

# **New South Wales**

## **Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan**

**A Sub-plan of the New South Wales  
STATE DISASTER PLAN**

## **AUTHORISATION**

The New South Wales Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan has been prepared as a sub-plan to the New South Wales State Disaster Plan (Displan) to detail the emergency management arrangements to respond to a food-related emergency in New South Wales.

This Sub Plan is authorised in accordance with the provision of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and was endorsed at the 74th meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee on the 3rd of December 2009.



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# DEFINITIONS

These definitions should be read in conjunction with those contained in the *NSW State Emergency and Rescue Management (SERM) Act 1989* and the NSW State Disaster Plan.

## ***AIIMS - ICS***

The Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System - Incident Control System (AIIMS – ICS) is a command structure to systematically and logically manage emergencies and incidents, ranging from small simple incidents to large, difficult or multiple situations. It is designed to expand to ensure effective span of control at all levels.

## ***Combat agency***

Means the agency identified in Displan as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency. For a food industry emergency, the NSW Food Authority is nominated as the combat agency

## ***Command***

In this plan, means the direction of members and resources of an agency or organisation in the performance of the roles and tasks assigned to that agency or organisation. Authority to command is established by legislation or by agreement with the agency or organisation. **Command relates to agencies or organisations only, and operates vertically within an agency or organisation. People are commanded.**

## ***Concept of operations***

In this plan, refers to the NSW Food Authority's Incident controller's notion, given the anticipated problems of the effects of the event, of how the emergency response and recovery operations is to be conducted. It is a statement of the Incident controller's operational intentions, and may be expressed in terms of stages/phases of the emergency operation.

## ***Control***

Means the overall direction of the activities, agencies or individuals concerned. **Control operates horizontally across agencies or organisations, functions and individuals. Situations are controlled.**

## ***Coordination***

Means the bringing together of agencies, organisations and individuals to ensure effective emergency management or rescue management but does not include the control of agencies, organisations and individuals by direction. **Resources are coordinated.**

## ***Displan***

Means the New South Wales State Disaster Plan issued in accordance with the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*. The object of Displan is to ensure the coordinated response to all agencies having responsibilities and functions in emergencies.

## ***Emergency***

Means an emergency due to the actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, accident, epidemic or warlike action) which:

- (a) endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State; or
- (b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property in the State, being an emergency **which requires a significant and co-ordinated response.**

For the purposes of the definition of emergency, property in the State includes any part of the environment of the State. Accordingly, a reference in the Act to: (a) threats or danger to property includes a reference to threats or danger to the environment; and (b) the protection of property includes a reference to the protection of the environment.

***Emergency Operations Centre***

Means a centre established at State, District or Local level as a centre of communication and as a centre for the coordination of operations and support during an emergency

***Emergency service organisation***

Means the NSW Police, NSW Fire Brigades, Rural Fire Service, Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association or any other agency which manages or controls an accredited rescue unit.

***Executive***

In this plan, is the Executive of the NSW Food Authority chaired by the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate.

***Food***

Food means substances being for human consumption; including bottled water and water as a food ingredient; but not reticulated water supply. It may include live animals and plants, but not a therapeutic good. For a detailed definition see the NSW *Food Act 2003*.

***Food incident and emergency management protocol (FIEMP)***

In this plan, the internal set of procedures for which the NSW Food Authority will implement in response to a food emergency or a food incident.

***Functional area***

Means a category of services involved in the preparations for an emergency, including the following:

- (a) Agriculture and Animal Services;
- (b) Communication Services;
- (c) Energy and Utility Services;
- (d) Engineering Services;
- (e) Environmental Services;
- (f) Health Services;
- (g) Public Information Services;
- (h) Transport Services; and
- (i) Welfare Services.

***Hazard***

In this plan, a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

***Incident***

In this plan, an event which may result in death or injury, which requires a response from an agency, or agencies.

***Incident controller***

In this plan, is the nominated person from the NSW Food Authority who is tasked to coordinate the provision of resources for emergency response and recovery operations, who by agreement of

participating and supporting organisation, has the authority to commit the resources of those organisations.

### ***Incident management team***

In this plan, is the team appointed by the NSW Food Authority to manage the emergency response and recovery operations. The Incident controller and membership of the Incident management team are determined according to the nature of the emergency.

