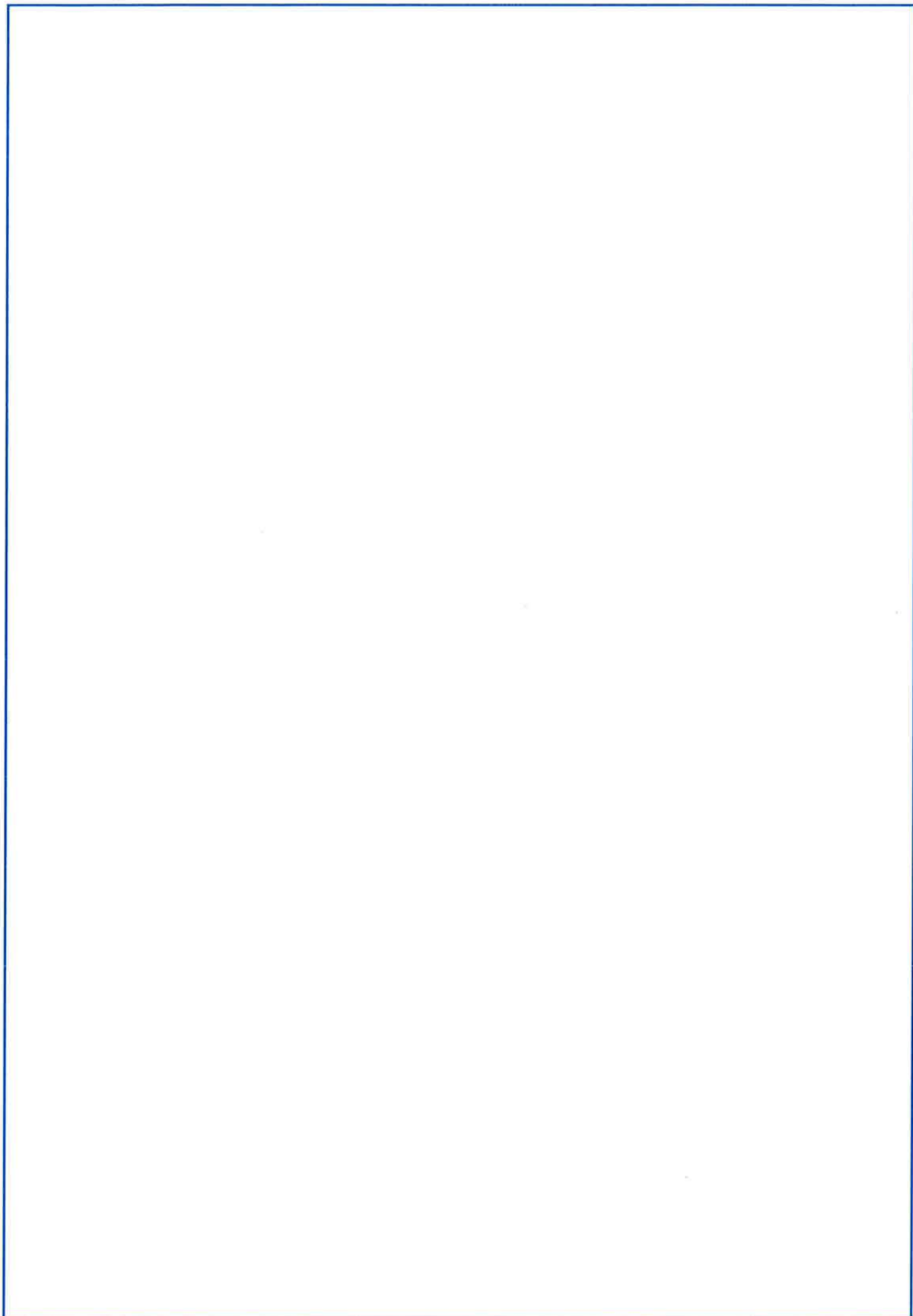


MINE SUB PLAN



**A SUB PLAN OF THE
NSW STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

March, 2015



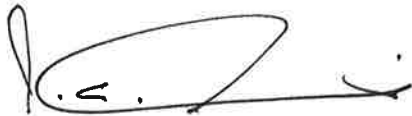
AUTHORISATION

The Mine Sub Plan has been prepared as a sub plan to the New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) to detail the control and coordination arrangements for the preparation for and response to an emergency at a mine including, but not limited to, rescues at a mine.

