Better Together: Lessons on Interjurisdictional Recovery Support

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State Recovery Coordinator
Dep. Fire and Emergency Services WA



2025-2026 Higher Risk Weather Season



Tropical Cyclone Fina
November 2025

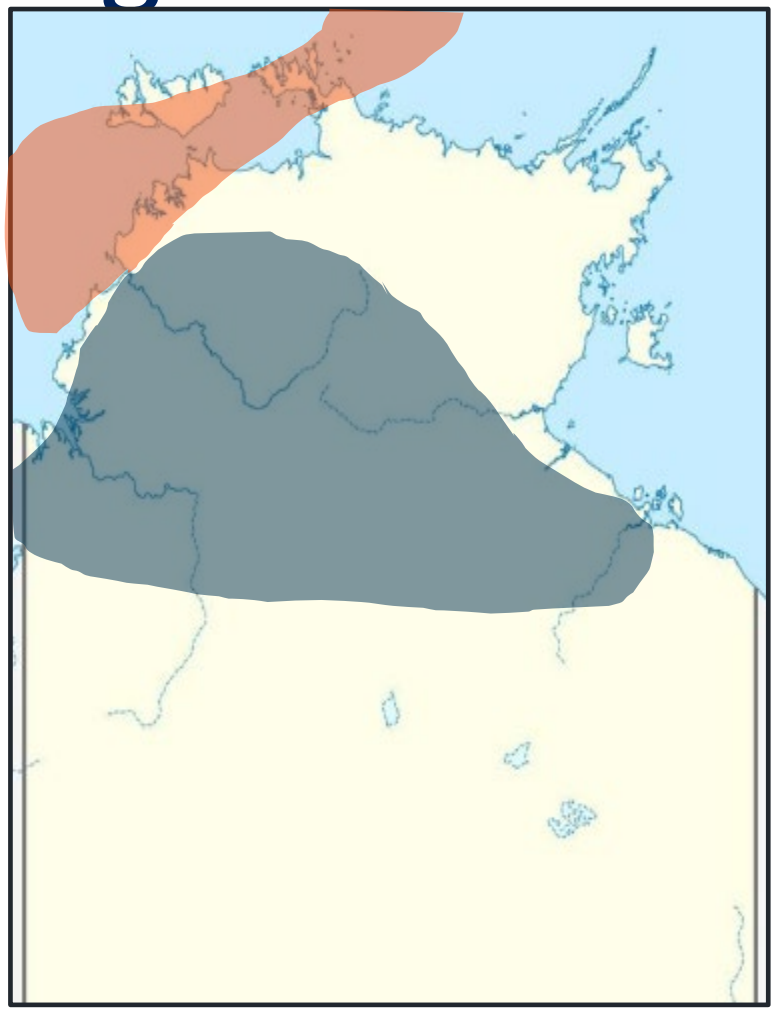
Big Rivers Flood Event (Tropical Low 21U)
February 2026