### ***Issues management advisory group (IMAG)***

In this plan, is the group within the NSW Food Authority for the purposes of maintaining preparedness to respond to emergencies and to provide support to the Incident management team.

### ***Liaison officer***

In this plan, means a person, nominated or appointed by an agency / organisation / functional area, to represent them at a control centre, emergency operations centre or coordination centre. A Liaison officer maintains communications with and conveys directions/requests to their organisation or functional area, and provides advice on the status, capabilities, actions and requirements of their organisation or functional area.

### ***National Food Incident Response Protocol***

In this plan, is the protocol developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) on behalf of the Implementation Sub-Committee (ISC) to coordinate responses from State and Territory food jurisdictions to a national food incident.

### ***Participating organisation***

In this plan, means the Government departments, statutory authorities, volunteer organisations and other agencies who have either given formal notice to agency controllers or functional area coordinators, or have acknowledged to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), that they are willing to participate in emergency operations under the direction of the Controller of a combat agency, or coordinator of a functional area, with the levels of resources or support as appropriate to the operation.

### ***Plan***

Means a step by step sequence for the conduct of a single or series of connected emergency operations to be carried out simultaneously or in succession. It is usually based upon stated assumptions, and is a record of a previously agreed set of roles, responsibilities, functions, actions and management arrangements. The designation 'plan' is usually used in preparing for emergency operations well in advance. A plan may be put into effect at a prescribed time, or on signal, and then becomes the basis of the emergency operations order for that emergency operation.

### ***Preparation***

In relation to an emergency, includes arrangements or plans to deal with an emergency or the effects of an emergency.

### ***Prevention***

In relation to an emergency, includes the identification of hazards, the assessment of threats to life and property and the taking of measures to reduce the potential loss of life or property.

### ***Recovery***

In relation to an emergency, includes the process of returning an affected community to its proper level of functioning after an emergency.

**Response**

In relation to an emergency, includes the process of taking action to control the effects of the emergency and of providing immediate relief for persons affected by an emergency

**Risk assessment**

In this plan, the scientific evaluation of known or potential adverse health effects resulting from human exposure to foodborne hazards. Risk assessment consists of four steps: hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment, risk characterisation.

**State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN)**

Means the person appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister responsible in the event of an emergency which affects more than one District for controlling the allocation of resources in response to an emergency. The State Emergency Operations Controller is to establish and control a State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC).

**State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON)**

Means the person appointed by the Minister responsible in the event of an emergency which affects more than one District, for controlling the allocation of resources in connection with recovery from an emergency.

**Sub-plan**

In this plan, means an action plan required for the specific hazard, critical task or special event. It is prepared when the management arrangements necessary to deal with the effects of the hazard, task or event differ from the general coordination arrangements set out in the supporting plans for the functional area.

**Supporting organisation**

In this plan, means the Government departments, statutory authorities, volunteer organisations and other specialist agencies who have indicated a willingness to participate and provide specialist support resources to a Combat agency controller or functional area coordinator during emergency operations.

**Surveillance**

A program of investigation designed to establish the presence, extent of, or absence of a specified contaminant of food and distribution.

**Traceback/Traceforward**

The process of locating food, food products, food businesses, food handlers or things that may be implicated in the spread of a foodborne disease so that appropriate action can be taken.

# ABBREVIATIONS

ACMF	Australian Chicken Meat Federation
AECL	Australian Egg Corporation Ltd
AFGC	Australian Food and Grocery Council
AGSFA	Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area
AIIMS-ICS	Australasian inter-service incident management system – Incident control system
AMIC	Australian Meat Industry Council
AMVA	Amalgamated Milk Vendors Association Inc
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
AQUAVETPLAN	Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan
AUSVETPLAN	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan
DAFF	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DIC	NSW Dairy Industry Conference
Displan	NSW State Disaster Plan
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
EOCON	Emergency Operations Controller
Executive	Executive of the NSW Food Authority
FIEMP	Food incident & emergency management protocol
FRP	Food Regulation Partnership
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia and New Zealand
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
I&I NSW	Industry & Investment NSW
IMAG	Issues management advisory group
IMT	Incident management team
MICC	Meat Industry Consultative Council
NSWFAOC	NSW Food Authority operations centre
PEIC	Poultry and Egg Industries Committee
PLANTPLAN	Australian Plant Pest Emergency Plan
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
SEOCON	State Emergency Operations Controller
SERCON	State Emergency Recovery Controller
SIC	NSW Seafood Industry Conference
SSA	Seafood Services Australia

# PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

## General

- 1.1) The Food Industry Emergency Sub-plan, developed in accordance with the NSW *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, is to be read in conjunction with the NSW State Disaster Plan (Displan) which identifies the NSW Food Authority as the combat agency for food industry emergencies.
- 1.2) The NSW Food Authority ('the Authority') is a statutory authority established under the *Food Act 2003*. As the identified combat agency under Displan for a food industry emergency, the Authority has the following responsibilities:
  - the administration of the *Food Act 2003* and Food Regulation 2004 in NSW; and
  - enforcement of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*;
- 1.3) As the combat agency, the Authority has the responsibility to provide coordination and control of the mobilisation of food-related resources to emergencies in NSW.

## Aim

- 1.4) The aim of the NSW Food Industry Emergency Sub-plan is to identify the emergency management arrangements and to ensure that food-related resources, including those resources of the NSW Food Authority and the resources available from participating and supporting agencies are effectively and efficiently coordinated in response to, and recovery from, the impacts and effects on public health and safety from a food industry emergency.

## Scope

- 1.5) The arrangements specified in this plan are applicable to a food industry emergency where the Authority is the combat agency and may also be applicable to other emergencies where the State response is coordinated under Displan and food-related issues arise.
- 1.6) This Sub-plan provides the basis for government agencies and the food industry to co-operate in a coordinated manner during the response to actual or potential emergencies affecting food and any of the food commodities or industry sectors falling within the Authority's responsibility according to the *Food Act 2003* and Food Regulation 2004.
- 1.7) This Sub-plan provides the basis for the Authority's response to a food industry emergency which endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons in NSW from issues such as:
  - Microbial, chemical or physical contamination of food deemed to pose a high risk to consumers;
  - Unsafe levels of natural toxins in food;
  - Contagious zoonotic disease outbreak in animals used for the production of food for human consumption;
  - Bioterrorism, sabotage or extortion involving food products;
  - Food supply shortage due to widespread disruption (eg pandemic influenza).

## Principles

- 1.8) In the event of a national food emergency, this plan will apply to the NSW response and recovery. However, because food products are frequently distributed nationally, and NSW is

likely to be affected by food emergencies occurring in other States and Territories, there may be a requirement for a level of national coordination. This national coordination will apply through the National Food Incident Response Protocol co-ordinated by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), with input from other Commonwealth agencies such as Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

- 1.9) This Sub-plan establishes linkages with the emergency management plans of sectors of the food industry, which are an important component in assisting the Authority in managing the impacts of a food emergency.
- 1.10) The linkages between relevant food, public health, animal and plant health emergency plans are shown in Annex A.

# PART 2 – CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

## PREVENTION

- 2.1) The Authority adopts a preventative approach to managing food safety issues. The Authority has a co-regulatory partnership with Local government to enforce the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* for all food businesses in NSW. In addition, the Authority licenses, audits and inspects the primary production, manufacturing, processing and handling of food by food businesses covered by the Food Regulation 2004. The Authority requires food businesses classified as high risk to implement food safety programs based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles.
- 2.2) The *Food Act 2003* empowers authorised officers to take the necessary action to prevent unsafe or unsuitable food being made available for sale, including powers of entry to food premises, seizure of food and issue of prohibition orders and penalty infringement notices.
- 2.3) The Authority also increases community awareness through the provision of information regarding safe food practices with the aim of preventing and reducing foodborne illness.

## PREPARATION

- 2.4) The preparation and planning arrangements by the Authority focuses on establishing a framework for the Authority to mobilise resources in order to respond to an emergency. This will be achieved through:
  - Reporting emergency planning activities through to the Agriculture and Animal services functional area and the State Emergency Management Committee;
  - Effective monitoring of issues and detection of potential emergencies as a day to day function of the Authority by the Issues management advisory group (IMAG);
  - Having a trained group of Authority personnel, familiar with the NSW Emergency Management arrangements and this Sub-plan and available for immediate mobilisation to act as Incident controllers or Liaison officers to service emergency operations centre(s) during an emergency operation;
  - Maintaining this Sub-plan and other specific issue protocols;
  - Maintaining the NSW Food Authority Operations Centre (NSWFAOC), ensuring that all communication links and facilities at the Centre are ready at any time for immediate activation;
  - Maintaining close linkages, good communication and working relationships with government and industry stakeholder bodies in relation to food emergencies by:
    - establishing and maintaining the NSW Food Industry Emergency Network;
    - establishing and maintaining memorandums of agreement with Participating organisations;
    - attending as an observer to State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) meetings;
    - participating in the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Committee chaired by Industry and Investment NSW – Primary Industries;
    - participating in the Public Health Emergency Management sub-committee chaired by NSW Health;
    - participating in the National Food Incident Response Protocol working group, chaired by FSANZ.

