



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 1 August 2017.

The recent machinery of government changes have resulted in the resignation of several SEMC members. While formal membership is being finalised, Mr Mark Webb from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Mr Grahame Searle from the Department of Communities were invited to attend the August meeting as observers.

This meeting also marked the last one for the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Dr Wayne Gregson and WA Police Commissioner Dr Karl O'Callaghan, both retiring from their public sector roles. The SEMC acknowledged and thanked them for their valuable contributions over the years.

Key discussion areas from the August meeting:

PERTH STADIUM PRESENTATION

Superintendent Dario Bolzonella, Perth Stadium Project Team Leader, WA Police, Mike McKenna, CEO, Perth Stadium and Chris Loftus-Hills, General Manager, Events and Operations, Perth Stadium provided the SEMC members with an overview of the progress of the construction of the new Perth Stadium. The Committee was interested in better understanding, from an emergency management perspective, the planning approach.

With a capacity of 60,000 people, it is estimated that at full capacity 3% of Perth's population will fill the Burswood peninsula. Therefore planning and exercising emergency management arrangements is paramount to ensuring the venue is able to handle any incident. Public transport will move 83% of a

capacity crowd within one hour of an event finishing.

The presentation covered identified hazards and their risk based approach to events. It also explained how the project team has ensured integrated planning includes key stakeholders from WA Police, DFES, St John Ambulance, Department of Health, Public Transport Authority, Main Roads WA, Town of Victoria Park and City of Perth.

The venue will have an event control room which will be overseen by stadium management, WA Police and the Public Transport Authority. The room will be equipped with a communications centre and access to integrated and advanced CCTV (over 650 cameras). In the event of an incident the event control room will coordinate the activation of the Emergency Management Plan with emergency services.

The SEMC noted the emergency management structure, including the Emergency Control Organisation for an event. The new stadium is scheduled to be completed by late 2017 which will allow testing of all facilities to be undertaken in time for the 2018 events schedule.

MULTI-AGENCY STATE LEVEL EXERCISE

Under the State EM Policy, all Hazard Management Agencies (HMAs) with responsibilities for Westplans are required to exercise their plans. HMAs generally determine the theme and scope of the exercise with the aim to test the initial response aspects of the emergency.

WA Police proposed that the SEMC sponsor a state-level multi-hazard desktop exercise

for an emergency impacting the Perth CBD. This would allow for a collaborative approach by SEMC member agencies to the funding, development and delivery of such a desktop exercise.

The SEMC noted that a multi-agency state-level exercise involving major disruption to the Perth CBD impacting the transport network and involving mass casualties was required. Practising the state response (consequence management) to a large-scale emergency would demonstrate the ability of emergency services agencies to respond and recover from such an event and identify areas for improvement.

The exercise could potentially tie in with the 50th anniversary of WA's most damaging earthquake which occurred in Meckering on 14 October 1968 and the Commonwealth's intention to practise international assistance arrangements in conjunction with WA. It could be timed to coincide with the Meckering anniversary in 2018 and be based on a major earthquake affecting the Perth metropolitan area, including the CBD.

SEMC/OEM STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

The draft SEMC/OEM Strategic Plan reflects the establishment of the OEM's newly acquired functions of recovery and assurance. The assurance section of the draft Strategic Plan is still under development pending the government's direction regarding OEM's role in this area.

The SEMC approved the revised Strategic Plan and noted that once OEM's role in assurance has been determined the Strategic Plan will be refined and returned to the Committee for further approval.

NATURAL HAZARDS RISK PROFILE 2017

In 2013, the SEMC coordinated a series of risk assessment workshops to analyse the risks from the seven sudden onset natural hazards of storm, earthquake, bushfire, tsunami, heatwave, cyclone and flood. These workshops fulfilled the state's obligations under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Natural Disaster Resilience.

The second iteration of state-level risk assessments took place in May and June 2017

with results reported to the Commonwealth for NPA purposes.

The risks from these seven natural hazards have been analysed by their impacts to the state's economy, its people, public administration, the environment and the social setting. The approach used follows the ISO 31000:2009 standard and the methodology outlined in the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 2015. All hazards were assessed within a workshop setting in Perth using a credible worst-case hazard scenario developed by relevant hazard experts.

