



## **STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SEMC)**

### **4 AUGUST 2015 MEETING: HIGHLIGHTS**

THE SEMC met on the 4 August 2015. Key discussion areas from the meeting are summarised below.

#### **POLICY AND LEGISLATION UPDATES**

##### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

The *Emergency Management Amendment Bill 2015* drafting is complete and was presented to SEMC members.

From the original Cabinet approval on 23 July 2012 drafting had commenced, however was delayed due to queries raised by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and pending the outcome of the statutory review of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. Drafting recommenced after the resolution of these issues and Cabinet's approval on 18 August 2014.

The SEMC reviewed a copy of the Second Reading Speech, which provides an overview of the amendments, as well as an explanatory table. A copy of the marked-up Act was provided to the Committee to show what the amendments will look like once enacted.

The SEMC endorsed, for Ministerial approval, the *Emergency Management Amendment Act 2005* including the amendments contained within the *Emergency Management Amendment Bill 2015*.

The SEMC Secretariat Executive Director will now submit the relevant paperwork to the Minister for Emergency Services for his endorsement and progression.

##### **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROJECT**

The Policy and Governance Review project is progressing well and is currently consolidating the 15 individual policies, 35 Procedures and 27 Hazard Plans to create the single overarching State Emergency Management Policy, Procedure and Plan. The draft documents will be distributed in September for the required three-month consultation and should, subject to feedback received, be submitted to the December 2015 SEMC meeting for approval.

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## **WESTPLANS**

The SEMC noted the progress of the Westplan review and approved the following plans:

- Westplan Cyclone
- Westplan Flood
- Westplan Tsunami
- Westplan Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)

## **SEMC SECRETARIAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

### **NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Risk Assessment, Measurement and Mitigation Subcommittee (RAMMS) is one of four subcommittees of the Australian-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) that focuses on the development of nationally applicable risk assessment and mitigation methodology.

Among its primary work has been the development of the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and a range of supporting products as well as overseeing the implementation of the State-level risk assessment programs.

The subcommittee is chaired by a member of the ANZEMC and is supported by a RAMMS Project Officer and a secretariat based at the Attorney General's Department in Canberra.

Commissioner Wayne Gregson has been elected as the Chair of RAMMS for an 18-month term commencing in July 2015. A Commonwealth funded Project Officer will be recruited to support the Chair and the work program of this subcommittee and will be attached to the State Strategic Risk Framework team at the SEMC Secretariat.

Key work for RAMMS in coming years will include embedding NERAG based risk assessments at State, District and Local level throughout Australia. Also working to gain greater consistency in the risk assessment process, and developing treatment decision making methods such that cost effective mitigation can be enacted.

### **STATE RISK PROJECT**

Between May and August 2015, 12 district hazards have been investigated in the Great Southern, Wheatbelt and Kimberley. They have included Cyclone, Storm, Flood, Earthquake, Bushfire, Human Epidemic, Animal and Plant Biosecurity, Marine Transport Emergency and Road Transport Emergency.

The program will be continuing in the Wheatbelt, Goldfields, Kimberley and South West through the latter half of 2015 and into the Pilbara, Midwest and Metropolitan by 2016, focusing on the top five to six hazards per district.

The risk register now contains about 2500 records and these are expected to reach nearly 7000 by the time the district priority hazards are covered and the State workshops completed.

A Treatment Decision Framework is also to be developed to help decision-making around treatment options for the top risks.

The SEMC Secretariat is keen to canvass what areas are of interest to SEMC members and better understand what kind of strategic decisions they make, and would like to make in the future. This would positively support the development of the *State Risk Project - Treatment Decision Framework* such that it is tailored to output appropriate information that supports decisions that SEMC members and other agencies will likely need to make to enhance the State's resilience in future.

A workshop is proposed amongst interested SEMC members and the State Risk Project team to map the way forward.

## **2015 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT**

The 2015 Emergency Preparedness Reporting is well underway. Writing has commenced and the first drafts are expected to be presented by late August for internal review before external editing.

Agencies response to the capability survey have been good with 100 per cent of Hazard Management Agencies (HMAs), 95 per cent of Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) and 100 per cent of service providers already providing responses. This is expected to reach 100 per cent across the three categories. Local government responses have also been very encouraging with over 90 per cent return rate.

The report will be delivered to the Minister for Emergency Services by 31 October 2015.

## **BUSHFIRE REVIEWS**

The SEMC, in its role of formally overseeing and validating the response to the recommendations of post-fire reviews and enquiries, noted the progress made in the Bushfire Review Report.

The current bushfire review of the year's largest fires —O'Sullivan and Lower Hotham— is approaching draft development stage. Mr Gary Morgan, assisted by the SEMC Secretariat's Mr Stuart Gunning, will be compiling the consolidated report for SEMC consideration. It is anticipated that the draft report will be ready for an out-of-session consideration during late September.

## **STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE STOCKTAKE**

The stocktake aims to examine the current whole-of-government investment in management of bushfire-related risk. It will recommend policy and funding options for the future.

A questionnaire seeking agency bushfire investment and activity information has been distributed with responses due on 7 August. The SEMC Secretariat has engaged, on a part-time basis, the services of Mr Mark Webb PSM to lead the stocktake and has secured Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding.

A revised timeframe proposes that the SEMC consider a draft report in November 2015, for presentation to the Minister as soon as possible after that.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

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

- The proposal to amalgamate the City of Greater Geraldton and the Shires of Northampton and Chapman Valley for emergency management purposes was approved.
- The Commonwealth government's plan to reform the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and its possible implications on Western Australia.
- The District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) overview report. The members were pleased with the new improved reporting style and commented on the success of the first DEMC Chairs meeting held in June.
- The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) report.
- The SEMC Subcommittee minutes.
- The Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA) State Council resolution relating to the State Risk Project.

The 2014-15 Annual Reports for both the SEMC and SEMC Secretariat have been consolidated to form one single publication. The SEMC noted the sections of the report relating to the SEMC's activities for the year. The final report will be presented to the Minister for Emergency Services for tabling in Parliament at the end of September.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The remaining SEMC meetings scheduled for 2015 are in October and December.

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).