## **RESPONSE**

### **Activation of this sub-plan**

- 2.5) The NSW Food Authority as the combat agency will activate this Sub-plan for all food industry emergencies. This Sub-Plan will not normally be activated for commonly occurring incidents which are within the capacity of the Authority to deal with through its day to day operational activities.
- 2.6) This Sub-Plan may also be activated where the Authority is requested to provide support to emergency operations controlled by the State Emergency Operations Controllers (SEOCN) or another Combat agency. A "State of Emergency" does not need to be declared for this to occur.
- 2.7) When this Sub-plan is activated, the Authority will nominate an Incident controller to control, and an Incident management team to coordinate, the response. The sequence of events and associated actions related to the Response phases of this plan are:
- Alert phase;
  - Assess phase;
  - Action phase;
  - Stand-down phase;
  - Debrief.
- 2.8) In addition to this Sub-plan, the Authority has the following protocols that establishes policies, procedures, systems, roles and responsibilities for the response to specific types of food issues:
- Food incident and emergency management protocol;
  - Food recall protocol;
  - Investigation of foodborne illness response protocol;
  - Intentional interference with food response protocol.

### **Alert phase**

- 2.9) The alert phase is triggered whenever there is a report of a threat to the safety or suitability of food in NSW which has the potential to become a food industry emergency. Potential issues may be alerted to the Authority through a wide range of sources.
- 2.10) For food issues with potential national implications, the food regulatory jurisdictions in the Australian Government and other States and Territories will be notified through FSANZ (as the central notification point) to the National Food Incident Response Protocol. Likewise, the Authority may receive notification of a food emergency in another State or Territory with potential implications for NSW.
- 2.11) Outcomes from the alert phase may include:
- Dealing with the issue as a normal operational matter;
  - Progress to the Assess phase.

### **Assess phase**

- 2.12) The Assess phase is used to investigate and assess the report of a food-related potential emergency. The Assess phase is used to determine the exact nature and extent of the issue. Key personnel may be placed on standby and a decision will be made on the scale of response necessary to be taken by the Authority and the level of resources to be committed.

- 2.13) The Authority's Executive or Issues management advisory group (IMAG) may conduct an initial assessment of such issues and evaluate potential response strategies.
- 2.14) Outcomes from the Assess phase may include a move to:
- Action phase where the assessment on the available information has determined that the issue is a food industry emergency and there are likely to be significant food safety concerns and consequences that would not be adequately managed by the Authority's day to day operational response, or
  - Stand-down phase where the incident is resolved, or the issue is not assessed as being a food emergency (Note – a response may still be required, but the assessment has considered that the issue can be dealt with by a normal Authority operational response).

### **Action phase**

- 2.15) The Action phase begins when it is confirmed that a food industry emergency exists. The Authority will follow the Food Incident and Emergency Management Protocol (FIEMP) and appoint an Incident controller and Incident management team for the duration of the response. Control and coordination of emergency operations will be conducted to control the impact of the food emergency and continue for as long as it is deemed to be necessary and feasible.
- 2.16) The Incident controller should immediately notify the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) that a food industry emergency exists.
- 2.17) The Incident controller may activate the NSW Food Authority Operations Centre (NSWFAOC) and request resources from participating and supporting organisations.
- 2.18) The Incident controller will:
- Coordinate Authority resources to support the assigned roles and responsibilities (as defined in the Authority's Food incident and emergency management protocol) and maintain direct and continuous communication links with Authority staff who may be involved in a local response;
  - Contact personnel from participating and supporting agencies and request, if necessary, to provide a full-time liaison officer to the NSWFAOC and provide resources to assist in controlling the food industry emergency;
  - Assesses the level of response required and determine:
    - Availability of resources;
    - Capability, location, availability and suitability of equipment;
    - Deployment requirements, transport, time, availability; and
    - Costs
  - Establish and maintain the communication links between SEOC, Combat agency operations centre, the Minister's office and the NSWFAOC as appropriate.
  - Identify a liaison officer from the Authority for deployment to the relevant operations centre(s), ensuring the assigned liaison officer is kept fully informed on progress and developments in the area of the emergency, particularly relating to food-related issues.
- 2.19) Response operations in a food industry emergency may include measures such as:
- Assess the risk to public health and safety from the hazards and determine appropriate response actions;
  - Recall and seizure of unsafe and unsuitable food and supervise disposal in a manner that is safe and environmentally acceptable;

