



## STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SEMC)

### 5 MAY 2015 MEETING: HIGHLIGHTS

THE SEMC met on the 5 May 2015. This meeting also included the Seasonal Review for the 2014-15 season.

Key discussion areas from the meeting are summarised below:

#### SEASONAL OVERVIEW

The SEMC took a renewed approach to the season review this year and focused more on strategic issues.

The last two post-season review meetings examined in depth experiences from member agencies, identifying key improvements and areas requiring development. However, the SEMC and its Secretariat have now established an incident review process (e.g. Parkerville and currently the O'Sullivan and Lower Hotham) and an increasingly sophisticated preparedness reporting framework.

The season review was divided into two parts:

- overview of significant hazard impacts over the last year; and
- SEMC agency perspectives on effectiveness of plans and policies in addressing hazard impacts.

The SEMC noted the major incidents that either precipitated to a State Emergency Coordination Group and/or WANDRRA activation. There were eight notable hazard impacts, dominated by widespread flooding and two major bushfires. The flooding impact on Carnarvon was significant as were the resourcing and fatigue impacts on DFES and DPaW.

SEMC members provided comments on the application of SEMC policies and plans during incidents. Gathering this information provides the opportunity to learn and improve and will inform the broader policy reform underway. This process is an essential feature of the SEMC's new Strategic Theme – *Impact*.

#### BUSHFIRE REVIEW

The review on the bushfires—O'Sullivan and Lower Hotham—is ready to commence. The SEMC Subcommittee, made up of SEMC Chair, FES Commissioner and DPaW Director General, have established the Terms of Reference. A \$50,000 grant from the Natural

Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) has been endorsed by the Minister for Emergency Services.

The aim is to undertake a thematic review of these large fires in the Shires of Manjimup (O'Sullivan) and Boddington (Lower Hotham) using a methodology to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

The following themes will be examined:

1. Operational vertical communications. The incident management policy and doctrine provides for a command, control and coordination structure to be established suited to the size and scale of an incident. The incidents subject to this review invoked all of the available arrangements and structures, across multiple agencies. This theme seeks to examine the efficacy of operational communications between the structures during their establishment, maintenance and de-mobilisation.
2. Interstate resource deployment. Substantial interstate resources were drawn on during these incidents. This theme seeks to examine how these deployments were effected and utilised.
3. Interagency Collaboration. Multiple agencies were involved during the bushfires. Involvement ranged across all tiers of government including private and not-for-profit sectors. This theme seeks to examine how well this involvement worked.

The SEMC Secretariat has engaged the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC to assist with the interagency collaboration theme. There will also be internal reviews from lead agencies to inform the review.

The Terms of Reference are available on the [SEMC website](#).

## **STATE RISK PROJECT**

Phase 3 of the project is actively underway with two State-level workshops carried out in March and April: Human Epidemic and Marine Transport Emergency.

The first investigated a credible worst case (haemorrhagic influenza) and near-worst case (salmonella outbreak) scenarios. The second scenario involved the investigation of a ship collision and channel blocking outside the Ports of Onslow and North Ashburton, and a ship collision and significant oil spill near North West Cape and Ningaloo Reef.

The State-level workshops will continue throughout 2015 and 2016 to complete a priority State Risk Profile.

District pre-workshop were conducted in March and April, with the South West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Goldfields and Kimberley District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs). Scenario planning is underway and the district risk workshop program will begin on 14 May 2015.

The Local level risk assessments have also commenced with a small range of local governments. They will progress later in the year with the distribution of risk tools, marketing and training.

The [State Risk Project introductory video](#) was released in late March and provides an overview to the project.

## **2015 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT**

This year's reporting cycle began earlier than in previous years with capability questions circulated to stakeholders in mid-April 2015. The questions have been tailored to agency groupings such as hazard management agencies, emergency management agencies, service providers or local governments. All agency responses are due on 5 June and local governments by 1 July.

The SEMC noted the proposed content for the 2015 report. The key strategic themes of Risk, Capability and Impact will head the main chapters. There will also be a section covering the longer term strategy for transition to comprehensive Risk, Capability and Impact profiling aligning to the new SEMC 2015- 2018 Strategic Plan.

## **GOVERNANCE AND POLICY REVIEW PROJECT**

Following the endorsement by the SEMC in March 2015 of the State Emergency Management Policy as a working draft, the Governance and Policy Framework team undertook further consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Principles Working Group, made up of agency representatives from DPC, DFES, PUO, WA Health, WA Police and SEMC Secretariat, met in April and agreed on the draft of the WA Emergency Management Principles.

The SEMC noted the proposed WA State Emergency Management Principles with a few minor amendments.

As part of this project, the SEMC Secretariat continues to progress the review of the State Emergency Management Plans (Westplans), with the aim of rationalisation. They will be presented at a future SEMC meeting for approval.

The SEMC approved Westplan Electricity Supply Disruption.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The remaining SEMC meetings scheduled for 2015 are in August, 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).