



State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

3 September 2013 meeting: Highlights

The SEMC meeting's key discussion areas are summarised below.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT AND FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Sudden Onset Natural Hazards Project

Following on from the five hazard workshops held in May and June, the SEMC Secretariat compiled the data collected into a priority order (from one to five) based on risk rating, confidence level and associated tolerability. This data takes into account nearly 1000 records and is currently being analysed both within specific hazards as well as across the hazards. The interpretation of this information will be presented in the *Emergency Preparedness Report 2013*.

In August 2013, the SEMC Secretariat had the opportunity to present this project in a national forum. There was interest from other states and territories about State Emergency Management Policy (SEMP) 2.9–*Management of Risks*, particularly around the value of setting clear roles and responsibilities at the start of the process. There was also positive feedback of Western Australia's progress in undertaking natural hazards risk assessments and its overall adoption of a risk management approach in the emergency sector.

The due date for publication of state-level risk information captured for sudden onset natural hazards has been extended from June to December 2013. A key position held by most states is that the preferred presentation format for risk information is in a graphical form.

Bushfire Risk Management Planning Consultation

As part of the Bushfire Risk Management Planning (BRMP), 45 local governments were informed that due to their location in high risk bushfire zones they would be invited to participate in consultation to assist the development of a tenure blind assessment of bushfire risks within local governments.

SEMC Independent member Frank Edwards is leading the consultation process which began on 15 August 2013. The first workshop at the City of Rockingham was well received and included local government participation from the south metropolitan areas. The workshops include presentations by the SEMC Secretariat, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) with participation also by officers from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW). The workshops are also an opportunity to invite comments on proposed changes to SEMP 2.9–*Management of Risks*.

Two workshops have been completed in Perth and Busselton with another four taking place in Bunbury, Dongara, Northam and Albany until 26 September and a proposed eighth in October 2013. The SEMC was pleased to note the progress on these important workshops.

State-wide, all hazards, risk management project

The SEMC Secretariat continues to develop the finer details of the project with an "Implementation Plan" under development and to be released in the fourth quarter of 2013. This Plan will list all aspects of operationalising the project such as identifying stakeholders, staffing needs, technology, research imperatives, database and Geographic Information System (GIS) capacities, the development of a knowledge hub, minimum threshold risk criteria and tolerance, and minimum level outcomes and reporting.

Stock take of risk management plans across the State, District and Local levels will aid in the prioritisation of the project roll out.

POLICIES AND PLANS

Several policies and plans are undergoing review and changes are being considered as part of the SEMC's commitment to improving emergency management arrangements.

In terms of Westplan and State Emergency Management Policy (SEMP) changes and updates the SEMC:

- endorsed Westplan Fire
- endorsed SEMP ADP-14 Revocation of a Westplan
- endorsed SEMP 4.4–*Recovery Coordination*; a State Recovery Controller will be appointed at a later date
- noted progress on the review of SEMP 4.7–*Community Evacuation*, requesting a report in December 2013 and completion by March 2014.

The SEMC began discussion on the possibility of prescribing a new hazard for the disruption of telecommunications. The impact of a major disruption to the telephone and internet network could be devastating to the community. More research will be undertaken, particularly from international sources, to better understand the ramifications of this emerging hazard.

OTHER UPDATES

- The report “Building our Nations’ Resilience to Natural Disasters” was published in June 2013 and outlines the opportunity to further improve the safety of communities and make Australia a more resilient country. The SEMC noted the report and its three key recommendations.
- The 2012–13 Annual Report draft was submitted to the SEMC for comments prior to finalisation.
- The SEMC noted the amendments to Operational Procedures OP-11 and OP-13.
- WA Police informed the SEMC on the success of the Evacuation Flagging Project trials. The SEMC endorsed the Response subcommittee’s recommendation to extend these trials to a limited number of Shires. The additional data collected will allow for more informed decisions.
- The SEMC was impressed at the progress on the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Land Use Planning and Building Codes project.
- The SEMC noted recent updates from the National Emergency Management Committees and WA’s representation on the national subcommittees. The SEMC will be improving links with the various committee representatives to provide more comprehensive reporting.