This plan has been prepared by the State Emergency Operations Controller.

During the preparation of this plan consultation was undertaken with the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, Mines Rescue Pty Ltd and other stakeholders.

This Sub Plan is authorised in accordance with the provisions of the *State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989* (as amended) (SERM Act).



Chair
State Emergency Management Committee

Date: APRIL 1, 2015

AMENDMENTS

Proposals for amendment or addition to the contents of the NSW Mine Emergency Sub Plan are to be forwarded to:

The Executive Officer
State Emergency Management Committee
PO Box 6976
Silverwater, NSW 2128

DISTRIBUTION

This Sub Plan is to be distributed in electronic format and is maintained on the State Emergency Management Committee website at www.emergency.nsw.gov.au.

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DEFINITIONS

Code of Practice

The Work Health and Safety Act 2011, establishes a process for approving codes of practice. Mining specific codes of practice are approved by the Minister for Resources and Energy to apply to mining operations under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013*, including the NSW Code of Practice - Emergency Planning for Mines.

Combat Agency

Means the agency identified in EMPLAN as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency. (Source: *SERM Act*).

(EMPLAN identifies specific agencies as combat agency in respect to particular hazards, where there is no agency identified in EMPLAN as combat agency then the Emergency Operations Controller will control the Response).

Control

Means the overall direction of the activities, agencies or individuals concerned. (Source: *SERM Act*).

Control operates horizontally across all agencies/organisations, functions and individuals. Situations are controlled.

Coordination

Means the bringing together of agencies and individuals to ensure effective emergency or rescue management, but does not include the control of agencies and individuals by direction. (Source: *SERM Act*).

Department

In this plan means the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (NSW Trade & Investment).

Emergency

Means an emergency due to an 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 coordinated 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.

(Source: *SERM Act*).

Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON)

In this plan means the generic term used for a member of the NSW Police Force who has been appointed as a Local, Regional or the State Emergency Operations Controller.

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Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)

Means the New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan. *(Source: SERM Act).*

Emergency Services Organisation

Means the NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, Rural Fire Brigades, Ambulance Service of NSW, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association or any other agency which manages or controls an accredited rescue unit. *(Source: SERM Act).*

Functional Area

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

- Agriculture and Animal Services
- Communication Services
- Energy & Utilities Services
- Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Health Services
- Public Information Services
- Transport Services
- Welfare Services

(Source: SERM Act).

Inspector

In this plan means a person appointed as a government official under the *NSW Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013*.

Liaison Officer (LO)

Means a person, nominated or appointed by an organisation or functional area, to represent that organisation or functional area at a control centre, emergency operations centre or coordination centre, or site control point, 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. *(Source: EMPLAN).*

Mine

Means a workplace at which mining operations are carried out, or a tourist mine. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013).*

Mine Emergency

Means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, explosion, accident or flooding) that has resulted in the death of, or injury to, a person or is endangering or is threatening to endanger the life or physical well-being of a person at a mine. *(Source: NSW Code of practice - Emergency Planning for Mines).*

Mine Emergency Plan

In this plan means an emergency plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of WHS(M) laws addressing all aspects of emergency management including, but not limited to, response, evacuation, notification, communication, testing and training.

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Mine Holder

Means:

- a. the person who is conducting a business or undertaking with control over a right or entitlement to carry out:
 - i) mining activities at the mine, or
 - ii) the preparation or processing of extracted materials carried out in connection with those mining activities at a site, or at a site adjoining or in the vicinity of a site, at which those mining activities are carried out, or
 - iii) if any of those types of activities are being carried out without a necessary right or entitlement - the person conducting the business or undertaking that is carrying out those activities.

(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013).

Note. The mine holder may also have duties under section 20 of the WHS (Mines) Act as the person with management or control of the mine.

Mine Operator

Means:

- a. the mine holder, or
- b. if the mine holder has appointed, in accordance with the regulations, another person to be the mine operator, that other person.

(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013).

The mine operator is the person conducting the business or undertaking with management and control of the mine. The mine operator has the majority of duties under WHS laws.

Mines Rescue Pty Ltd

Means Mines Rescue Pty Ltd which is the approved company under the *Coal Industry Act 2001*, with principal functions relating to underground coal mines in NSW. *(Source: Coal Industry Act 2001).*

Mining Operations

Means mining activities carried out for the purpose of either the extraction or exploration for a mineral and includes activities carried out in connection with those mining activities at a site, or an adjoining site or in the vicinity of a site where mining activities are carried out. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013).*

Person in control

Means the person identified in the command philosophy and structure included in the [mine] emergency plan. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014).*

Note: In this document, this relates to the person who is in control during situations when the event is being managed utilising the arrangements in the mine emergency plan.