Southern Region Flood Event (Tropical Low 26U)
February 2026

Big Rivers and Top End Flood Event (Tropical Low 31U)
March 2026

Tropical Cyclone Narelle (Tropical Low 34U)
March 2026

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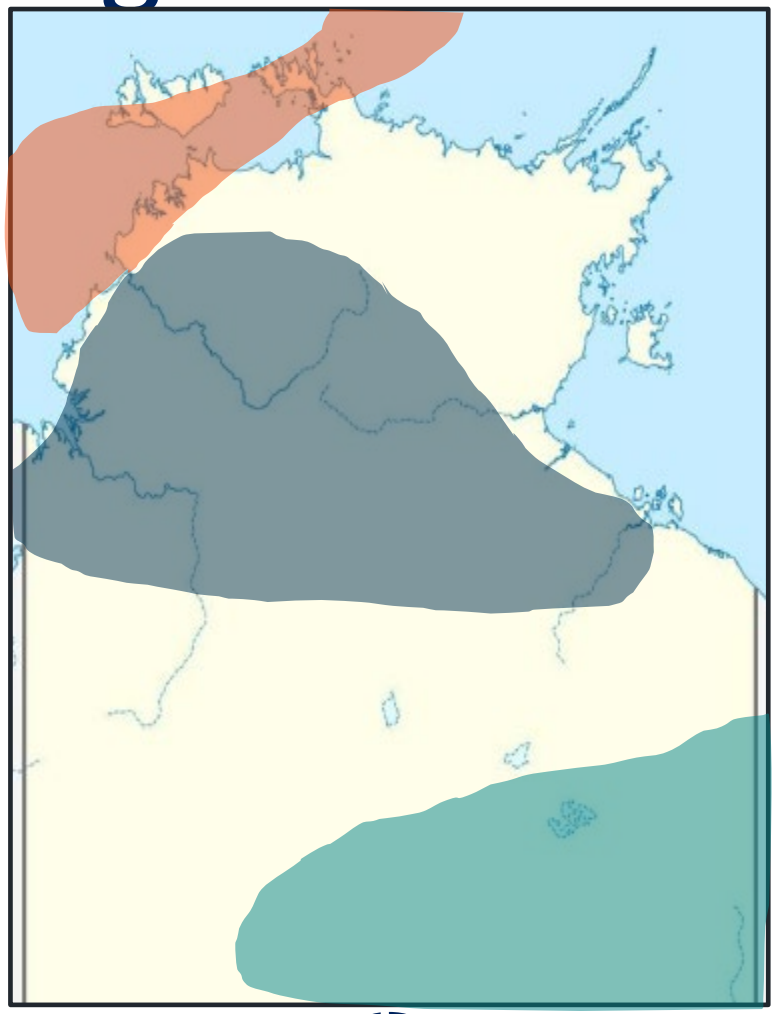
