



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on the 2 August 2016.

The meeting began with a presentation by Mr Giles Nunis, Government Chief Information Officer.

Mr Nunis updated the SEMC members on Digital WA—a WA government ICT strategy launched in May 2016.

He highlighted the key objectives and project deliverables. Broadly, the project proposes one digital network for all State Government agencies using a common platform. Using an integrated network will result in considerable savings for the government.

The Emergency Services Communications Strategy is positioned under the Digital WA strategy aligning to the project, through common principles, aims and objectives.

Key discussion areas from the 2 August meeting:

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

Following the SEMC May 2016 meeting, the SEMC Secretariat was invited to prepare a detailed plan and cost breakdown for the proposed distribution of 2015-17 NDRP funds.

The SEMC is now in the unique position, where investment into reducing vulnerability from natural hazards can continue to strengthen the progress towards achieving WA's strategic priorities.

The 2015-2018 SEMC Strategic Plan focuses on developing a robust and integrated understanding of the 3 key pillars: Risk, Capability and Impact. In previous years, the Risk pillar received most of the NDRP funds. There is now the opportunity to commence the investigation into other priority areas such as Capability, Impact and Engagement.

The SEMC Secretariat also recognised the challenges faced by the SEMC Subcommittees—Recovery, Response and Capability, and Community Engagement—in proceeding their work. Each subcommittee would benefit from the receipt of NPA-NDR funds, helping to achieve NSDR priority outcomes, and significantly advance the priorities and strategies of each.

The SEMC Secretariat used this rationale to formulate a proposed detailed plan and presented recommended programs to the SEMC:

- **State Risk Project Phase 5** – continuation of the local level operational rollout and the treatment framework.
- **State Capability Project** – develop a strategic, state-wide assessment of capabilities.
- **State Recovery Support program** – support the delivery of key outcomes identified in the 2016-19 State Recovery Subcommittee strategic work plan
- **State Response and Capability Support program** - support the delivery of key outcomes identified in the 2016-19 State Response and Capability Subcommittee strategic work plan

• **State Community Engagement Support program** - support the delivery of key outcomes identified in the 2016-19 State Community Engagement Subcommittee strategic work plan

• **NDRP Competitive Grants program**

The majority of the funds will continue to fund Risk and subsequently Capability. Strategic capability is the overall ability of the State to effectively prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from an incident. As WA increases its capability, it should enable a decrease in the risks posed by a hazardous event, and therefore decrease its impact. The overall aim is to build the State's capability to match its risk.

The additional supplementary programs and competitive grants program will support the strategic direction of the SEMC and projects that develop safer, sustainable and more resilient communities in WA.

The SEMC supported the recommendation.

REFRAMING RURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO THE JANUARY 2016 WAROONA REPORT (FERGUSON REPORT)

The SEMC noted the findings, recommendations and opportunities for improvement included in the report including the work program and timetable for the development of the Government's Response.

The Government will formally respond to recommendations in the report after a three-month stakeholder consultation period.

Special Inquirer Euan Ferguson made 17 findings, 17 recommendations and 23 opportunities for improvement. Seven of the report's recommendations or opportunities for improvement propose actions to be taken specifically by the SEMC or Secretariat. In addition to the 7 recommendations or opportunities allocated to the SEMC, Mr Ferguson recommends the government explore options to streamline the functions and enhance the independence of the SEMC

Secretariat and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management. The SEMC noted these matters on which the SEMC Secretariat will commence work in advance of the Government's response, in order to achieve tangible outcomes as early as possible.

The SEMC also noted that resolution of matters including the SEMC's capacity to coordinate major incident reviews, and the future form and content of the annual Preparedness Report, will await the outcome of the current review of the SEMC Secretariat structure and function in the context of the Ferguson Report.

STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE STOCKTAKE

The Strategic Bushfire Stocktake report was noted by the SEMC.

The report includes an economic assessment undertaken by UWA researchers, into options for bushfire risk management in WA. This research evaluated the costs and benefits of implementing different strategies in two case study areas: the South West and Perth Hills. Broadly speaking, the benefits of adequate land-use planning, bushfire prone area building regulation and prescribed burning for fuel reduction were clear.

The report will now be presented to the Minister for his consideration.

SEMC SECRETARIAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

• The State EM Policy and Governance Review Project is currently planning for the remaining phases of the project:

- o Phase 4 – Review of Policy Content
- o Phase 6 – Review of Procedures
- o Phase 7 – Rationalisations of Westplan

• The draft SEMC and SEMC Secretariat Annual report 2015-16 was noted by the SEMC. Members have the opportunity to review and provide comments prior to finalisation.

• The program for the Commonwealth pre-season briefing is underway. The session will take place on 4 October and run from 10.30am until lunchtime. It will vary from previous years

and aims to be more incisive and informative. Formal invitations will be sent to key SEMC stakeholders shortly.

- An improved reporting framework was presented to the SEMC to be used within the Secretariat and as a tool for reporting to the SEMC.

STATE RISK PROJECT

To date, the State Risk Project team have investigated 47 hazard scenarios across WA with 2843 risk records in the database. Over 800 participants have been involved in the process to date from 110 federal, state and local government agencies, non-governmental organisations and private companies.

The State Risk Project is now focusing on further refining the development of the Treatments Framework. To date three pilot 'treatment' workshops have been conducted for the Kimberley data.

The next phases include the local roll out component. Planning is now underway for a selected group of local government stakeholders to start the risk process in last quarter of 2016.

OTHER UPDATES

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

- Emergency Alert costs and funding; Approval of the deferred review date for Westplan-HAZMAT to 30 June 2017
- The report and outcomes of the Strategic Review of Westplans CBRN, HAZMAT, Human Epidemic, Nuclear Powered Warship and Terrorist Act.
- Approved the revised draft Westplan-Earthquake
- Update on current local emergency management arrangements (LEMAs); since March 2016, the SEMC has received 17 new LEMAs
- The District Emergency Management Committee Overview report
- The minutes of all SEMC Subcommittees recent meetings

SEMC MEETINGS

The remaining SEMC meetings scheduled for 2016 are 4 October and 6 December.

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