



## State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

### 19 August 2014 meeting: Highlights

The SEMC met on 19 August 2014 for its third ordinary meeting this year and opened the session by welcoming Mr Malcolm Cronstedt as the new Executive Director of the SEMC Secretariat.

Key discussion areas are summarised below:

#### STATE-WIDE RISK FRAMEWORK

The State Risk Project Manager gave a presentation about the work undertaken in the past months in preparation for the state-wide roll out of the project. A key requirement of this project is that it be carried out in a consistent manner across multiple agencies and at various scales. To support this, the SEMC Secretariat has developed a range of guidelines and tools which are available on the [SEMC website](#). The newly released materials include the [WA Emergency Risk Management Guide](#) and the [WA Emergency Risk Management Tool Box](#).

In addition, a knowledge hub is currently under development—as part of Phase 2 Website Redevelopment Project—that will contain hazard risk information sheets and videos tailored for the Western Australian context as well as a range of training materials to support the launch of the project, scheduled later in 2014.

The District roll out plan was also presented to the SEMC. District workshops are anticipated to begin in a pilot fashion in late 2014 and are expected to run at full capacity through 2015 and 2016.

The presentation was well received by the Committee. The Guide and Tool Box received favourable comment and were seen as very good initiatives and particularly helpful to organisations undertaking risk assessments.

#### NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The new National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience signed in late June 2014 covers the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015. WA will receive the balance of the agreement within the 2014-15 year. This necessitates that as many as possible prior year projects are completed before the end of the new funding agreement which is 30 June 2015. This is an important milestone as it may be used as a basis for allocating future funding. On 1 August, the new competitive process opened and will close on the 30 September 2014. The SEMC Secretariat, to ensure a swift process, proposes to assess applications and make recommendations to the SEMC by the end of October 2014.

The SEMC noted the end of financial year position for Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding and projects, and agreed to hold an out of session electronic meeting to consider the NDRP project recommendations. The extraordinary meeting will allow project recipients more time to complete projects before the end of the 2014-15 financial year.

---

## GOVERNANCE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

Following on from research conducted into emergency management governance frameworks, a consultant was appointed to provide policy and plan framework options based on research of other jurisdictions and contemporary emergency management principles and trends.

A Policy Review Advisory Group (PRAG) was also established to ensure effective stakeholder consultation with key emergency management agency representatives.

The SEMC noted the Discussion Paper covering the research summary and work carried out by the PRAG and endorsed (subject to careful implementation planning):

- the approach of combining the current State Emergency Management policies into a single State Emergency Management Policy document; and
- simplifying, and combining where necessary, the current hazard and support plans (Westplans).

## POLICIES AND PLANS

The SEMC noted the progress of the review of State Emergency Management Policies and Procedures and approved the prioritised list of these Policies and Procedures to be reviewed in 2014-15.

The SEMC approved the revised versions of the State Emergency Management Policy 2.5 – Emergency Management for Local Governments and Administration Procedure 5 – Emergency Management for Local Governments.

The SEMC approved the revised Westplan – Terrorist Act and Westplan – Liquid Fuel Supply Disruption.

In addition, the SEMC noted:

- the project to strategically review Westplans Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), Hazardous Materials Emergencies (HAZMAT) and Terrorist Act hazards. A working group will be established to undertake action items, consider areas for improvement and eliminate, where outlined, duplication in the plans.
- the initial draft of the Discussion Paper analysing the data from the Telecommunication Disruption workshop.

## OTHER PROJECTS AND PLANS

A range of projects, plans and updates were discussed and noted by the SEMC:

- The SEMC noted the following report reviews:
  - The progress of the outstanding items from the Keelty Report *“Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire 2011”*;
  - The August 2014 report from the Department of Parks and Wildlife on the Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire - Implementation Plan Progress.
  - The Parkerville Stoneville Mt Helena bushfire first progress report on Recommendation 2 will be presented at the SEMC December 2014 meeting.

The 2013–14 Annual Report draft was submitted to the SEMC for comments prior to finalisation. The SEMC also noted that due to its establishment as a sub-department, and to fulfill its obligations under the Financial Management Act 2006, the SEMC Secretariat is currently preparing its first Report as a subset of the DFES Annual Report.

The Evacuation Flagging Project 2013 has been completed and the concept “Green Means I’ve gone” was very well received by all participants in the trial. The SEMC endorsed the concept that green bags be used as the State preferred community evacuation flagging system for all hazards, unless the incident controller advises of an alternative method.

## **SEMC SECRETARIAT UPDATES**

The Executive Director provided updates on recent work undertaken:

- The report on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) was presented to the Committee. From the last meeting the SEMC received two sets of LEMAs from the Shires of Chapman Valley and Menzies.
- The SEMC noted the current status of proposed amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*.
- The SEMC’s Annual Business Plan 2014 projects continue to progress steadily including the Policy framework research, the State Risk Project and the 2014 Preparedness Report drafting.
- The District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Overview report was noted.
- The SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Groups minutes were noted.

Dr Andrew Robertson from WA Health gave an update on the Ebola virus disease and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). There are no reported cases in Australia and both diseases are considered to pose a low risk for transmission in Australia given the standard of health services. Agencies agreed to keeping a watching brief on developments and were confident about the State’s preparedness arrangements.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The last SEMC quarterly meeting in 2014 is scheduled to take place on 2 December. There will be an additional meeting, planned on 7 October, to review the annual Preparedness Report.

For further information, please contact the SEMC Secretariat on (08) 9482 1700 or visit [www.semc.wa.gov.au](http://www.semc.wa.gov.au).