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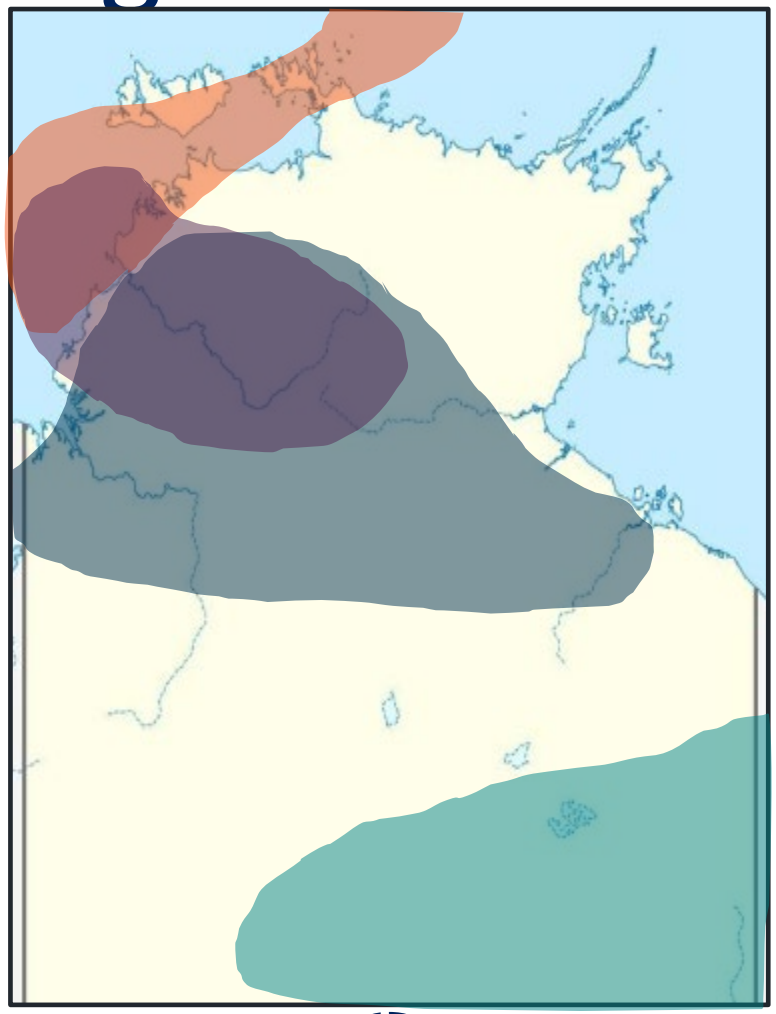
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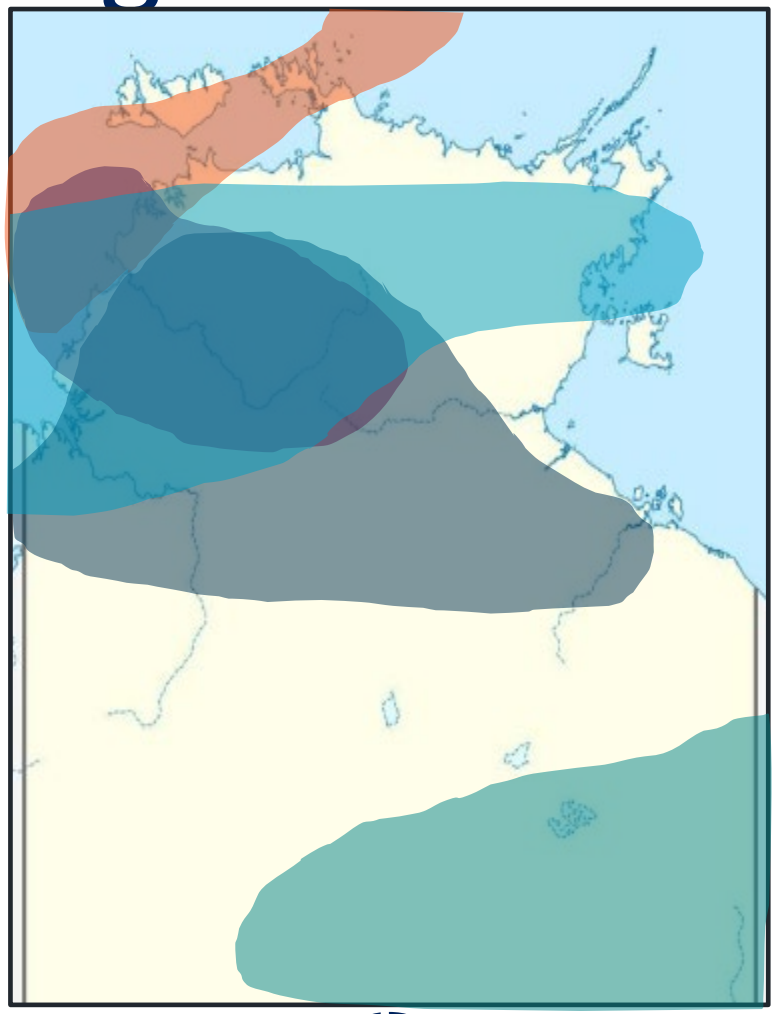
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7. Darwin River