- Sampling and analysis of potentially unsafe and unsuitable food, issue of prohibition orders on implicated businesses to stop manufacturing or supplying unsafe and unsuitable food;
  - Tracing of other possibly affected foods in both backward and forwards directions along the supply chain;
  - Consult and coordinate with other food regulatory jurisdictions and Commonwealth agencies in relation to nationally consistent approach of managing the hazard and controlling the emergency;
  - Collaborate with AQIS in relation to any unsafe or unsuitable imported food, and any foreign trade implications;
  - Maintain risk communication with the public, including warnings to the consuming public and advice as to how to react to the emergency; and
  - Where required, liaison with industry and government stakeholders to coordinate alternative supply and distribution of food.
- 2.20) Further details on the roles and responsibilities during the Action phase are included in the Authority's Food incident and emergency management protocol.
- 2.21) In the event of a food emergency which is beyond the capability of the NSW Food Authority to manage, the State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOC) may be requested to provide assistance or assume overall control.

### **Stand-down phase**

- 2.22) The stand-down phase begins when the Incident controller considers the Response action phase is no longer necessary, which may be when:
- All unsafe or unsuitable food related to the emergency has been withdrawn from sale and disposed of, and prohibitions are in place to prevent further unsafe food from being made available for sale;
  - A suspected foodborne illness outbreak is confirmed as being due to a non-food source.
- 2.23) Although response operations may be stood down, ongoing surveillance may continue for some time during the recovery phase.

### **Debrief**

- 2.24) The Authority will convene a debrief at the conclusion of an emergency in order to review and upgrade preventative measures to avoid a recurrence of similar emergencies. After the stand-down phase, the Incident controller is to:
- Make arrangements for a formal review and debrief of all participating and supporting organisations involved in providing food-related resources; and
  - Following the debrief, prepare a post-operation report, highlighting lessons learnt and amendment actions necessary to policies, protocols or plans.

### **RECOVERY**

- 2.25) Recovery from a food emergency may include resumption of the food supply, normal business activities, trade, public confidence, physical and mental wellbeing of any victims. The Authority will assist in aspects of the recovery within its regulatory remit and further aspects of the recovery may be assisted by other functional areas under the direction of the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON).

- 2.26) Response and Recovery may occur as overlapping phases during an emergency. They can begin in parallel, but Recovery can continue for weeks or months after the response is finished. It is critical that recovery starts as early as possible, for it to have strong leadership and community involvement, and for recovery operations to address the needs of the community and the food industry.
- 2.27) As part of the recovery operations, the Authority's Incident controller will:
- Determine if the recovery operations should be handed over to the State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON);
  - Assist the SERCON undertake a rapid impact assessment to determine the level of impact the food emergency has had on the community, and develop a recovery action plan (if required)
  - Advise the Minister's office, participating and supporting organisation of the ongoing requirements for food-related resources during the recovery operation;
  - Determine the necessary degree of ongoing mobilisation of the NSWFAOC, and inform liaison officers from the participating and supporting organisations accordingly; and
  - Undertake the process of returning NSW Food Authority resources to its proper level of functioning after a food emergency.

## **PART 3 - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1) The combat agencies most likely to request support from the NSW Food Authority when controlling operations are:
- NSW Health – during a large scale disease outbreak where the cause is suspected as being foodborne, or an influenza pandemic has impacted on the food supply;
  - Industry & Investment NSW - Primary Industries – during a disease or pest outbreak in plants or animals used for the production of food for human consumption;
  - NSW Police – during a deliberate contamination event of food or packaged water;
  - State Emergency Service – where a natural disaster has a severe impact on critical infrastructure that may adversely affect the food supply;
  - Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – during a pollution event in an area that may affect the safety of food harvested or collected from that area.
  - Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and interstate food regulatory agencies – during an issue identified with food for sale within Australia, that may be produced or sold in NSW;
  - Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) – during an issue identified with food imported into Australia and for sale in NSW;
- 3.2) As such, this Sub-plan should be read in conjunction with the NSW State Disaster Plan (Displan) and the other emergency plans listed in Annex A of this plan.

