

# Impact Assessment SMIT



## Six minute intensive training

Welcome to your Six Minute Intensive Training (SMIT). In the next six minutes, we will focus on delivering high-impact strategies and insights designed to enhance your skills and performance. This session is crafted to be efficient, effective, and directly applicable, ensuring you gain valuable takeaways that can be implemented immediately. Whether you are aiming to refine your approach, boost productivity, or acquire new techniques, this training is designed to deliver results in a concise and impactful format. Let's get started and make every minute count.

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## Bush fires – impact assessment

### Critical issues

You have been asked to assist with an impact assessment for a bushfire emergency in your area. A tasking has come to you from the local emergency operations centre (EOC) following a request from the NSW Rural Fire Service.

### What is an impact assessment?



Impact assessment involves collecting, interpreting and analysing social, built, economic and natural impacts to a community or communities. It is scalable to the emergency and is a continuous and dynamic process of ongoing information collection and assessment.

### What does the term 'rapid damage assessment' include? ▼

A rapid damage assessment is the first step in impact assessment. It provides accurate and timely information on the *extent* of damage following an emergency to inform decision making (recovery, funding, etc). It identifies damage to property, business and infrastructure and represented spatially through GPS locations and street addresses. Rapid damage assessments *do not* provide context or an analysis of the damage caused.

### What is local government area impact assessment? ▼

Once the extent of damage is known, the Combat Agency in consultation with the Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON) and State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON) may determine that a more comprehensive assessment of the impacts and consequences at the local government level is needed.

The local government area impact assessment provides an *analysis* of damages that has been sustained across the built, economic, social and natural recovery domains.

### Who is responsible for rapid damage assessment? ▼

In accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) the Combat Agency will lead rapid damage assessments. The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is the Combat Agency for bushfire. In this situation the RFS will lead the rapid damage assessment and seek assistance from other agencies if required, depending on the scale and geographical area of the bushfire.

### Who is responsible for local government area impact assessment? ▼

The Combat Agency (e.g. NSW Rural Fire Service for bushfire) will coordinate local government area impact assessment. However, they may request the support of the Emergency Operations Controller (EOCON) to support and coordinate with the local government authority, Functional Areas and other agencies to get the required data.

### Who is responsible for gathering social impact data? ▼

The Welfare Services Functional Area, Health Services Functional Area and Service NSW can provide social impact data including on individuals that have:

- Been displaced
- Required medical assistance
- Accessed disaster support

### Who can provide economic impact data? v

Economic impact data captures impacts on businesses, industries, primary industries and tourism. NSW Government agencies such as Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Local Land Services support the gathering of this data through surveys and interviews with impacted businesses and industries. The Local Council will also be a valuable stakeholder to help gather this data, given the connections they have with their communities through Business Chambers and other such organisations.

### Who is responsible for gathering built impact data? v

The Functional Areas and Combat Agency are key to gathering impact data across the built domain to understand the extent of structure damage, and effects on:

- Energy and gas service
- Telecommunications infrastructure
- Water and wastewater services
- Transport infrastructure (including roads, rails and ports)
- Hospitals and primary health care facilities
- Education facilities including primary, secondary and tertiary

Infrastructure NSW can provide overarching coordination at the state level across the built domain when required.

### Who can provide natural impact data? v

Natural impact data is mostly provided by the Environmental Services Functional Area, with the assistance of other agencies including effects on:

- Natural environment including national parks, coastline, native animals and native vegetation
- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Cultural heritage
- Water and pollutions (including air) on the environment

### Why is it important to support impact assessment? v

Impact assessment is essential to support an effective transition from response to recovery. It provides critical information in determining the recovery arrangements and support measures that might be needed in the community.

## Reference information

State Emergency Management Plan 2023