

7. POLICY

7.1 That the General Manager be authorised to incur urgent expenditure (defined below) to an amount up to \$250,000 provided full details are reported by the General Manager to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council for confirmation. Remedial action requiring urgent expenditure is authorised in cases of:

- a) Disaster;
- b) Emergency;
- c) Other Natural Disasters;
- d) Environmental / pollution / contamination;
- e) Infrastructure Collapse (e.g. port emergency, road collapse, water contamination);
- f) Any situation threatening the immediate safety of human life; or
- g) Circumstances are such that prompt decisions are required.

8. REVIEW AND VERSION CONTROL

Policy Number	1.07	Responsible Officer	<i>General Manager</i>	
Effective Date	<i>18/09/2019</i>	Next Review Date	<i>18/09/2022</i>	
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	<i>V1</i>	<i>2019/186</i>	<i>18 September 2019</i>	<i>Developed and Adopted</i>