### **Participating organisations**

- 3.3) The NSW Food Authority has arranged and maintains formal resource commitment agreements with the following Participating organisations:
- Industry & Investment NSW – Primary Industries and the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional area;
  - NSW Health and the Health Services Functional Area;
  - NSW Police;
  - Local Councils;
  - Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW);
  - Lord Howe Island Board;
  - Commonwealth Government agencies through the National Food Incident Response Protocol, including FSANZ, AQIS, DAFF and DoHA;

### **Industry & Investment NSW – Primary Industries and the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional area**

Industry & Investment NSW – Primary Industries may be required to:

- Coordinate response with the NSW Food Authority where the emergency has linkages to food producing animals or fresh produce, such as:
  - Zoonotic disease;
  - Residues of veterinary drugs or agriculture chemicals.
- Provide technical support as required.

## **NSW Health and the Health Services Functional Area**

NSW Health may be required to:

- Where the emergency presents a risk to human health, coordinate response with the NSW Food Authority for response measures such as:
  - Conduct epidemiological studies on suspected cases of foodborne illness;
  - Assist in risk assessment for toxicological hazards;
  - Issue public health warnings;
  - Issue alerts for medical practitioners to be aware for clinical symptoms;
  - Initiate appropriate disease control measures in human populations
- Provide technical support as required; and
- Provide other health services support as requested.

## **NSW Police**

The NSW Police may be required to:

- Where the emergency may involve the deliberate contamination of food, coordinate response with the NSW Food Authority;
- Assist with tracing of vehicles and food product;
- On request, provide regulatory assistance to NSW Food Authority; and
- Undertake other security and control tasks as requested.

## **Local Councils**

As enforcement agencies, Local Councils may be requested to:

- Assist with tracing of vehicles and food products in their local level area;
- Coordinate removal of unsafe or unsuitable food for sale;
- Provide regulatory assistance to the NSW Food Authority;
- Provide technical support as required

## **Lord Howe Island Board and Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**

As enforcement agencies, Lord Howe Island and DECCW may be requested to:

- Assist with tracing of vehicles and food products in their local areal (Lord Howe Island and Kosciuszko National Park respectively);
- Coordinate removal of unsafe or unsuitable food for sale;
- Provide regulatory assistance to the NSW Food Authority;
- Provide technical support as required

## **Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ)**

FSANZ will:

- Act as the central notification point for any national food emergencies through the National Food Incident Response Protocol;
- Facilitate the coordination of a nationally consistent approach amongst States, Territories and the Commonwealth in relation to the enforcement of food regulation and management of food emergencies;
- Provide scientific advice, including assessment of food safety risks; and
- Issue public statements and other communications as an independent body on issues of food risks involved in an emergency.

## **Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)**

AQIS may be requested to:

- Provide information and resources to assist with investigations;
- Regulate product exports in line with changing circumstances due to the impact of the emergency; and
- Facilitate international dispatch of specimens or the importation of biological reagents as needed.

## **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)**

DAFF may be requested to:

- Provide information and resources to assist with investigations;
- Provide interface with Food Chain Assurance Advisory Group and Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection for pandemic response and crisis management
- Provide technical support as required.

## **Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)**

DoHA may be requested to:

- Notify the World Health Organisation of the food emergency under the obligations of the International Health Regulations;
- Provide technical support as required;
- Provide information and resources to assist with investigations.

## **Functional areas**

3.4) In addition to the Agriculture and Animal Services and Health Services Functional areas identified above, the Authority may also request support from the following Functional areas during the response and recovery to an emergency

### **Environmental Services**

The Authority may request the Environmental Services Functional area to advise on environmentally sound and legal practices for the disposal of waste or contaminated materials resulting from a food emergency.