2. Nauiyu (Daly River)



3. Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa)



4. Katherine

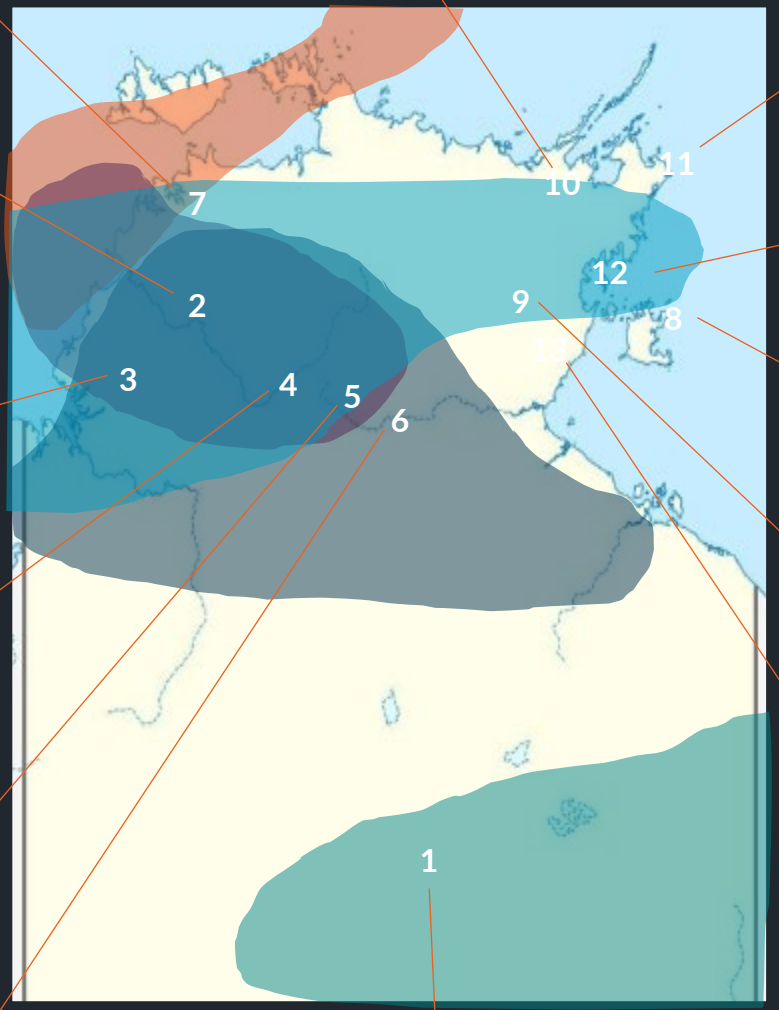


5. Wugularr

6. Jilkminggan



10. Gapuwiyak



1. Murray Downs (Imangara)



11 Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala and Gunyangara:



12 Baniyala



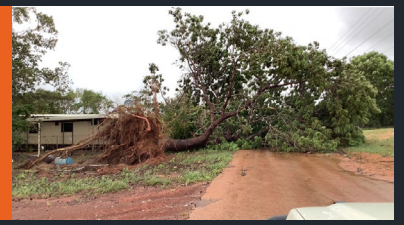
8. Groote Eylandt communities



9. Bulman and Weemol

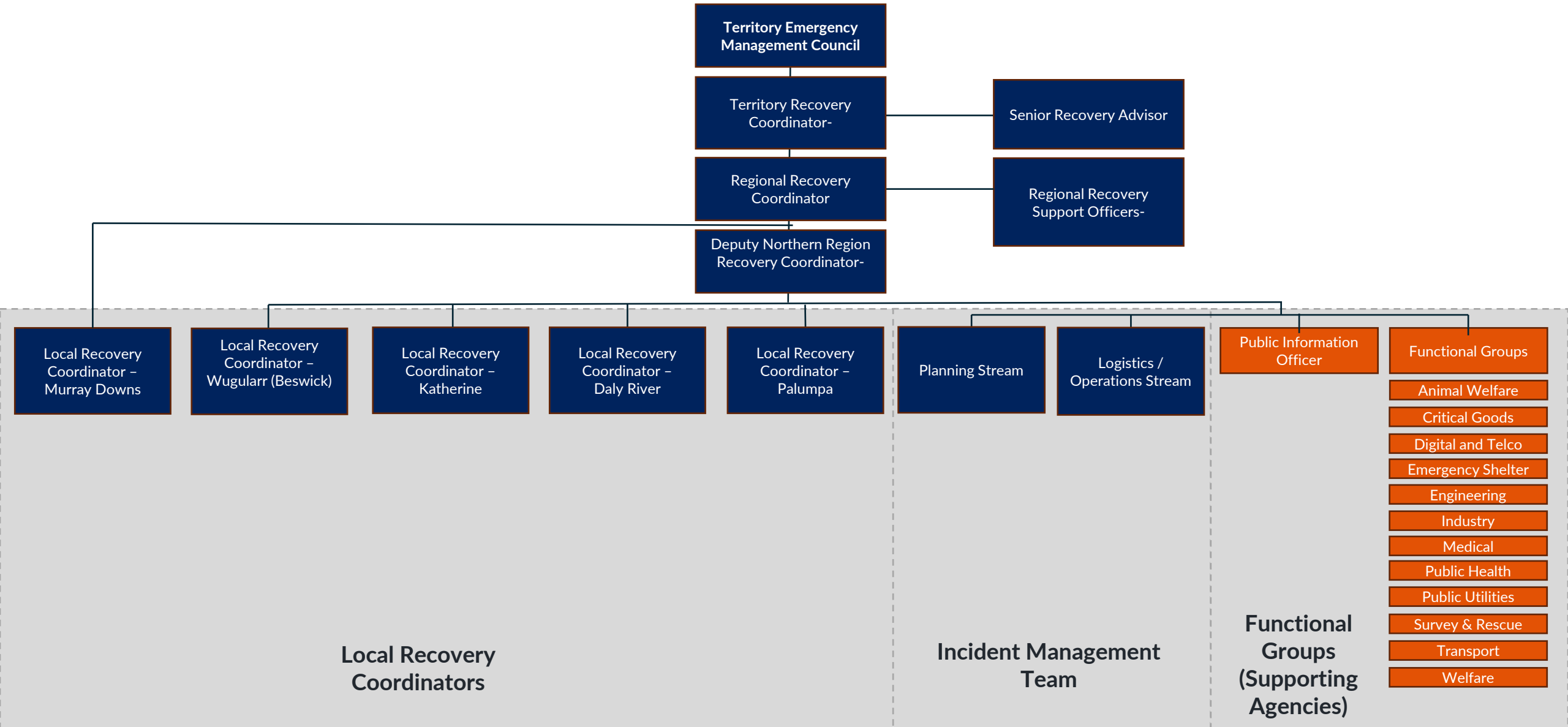


13 Numbulwar



Recovery Coordination Structure

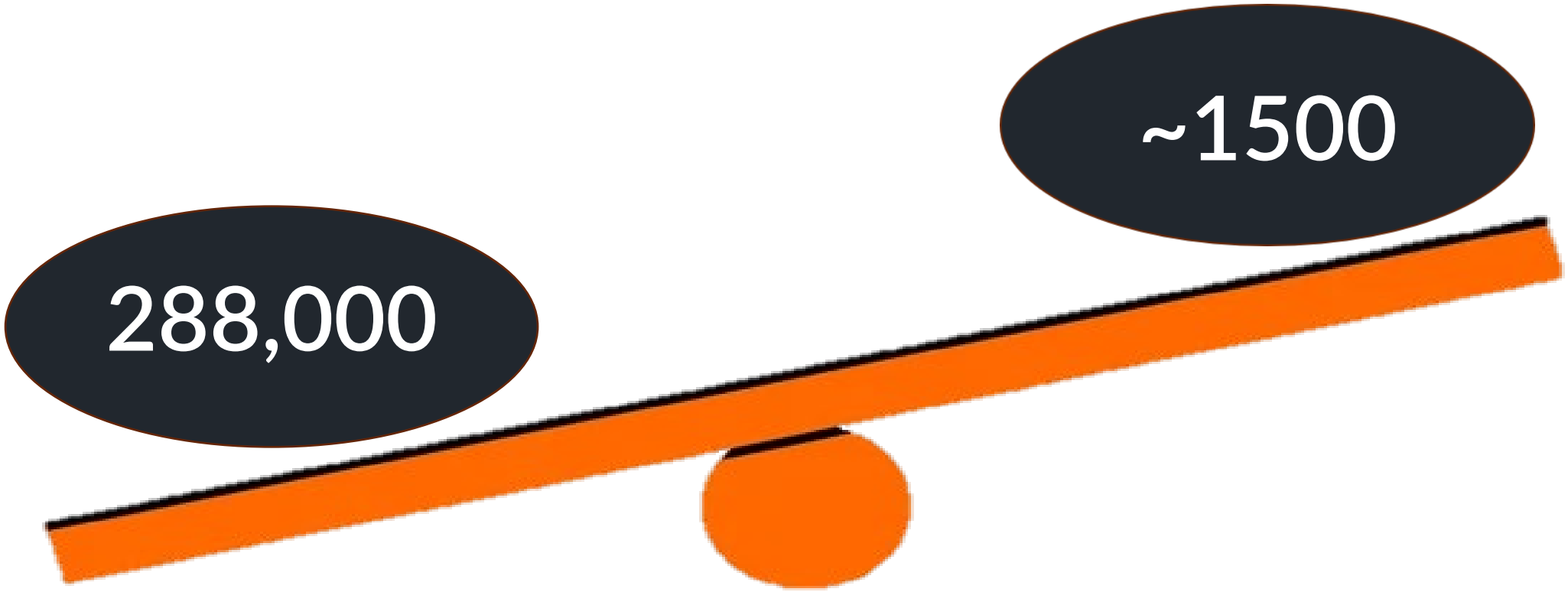
7 March 2026



OFFICIAL

Dedicated Response Personnel

Dedicated Recovery Personnel



This graphic references personnel whose core business role relates to a response or recovery activity (not including surge, labour hire or redeployed staff).

Engaging Interjurisdictional Support

Direct Engagement of Interstate Partners	Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG) Interjurisdictional Agreement