Principal Mining Hazard

Means a hazard prescribed in the Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014, as a principal mining hazard requiring a principal mining hazard management plan if a principal hazard exists at the mine. Principal mining hazards are hazards that present a reasonable potential to result in multiple deaths in a single incident or a series of recurring incidents, in relation to any of the following:

- a. ground or strata failure,
- b. inundation or inrush of any substance,
- c. mine shafts and winding systems,
- d. roads or other vehicle operating areas,

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- e. air quality or dust or other airborne contaminants,
- f. fire or explosion,
- g. gas outbursts,
- h. spontaneous combustion,
- i. subsidence,
- j. a hazard identified by the mine operator that meets the definition of a principal mining hazard.

(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014).

Principal Mining Hazard Management Plans

Means the plan which is required for each principal mining hazard at the mine setting out control measures to manage the risks. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation).*

Recovery

Means the process, in relation to an emergency, of returning an affected community to its proper level of functioning after an emergency. *(Source: SERM Act).*

Regulator

Means, in relation to matters or the exercise of a power or function concerning a mine, the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services with functions including; monitoring and enforcing compliance and providing information and advice on Work Health and Safety (Mining) laws. *(Source: Work Health and Safety Act 2011).*

Rescue

Means the safe removal of persons and domestic animals from actual or threatened danger of physical harm. *(Source: SERM Act).*

Response

Means, in relation to an emergency, the process of combating an emergency and of providing immediate relief for persons affected by an emergency. *(Source: SERM Act).*

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOC)

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 Region, for controlling the allocation of resources in response to the emergency. The State Emergency Operations Controller is to establish and control a State Emergency Operations Centre. *(Source: SERM Act).*

Tourist Mine

Means a workplace used only for tourism purposes but at which mining operations were formerly carried out, and at which there is a hazard prescribed by the regulations that was present at the workplace when the mining operations were carried out. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013).*

Underground Mine

Means a particular place at a mine, beneath the surface of the earth and includes machinery and structures that extend from the surface into that part of the mine. *(Source: Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014).*

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Work Health and Safety (Mining) Laws (WHS(M) laws)

In this plan refers to the collection of laws forming the work health and safety legislative scheme for mines. These are:

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011,
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011,
- Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013, and
- Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014

ABBREVIATIONS

EMPLAN	NSW State Emergency Management Plan
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EOCON	Emergency Operations Controller (generic term used when level not stated as in LEOCON, REOCON, SEOCON)
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LEOCON	Local Emergency Operations Controller
LO	Liaison Officer
REMC	Regional Emergency Management Committee
REOCON	Regional Emergency Operations Controller
SEOCON	State Emergency Operations Controller
SERM Act	State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989 (as amended)
WHS(M) laws	Work Health and Safety (Mines) Laws

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Historically, the relationship between mine emergency plans and the State's emergency management arrangements have not been clearly articulated or generally understood. This plan has been prepared to clarify when and how the state's emergency management arrangements apply in respect to emergencies at mines.
- 1.2 In general terms, a mine (refer to definitions) is essentially a private operation, often a commercial venture, that is managed and controlled by the appointed mine operator. The mine operator has a number of duties under the WHS(M) laws including the requirement to have a safety management system in place developed in accordance with legislative requirements. The safety management system must provide a comprehensive and integrated system taking into account the nature and complexity of the mining operations for the management of all aspects of risk control.
- 1.3 Additional specific plans (such as principal mining hazard management plan) and controls are required to manage mining hazards and risks depending on the mining operation. It is not the intention of this Sub Plan to detail these requirements.
- 1.4 All mine operators must prepare a mine emergency plan as part of the safety management system. A mine emergency plan enables a mine to respond to and re-establish control of hazards.
- 1.5 The mine emergency plan should detail all of the arrangements specific to the mine and include procedures for such things as response, evacuation, notifications, medical treatment, communication, testing, training and any specific rescue arrangements that may relate to that mine site e.g. use of Mines Rescue Pty Ltd at coal mines.
- 1.6 A mine emergency would normally be dealt with utilising the arrangements contained in the mine emergency plan. The aim of the mine emergency plan is to provide for all people to be safely managed when a mine emergency occurs, or is likely to occur.
- 1.7 Whilst mine emergency plans should address foreseeable risks at mines, some events may be subject to NSW legislation and other planning arrangements. Mine emergency plans need to recognise the authority and planning arrangements established in legislation other than Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013 and, in particular, in accordance with the SERM Act, and the Acts relevant to combat agencies identified in EMPLAN
- 1.8 This Sub Plan is not intended to repeat the mine emergency plan arrangements that relate to specific mines but to detail the arrangements that will apply if the mine emergency plan is inadequate to deal with an event.
- 1.9 The emergency management arrangements within NSW incorporate an 'all hazards' approach and responses to emergencies are generally covered by the State, Regional and Local Emergency Management Plans, or their respective Sub and Supporting plans and the State Rescue Policy.