## **Transport Services**

The Authority may request the Transport Services Functional area to:

- implement arrangements as necessary to monitor and coordinate the movement of freight or bulk transport operations that are related to the NSW Food Chain;
- coordinate other bulk transport resources as necessary, including animal transport, air transport services and similar resources that assist the functions of the NSW Food Authority under this plan;
- assist in any special transport arrangements that may need to be implemented;
- assist in maintaining quarantine operations, decontamination operations and similar preventative measures as required.

## **Welfare Services**

The Authority may request the Welfare Services Functional Area to:

- provide Community Welfare Services to assist in the relief of personal hardship and distress to individuals, families, communities and responders in a food emergency;
- coordinate essential services such as accommodation, catering, clothing, financial assistance, personal support, and coordination centre management for victims of a food emergency.

## **Supporting organisations**

3.5) The Authority has arranged and maintains informal agreements with various supporting organisations who have agreed to provide appropriate resources, technical and specialist advice and support during emergencies. The supporting organisations currently include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Amalgamated Milk Vendors Association (AMVA) Inc;
- Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF);
- Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL);
- Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC);
- Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC);
- Australian Pork Ltd (APL)
- Coles;
- Metcash;
- NSW Milk and Dairy Products Association;
- NSW Farmers Association;
- Restaurant and Caterers Association;
- Seafood Services Australia;
- Sydney Fish Market;
- Sydney Market;
- Woolworths.

3.6) These and other organisations are represented on the Authority's consultative committees, including the NSW Dairy Industry Conference (DIC), Meat Industry Consultative Council

(MICC), Poultry and Egg Industries Committee (PEIC), NSW Seafood Industry Conference (SIC), NSW Shellfish Committee and other informal advisory groups. Nominated representatives from these consultative committees will be used to consult on the Authority's emergency planning arrangements.

- 3.7) When an emergency response is required, the Authority intends to only involve the relevant agencies, participating and supporting organisations necessary to efficiently and effectively provide the resources essential to resolve the response and recovery requirements of the emergency.
- 3.8) Participating and supporting organisations should develop and maintain their own operating plans for their internal response to food industry emergencies. A copy of each participating and supporting organisation's plan should be provided to the Authority.

# **PART 4 – CONTROL, COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

## **Control**

- 4.1) As the nominated combat agency, the NSW Food Authority will assume control of the response to a food emergency in NSW, through the appointed Incident controller. The operational management will be based on the principles of the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System - Incident control system (AIIMS-ICS).

## **Coordination of food emergencies affecting more than one state**

- 4.2) Communications with Commonwealth agencies and State and Territory food jurisdictions will occur through the National Food Incident Response Protocol.
- 4.3) Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has the role of coordinating regulatory response for food related matters affecting multiple States and Territories jurisdictions through the National Food Incident Response Protocol. However, this does not preclude the Authority from taking its own course of action if this is considered necessary.

## **Public communications**

- 4.4) The Authority will be responsible for coordinating all media communications activities during the response to a food emergency, acknowledging that it is critically important to liaise with the appropriate participating and supporting organisation to ensure a clear, consistent message is communicated to the public in a timely manner. The Authority may call upon SEOC to activate the Public Information Functional Area Supporting Plan if additional resources are required.

## **Communication with participating organisations**

- 4.5) Each participating organisation should nominate a key contact (and alternate) and provide the contact details for that person to enable the Authority to contact them in an emergency. The nominated contact personnel are to be senior employees of the organisation with the authorisation to commit resources in accordance with their organisation's prepared operating plans.
- 4.6) The participating organisation's representative on the Food industry emergency network may be, but not necessarily, the first nominated contact person at the time of emergency.

## **Communication with supporting organisations**

- 4.7) Each supporting organisation should nominate a key contact (and alternate) and provide the contact details for that person to enable the Authority to contact them in an emergency. The nominated contact personnel are to be senior employees of the organisation with the authorisation to commit resources in accordance with their organisation's prepared operating plans.

## **Communication between SEOC/Combat agency and the NSW Food Authority**

- 4.8) Communication links will be maintained between the SEOC or Combat agency operations centre and the NSWFAOC via telephone, facsimile and email. The Authority will deploy a

liaison officer to the relevant operations centre(s) for the duration of the emergency response as required.

