



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 4 May 2018. The key discussion areas from the meeting are summarised below.

STATE EMERGENCY ANIMAL WELFARE PLAN PRESENTATION

Ms Mia Carbon, A/Executive Director Biosecurity and Ms Amanda Nardi-Wallace, State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator, from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), attended the meeting to discuss development of the draft State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan.

DPIRD is the lead agency for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies. Currently they are in the process of developing the State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan in consultation with HMAs, Controlling Agencies and key stakeholders including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals WA (RSPCA). The Plan will be a strategic plan for the provision of certain elements of animal welfare in emergencies.

The draft plan is currently with the Animals in Emergencies Working Group for comment. The final draft will be submitted to OEM by the 28 May 2018, prior to being sent out to stakeholders for broader consultation in June. The SEMC noted the presentation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

In December 2017, the Commissioner of Police announced the implementation of 8 Metropolitan Police Districts in place of the 4 existing districts. The proposed district boundaries have been aligned, where possible, with local government boundaries and will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

The WA Police Force submitted a proposal to align the Emergency Management (EM) Districts within the metropolitan area and surrounds with the revised Metropolitan Police Districts. A discussion paper outlining the proposed 8 EM district model was submitted for SEMC's consideration.

WALGA will be consulting closely with local governments and WA Police Force to consider the proposal.

The SEMC noted the proposal with a view that it will be endorsed by 30 June 2018.

SEMC AND DFES SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

At the March 2018 meeting, the SEMC approved the draft Service Level Agreement 'in principle', with members requesting additional information to be included prior to finalisation. This work has now been completed.

The Service Level Agreement will ensure DFES provides the support necessary to the SEMC to enable it to perform its functions under the EM Act and achieve its requirements as outlined in the SEMC Strategic Plan. It includes the services to be provided by DFES to the SEMC, including performance indicators.

The SEMC approved the Service Level Agreement between SEMC and DFES.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Ministerial Statement of Expectation has been updated to reflect the Government's decision to integrate the OEM into DFES and has been signed by the Minister for Emergency Services. The Statement of Expectation indicates that OEM will support the SEMC until 30 June 2018, and that DFES will provide this support from 1 July 2018.

The draft Committee Statement of Intent, which responds to the Ministerial Statement of Expectation, was approved by the SEMC.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The SEMC:

- approved the minutes of the recent SEMC ordinary and out of session meetings
- approved the position that for all Level 2 incidents consideration must be given to the establishment of an ISG, and for all Level 3 incidents an ISG must be established
- noted the updates of the Policy and Governance Review Project: Phase 4(B), Project 1.1 (Emergency Determination) and Volunteer Protections Project
- approved the proposed routine amendments to the suite of State EM documents
- approved the revocation of Westplan – Heatwave and its replacement with State Hazard Plan – Heatwave
- approved postponement of the scheduled review of the State Emergency Public Information Plan until December 2018
- noted the progress of the lessons management framework and consultation
- approved the Terms of Reference for the new Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee

- noted the Local Emergency Management Arrangements for the Shires of Denmark and Boddington
- noted the SEMC subcommittee minutes.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

- A new graphical reporting method displaying progress of the State Risk Project and State Capability Project was presented to the SEMC for comment.
- The Capability survey for the 2018 Emergency Preparedness Report Framework is due for release to up to 170 stakeholders in May. The survey is online and is expected to return over 100,000 points of data related to strategic preparedness.
- The Commonwealth has engaged with all states and territories to discuss the new Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The new arrangements remain in a draft format with some details being finalised. The new DRFA will require significant changes to processes and systems which will take time to implement. If the new arrangement is finalised and becomes available to WA by the end of June, then WA proposes that it should be in a position to implement the DRFA by November 2018.
- The State Recovery Coordinator is jointly hosting a roundtable discussion with relevant State agencies on recovery issues following a mass-casualty event.
- The SEMC Executive Officer met with the Office of the Auditor General in late April to commence discussions on a suitable way forward for whole of government EM compliance. The OEM continues to develop an assurance framework for SEMC based on SEMC guidance.
- The National Partnership Agreement (NPA) Implementation Plan for 2015-2018 has been signed. The significant delays in the sign off process have constrained the OEM's ability to start the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). As such the NDMP competitive grants round will be launched in the 2018-19 financial year.
- The Commonwealth, in close collaboration with the states and territories, is embarking on the development of a national, five year disaster mitigation framework to improve Australia's resilience to natural hazards. The framework provides an opportunity to collectively commit to reducing existing risk, preventing new risk, and addressing long standing disaster risk information gaps. The work to develop the framework is to occur throughout 2018 and will inform the design of future funding arrangements beyond the current NPA extension.

SEASON REVIEW

The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner commented that there is the perception that the 2017-18 bushfire season had been relatively mild, but there had actually been a similar number of fires as in previous years. The key difference this year is that no significant damaging fire events had taken place. The milder summer was a significant factor in avoiding significant bushfire events.

Dr Andy Roberston updated the members on the flu season, commenting that the northern hemisphere had experienced a bad season this year and that Australia was expected to experience something similar. WA Health strongly encourage everyone to get the flu vaccine, particularly all vulnerable groups and health workers. The Healthy WA [website](#) has further information.

OTHER BUSINESS

The SEMC discussed the recent machinery of government changes and agreed that it may be timely to conduct a strategic review of the SEMC's reporting requirements. The SEMC discussed the collection of data already available, nearly four years of capability data, which can be translated, analysed and used to refocus on more strategic issues and community engagement.

SEMC MEETINGS

The upcoming SEMC meetings for 2018 are scheduled for: 3 August, 5 October and 7 December.

For SEMC related information or enquiries, please email info@oem.wa.gov.au.