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- 1.10 In this plan the term Mine Emergency is used when the event is being dealt with using the arrangements in the Mine Emergency Plan. When an off-site emergency impacts on a mine and is being managed by some other emergency management plan or arrangements or if the Mine Emergency Plan is inadequate to deal with a mine emergency it will be referred to as an emergency.
- 1.11 Words and terms used within this Sub Plan will have the meaning as defined in this Sub Plan or used in the SERM Act, EMPLAN and its Sub or Supporting Plans and the State Rescue Policy in preference to other definitions.

2. AIM

- 2.1 The aim of this sub plan is to detail the arrangements for the control and coordination of emergency operations at a mine within NSW where the arrangements within the Mine Emergency Plan are inadequate to deal with the event.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 This Sub Plan recognises and is intended to work in conjunction with EMPLAN and other Sub Plans to EMPLAN, where those Sub Plans are designed to deal with specific emergencies which might impact on a mine. These plans in conjunction with the mine emergency plan should address most recognised emergency situations that can occur at a mine. Notwithstanding this, rescues and other events at mines may require a greater level of resources or management than detailed in the mine emergency plan in which case this plan will be implemented.
- 3.2 This plan applies at all mining operations in NSW where the arrangements within the relevant mine emergency plan are inadequate to deal with the mine emergency whether or not a rescue is involved and whether or not the consequences are on-site or off-site.
- 3.3 This plan includes supporting activities necessary to ensure the arrangements in this plan are effective, particularly those included in Preparation, Administration and Logistics and Recovery.
- 3.4 This plan also provides a role for the Department to participate with LEMCs and REMCs in relation to the provision of specialist advice regarding mines as a contribution to the respective local and regional planning processes.

4. ASSUMPTIONS

- 4.1 This sub plan is based on the following assumptions:
- a. each mine has a Mine Emergency Plan which is developed and tested in accordance with WHS(M) laws and Codes of Practice;
 - b. the Department plays a regulatory role in enforcing compliance with WHS(M) laws in relation to the mine emergency plans;
 - c. the Mine Operators, in developing the Mine Emergency Plan have, where required by WHS(M) Laws, consulted with the local emergency services organisations;

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- d. mine operators and mine emergency plans recognise these Sub Plan arrangements, EMPLAN and its Sub and Supporting Plans and where appropriate the State Rescue Policy;
- e. agencies will perform normal statutory roles or roles outlined in EMPLAN and other Sub Plans unless additional roles are stated in this Sub Plan.

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- 5.1 The arrangements detailed in the Plan are Standing Arrangements that remain active at all times.
- 5.2 If an event at a mine requires a person(s) to be rescued, the person that is managing the response to the rescue must ensure the NSW Police Force, followed by the Department, is notified immediately after becoming aware of the event. This applies whether or not the event is considered a mine emergency and response to the event or the rescue is being dealt with in accordance with the mine emergency plan and whether or not the rescue is being undertaken by a rescue unit which is accredited by the State Rescue Board, contracted to the mine or utilising an on-site rescue capability.
- 5.3 NSW Police Force is responsible for coordinating rescue operations and determining the priorities of action taken.
- 5.4 Mine emergencies will, in the first instance, be managed utilising the arrangements detailed in the mine emergency plan which identifies who is initially in control of the response to the mine emergency and mandatory notifications.
- 5.5 Regardless of whether the rescue of a person is required or not, if the mine's mine emergency plan arrangements are not adequate to control the hazard or the response to the event in terms of the adequacy of the incident management team or the adequacy or availability of resources, the person in control must immediately inform the NSW Police Force and the Department, whether they are on-site or not.
- 5.6 The mine emergency plan may be considered inadequate when;
 - a. Resources identified in the mine emergency plan are not readily available or are not able to effectively perform the tasks in a reasonable timeframe. These resources may include personnel, equipment or advice, or
 - b. Resources are required to resolve the situation that have not been identified or arranged in the mine emergency plan arrangements, or
 - c. The management structure is unable to deal with the mine emergency, or
 - d. Due to the scale, nature or complexity of the event, it requires a significant and coordinated response.
- 5.7 In the event of a dispute regarding the arrangements, the determination rests with the EOCON.
- 5.8 In relation to a notification that the mine's mine emergency plan arrangements being inadequate to deal with the response, both the Department and the NSW Police Force are to arrange for the Local Emergency Operations Controller to be notified of this situation at the earliest opportunity. This does not apply if the organisation is aware that the inadequacy has already been notified to the LEOCON.

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Escalation Arrangements

- 5.9 The LEOCON will determine when the arrangements in this Sub Plan will be implemented. This determination may be based on a request from the person in control of a mine emergency or when the LEOCON becomes aware that the mine emergency plan arrangements are inadequate to deal with the mine emergency or as directed by the SEOCAN or the Minister administering the SERM Act.
- 5.10 The LEOCON will assume control and manage the response to the event and/or determine an appropriate management structure to manage the response to the event and/or access the required resources.
- 5.11 When these arrangements are implemented, the LEOCON will determine the control structure and the location from which to operate. This may include passing the control of the response to a higher level EOCON.
- 5.12 The EOCON will consult with the Department, the mine operator's representative, the combat agency for other events specified in the EMPLAN and any other reasonably available specialist advisors e.g. Mines Rescue Pty Ltd.
- 5.13 The mine operator will support the EOCON and NSW Police Force under these arrangements.

Liaison

- 5.14 Agencies involved in the response to an emergency covered by this Sub Plan are to provide a Liaison Officer to the EOCON or person controlling the emergency as requested.
- 5.15 The LO is to have the authority as per the definition in this Sub Plan.

Stand Down

- 5.16 The EOCON will determine when the control of the emergency can be returned to the mine operator.
- 5.17 Stand down will occur and control will be handed back to the mine management when The EOCON determines that:
- the issue has been resolved, and
 - the hazard has been controlled, and
 - direct risk to personal safety is removed, and
 - no further support to the mine operator is needed, and
 - any other associated activities have been completed that would allow control to be handed back to the mine operator.
- 5.18 Following an activation of this Sub Plan, the EOCON should conduct an After Action Review as outlined in the Emergency Operations Centre Policy.

6. PREPARATION

Training

- 6.1 In relation to this Sub Plan, the Mine Operator is responsible for ensuring that awareness of these arrangements is provided to and recognised by persons in the mine's command structure as identified in the mine emergency plan.
- 6.2 The Department will train its relevant staff in the arrangements detailed in this plan and provide notification to the mining industry about the existence of this sub-plan and any changes to these arrangements.

Exercises

- 6.3 In accordance with the NSW Code of Practice for Emergency Planning for Mines, the mine operator is responsible for exercising their mine emergency plan at least annually. At least one of these exercises within a three year period should test the arrangements in the mine emergency plan to a point that requires this plan to be activated. The LEMC members and the Department should be advised when the exercise is going to be conducted and given the opportunity to attend that exercise.

Review

- 6.4 This plan should be reviewed by the SEOCON, within a three year period or following an actual activation or exercise.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Roles and Responsibilities outlined herein are additional to any statutory roles and responsibilities or those shown in other Emergency Management Plans or Sub-Plans or the respective Mine Emergency Plan.

7.1 Mine Operator

- a. Ensure NSW Police Force are notified immediately an event occurs where a rescue is required, whether or not the rescue is to be or being undertaken by a rescue unit which is accredited by the State Rescue Board, contracted to the mine or utilising on-site rescue capability.
- b. Ensure other notifications are made in accordance with this Sub Plan.
- c. Ensure the hand-over of control of the response to a mine emergency to the LEOCON in accordance with the arrangements in this Sub Plan.
- d. Support the person in control under this plan by way of advice.
- e. Provide resources and capabilities normally available to the mine operator either directly or through mutual agreements to the EOCON or in the event of a rescue, the NSW Police Force.
- f. Provide a liaison officer, if requested, to EOCON or in the event of a rescue the NSW Police Force.

