

FACTSHEET - NSW Critical Infrastructure Protection Management Framework

Background

The threat of terrorism has been the main driver behind the development of Critical Infrastructure Protection programs throughout Australia. While Australia has traditionally enjoyed a relatively benign security environment, today we face a far more dynamic and unpredictable security environment. To help ensure a rigorous, logical and structured approach to critical infrastructure protection within NSW, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Management Framework was developed jointly by the NSW Police Force and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Framework adopts the principles outlined in the *National Guidelines for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Terrorism*. The NSW Framework clearly assigns roles and responsibilities to all parties involved in protecting critical infrastructure within the State in accordance with the National Guidelines. The Framework provides a comprehensive strategy for the NSW Police Force and NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to engage with owners and operators of critical infrastructure at a strategic level through the Counter Terrorist and Special Tactics Command and Counter Terrorism and Disaster Recovery Directorate.

It is important to recognise that while every effort is made to protect critical infrastructure and the community generally from acts of terrorism, **no guarantees** can ever be provided that a successful attack will not be able to occur.

NSW Application

For NSW the critical infrastructure protection program will focus on those assets that preserve the standard of living in NSW, which is defined as the ability of the State to maintain its economy and ensure community sustainability. Key sectors include energy, utilities, transport, communications, health and key government services.

Within NSW the critical infrastructure protection program is led by the NSW Police Force and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Coordination of effort via these two agencies is a key aim of the NSW Framework. NSW is represented on a range of national committees which deal with counter terrorism and critical infrastructure protection by members of these agencies.

The priority afforded to either a sector, or individual asset will be a function of comprehensive risk assessments and criticality.

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Consistent with the National Guidelines, criticality in NSW will be assessed as follows:

Vital - Alternative services and/or facilities cannot be provided within NSW. Loss or compromise will result in a reliance on alternative services being provided from outside NSW.

Major - If services and/or facilities are severely disrupted, major restrictions will apply and assistance may be required from outside NSW.

Significant - Services and/or facilities will be available but with some restrictions and/or less responsiveness and/or capacity compared to normal operation.

Low - Services and/or facilities can be provided within NSW with no loss of functionality.

NSW Government Responsibilities

Primarily the NSW Government's responsibility is to develop and implement a sustainable program for critical infrastructure protection to build resilience. Both industry and Government have finite protection resources. This makes it essential for critical infrastructure protection measures to be based on sound risk assessments.

A significant challenge for critical infrastructure protection is determining the extent to which the risks will be managed, the balance that must be struck between the implementation of counter terrorism and protective security strategies across critical infrastructure, and the resulting financial costs and the degree to which social and cultural norms within NSW may be impacted. To help achieve this balance the following responsibilities for NSW Government are described in the Framework:

- Provide leadership and whole-of-government coordination in developing and implementing the nationally consistent approach to the protection of CI in NSW
- Encourage private sector owners/operators and require the Government sector to develop relevant capabilities to ensure continuity of service
- Identify CI and maintain a NSW database
- Develop and communicate with owners/operators of CI the agreed type of response expected for each level of threat/alert
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- Assist in the provision of protective security advice and the development of protective security strategies to counter terrorism in consultation with CI owners and operators
- Advise CI owners/operators of relevant threat information, in accordance with NSW arrangements

Copies of the NSW Critical Infrastructure Protection Management Framework are not available to the general public however, can be provided to owners and operators of critical infrastructure. If you would like to find out more information please email us at: securensw@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Police, Fire, Ambulance
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In an emergency

National Security Hotline
1800 123 400
Report suspicious activity

Crime Stoppers
1800 333 000
Report crime anonymously


New South Wales
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