• No standard terms of engagement. • Generally, involves recovery of all non-wage expenses on a cost-recovery basis. • Dependant on partner capacity. • Often reliant on existing inter-agency relationships.	• Established terms of engagement. • Formalises cost-recovery measures. • Membership comprises of social recovery lead agencies (NT Welfare Functional Group). • Requests shared broadly with all States, Territories and Aus Gov. • Limited access to staff from outside the social recovery domain.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

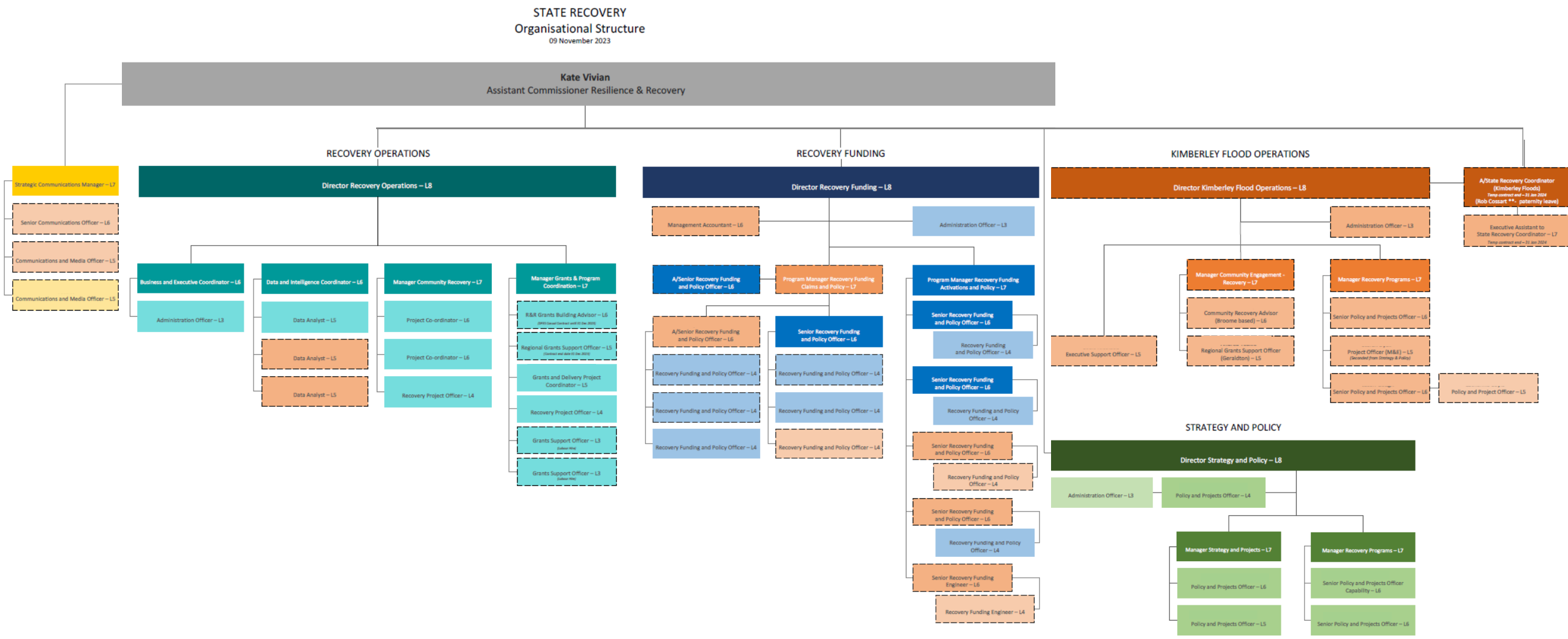
Social Recovery Reference Group
AUSTRALIA