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7.2 Person in control

- a. Will cause NSW Police Force, followed by the Department, to be notified immediately after becoming aware of the event whenever a mine emergency occurs.
- b. Regardless of whether the rescue of a person is required or not, if the mine's mine emergency Plan arrangements are not adequate to deal with the response from the perspective of the management of the event or the level or adequacy of the resources, the person in control must immediately inform the NSW Police Force and the Department, whether they are on-site or not.
- c. Hand-over control of the emergency response to the mine emergency to the LEOCON in accordance with the arrangements in this Sub Plan.
- d. Provide support to the EOCON or NSW Police Force.

7.3 EOCON (Local, Regional and State)

- a. Monitor any mine emergency of which the EOCON becomes aware.
- b. Consult with the person in control of the mine emergency.
- c. Assume control of the emergency response in accordance with these arrangements.
- d. Consult with and consider advice from the Department's Mine Safety Inspector and other representatives, (this is particularly important with emergencies at underground coal mines). Consult with and consider advice from the combat agency for other events specified in the EMPLAN and other reasonably available specialist advisors.

7.4 The Department

- a. Will monitor any rescue, mine emergency or other emergency at a mine.
- b. Notify the NSW Police Force and the LEOCON as soon as it becomes aware of a mine emergency.
- c. Consult with the person in control operating under the mine emergency plan or this Sub Plan and provide support by way of advice and all other resources and capabilities normally available to the Department either directly or through other arrangements. This will include liaison officers, technical advisors and Mine Safety Inspectors.
- d. Provide specialist mining advice to Local and Regional Emergency Management Committees and in particular, advice regarding mines within the area covered by the committee, their specific hazards and mine emergency plan arrangements to assist the committee's emergency planning activities.

Inspectors

- e. Act as a liaison officer and an initial point of contact for the Department during emergency operations.
- f. If requested by the EOCON, attend the location from which the LEOCON is operating to assist as required.
- g. Provide advice to the EOCON, as mining specialists, to give an understanding of the mining industry context and operating environment.
- h. Assist in facilitating the provision of advice from other mining specialists.

7.5 NSW Police Force

- a. Provide prompt notification to LEOCON whenever advised of a mine emergency or when advised that a mine emergency plan is inadequate to deal with a mine.
- b. Notify the Department as soon practical whenever advised of a mine emergency or other emergency at a mine.

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- c. NSW Police Rescue, if requested by the EOCON, provide rescue services at mines in areas outside of their normal General Land Rescue area of operation including provision of specialist advice and rescue capabilities particularly in relation to heavy rescue and confined spaces.

7.6 Fire and Rescue NSW

- a. If requested by the EOCON, provide rescue services at mines in areas outside of their normal General Land Rescue area of operation including provision of specialist advice and rescue capabilities particularly in relation to heavy rescue and confined spaces.

7.7 NSW Ambulance

- a. If requested by the EOCON, provide rescue services at mines in areas outside their normal General Land Rescue area of operation.
- b. Provide specialist medical services including specialist paramedics and provision of specialist advice regarding pre-hospital care.

7.8 Mines Rescue Pty Ltd

- a. At mines where covered by legislation or contractual arrangement, and this plan has been implemented, Mines Rescue Pty Ltd will recognise the authority of the EOCON, NSW Police Force and the arrangements in this Sub Plan.
- b. If requested by the EOCON, consider provision of rescue services at mines where not covered by legislation or contractual arrangements including provision of specialist advice and capabilities particularly in relation to heavy rescue, tunnelling and confined spaces.
- c. Notify the NSW Police Force as soon as it becomes aware of an event that involves a rescue.

8. PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 8.1 During events where these arrangements have been implemented, all media releases and interviews will be coordinated through the Public Information Services Functional Area, in accordance with the Public Services Functional Area Supporting Plan. This requirements does not suggest that the Department or the mine operators cannot provide information to the media, only that it needs to be done in a coordinated manner where the EOCON, the Department and the mine's management are aware of the issues being raised and/or addressed.

9. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

Financial Responsibilities

- 9.1 The mine operator may be responsible for costs associated with the response to a mine emergency.

10. RECOVERY

Recovery

- 10.1 Off-site recovery activities will be conducted as per the arrangements included in the respective levels of EMPLAN and the NSW State Recovery Plan which may also have some applicability on-site depending on the nature of the emergency.
- 10.2 On-site recovery activities would normally be the responsibility of the Mine Operator in conjunction with the Regulator.