



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 6 December for their last meeting for 2016.

The SEMC noted the establishment of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) effective 1 December 2016. The OEM replaces the SEMC Secretariat with the following added functions:

- A dedicated assurance structure within the OEM.
- The co-location of the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) with the OEM.
- The OEM will now administer Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA).

Key discussion areas from the December meeting:

FERGUSON REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provided an update on the extensive work undertaken in addressing recommendations from the Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire (the Ferguson Report).

The Ferguson Report Implementation Working Group convened by DPC is overseeing the implementation process. DPC will provide a formal update on the Government's response to the report's recommendations once available.

The SEMC noted that:

- consultation and discussions were underway about the creation of a Rural Fire Service (Recommendation 15)
- the review of the Emergency Services Levy would be carried out by the Economic Regulation Authority commencing in early 2017
- the Office of Emergency Management (Recommendation 1) came into effect on 1 December 2016.

The OEM Executive Director provided an update on the Ferguson Report recommendations and opportunities for improvement assigned to the SEMC and OEM:

- Primacy of life (Recommendation 6) - In October 2016, the SEMC approved the Strategic Control Priorities for the hazard of fire and the first SEMC Bulletin - Strategic Control Priorities for Prescribed Hazard of Fire published.
- Farmer Fire Fighter Units (Recommendation 9 - OEM and DFES are working together with a pilot site to be identified during the 2016-17 season to test measures to improve the uptake of existing arrangements for the use of private assets at bushfires. Aspects of this recommendation are also addressed through responses to Recommendation 13 (identification cards) and Recommendation 14 (traffic management).
- Traffic Management (Recommendation 14) - A working group has been established and met on 4 occasions. Current SEMC policy, plans and guidelines will not require amendment, however work will need to be undertaken to implement and communicate current processes and procedures. An aide memoire on Traffic Management has been developed.
- Community Warning Sirens (Opportunity 9) - Draft guidelines will be available for consultation with local government and emergency management agencies from mid-

December 2016. As part of the consultation process the opportunity for a trial program at two locations (with and without existing sirens) in the South West and Great Southern regions will be pursued.

- Recovery Aide Memoire (Opportunity 13)
-An aide memoire has been finalised and is available on the OEM website.
- State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (Recommendation 16) - See Establishment of the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE BUSHFIRE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

In response to Recommendation 16 of the Ferguson Report, the SEMC members discussed the establishment of the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) as a subcommittee of the SEMC. The Committee will be chaired by the Director of the OBRM and will come into effect on 1 January 2017.

The key responsibilities of the new committee will be to:

- develop a State Bushfire Management Policy and a set of long term bushfire risk management objectives
- provide a forum for key bushfire risk management stakeholder agencies
- advise the SEMC on matters pertaining to bushfire, in particular, to report against the investment in, and achievement of the bushfire risk management objectives
- provide advice and support to the proposed Chief Officer of the Rural Fire Services on bushfire risk management matters
- report to the SEMC and to the community on bushfire risk management matters on at least an annual basis.

The members reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference and membership, which were developed in line with the Ferguson Report recommendation and after consultation with comparable committees in South Australia and New South Wales.

The SEMC noted that the Minister for Emergency Services would dissolve the Interagency Bushfire Managements once the SBCC is established.

The members agreed to review the SBCC after the establishment of the Rural Fire Service.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION UPDATE

The SEMC approved the proposed amendments to the suite of State EM documents.

Since the new suite of documents came into effect on 24 May 2016, a number of amendments have been identified including:

- amendments to refer to the OEM website
- insertion of references to the strategic control priorities
- clarifications in relation to directed evacuations
- minor amendments to clarify intent
- correction of some inconsistencies, typographical errors and minor omissions of content.

All updated versions will be published on the OEM website by the 16 December 2016.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROJECT

With the completion of the suite of State EM documents in May 2016, the OEM has commenced detailed project planning for the remaining phases of the project, namely phases 4, 6 and 7.

Phase 4 is being undertaken in two parts:

- issues identification and stakeholder consultation phase (Phase 4A)
- policy review and development (Phase 4B)

As part of phase 6, the State EM procedures will be updated in line with amendments to EM Policy and Plans, while Phase 7 will see the rationalisation and amalgamation of Westplans, and the conversion of Westplans into succinct Hazard Specific Plans.

The SEMC approved the Policy and Governance Review Project: Phase 4A: Key Findings Report and its release to emergency management agencies, the SEMC Subcommittees and District Emergency Management Committees.

POLICIES AND PLANS

- Approved Westplan – Marine Transport Emergency and noted the Exercise Beadon report.

- Approved the revocation of Westplan – Telecommunications, as a support function, noting that the broader issue of telecommunications disruption as a hazard is being considered by the OEM.
- Approved the correction to Westplan Fire. The words 'by mutual agreement' in section 4.1 – Responsibility for Response of Westplan to be removed.

STATE RISK PROJECT

Since 2013 the State Risk Project team has been working to gain consistent and comprehensive coverage of risks posed from the 27 hazards prescribed in legislation against the 6 State Core Objectives. This is being carried out at a State, district and local level.

The SEMC noted the progress of the State Risk Project.

State level - during October and November 2016, the team completed two State level hazards (HAZMAT, Rail Crash – passenger. They have a further 10 hazards planned for 2017.

District level - at the district level, the State Risk Project team completed all the risk assessments. Summary risk reports are currently being completed. The full suite of district reports will be available on the OEM website by mid February 2017.

Local Level - the local level workshops are set to commence in early 2017. In November 2016, a trial workshop was held in the Great Southern with 6 local governments.

The workshop was well received and the method deemed to be appropriate. An additional workshop is planned for mid-December with 4 more local governments in the same district.

The full implementation will begin with at least four additional local government groups in the Metropolitan, Wheatbelt, and South West.

OTHER UPDATES

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

- The SEMC endorsed the joint agency (DFES, WA Police, WA Health, Finance and DAFWA) submission to support Emergency Alert costs in WA. DFES is currently the custodian; however members proposed transferring this function to the OEM.

- The CPFS will fund Register.Find.Reunite. The SEMC noted their intention to request that funding of the operational costs are considered as part of the Emergency Services Levy.

- The Comprehensive Impact Assessment template has been completed and available on the OEM website.

- The SEMC approved the revised Response and Capability subcommittee Terms of Reference.

- The triennial District Emergency Management Committee report including LEMA status.

- The minutes of all SEMC Subcommittees recent meetings.

SEMC MEETINGS

The SEMC meetings scheduled for 2017 are: 28 March, 2 May, 1 August, 3 October and 5 December.

For further information, please contact the Office of Emergency Management info@oem.wa.gov.au.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

