

# Disaster Risk Handbook

## Working Group Terms of Reference

<b>Purpose</b>	The Disaster Risk Handbook Working Group ('the working group') has been established to contribute to the development of a Disaster Risk Handbook, which forms part of the <a href="#">Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection</a> .																										
<b>Term</b>	The working group is appointed for the duration of the project, which is due for completion in June 2021.																										
<b>Key Milestones (indicative)</b>	<p>This timetable is indicative and will be altered to ensure sufficient time for extensive consultation across jurisdictions:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="437 745 1382 1227"> <tr> <td>Project brief and scoping</td> <td>September – October 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writer Appointed</td> <td>September</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project working group convened</td> <td>October 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working group feedback on scope and content</td> <td>November 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First draft</td> <td>December 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working group feedback on first draft</td> <td>December 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second draft</td> <td>January 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working group feedback on second draft</td> <td>February 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third draft</td> <td>March 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working group final substantive review</td> <td>April 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final draft and review</td> <td>May 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Submitted to working group for sign off</td> <td>June 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Submitted to AHAG and DG EMA for sign off</td> <td>June 2021</td> </tr> </table>	Project brief and scoping	September – October 2020	Writer Appointed	September	Project working group convened	October 2020	Working group feedback on scope and content	November 2020	First draft	December 2020	Working group feedback on first draft	December 2020	Second draft	January 2021	Working group feedback on second draft	February 2021	Third draft	March 2021	Working group final substantive review	April 2021	Final draft and review	May 2021	Submitted to working group for sign off	June 2021	Submitted to AHAG and DG EMA for sign off	June 2021
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<b>Roles &amp; responsibilities</b>	<p>The role of the working group is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide expertise and guidance on content for the Disaster Risk Handbook ('the handbook') and ensure the working group has a national all-hazard focus.</li> <li>• Consult broadly across the jurisdiction to ensure an all hazards, multi-agency approach is represented.</li> <li>• Ensure the handbook reflects current good practice both within Australia and overseas.</li> <li>• Represent, seek direction and communicate decisions as both an organisational and jurisdictional representative on the working group.</li> <li>• Assist the project manager to establish a communication strategy within their area of representation and more broadly to key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Promote a nationally consistent approach to the development, interpretation, adoption and application of the handbook.</li> <li>• Ensure the handbook complements and is consistent (without overlapping) with other existing or proposed publications or other doctrine collections.</li> <li>• Work to the project timeline or suggest modifications to the timeline to the project manager as required.</li> </ul>																										



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve project objectives through working within the project scope and participating in an integrated and collaborative approach with other members of the working group and broader stakeholder group.</li> <li>• Attend meetings by video/teleconference as required during the term of the project.</li> <li>• Notify the project manager of any inability to attend a meeting or continue to perform the role of working group member.</li> <li>• Formally signoff on the final draft handbook for submission to EMA through the AIDR Handbook Advisory Group.</li> <li>• The working group takes direction from the Project Manager.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership</b>	Members of the Working Group have been selected based on their skills, experience and sector or area of interest which their organisation represents.
<b>Meetings</b>	<p>It is anticipated the working group will meet by video/teleconference 4 times during the term of the project and hold additional out-of-session discussions via email, as required.</p> <p>The working group will endeavour to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure open discussion to provide for all interests and points of view to be heard during meetings</li> <li>• seek consensus on matters under discussion and where consensus cannot be reached, the group will escalate matters to the Project Manager.</li> </ul>
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>AIDR will provide secretariat, logistical and administrative support to the working group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• convening meetings and vide/teleconferences</li> <li>• ensuring all decisions are recorded</li> <li>• drafting project scope and planning documents for review</li> <li>• consolidating feedback to inform the writer’s brief</li> <li>• support the writer and working groups otherwise as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda &amp; minutes</b>	AIDR will prepare and deliver meeting agendas and papers five business days prior to working group meetings. Minutes will be circulated no later than five business days after working group meetings.
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	AIDR has limited funding available to support handbook development and it is anticipated the majority of this funding will be used for research (if required), writing and workshop facilitation. It is expected members of the working group will be responsible for their own costs for participation in working group activities.
<b>Policy and framework</b>	The working group will undertake its work in a manner consistent with the principles and processes outlined in the most current version of the <a href="#">handbook collection management policy and framework</a> .
<b>About AIDR</b>	AIDR is a disaster resilience knowledge centre. We develop, maintain and share knowledge and learning to support a disaster resilient Australia. We work with government, communities, non-government organisations, not-for-profits, research organisations, education partners, and the private sector to enhance disaster resilience through innovative thought leadership, professional development and knowledge sharing.



AIDR is funded by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs through Emergency Management Australia and supported by its partners, AFAC and Australian Red Cross.

## Project Governance



### Project Teams

The Project Teams provide the knowledge, authority and support to the project. The key members of the project team and their broad responsibilities are:

The **Project Sponsor** is Emergency Management Australia (EMA), through the Director-General EMA, who ultimately authorises the handbook's publication and subsequent adoption into the national handbook collection.

The **AIDR Governance Committee** provides strategic guidance and oversight of the handbook collection. The committee ensures that handbooks are consistent with national disaster resilience and emergency management policy through endorsement of the process of review adopted for each handbook. The AIDR Governance Committee delegates oversight of the management and review of the Handbook Collection to the AIDR Handbook Advisory Group.

The Committee is chaired by the Director-General EMA and includes representatives from AFAC, Australian Red Cross and EMA.

The **AIDR Handbook Advisory Group** (AHAG) is responsible for overseeing management of the Handbook Collection and provides oversight for each publication through its lifecycle. This role includes advising the DG EMA on additions and revisions to, and deletions from, the national collection and ensuring compliance with the principles outlined in this policy for the management and governance of the Handbook Collection

AHAG is chaired by the AIDR Executive Director and includes as required, nominees from EMA, AIDR, AFAC and the Australian Red Cross. Other additional nominees may form part of the AHAG from time to time.

The **Project Manager** is appointed by the AIDR Executive Director and manages the project from initiation to publication and launch. The Project Manager is responsible for delivering the publication described in the Project Brief within the time and resources allocated. Responsibilities include the selection of the author, convening steering committees and working groups, control and support of

drafts, presentation of drafts for authorisation, final preparation for publication and dissemination of approved handbooks.

The Project Manager works closely with AHAG, Steering Committee (if applicable) and Working Groups to ensure that the publication is meeting its defined and agreed scope and purpose in accordance with the project plan. The Project Manager presents the completed publication to AHAG for authorisation.

The **Content Writer** conducts necessary research and prepares successive drafts of the publication in accordance with a writer's brief. Generally, the content writer will possess some expertise in the subject area but need not be the ultimate authority. The writer may also draft content outlines and framework documents and discussion papers.

**Working Groups** consist of authoritative individuals drawn from interested agencies and appropriate subject matter experts. They will review original content, inform development of the writer's brief and consider drafts. The working group members need to be sufficiently expert to provide good input and to give the handbooks a degree of intellectual authority. They also need to be sufficiently senior to speak with the authority of their organisation. Well engaged working groups are a powerful way to expose tacit knowledge – if the right people are present.

**Stakeholder Engagement** and project socialisation will occur through networks established throughout the project. The process relies on distribution of information from working groups to their national networks.