

Appendix C – Emergency Response

General Response

- Due to the large number of dogs to be held at the facility and the stress it would cause to the dogs if they were to be evacuated, in most cases, during a flood or bushfire event the dogs would remain on site with adequate staff and resources to care for them until the danger had passed and access restored.
- The Site Manager would be responsible for regular monitoring of the weather reports, weather forecasts and emergency warnings which would also be supported by a weather station on site that can be centrally monitored. This will allow for planning to ensure enough supplies for animals and staff are on site if access was restricted during or after an emergency event. Detailed operational plan is to be prepared prior to the use commencing on site to outline what that type of event is and to activate emergency management procedures.
- Non-essential staff will be required to leave the site while it is still safe to do so, noting that the flood response system proposed to be used allows for 50-90 minutes of notice for this to occur.
- There is onsite accommodation available if staff were stranded and to allow for staff to stay on site in case limited access was predicted due to fire or flood to ensure adequate staff were available to care for the dogs. The staff housing would be stocked with adequate supplies (supplies would be regularly audited) for 6 people for 14 days. Spare uniforms would be available on site.
- A site manager currently lives on site and would continue to do so when the facility is operational, and he/she would be trained to ensure minimum standards of husbandry could be provided to the animals if staff were unable to gain access. The site manager would also maintain advanced first aid certification including defibrillator use.
- The water purification systems and wastewater systems maybe offline if there is a loss of power. Backup generators (and sufficient fuel) will be available on site to support essential services. Inline and manual water filtration systems will be available to filter drinking water.
- If there is an animal emergency onsite when there is no access, remote telephone support can be provided by a veterinarian who can prescribe the medication from the onsite pharmacy and the treatments can be administered under veterinary direction by experienced GAP staff members. In the event of loss of mobile phone coverage, a satellite phone, Starlink internet coverage (portable units available) or a landline can be used to maintain support.
- There will be a large supply of premium dry dog kibble onsite to ensure there is more than a 14-day supply of food available. If there is a power failure and the fridges and freezers defrosted, the mince and other treats would be feed out to the dogs first before spoiling to reduce wastage.
- At a minimum, there will be 1 advanced first aid certified staff member rostered on for every shift. The site maintenance manager and site manager will also maintain advanced first aid certification including defibrillator use. There will be at least 1 defibrillator on site at all times.
- All staff will be inducted and ongoing training in emergency events will be provided including emergency drills and use of equipment which will also ensure that all equipment is regularly checked to ensure good working order and accessibility.
- A range of replacement parts for critical equipment such as wastewater management systems will be kept on site. The site maintenance manager will be provided with ongoing training to ensure that they have the ability to maintain equipment and allow remote service technicians support during extended isolation events. Backup generators will support the wastewater management systems during extended power outages.

Bush Fire Response Plan

- A bush-fire emergency is less likely to threaten the property as there are several cleared paddocks around the main area where the dogs will be housed as well as limited native bushland. Appropriate Landscaping and choice of building materials with further reduce the fire risk. Kennels will also be fitted with a sprinkler system for use as a cooling system and as an added defense against fire risk and embers. The maintenance plan for the site will ensure paddocks are regularly slashed, gutters are regularly cleaned, sprinklers and other firefighting equipment (fire pumps, hoses, generators) are regularly inspected and tested. All staff will be

inducted into the use of firefighting equipment and the bush fire and flood plan which would include a detailed map of the locations of all equipment, evacuation points and animal holding areas.

- In the case of a fire threat, ideally the dogs would be moved to the central area of the kennel complex and all external doors and shutters would be closed and wet towels used to block any gaps to reduce ember attack. The roof sprinklers would be turned on early to ensure the building is saturated. If there was risk of a catastrophic event, all external doors to the kennels and yards would be opened to allow the groups of dogs the freedom to move away from the fire, between the social play yards and kennels, while still contained within their main areas to prevent fighting or escape. The kennels will be within the fire protection zone.
- The large dams/swimming pools would be used as water sources for the firefighting equipment and appropriate fire extinguishers would be within each kennel block and administration areas.
- Regular fire safety audits and fire equipment checks would be performed by an external contractor.

Flood Response Plan

- There is a creek crossing into the facility that has the potential to flood and prevent access therefore the emergency response plan for the site ensures that there is enough storage and supplies for up to 14 days.
- A large 4x4 vehicle, with a functioning winch, snorkel and ability to cross the creek if the water level prevents small car access but lower than the prescribed levels which is safe for 4WD access, will be available on-site also to allow supplies and staff to gain access or leave.
- Vehicle access water levels will be clearly signposted and accessed regularly.
- In the case of a flooding event, the dogs would be given access to all areas of their 4-dog complex to reduce the staffing requirements and to ensure the dogs are not trapped within a kennel if excess flooding of the building occurred. The kennels will be away from the 100-year flood zone.
- There is a road grader on site which would be used to assist in restoring the access road once the creek crossing is passable.
- In an extreme medical emergency, if there is no access via the causeway, emergency evacuation could occur via helicopter or via the use of the identified fire trails on the adjoining properties. There are adequate safe landing areas in the surrounding paddocks. Any medical emergency would require the assistance of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter following a call to Triple Zero (000), either from Belmont or Tamworth. Westpac Rescue Helicopters operate in line with their own procedures and guidelines.
- A PA system will be installed into each kennel block to assist with notifying staff of emergencies. The WHS system (phone application and centralized system) will also notify all staff and contractors (if any) of any hazards and emergencies providing instruction direct to their phones. Key staff will be notified with their radios.
- Activating the helicopter evacuation procedures
 - This procedure is for the evacuation of staff off site outside the scope of an immediate medical emergency and as a measure of last resort.
 - As per Appendix B – Daily Operations, GRNSW allow for the evacuation of staff off site after 3 days of reduced access and/ or any other suitable requirement (i.e. family emergency).
 - A new crew will be flown in to replace them.
 - The activation of the helicopter evacuation will be at the discretion of the site manager.
 - A helicopter can only be booked by the site manager.
 - Helicopters will be booked through Cessnock Airport, as the closest facility. Operators from Cessnock Airport include (but are not limited to):
 - Hunter Valley Helicopters: <https://huntervalleyhelicopters.com.au/>
 - Aero Logistics: [Aero Logistics | Aviation Specialist Services](#)
 - Helicopters are to be booked as per the instruction of each operator.
 - Any helicopter operator is to operate in line with Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR). This includes (but is not limited to) determining the appropriate conditions in which to fly.

References

Planning for emergencies (nsw.gov.au) in animal holding facilities DPI NSW 2007
GAP - Wyee and Western Sydney Emergency Evacuation Plans 2021