



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on the 8 December 2017. This meeting marked the first with the new Chair Dr Ron Edwards.

Recently renewed, the 11 member SEMC comprises:

Dr Ron Edwards	Chair (Independent)
Ms Sue Ash AO	Deputy Chair (Independent)
Mr Richard Simpson	Independent Member
Mr Mal Cronstedt AFSM	SEMC Executive Officer
Mr Darren Foster	Member
Mr Darren Klemm	Member
Mr Chris Dawson APM	Member
Dr David Russell-Weisz	Member
Mr Mark Webb PSM	Member
Mr Grahame Searle	Member
Ms Ricky Burges PSM	Member

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Francis Logan MLA also attended the meeting and provided an overview on the current focus for the emergency services portfolio.

PUBLIC SAFETY MOBILE BROADBAND

Mr Justin Court from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided the SEMC members with a presentation on the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) network.

PSMB refers to the use of (wireless) data communications for public safety purposes by law enforcement and emergency service organisations.

Mr Court updated members on developments concerning the establishment of a national approach to PSMB.

The SEMC noted the update on PSMB and agreed that the SEMC and the Emergency Services Communications Strategy Committee will support the development and consideration of the PSMB in WA.

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS FROM THE MEETING:

NEW DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) are the arrangements which enable the Commonwealth to provide disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure support to all states and territories when an eligible disaster occurs. The Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) is WA's application of the NDRRA. WANDRRA are the guidelines that, based on the NDRRA, define the assistance available and the requirements that must be met to be eligible for financial assistance in WA. The Office of Emergency Management, as part of its Recovery function, administers WANDRRA.

The Commonwealth is presently developing, in consultation with all states and territories, new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) which are due to commence on 1 July 2018. Version 3 of the draft DRFA has been formally presented to all relevant Ministers in all jurisdictions for review and comment.

The new DRFA will be a significant change for all jurisdictions in their management of disaster funding arrangements. The Commonwealth has recognised the significant change to be implemented by jurisdictions and has updated the National Partnership Agreement to enable Commonwealth grant funding to be used to support the implementation of these new arrangements.

The SEMC noted OEM's Project Plan - Resource for Disaster Recovery Funding Implementation and approved the allocation of Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funds to support the implementation of the new DRFA.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE FUNCTION

Following the establishment of the Assurance Directorate within the OEM, the assurance team has undertaken research on potential assurance frameworks for WA. This included targeted consultation with Hazard Management Agencies and key EM agencies.

The 'EM Assurance Framework discussion paper' outlines the governance issues and potential remedial solutions, and presents a proposed EM assurance framework for consideration by the SEMC.

The SEMC noted the proposed EM Assurance Framework and will provide feedback out of session.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SEMC SUBCOMMITTEE SPONSORS

As the SEMC has a new Chair and both the Commissioners for WA Police and Fire and Emergency Services have been replaced, the following SEMC members have been appointed as the new subcommittee sponsors:

- Dr Ron Edwards - Risk Subcommittee.
- Mr Chris Dawson - Response Capability Subcommittee.
- Mr Darren Klemm - Community Engagement Subcommittee.

Ms Sue Ash remains the Recovery Subcommittee sponsor.

LESSONS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

In March 2017, the SEMC approved the OEM continuing with the tracking of recommendations from past inquiries as a matter of current business. Based on this, the OEM has developed a lessons management framework.

The framework will ensure that all lessons and resulting actions are captured accurately, and measures of success determined so that they are able to be monitored through to completion. The framework will also allow the SEMC to accurately report on the implementation of lessons and will provide them with a holistic view of improvements to the state's capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from State emergencies as a result of lessons identified.

The SEMC endorsed in principle:

- the proposed framework for consultation purposes
- the preferred lessons management oversight process
- the concept of a lessons management database with multi-tenancy architecture.

OEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

2017 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Francis Logan MLA tabled the report in the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2017. Tailored briefings on the report's context and findings are currently underway for Ministerial offices, agencies and interested stakeholders. The report is available on the [OEM website](#).

COMMUNITY ALERT SIRENS

The 'Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire' by Euan Ferguson AFSM contained an opportunity for improvement to develop policy guidance for local governments

regarding the installation of bushfire and emergency community warning sirens in 'at risk' communities.

The OEM has thoroughly investigated this issue and developed a discussion paper and draft bulletin. The papers were distributed to 156 stakeholders for comment. The consolidated view was presented to the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) in May 2017.

Support for the use of sirens was low. Key issues included infrastructure responsibility, siren effectiveness, and the availability of more advanced methods like Emergency Alert. The SBCC recommended that SEMC not have formal policy position and instead supported the publication of a guideline.

The SEMC endorsed the publication of SEMC Bulletin N. 3 – Community Alert Sirens.

AUSTRALASIAN NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (ANHMC)

The OEM hosted the 10th ANHMC from 30 October to 3 November 2017 at the University of Western Australia.

There were 221 attendees who took part in the main conference program (31 Oct and 1 Nov). Workshops and a field trip held on 30 Oct, 2 and 3 Nov were attended by 96 individuals. There were 104 organisations represented and 30 interstate and international guests.

The conference was deemed to be successful in its delivery, content and networking opportunities. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive.

OTHER UPDATES

The SEMC acknowledged and noted 26 local emergency arrangements (including several from the October meeting) from the following local governments:

- Shire of Augusta Margaret River
- Town of Bassendean
- City of Belmont /Town of Victoria Park
- Shire of Beverley
- Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Carnamah
- City of Cockburn
- Shire of Collie
- Shire of Coorow
- Shire of Cue
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- Shire of Dundas
- Shire of East Pilbara (first time noted)
- Shire of Exmouth (first time noted)
- Shire of Goomalling
- Shire of Harvey
- Shire of Irwin
- Shire of Mt Marshall
- Shire of Narembeen
- City of Perth
- Shire of Quairading
- Rottnest Island Authority (first time noted)
- Shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale (first time noted)
- City of Wanneroo
- Shire of Wiluna

The following projects, plans and updates were discussed during the meeting. The SEMC:

- agreed to extend the review date of the State Emergency Public Information Plan to June 2018
- noted the draft Committee Statement of Intent and provided comments and feedback. All amendments will be incorporated in a revised version
- endorsed State Hazard Plan – Tsunami, which replaces Westplan – Tsunami
- approved the proposed amendments to the suite of State EM documents with a date of effect of 18 December 2017
- noted the SEMC Recovery, Response Capability, Risk Subcommittee and State Bushfire Coordinating Committee minutes
- noted the minutes of the Mitigation Activity Fund Governance Committee.

The SEMC noted information provided in relation to the East Asia Summit Disaster Assistance Workshop proposed for 8 – 10 May 2018. The workshop is proposed to be held over 3-days, and include up to 120 State, National and International delegates. Members were provided with a list of potential attendees and the Disaster Response Toolkit factsheet.

SEMC MEETINGS

The 2018 meetings are scheduled for: 9 March, 4 May, 3 August, 5 October and 7 December.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides secretariat services that support the SEMC and facilitates the operations of emergency management in Western Australia. For further information, please contact the OEM info@oem.wa.gov.au.

