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The journal endeavours to provide an information sharing forum for all those involved in emergency management. Contributions relating to Australian and international emergency activities, articles identifying and discussing issues, policies, planning or procedural concerns, research reports and any other information relevant to the emergency and disaster management community are welcome.

The aim of this publication is the exchange of information and views across the Australian emergency management community, therefore, the views expressed in this journal should not be taken to be the views of Emergency Management Australia.

This journal incorporates a review process. Three levels of review—refereeing, editorial board review and editing—are conducted. Material submitted for publication should be on disk and reach the Editor by the following dates: Summer—September 15th; Autumn—December 15th; Winter—March 15th; Spring—June 15th. The editorial committee reserves the right to determine the suitability of all material submitted and where necessary to edit submissions.

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# The Defence 2000 White Paper

Many readers of the Journal would be well aware of Emergency Management Australia's relationship with the Australian Defence Organisation.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the Government released the Defence 2000 White Paper. It has been described as the most far-reaching Defence Policy Statement released by any government in 25 years of long-term thinking on capability, organisation, funding and personnel.

It is a clear statement of the Government's requirements of the Defence Organisation.

- The decisions in this White Paper provide Defence with a plan—the Defence Capability Plan—for the development of Australia's armed forces over the next decade.
- The task for Defence is to implement this plan.

The White Paper process has been characterised by a lengthy and intensive series of National Security Committee of Cabinet meetings that started in late February 2000. This resulted in the most comprehensive process of ministerial-level decision-making about Australia's defence policy for many years.

There will be an immediate increase of \$500 and \$1,000 million over the next two years in order to provide substantial funding for a number of key initiatives.

The Government estimates that defence spending will need to grow by an average of about 3% per annum in real terms over the decade. It is committed to provide this funding and has directed Defence to plan within that budget.

The White Paper acknowledges the Australian Defence Force's commitment to emergency management as one of several peacetime national tasks. It mentions EMA providing training, national policy coordination and coordinated responses for civil emergencies and national disaster relief. Throughout the White Paper community consultative process, emergency management was raised on several occasions in discussions about non-military security issues.

Generally, I believe that the profile of

emergency management has featured very prominently in the White Paper. The emergency management community needs to get across The White Paper's intentions and EMA has a pivotal role in the education of key partners and stakeholders in its implementation. We have a window of opportunity to advance the understanding of emergency management.

There is special emphasis in the White Paper on people issues, including the retention of key personnel, strong leadership and building enthusiasm. This is particularly relevant to emergency management, especially in attracting, training and retaining our people. EMA has this as a priority measure of performance in the context of White Paper implementation.

I would like to make thank those people who contributed to the White Paper development. Your efforts have been rewarded.

David Templeman  
Director General  
EMA

#### Corrections to previous issues

The Spring 1999 issue of the Journal included an article by Dr. Henry W Fischer III entitled 'Using cyberspace to enhance disaster mitigation, planning and response: Opportunities and Limitations'. This article was originally published under the title 'Enhancing disaster mitigation through the use of cyberspace: Suggestions and issues to consider' in the Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management, Vol. 7 (1999) Issue 1, © Blackwell Publishers. All inquiries relating to the re-use of this article should be directed to Blackwell Publishers.

The Spring 2000 issue of the Journal included an article by Tricia Wachtendorf titled 'When Disaster Defy Borders: what we can learn from the Red River Flood about Transnational Disasters' which was published without acknowledgment of the sources of the photographs and maps. A number of images also had incorrect captions. The correct version of this article can be located on the EMA web site at [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au).