SEMC SECRETARIAT NEWS

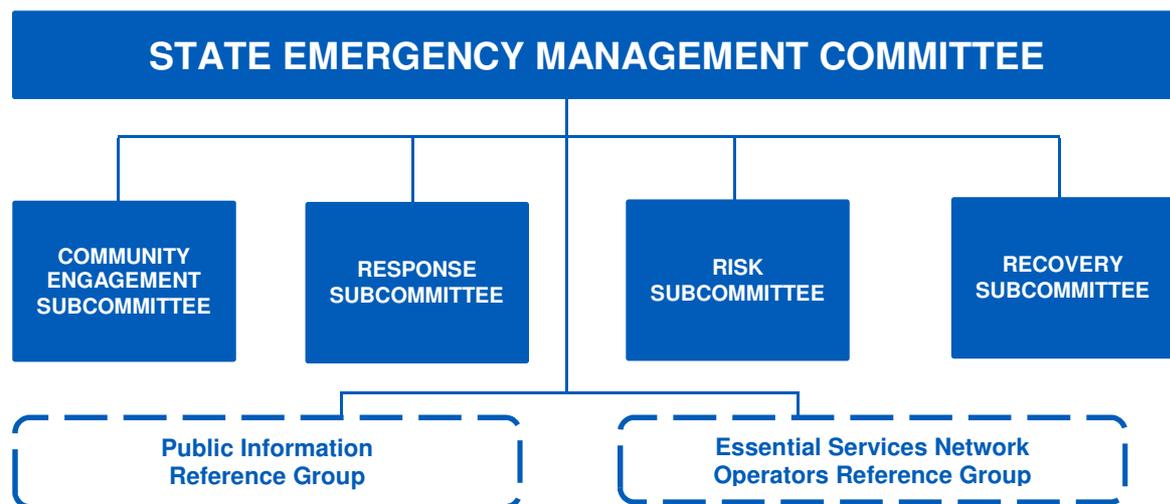
The Executive Director provided updates on a number of ongoing reviews and reports:

- The first draft of *Emergency Management Amendment Regulations 2013* prescribing the hazard of electricity supply disruption and the Coordinator of Energy as the HMA was endorsed by the SEMC.
- The 2013–14 AWARE program has been confirmed. The grant program offers new categories of assistance, with a particular emphasis on activities including preparedness, recovery, exercises, capacity building and research.
- The SEMC 2013 Annual Business Plan’s priority items are progressing well. Project proposals for inclusion in the 2014 Plan will be presented to the SEMC at the December 2013 meeting.
- The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) progress reports were noted.
- The SEMC noted the progress in the drafting of the *Emergency Preparedness Report 2013*.

THE NEW SEMC SUBCOMMITTEES

The SEMC Subcommittee structure came into effect on 1 July 2013 with the first meetings held during August to understand roles and set the content for the ongoing work plan.

Both the Risk and Response subcommittees recommended slight changes to their Terms of Reference (ToR). The SEMC endorsed these revised changes for both subcommittees and endorsed the new ToR for the Reference Groups.



A SEMC member sponsors each subcommittee and will ensure it works effectively and be the link between all subcommittee recommendations and SEMC related decisions and actions, while the Chair will be responsible for driving the work.

The Reference Groups have the role of ensuring all opportunities to maintain professional networks, monitor emergent trends, encourage debate and knowledge sharing relevant to the emergency management sector are considered.

The SEMC was pleased to note the minutes from each of the subcommittee meetings and the progress being made by the subcommittees.

SEMC MEETINGS

The next SEMC meeting scheduled for 2013 is on 3 December. An additional meeting is planned on 1 October to review the annual *Emergency Preparedness Report*.

Papers on issues pertaining to emergency management and its continuous improvement are submitted to the SEMC for their consideration through the SEMC Secretariat.

State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

Overview

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is the peak emergency management body in Western Australia. The SEMC, appointed by the Minister, includes senior representatives (Directors General and Chief Executive Officers) from key agencies essential to the State's emergency management arrangements and also includes independent members with various expertise in government and the private sector.

The SEMC focuses on strategising, organising and overseeing the coordination and continuous improvement of emergency management in the State. This includes:

- promoting shared understanding and responsibility across whole of government and the wider community;
- establishing an emergency management framework based on a risk management approach;
- promoting preparedness for emergencies to minimise their impact and accelerate recovery; and
- providing advice to government on any matter in relation to emergency management.

The SEMC Strategic Plan is available on the SEMC website (www.semc.wa.gov.au).

THE COMMITTEE

The 11 member SEMC comprises:

Ms Kerry Sanderson AO	Chair (Independent Member)
Ms Sue Ash	Deputy Chair (Independent Member)
Ms Noelene Jennings	SEMC Executive Director
Mr Frank Edwards CSC	Independent Member
Mr Peter Conran PSM	Director General, Dept. of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Wayne Gregson APM	Commissioner, Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Dr Karl O'Callaghan APM	Commissioner, WA Police
Mr James Sharp	A/Director General, Dept. of Parks and Wildlife
Dr Andrew Robertson PSM	Deputy Member, Dept. of Health
Mr Terry Murphy	Director General, Dept. for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Ricky Burges PSM	CEO, Western Australian Local Government Association

For further information, please contact the SEMC Secretariat on (08) 9482 1700.