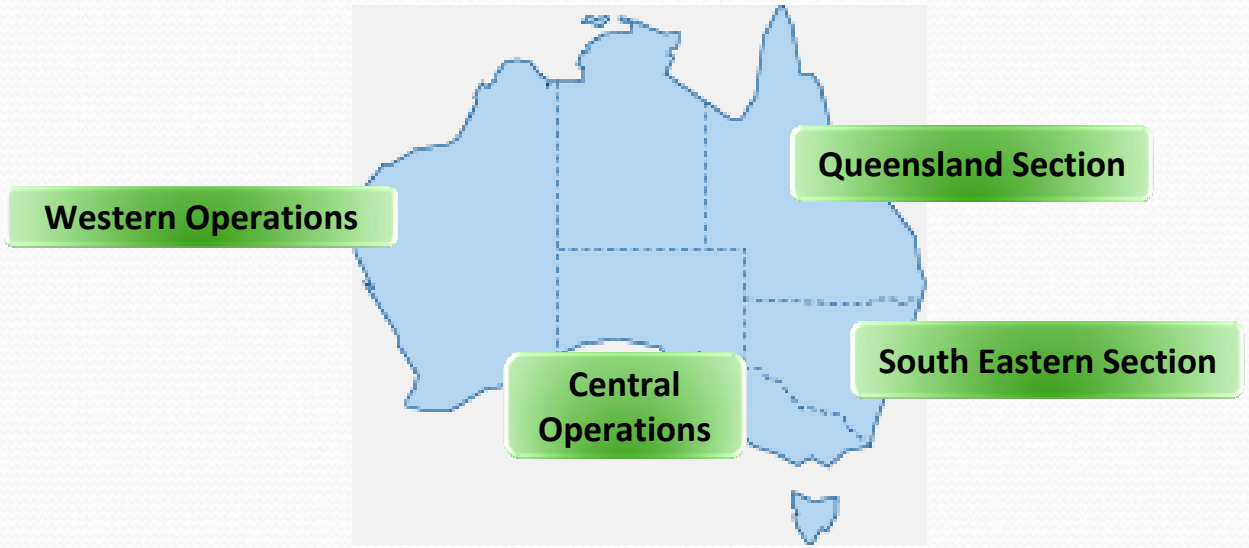
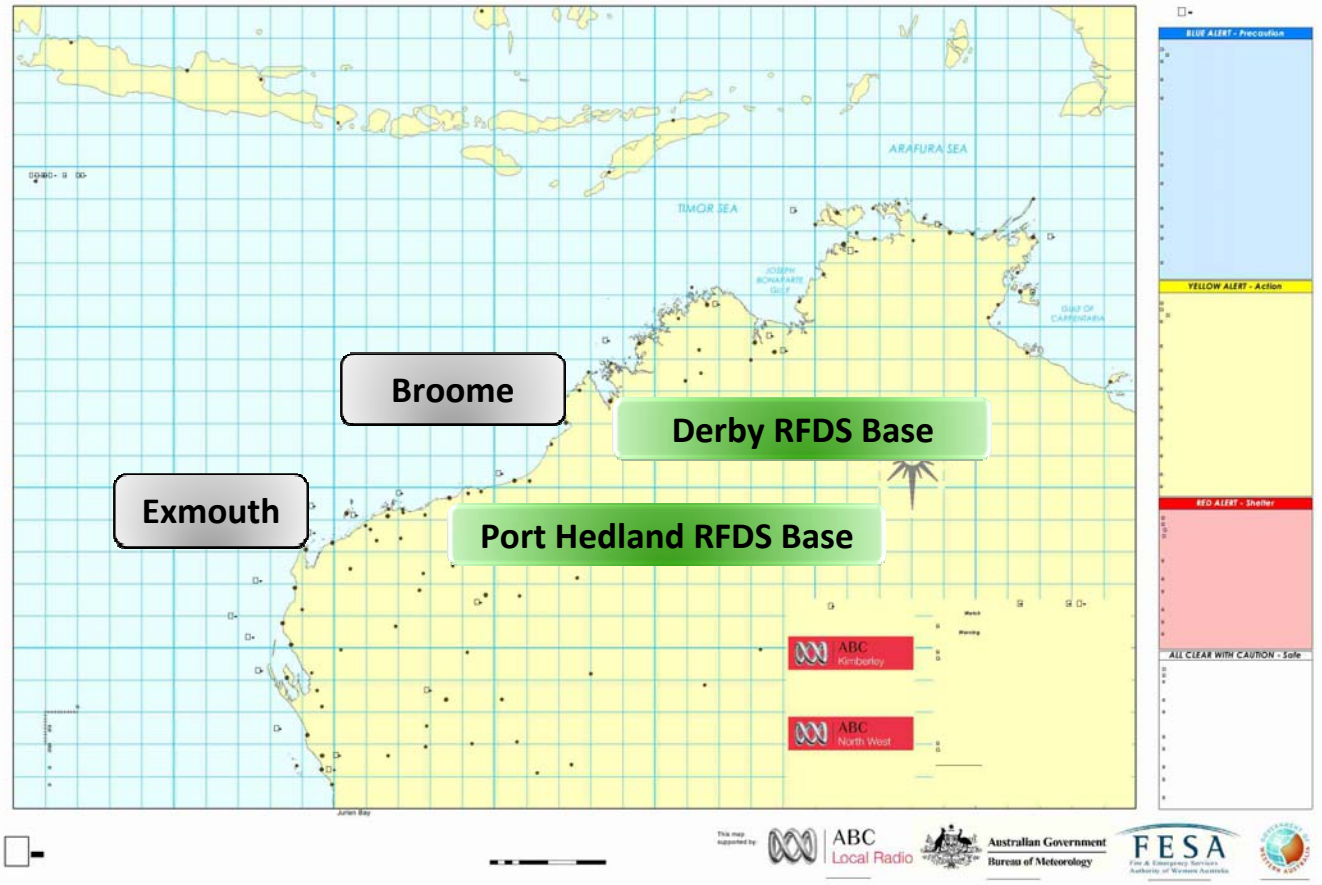
The major risks faced by Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations in the event of a Tropical Cyclone

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) of Australia

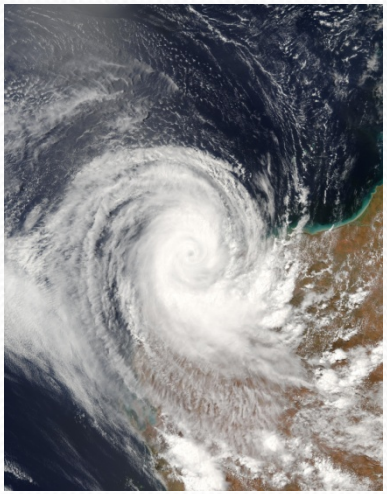


RFDS Western Operations

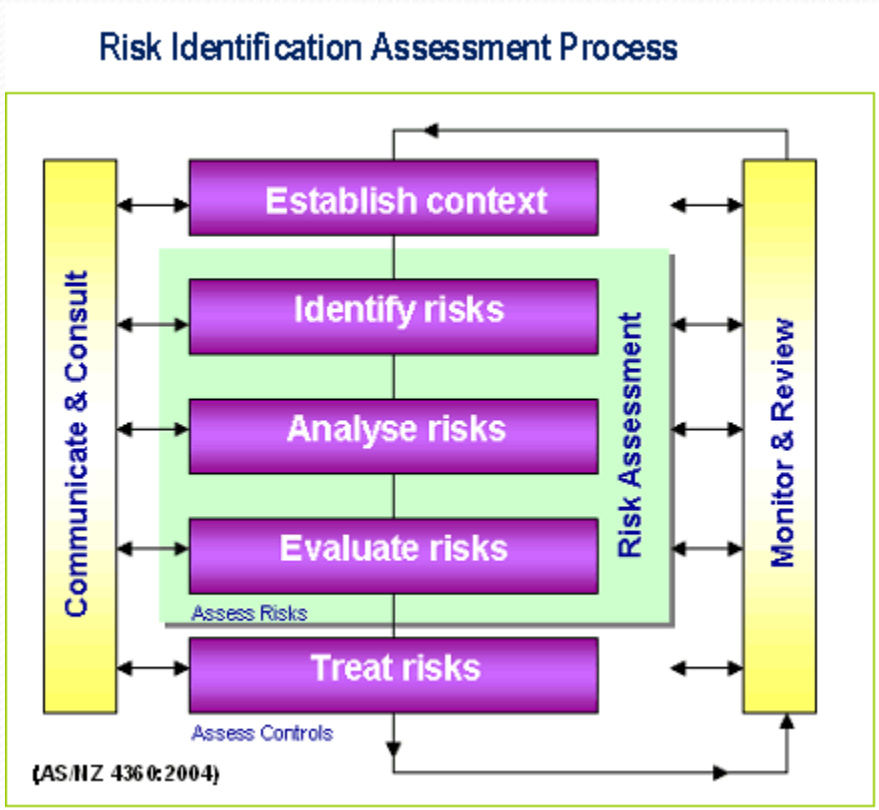
Western Australia Cyclone Region



Recent cyclone events that have affected North Western Australia



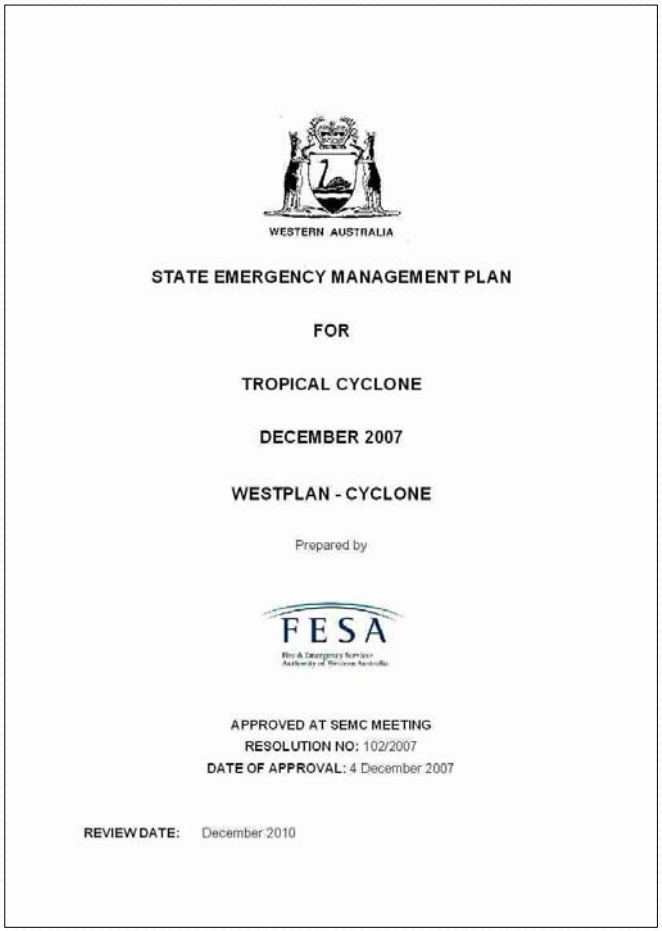
The Australian & New Zealand Risk Management Standard



The most likely major risks identified were:

- Injury/death to RFDS Western Operations personnel
- Damage to RFDS Western Operations assets
- Reduced operational capability.

Injury/death to RFDS Western Operations personnel and damage to RFDS Western Operations assets



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

TROPICAL CYCLONE

DECEMBER 2007

WESTPLAN - CYCLONE

Prepared by

FESA

APPROVED AT SEMC MEETING
RESOLUTION NO: 102/2007
DATE OF APPROVAL: 4 December 2007

REVIEW DATE: December 2010

A qualitative risk analysis matrix was used to assess the level of risk associated with reduced operational capability

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost certain	M	H	H	E	E
Likely	M	M	H	H	E
Possible	L	M	M	H	E
Unlikely	L	M	M	M	H
Rare	L	L	M	M	H

Reduced operational capability

- This can result in RFDS Western Operations providing a level of service which may be unable to meet the demands of the population in certain areas of the state.
- If no aircraft or crews are available at a particular base then it means that other bases have to be brought in to cover this geographical area.
- This can have a negative impact on operational capability as this would usually mean that crews from other bases would have to travel greater distances to provide a service to the region which has no crews.

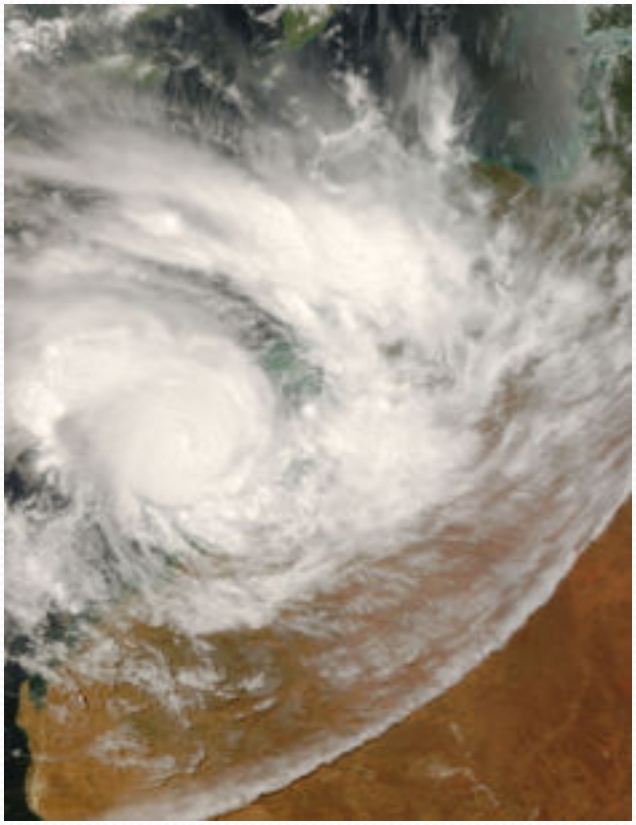
Pilot hours

Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

CIVIL AVIATION ORDERS
PART 48
SECTION 48.1
Issue 9
Exemption from flight and duty time limitations set out in Civil Aviation Order 48
The maximum flight time in any duty period will be:
Instrument Flight Rules
• with operative 3 axis auto pilot 8 hours
•without operative 3 axis autopilot 6 hours
Visual Flight Rules
•Night 8 hours
•Day 10 hours

Severe Tropical Cyclone George



The operational capability of RFDS Western Operations post Cyclone George

Relocation of aircraft to an alternate location

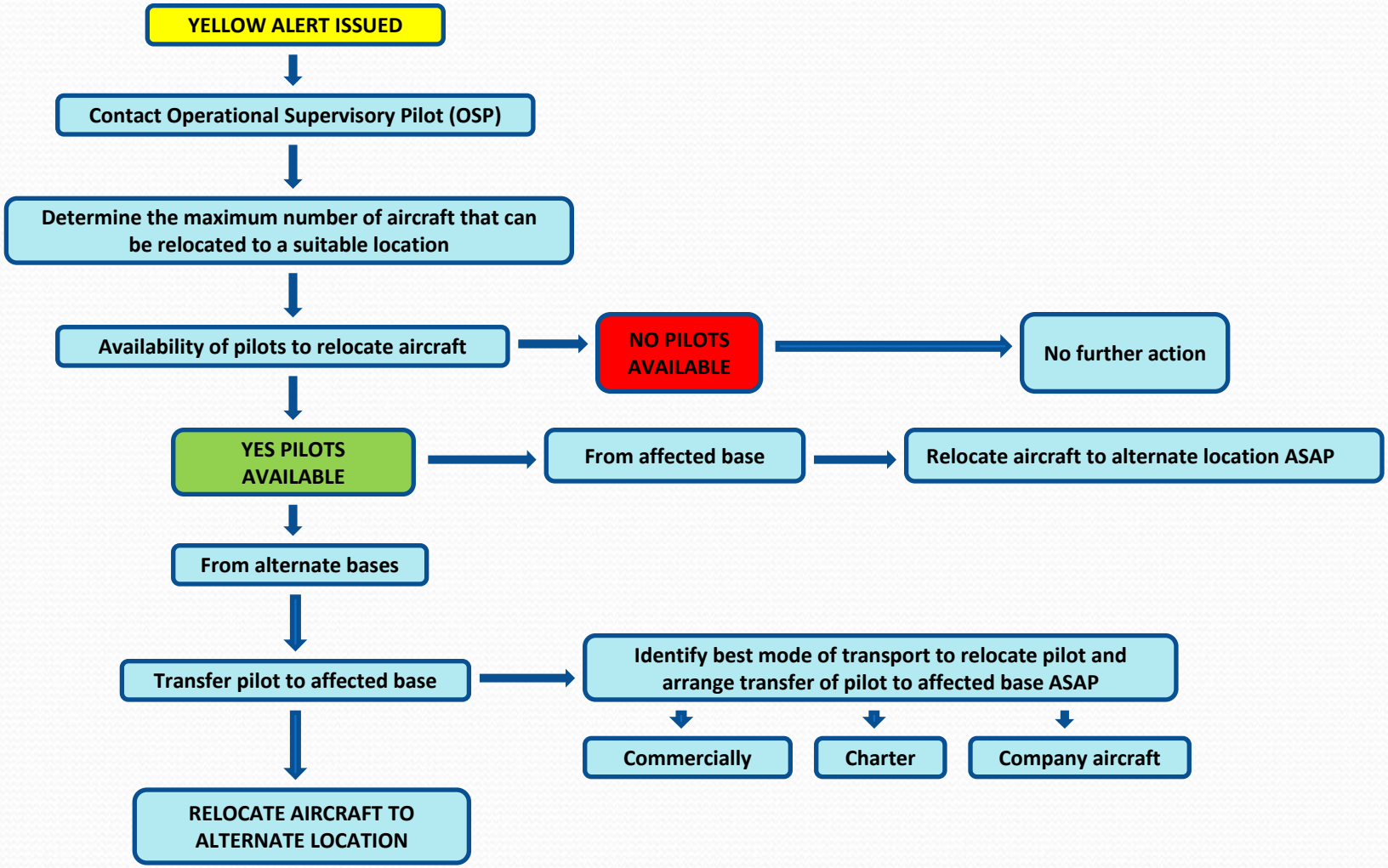
Relocating aircraft, a new concept?

Who will relocate the aircraft?

Western Australia Colour Alert System for Tropical Cyclones

Blue Alert	A cyclone has formed and may affect the area within 48 hours. Strong winds are not yet a threat but you should take precautions.
Yellow Alert	A cyclone is moving closer and is highly likely to affect the community within 12 hours. High winds are likely to occur in your area and you should take action.
Red Alert	The cyclone is imminent. Destructive winds are likely to occur very soon.

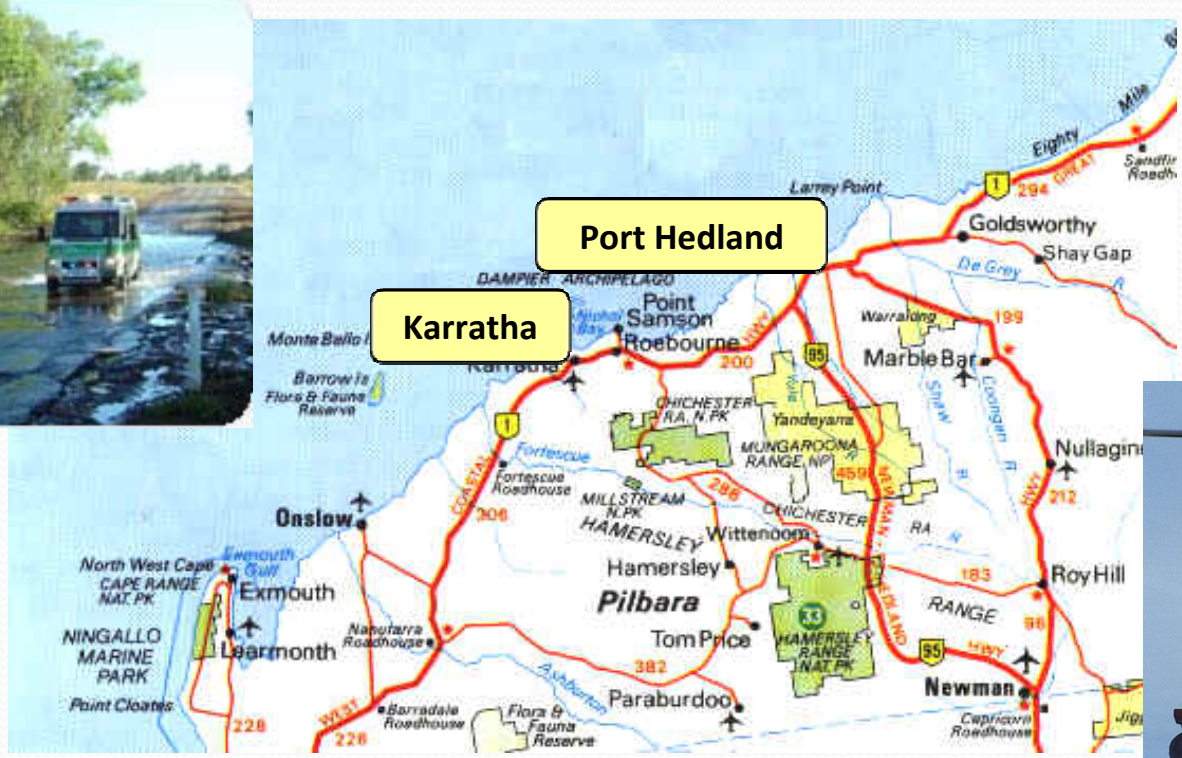
Relocation of aircraft plan.



Where to relocate the aircraft?

The relocation of aircraft also eliminates the problem of having aircraft that could be utilised but were unable to be used due to external elements

Providing a service to the affected region.



Maintaining optimal operational capability

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