AUSTRALIA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

Under the Australian Constitution, the eight States and Territories have direct responsibility for the protection of lives and property. Accordingly, they maintain well-developed emergency management capabilities and have arrangements to meet their responsibility.

The Commonwealth (Federal) Government accepts responsibility for providing national disaster management leadership and standardisation. It meets this responsibility by developing policy; by supporting the State and Territory Governments in developing their disaster management capabilities; by providing assistance in the response and recovery stages after disasters; by providing warning and monitoring services for specific hazards; and by facilitating national training, public awareness and education, information management and research activities. The Commonwealth Government is also responsible for providing disaster management assistance to other countries.

Emergency Management Australia is the agency responsible for coordinating Commonwealth Government disaster management activities and, in conjunction with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), for coordinating Australian disaster response and mitigation assistance to other countries.

For a number of years, disaster management in Australia has been based on four fundamental approaches:

- The **All Hazards Approach** - under which a single set of management arrangements are used to deal with the effects of all types of hazards.

- The **Comprehensive Approach** - under which a risk management approach to potential disasters is used to design the mix of strategies covering prevention, preparedness, response and recovery so as to provide the most effective disaster management structure.

- The **All Agencies Approach** - under which disaster management is seen as a partnership which requires the active involvement of all levels of government as well as voluntary organisations and the community itself.