- 4.9) The principal role of Liaison officers are to:
- Provide advice to the Emergency operations controller (EOCON) and the operations centre staff on the capabilities and characteristics of the NSW Food Authority;
  - Provide advice to the Emergency operations controller (EOCON) and the operations centre staff of the actions taken by, and the requirements of, the NSW Food Authority; and
  - To convey the Controller's directions/instructions, issues and information to the Authority's Incident controller

### **Consultation**

- 4.10) The Authority will establish and maintain the NSW Food Industry Emergency Network. The purpose of the network is to engage government and industry stakeholders in the Authority's emergency management arrangements for a food emergency.
- 4.11) The network will consist of members from each of the Authority's industry consultative committees established under the Food Regulation 2004, relevant members of the food industry and supply chain and relevant NSW government agencies. Meetings will be held as required.

# **PART 5 – ADMINISTRATION AND TRAINING**

## **Expenditure and recovery of funds**

- 5.1) Funding for food emergencies requiring the activation of this Sub-plan will be as per the Displan arrangements.
- 5.2) For participating and supporting organisation which are government departments or authorities, expenditure of funds during an emergency response or recovery operation is met in the first instance by the providers from within their normal operating budgets. Displan further expands on funding arrangements.
- 5.3) For private sector organisations or personnel, the cost of provision of resources during an emergency response or recovery operations is met by the requesting agency. The NSW Food Authority or a delegate may arrange for any necessary requisitioning and may make subsequent approval to negotiated reimbursement for costs incurred, through the SEOCAN.
- 5.4) The Authority will allocate a budget for emergency funding to finance responses to food industry emergencies and also to incident response operations where activation of this Sub-plan is not required.

## **Education and training**

- 5.5) The preparedness of Authority as an agency and the NSW food industry in responding to emergencies depends on the following:
  - familiarisation of NSW Food Authority staff and key stakeholders with this Sub-plan and emergency management procedures;
  - effective post activity reporting to identify weaknesses in this sub plan, or organisational and logistic issues; and
  - implementing effective procedures to resolve these identified weaknesses or issues.
- 5.6) The Authority will test its ability to respond effectively to emergencies by:
  - Participating in major exercises controlled at state or national level; and
  - Participating in smaller self contained exercises to test specific response measures within the NSW Food Authority only.
- 5.7) Each participating and supporting organisation should train their personnel in response requirements and should conduct separate exercises to ensure effective response.
- 5.8) The NSW Food Industry Emergency Sub-plan is to be reviewed and updated by the Authority through consultation with government and industry stakeholders through the Food Industry Emergency Network. A review should be conducted:
  - on the conclusion of a food emergency in which this plan was activated; or
  - on the introduction of any major structural, organisational or legislative changes which affect the NSW Food Authority or key stakeholders; or
  - at least every five years.

## ANNEX A - LINKAGES BETWEEN EMERGENCY PLANS

LEVEL	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	FOOD EMERGENCY	PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	ANIMAL HEALTH/ PLANT DISEASE EMERGENCY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	Australian Disaster Plan	<u>National Food Incident (FSANZ)</u> National Food Incident Response Protocol  <u>Dairy (Dairy Australia)</u> Issues Reference Manual for the Australian dairy industry  <u>Seafood (Seafood Services Australia)</u> Seafood Incident Response Plan  <u>Meat (SAFEMEAT)</u> Incident Response Manual  <u>Food continuity - Pandemic (DAFF)</u> AUSFOODPLAN (draft) - National Food Chain Continuity Plan (Human Influenza Pandemic)	<u>Influenza Pandemic</u> National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic	<u>Veterinary Emergency</u> AUSVETPLAN - (Animal Health Australia)  <u>Aquatic Veterinary Emergency</u> AQUAVETPLAN - (DAFF)  <u>Plant Pest Emergency</u> PLANTPLAN - (Plant Health Australia)
<b>STATE</b>	NSW State Disaster Plan	Food Industry Emergency Sub-Plan (NSW Food Authority)	NSW HEALTHPLAN (NSW Health)  NSW Health Interim Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza (NSW Health)  NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan (NSW Government)	NSW Animal Health Emergency Sub-Plan (I&I – Primary Industries)  NSW Agricultural and Animal Services Plan (I&I – Primary Industries)
<b>DISTRICT</b>	District Disaster Plan	The NSW Food Authority will co-ordinate with local councils and enforcement agencies as required		District Agriculture and Animal Services Supporting Plan
<b>LOCAL</b>	Local Disaster Plan			Local Agriculture and Animal Services Supporting Plan