

Paper 5: NEW SOUTH WALES ARRANGEMENTS AND APPROACHES

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Role of SSC in State Plan Context

- * SSC in NSW is the State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC)
- * SPCC represents all other scientific and **environmental** input to the Plan
- * SPCC retains close links with these 'others' so that their concerns are carried forward when planning or when responding to a spill.
- * 'Others' represented **include:-**
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service
 - Division of Fisheries
 - Dept Tourism
 - Academic interests
 - Conservation groups

SSC Responsibilities in Response Planning

- * Preparation of Coastal **Resources Atlases**
These atlases are divided into three parts as follows:-
 - (i) Analysis of Resources at Risk
 - (ii) Assessment of the Threat
 - (iii) Review of Resources in Relation to Oil-Spill **Countermeasures**

It is the third part, which draws **together** all the **other** information and makes recommendations in respect of the countermeasures to be adopted in each circumstance, which represents the real strength of these atlases.

- * Provision of a Response Team

The SPCC maintains a capability to get a group of scientists and technical support staff (including boats) into the field at short notice in the **event** of a spill. The function of this group is **to:-**

- (i) advise on the progress of the spill, especially in respect of any sensitive resources which may be under threat and for which countermeasures don't seem to be in place, in train or functioning adequately
- (ii) monitor the progress of the spill and to collect any data which may be admissible in Court should legal proceedings take place
- (iii) carry out any post-spill studies to assess the extent of any damage and to assess any recovery

During **the** course of a spill response, all advice is funnelled to the OSC via the SSC.

*** Maintenance of a Contact Group of Expert Advisors**

The SPCC maintains a regularly updated list of contacts who are expert in particular aspects of environmental/scientific concern. Contacts are included **for:-**

birds
 fisheries
 mangroves, seagrasses etc
 intertidal ecology
 marine biology

*** Taking Part in Desk-top Exercises**

The NSW **State Committee** of Advice to the **National Plan** has run several desk-top spill exercises which have included SSC input. These have been most valuable as a test of the capabilities of individual parts of the whole spill response network and have had the added benefit that each part now has a better understanding of the pressures and constraints under which the other parts work.

*** Education**

The SPCC has provided speakers on several **occasions** to **OSC's** training courses/workshops

*** Production of Guideline/Assessment Documents**

Aerial Application of Dispersants in Botany Bay
 Guidelines for Controlling Oil Spills in Maritime Waters of NSW

Costs and Resources

*** Response team.**

Costs vary with **the** spill but as an **indication:-**

Spill October 1984 total cost \$800 (including fuel and other consumables) (50 person
 h o u r s)

Spill February 1985 total cost \$1750 (1988 S's) (92 person hours)

* **Atlases** ,

Work involves:-

- collection and collation of information
- production of a draft atlas
- circulation to interested parties for comment
- incorporation of relevant **comments** into final draft
- production of final draft for review by **State** Committee
- editing and printing

Each atlas produced under this scheme costs approximately \$15500 with some variability depending on the number of atlases to be printed. These costs take no account of **any** resources expended by third parties in the provision of information or in providing comments on drafts. One person of Senior Technical **Officer level** working full time can produce three such atlases per year. This requires some professional guidance and quite a deal of drafting assistance for maps etc.

Experience

* **Atlases**

- Need** to consider 'unusual' resources **at risk**
- Need to consider the type of oil **likely** to be handled
- Need to have a flexible approach

* Response Team

- Logistical problems
- Communications

* Exercises

- Control **room** layout, facilities and management
- Communications

Future

* Further atlases

* Further exercises - command room

* Trajectory modelling?