



## State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

### 5 March 2013 meeting: Highlights

The SEMC met on 5 March 2013 and considered a full agenda with a broad range of issues and submissions. Key areas discussed and agreed during the meeting are summarised below.

#### RISK FRAMEWORK

Leading on from the December 2012 meeting resolutions, the SEMC endorsed the State Emergency Management Policy (SEMP) 2.9 "*Management of Risks*". This aims to be an overarching risk policy to enable a more consistent approach by agencies with responsibility for aspects of emergency management to assessing risk. The policy provides for AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 methodology to be used together with consistent risk criteria.

The SEMC noted the multiple ongoing risk projects:

- the delivery of the Risk Assessment project at a State-wide level (broad scale) for 5 sudden onset natural hazards by June 2013;
- the delivery of the Risk Assessment project at a local government level (local scale) to be completed by December 2015; and
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan consultation process for nominated areas (timing to be determined).

The Chair noted that there will be beta-testing exercises, workshops and consultations, as well as the development and implementation of a stakeholder communications strategy. The Committee endorsed the application of adapted Risk Criteria based on the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines for beta-testing and looks forward to receiving updates in subsequent meetings.

#### PREPAREDNESS REPORT

In preparation for the 2013 Emergency Preparedness Report, the SEMC Secretariat presented a proposed State Preparedness Capability Framework for endorsement. The 16 capability areas highlighted in the 2012 preparedness report were reduced to 10 areas, after stakeholder consultation and grouping of themes. The proposed capability framework balances both strategic and operational elements in assessing the State's preparedness. The SEMC approved the revised State Preparedness Capability Framework and expressed positive comments on the work undertaken in its development.

There was discussion about this year's preparedness report. The natural hazards of cyclone (including "Cyclone Rusty" which was suggested as a suitable case study as it demonstrated testing of State emergency management arrangements) together with storm events were agreed for inclusion in the focus section of this year's report.

The SEMC concluded that the 2013 preparedness report will include a section on Tropical Cyclone and Storm and an update on bushfire preparedness based on changes in the current season.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT REVIEW

The SEMC Secretariat collated comments received on the EM Act review Green Paper and produced a report on the review. This report was presented to the SEMC for consideration.

The report contains 3 categories:

1. Recommendations for legislative change
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2. Issues requiring further investigation
3. Ancillary issues – comment only (no legislative changes required)

The SEMC endorsed the Review Report commenting that it was comprehensive and had been the subject of considerable consultation and input. There will be further work required to progress through the complexity of the issues in category 2 and it was agreed that this will be undertaken by the SEMC Secretariat in due course.

## **RECOVERY REVIEW**

The DFES paper State Recovery Control and Coordination, which focused on the operational function of State Recovery, was noted. There was consensus on establishing a State Recovery Controller role within State Emergency Policy and that the Commissioner of DFES take on this role. For this change to take place the SEMC noted the 3 issues highlighted in the paper, namely: the need to have a new approved policy on Recovery Coordination, an approved revised Westplan-Recovery Coordination and appropriate resourcing.

## **OTHER POLICIES, PROJECTS AND PLANS**

A range of policies, projects and plans were discussed. These included:

- The SEMC's *2013 Annual Business Plan* progress of items was noted including the number of items currently underway.
- DFES updated the SEMC on their planning for delivering the *Command, Control and Coordination (C3)* project, which aims to provide a paper to the SEMC outlining the recommendations in changes to terminology, procedures, doctrine and training by June 2013.
- The SEMC Secretariat Executive Director provided updates on a number of other ongoing reviews, both within the state and nationally:
  - SEMC approved the development of the proposed *Westplan –Electricity Supply Disruption* as a hazard under the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*. This includes the prescription of the Coordinator of Energy as the HMA for the hazard of electricity supply disruption.
  - SEMC noted the Sub-committee review update. SEMC noted the DEMC/LEMC review update.
  - The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA'S) report was noted.
  - SEMC requested the Secretariat to proceed with a proposed review of the Policy Framework.
- The SEMC expressed appreciation of the significant effort that all Sub-committees put into their quarterly reports.

The SEMC supported WA Police as the host agency for the *State Crisis Information Management System (SCIMS)* and the implementation of "hub and spoke" model for a number of EM agencies.

An update on the Albany fires and a report on progress with implementation of previous reviews were also noted, and the importance of procedures to ensure that safety learnings are quickly shared and implemented was discussed. There is to be further discussion at the extraordinary meeting on 7 May 2013. The SEMC discussed preparation for this meeting and agreed that a number of emergencies be identified and that each agency would comment on their experience. The objective of this exercise is to provide an overview on the arrangements, lessons learnt and opportunities for further improvement.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The next SEMC meetings scheduled for 2013 are on 11 June, 3 September and 3 December. There will be two additional meetings, planned on 7 May and 1 October, to review issues from the previous season and annual preparedness, respectively.

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 SEMC website ([www.semc.wa.gov.au](http://www.semc.wa.gov.au)).

## THE COMMITTEE

The 11 member SEMC comprises:

Ms Kerry Sanderson AO	Chairperson (Independent)
Ms Sue Ash	Deputy Chairperson (Independent)
Ms Noelene Jennings	SEMC Executive Director
Mr Frank Edwards	Independent Member
Mr Peter Conran	Director General, Dept. of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Wayne Gregson APM	Commissioner, Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Dr Karl O'Callaghan APM	Commissioner, WA Police
Mr Keiran McNamara	Director General, Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Mr Kim Snowball	Director General, Dept. of Health
Mr Terry Murphy	Director General, Dept. for Child Protection
Ms Ricky Burges	CEO, Western Australian Local Government Association

A number of subcommittees (and associated working groups), with specific expertise, also exist and report to SEMC.

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