A total of 434 risk statements were assessed for the seven hazards. Of the risk statements assessed, none are extreme risks, 4.6% are high, 18.7% are medium, 50.2% are low and 26.5% are very low. While the majority (50.2%) of the risks have been assessed as low, each hazard does have some high risks, with earthquake and flood having the greatest number.

The SEMC noted the completion of the 2017 risk assessments for the state's priority hazards and submission of results to the Commonwealth. A detailed analysis of the results will soon be available in the Western Australia Natural Hazards Risk Profile 2017 on the OEM website.

OEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

COMMONWEALTH-STATE PRE-SEASON BRIEF

The annual Australian Government Preparedness Briefing will be held on 13 September 2017. It will include a strategic reflection of major events of the previous 12 months, recent changes in emergency management and future issues. Presentations will be from Emergency Management Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology, plus a joint WA presentation.

ASSURANCE FUNCTION

Pending direction from the government, the Assurance team continues to track previous recommendations from inquiries and is working on the development of a lessons management framework. This framework will complement the future assurance framework and will incorporate the holistic management of lessons and recommendations. An important component will be exercise management and incident review, through which behaviour change can be demonstrated.

2017 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The collection for the SEMC's 2017 Emergency Preparedness Report is now complete with over 160 responses from agencies. The collection this year has been more detailed and the level of incisiveness and granularity available is expected to be greatly enhanced. Analysis and writing is underway.

The report is due to the Minister for Emergency Services by 31 October 2017.

RECOVERY

Following the two Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) activations, the Recovery team is currently focused on managing the resulting claims. A new NDRRA Determination has been released effective 1 July 2017. Negotiations continue with the Commonwealth on the 2018 arrangements which represent a significant change for the state in how WANDRRA claims are estimated and paid.

A new recovery/strategic roadmap is currently being drafted for review and comment. This will inform the future direction and priorities for recovery in WA.

BUSHFIRE MITIGATION SUMMIT

The Bushfire Mitigation Summit was held on 23 June 2017 in Mandurah. The purpose of the Summit was to guide future strategies to mitigate bushfires in Western Australia. The Summit provided a forum to hear stakeholders' views on a range of bushfire management issues including the delivery of rural fire management. OEM assisted the Minister in arranging and conducting the Summit. In addition to the Summit, members of the public and interested organisations were encouraged to develop public submissions.

OEM prepared a summary of the issues raised at the Summit which is available on the OEM website. A total of 36 public submissions were received.

AUSTRALASIAN NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (ANHMC)

OEM will host the 10th ANHMC from 30 October to 3 November 2017 at the University of Western Australia. The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Francis Logan MLA, will open the Conference. The program was released on 14 July.

OTHER UPDATES

The SEMC noted a range of projects and updates discussed during the meeting:

- The SEMC noted the contents of the draft SEMC and OEM 2016-17 Annual Report. The report is due to the Minister for Emergency Services by mid-August 2017.
- The responsibility of the Ferguson Implementation Working Group transferred to OEM from July 2017. The SEMC noted this update including the progress on the implementation of the recommendations and opportunities for improvement.
- The SEMC approved the deferred due date of March 2018 for the review of Westplan-HAZMAT and the creation of Hazard Plan-HAZMAT.
- The SEMC approved amendments to the suite of State EM documents and the inclusion of the Attachment to State EM Prevention and Mitigation Procedure 1: Western Australian Emergency Risk Management Manual within the suite of State EM documents.
- The SEMC noted the imminent implementation of Stage 4 of the WA Public Health Act 2016. Members were asked to provide feedback on the Public Health Regulations 2017.
- The SEMC noted the local emergency arrangements for the Shires of Pingelly, Wandering and Kojonup.
- The SEMC noted the SEMC Subcommittee minutes including those of the newly formed State Bushfire Coordinating Committee.

FUTURE SEMC MEETINGS

The next SEMC meeting will take place on 3 October 2017. The final meeting scheduled for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 5 December.

For further information, please contact the OEM at info@oem.wa.gov.au.