DFES Recovery and Resilience Team Deployment

- Contacted the NT with an offer to assist on 10 March 2026.
- Coordinated 2 recovery coordination teams – practitioners across government strategic policy, community recovery and planning specialists.
- First deployment on Monday 16 March 2026.

- At this time, WA had capacity to assist.
- Research into the workings of the NT, government structures, responsibilities and situational awareness of flood impacts.
- DFES Risk, Capability and Analysis produce intelligence products.
- NT sends Situational Reports .
- Understand NT government disaster funding v's Commonwealth.
- Advise WA Ministerial and Premiers Office of deployment.

DFES Recovery and Resilience



DFES Recovery Practitioners

People and Capabilities

- Sam – risk and consequence specialist, community recovery STC Seroja
- Lanie – remote regional experience, planning community needs and DRFA
- Donna – recovery coordination, planning, WA disaster experience and o/s
- Kate – WA State Recovery Coordinator for over three years
- A strong team with diverse expertise and skills, capacity to do 1-2 weeks



What about WA?

- Impacts on state capacity for sharing with the NT?
- Managing local pressures with STC Narelle inbound?
- What scale of STC Narelle impact might have warranted a recall?



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

"Better Together"

An opportunity to bring in key recovery coordination and planning staff from WA's Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja and Fitzroy Flood recovery teams to assist our efforts in Nauiyu and Nganmarriyanga.



NT Lesson: Invest in deployed staff early with a focus on context, briefings and integration

Early understanding of authority structures, operational priorities, risks and key relationships enables deployed personnel to integrate faster and contribute more effectively.

WA Lesson: Understanding the NT system and arrangements

- Seamless integration
- Access to information
- Inclusion in decision making
- Leadership support
- Response-recovery coordination insights
- Different recovery models (FTE!)
- Capacity relief - our presence also meant NT recovery staff could have days off...





NT Lesson: Interjurisdictional deployments should strengthen enduring territory capability

The success of interjurisdictional support should be measured not only by the immediate work delivered, but by the capability it leaves behind.

WA Lessons:

- Recovery vs Response
- Timing of deployment
- DRFA support opportunity
- Importance of induction
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle impending





NT Lesson:
The need to capitalise on successful deployments with enduring interjurisdictional recovery arrangements

Successful deployments highlighted not only the strength of interstate recovery capability, but the opportunity that exists in establishing standing all-domain recovery workforce sharing arrangements.

The Future of Recovery Resource Sharing

National Recovery Resource Sharing Mechanism	Interjurisdictional Partnerships (Direct Engagement)
• Guidelines for Interjurisdictional Assistance (Community Recovery) are under review. • Engagement underway with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) to identify opportunities to align the Guidelines with established response and relief arrangements through the National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC). • Consideration of 4 priorities: 1. Improved systems and coordination arrangements 2. Deployment readiness 3. Capability development 4. Workforce visibility	• Engage with interjurisdictional organisations responsible for state recovery coordination to determine alignment with NT arrangements and capacity.

Interstate Recovery Support

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

21 recovery planning, coordination and social recovery practitioners

Government of South Australia

7 recovery planning and social recovery practitioners

Queensland Government

9 social recovery practitioners

VICTORIA State Government

5 social recovery practitioners

Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

1 recovery planning practitioner



Thank You


Response
Recovery
Jilkminggan
Palumpa
Daly River (Nauiyu)
KATE VIVIAN
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER