



PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act) requires planning documents setting out how emergency management operates at the national and local levels. These are aligned with a national strategy.

The Emergency Management Bill (No 2) 2025 (EM Bill) strengthens pre-emergency planning with the aim of ensuring that local responsibilities and arrangements are well understood across the 4Rs of risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.

This will lead to better risk management, more effective responses, and faster recovery.

See **information sheet 7** for essential infrastructure provider planning.

See **information sheet 2** for recovery planning.

The **attached diagrams** set out the differences in the planning arrangements between the CDEM Act and Emergency Management Bill.

This information sheet contains information about:

- The National Emergency Management Plan
- Regional Emergency Management Plans
- Regional Emergency Management Planning Standards

National Emergency Management Plan

The National Emergency Management Plan will replace the National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Plan.

The current National CDEM Plan will continue in place until a new National Emergency Management Plan is approved by the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery.

Timeframes and consequence for review

If a review of the current National CDEM Plan is publicly notified before the EM Bill comes into force, it will progress under the CDEM Act provisions.

If a review is not publicly notified prior to the EM Bill coming into force, the Minister has up to 2 years to start and complete the review under the EM Bill provisions.

Seeking advice on Māori interests and knowledge

What's changing?

The Director-General must engage with and seek advice on Māori interests and knowledge to inform the development of the National Emergency Management Plan.

Why the changes?

The requirement provides a formal mechanism for Māori interests and knowledge to be considered at the national level to recognise the important role that Māori play in emergency management. It supports the Māori-Crown relationship established under the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force the day after Royal assent.

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Disproportionately affected communities

What's changing?

The Director-General must engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities to inform the development of the National Emergency Management Plan.

Why the changes?

Some communities are disproportionately affected by emergencies and experience worse immediate life-safety outcomes and increasing vulnerabilities in the long term. The outcomes for such communities often depend on their connectedness with their wider communities or representative groups, and whether their representative groups have information and resources to support them effectively.

Requiring the Director-General to engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities will ensure that the needs of their communities are considered in national planning.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force 12 months after Royal assent.

Lead agencies for emergencies

What's changing?

The EM Bill enables a government agency to be identified as a lead agency in the National Emergency Management Plan, in respect of emergencies caused or contributed to by a particular hazard.

The lead agency has the primary responsibility for managing the response to an emergency relating to that hazard – whether or not it is subject to a state of emergency. The lead agency responsibilities can be temporarily transferred to another government agency or to an EMC with the agreement of the agency or Committee receiving the transfer of responsibility.

Why the changes?

Clarifying who will lead emergencies at the national level will improve certainty and accountability before, during, and after emergencies. Identifying lead agencies in the National Emergency Management Plan provides greater flexibility for responding to future organisational changes.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force by Order in Council or no later than 2 years after Royal assent.

Targeted amendments to the National Emergency Management Plan

What's changing?

Targeted amendments to the National Emergency Management Plan may be made without following the full review process set out in the Bill. The amendments must be limited in scope and impact. They can cover (but are not restricted to) new hazards and risks, and updates to lead agencies. The Minister must consult with parties likely to be affected by any changes.

Why the changes?

New risks and hazards or issues and opportunities may arise frequently and before the five yearly cycle review of the National Emergency Management Plan. The use of targeted amendments makes it easier to update parts of the Plan to ensure arrangements are not left out of date.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force the day after Royal assent.

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Regional Emergency Management Plans

The Regional Emergency Management Plans will replace the CDEM Group Plans.

Timeframes and consequence for review

A CDEM Group Plan in place before the EM Bill comes into force will continue as if it has met the planning requirements in the EM Bill until its five-year time period expires (but will be renamed a Regional Emergency Management Plan).

If, before the EM Bill comes into force, a CDEM Group has publicly notified that it proposes to review its Group Plan, the review will continue to progress under the CDEM Act provisions.

Engaging and involving iwi and Māori representatives

What's changing?

When developing its Regional Emergency Management Plan, the Emergency Management Committee must engage with and involve iwi and Māori representatives from its area.

Why the changes?

Engaging with and involving iwi and Māori in planning is not required under the CDEM Act.

Iwi and Māori have unique knowledge, skills, and resources to contribute to emergency management across the 4Rs of risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery which come from their experience responding to and recovering from emergencies in New Zealand for centuries.

Engagement with iwi and Māori during the development of Regional Emergency Management Plans will drive better and consistent involvement of iwi and Māori in the emergency management system.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force the day after Royal assent. This provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act.

Disproportionately affected communities

What's changing?

Regional Emergency Management Plans will need to include arrangements for meeting the needs of disproportionately affected communities in an Emergency Management Committee's area.

In developing its plan, an Emergency Management Committee must engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities in its area.

Why the changes?

Planning for the needs of disproportionately affected communities is not required under the CDEM Act. Some communities are disproportionately affected by emergencies and may experience worse immediate life-safety outcomes and increasing vulnerabilities in the long term.

When is this happening?

The requirement to include arrangements for meeting the needs of disproportionately communities in Regional Emergency Management Plans comes into force 12 months after Royal assent. After that time, the provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act.

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The requirement for an Emergency Management Committee to engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities when developing its plan comes into force the day after Royal assent. This provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act, including if this happens within the first 12 months after Royal assent.

Managing animals during an emergency

What's changing?

Regional Emergency Management Plans will need to include arrangements for managing animals during an emergency.

Why the changes?

Planning for the management of animals during an emergency is not required under the CDEM Act. The loss of animals during emergencies can cause distress and trauma for individuals and negatively impact communities. Individuals may also put themselves and first responders in harm's way due to concern about their animals.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force 12 months after Royal assent. After that time, the provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act.

Managing offers of assistance

What's changing?

Regional Emergency Management Plans will need to include arrangements for managing offers of assistance from individuals and groups during an emergency.

Why the changes?

Planning for managing offers of assistance from the public is not required under the CDEM Act.

Ensuring offers of assistance are planned for means in an emergency those resources are already known and can be called upon immediately, as well as enabling the community to be useful and involved in the response and recovery effort.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force 12 months after Royal assent. After that time, the provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act.

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Targeted amendments to Regional Emergency Management Plans

What’s changing?

Targeted amendments to Regional Emergency Management Plans may be made without following the full review process set out in the EM Bill.

The amendments must be limited in scope and impact. They can cover (but are not restricted to) new hazards and risks, and updates to lead agencies.

The Emergency Management Committee must follow the principles of consultation set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (section 82) when consulting on the targeted amendments.

Why the changes?

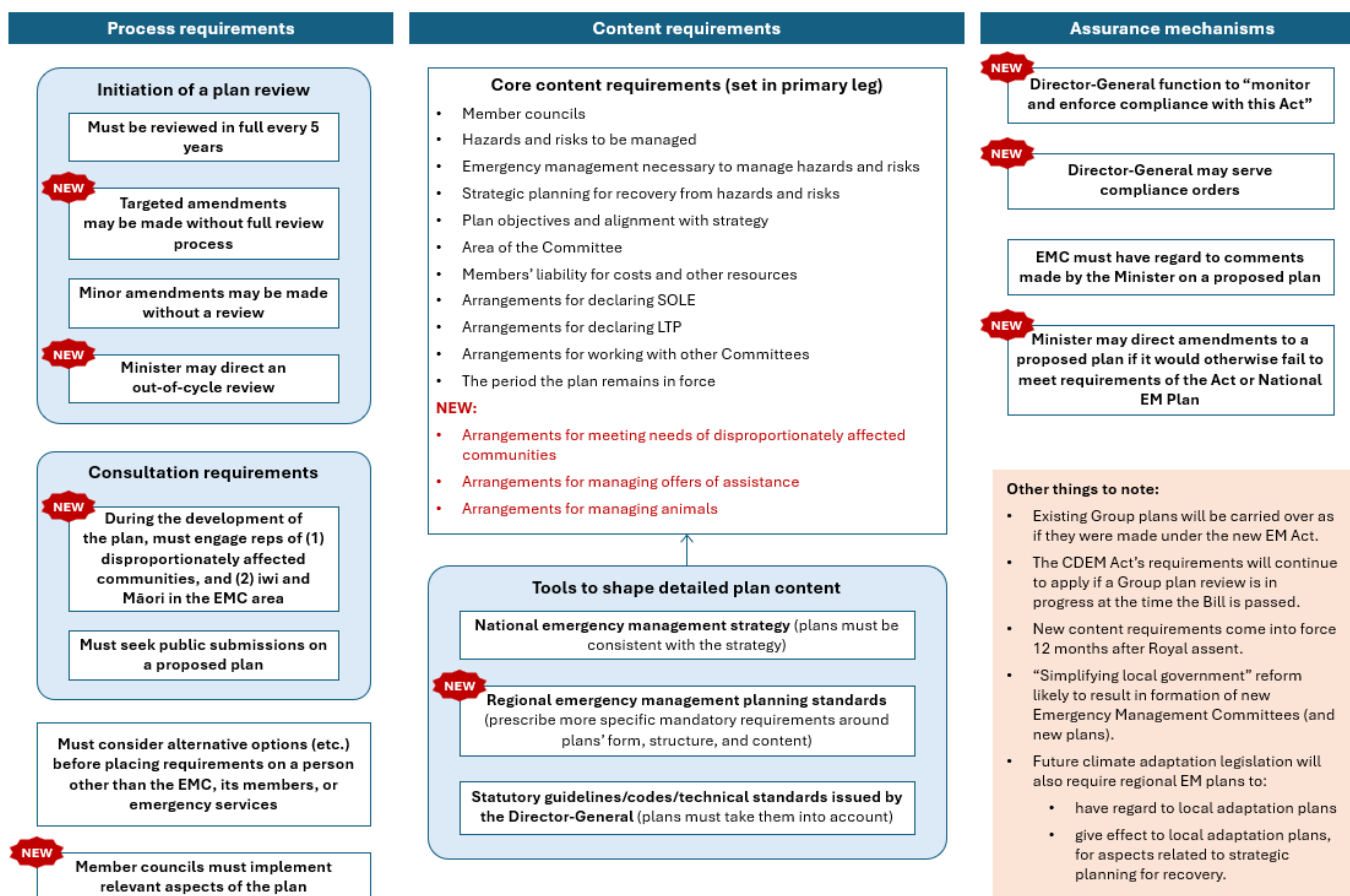
The changing hazard context for emergencies means that new risks and hazards or issues and opportunities may arise frequently and before the five yearly cycle review of Regional Emergency Management Plans. The use of targeted amendments makes it easier to update parts of each Plan to ensure arrangements are not left out of date.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force the day after Royal assent.

Overview of process and content requirements for Regional Emergency Management Plans

The following diagram outlines the process and content requirements for Regional Emergency Management Plans under the EM Bill, and the assurance mechanisms.



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Regional Emergency Management Planning Standards

What's changing?

The EM Bill enables the Minister to issue Regional Emergency Management Planning Standards.

Regional Planning Standards

A Regional Planning Standard may apply to the Regional Emergency Management Plan of one or more Emergency Management Committees.

In preparing or amending a Standard, the Minister must have regard to:

- whether it is desirable to have national consistency
- whether the Standard should allow for local variation and to what extent
- whether it is appropriate for the Standard to apply to one Emergency Management Committee, several Committees, or all Committees.
- any other relevant legislative requirement.

In preparing a Standard, the Minister must consult the Director-General of Emergency Management and establish a process that the Minister considers gives the public, local authorities, and Emergency Management Committees adequate time and opportunity to make submissions.

A Standard, once issued, can be amended or withdrawn in part or in full. Amendments do not need to go through the consultation process in limited circumstances.

Why the changes?

The Regional Emergency Management Plans are key tools to drive action at the local government level across the 4Rs of risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

The Regional Emergency Management Planning Standards will make planning expectations clear and ensure that there is national consistency where needed, while retaining local flexibility to determine the most appropriate way to manage hazards and risks.

When is this happening?

This provision comes into force the day after Royal assent. There is no timeframe for the Minister to issue Regional Emergency Management Planning Standards.

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Who is affected by the changes?

The following people or groups are affected by the changes outlined in this information sheet:

- EMCs developing Regional Emergency Management Plans.
- The Director-General developing the National Emergency Management Plan.
- Government agencies identified as lead agencies
- Representatives of disproportionately affected communities
- Iwi and Māori representatives
- Governor-General
- Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

Key terms | Ngā kupu hira

Royal Assent	The date when a Bill is signed by the Governor-General and becomes law (typically the next working day after it receives Royal Assent).
Emergency Management Committee	A group of local authority elected representatives who lead emergency management in their areas, including making declarations.
Minister	Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery.
Order in Council	A formal legal instrument made by the Governor-General on the advice of the Executive Council to implement government decisions or regulations.

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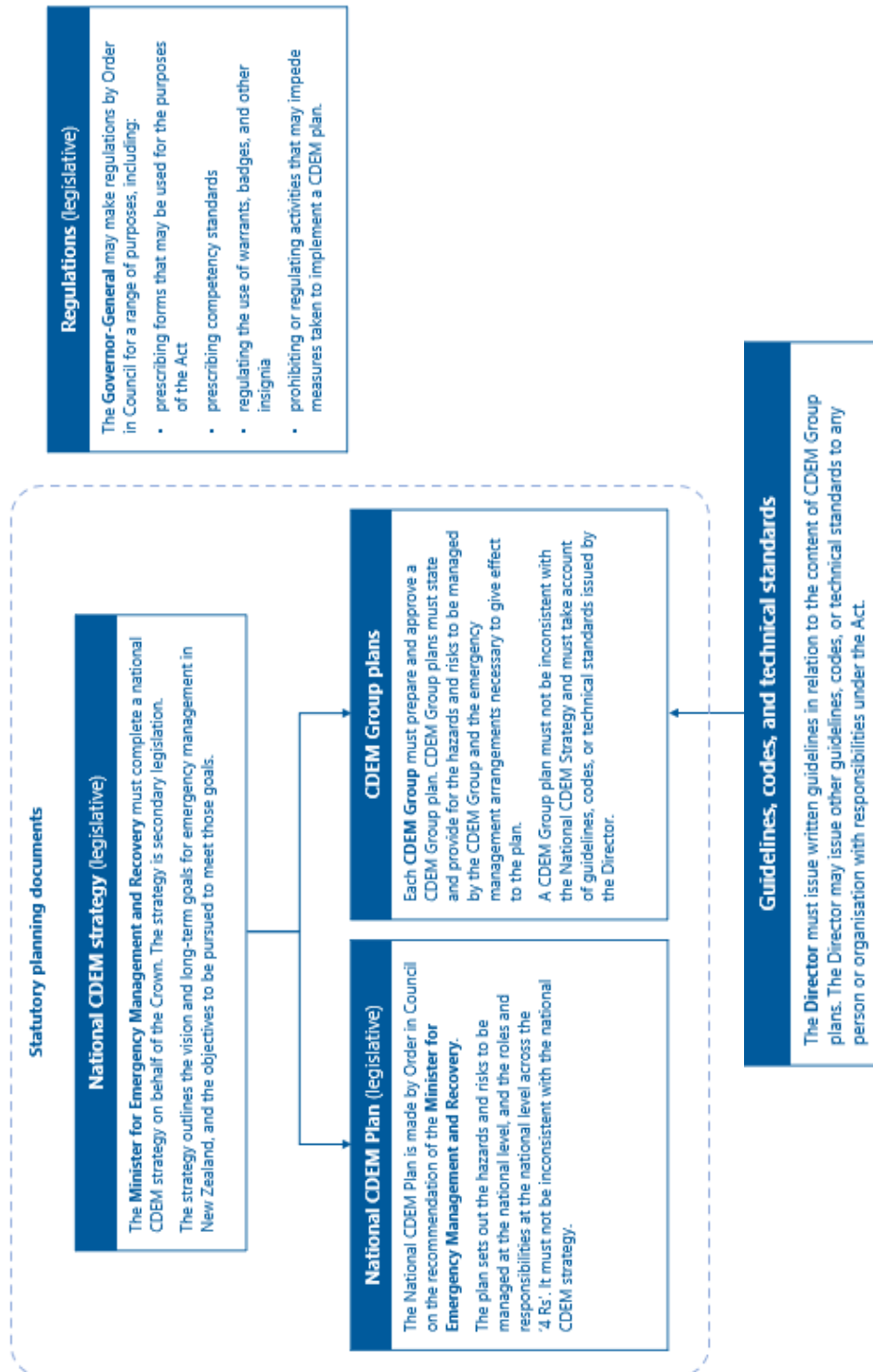
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Differences in the planning framework between the CDEM Act and Emergency Management Bill

The following diagram sets out the planning arrangements under the CDEM Act.

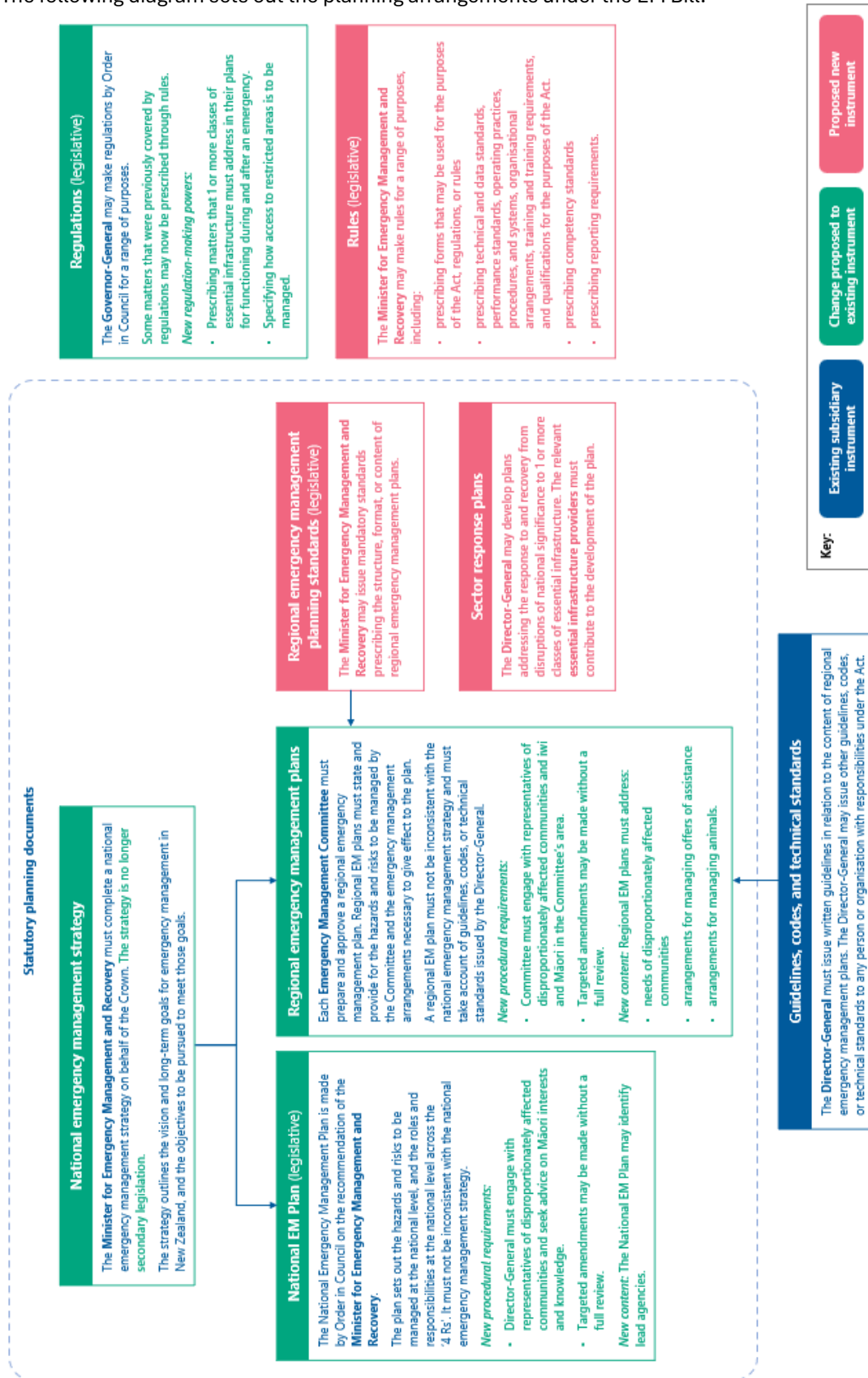


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The following diagram sets out the planning arrangements under the EM Bill.



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