The Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre in Perth was established in 1992 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Western Australia and the Hyogo Prefecture’s Sister-State relationship.

The Centre’s key aim is to promote the Japanese language, culture and exchange. The SEMC Secretariat has a particular interest in working with the Centre, to share learnings about emergency management frameworks and earthquake research. The SEMC Secretariat’s Executive Director and two senior officers met with the Centre’s Director Mr Akira Yoshida and Deputy Director Ms Melissa Luyke in 2014 and recently in March 2015. It was a positive meeting and the SEMC Secretariat is keen to link Japanese earthquake research with research from the University of Western Australia.

The SEMC Secretariat also attended the 20th Anniversary Memorial Event for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which was held at the Hyogo Friendship Garden at Dumas House, West Perth on 16 January 2015. An earthquake of magnitude 6.8 devastated Hyogo Prefecture in 1995. Over 6,000 people lost their lives, and more than 300,000 people were rendered homeless. This was known as the “Great Hanshin-Awaji” or “Kobe” earthquake.

The SEMC Secretariat visits the Hyogo Centre. From left: Muriel Leclercq, Akira Yoshida, Mal Cronstedt, Stuart Gunning and Melissa Luyke.
THE O’SULLIVAN BLOCK FIRE (SHIRE OF MANJIMUP)

The O’Sullivan Block fire covered 98,300 hectares of land with a fire perimeter of well over 330 kilometres.

Most of the damage was reported within the State Forest including significant damage to the Bibbulmun and Munda Biddi trails.

However, damage was also caused to private properties, rural farmland, state roads, electricity, telecommunication and local government infrastructure.

This fire also caused significant disruption to the local communities in Northcliffe, Windy Harbour, Pemberton and the surrounding area.

OASG ESTABLISHED

An Operations Area Support Group (OASG) was established in Manjimup as soon as the incident was declared as a level 3 incident. A total of 15 OASG meetings were held in Manjimup.

All these meetings were well attended by a number of key agencies including the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Parks and Wildlife, WA Police, Department of Child Protection and Family Support, Department of Health, Saint John Ambulance, Education, Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Main Roads, Western Power, Water Corporation, Telstra and Shire of Manjimup.

The role of the OASG is to provide strategic support through the provision of agency specific information, expert advice, resources and support.

The OASG meetings highlighted the importance of why all agencies including local governments need to work together to overcome emergency event challenges such as community welfare, evacuation, public information, security, essential services and business continuity.

ELIGIBLE DISASTER

On 6 February 2015, the O’Sullivan Block fire was proclaimed as an eligible disaster under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA).

WANDRRA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, with assistance from other agencies.

Through WANDRRA, the State and Commonwealth Governments provide help to people who have suffered the direct impact of a proclaimed natural disaster event.

South West Community Emergency Management Officer (CEMO) Vik Cheema performed the recovery support role in order to assist the Shire of Manjimup to establish the Recovery Committee and various subcommittees. He also provided support to the State Recovery Controller Mr Bob Hay with the provision of WANDRRA assistance.

The O’Sullivan Block fire highlighted that the relationships built within the local and district emergency management networks during the preparedness and planning stage provides the foundation for success during response and recovery.

As mentioned in the A Shared Responsibility The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review ‘A Shared Responsibility’ Recommendation 49, regular joint emergency management exercises also provide the opportunity to review the response and recovery capabilities.

South West DEMC members took part in a DFES State Bushfire Exercise conducted on 15 October 2014 and a DFES State Earthquake Exercise conducted on 11 November 2014.

The South West DEMC would like to thank all agencies including the Shire of Manjimup for their excellent contribution, collaboration and support during the O’Sullivan fire.
The O’Sullivan Block Northcliffe OASG Executive Team invited by Nola Marino MP to meet the Prime Minister during his visit to Northcliffe.

From left to right: Inspector Geoff Stewart (A/District Emergency Coordinator), Inspector Mick Hayes (A/District Emergency Coordinator), Nola Marino MP (Federal member for Forrest), Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Superintendent Ricky Curtis (Operations Area Manager), Superintendent John Tillman (Incident Controller), Vik Cheema (Community Emergency Management Officer).
SEMC RELEASES NEW 2015-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

The new SEMC Strategic Plan is a culmination of extensive consultation with SEMC members and SEMC Secretariat staff. Key changes include new central pillars which differ markedly from the previous plan and emphasise the need for the State to focus on Risk, Capability and Impact:

- **Risk** being the need to thoroughly understand our risk profile at the State, district and local levels;
- **Capability** being our ability to match known risk with effective treatments and address gaps; and
- **Impact** being our need to review major emergency incidents and learn from the experience.

The SEMC wants to develop the best emergency management arrangements in Australia through a range of strategies, systems and processes. To this end, an Annual Plan will be developed by the SEMC Secretariat to deliver against the Strategic Plan.

The Plan was sent to the SEMC’s key stakeholders as they play an important role in achieving outcomes described in the plan. Most of these stakeholders also contribute to the SEMC’s Annual Preparedness Report to government. This report is a flagship publication that provides assurance concerning the State’s preparedness to meet the effects of the many man-made and natural hazards.

DID YOU KNOW?.... Launch of the State Risk Project video

As part of the State Risk Project awareness campaign, the SEMC has launched the State Risk Project introductory video.

The animated video, which received over 500 hits in its first 5 weeks, has been extremely well received by SEMC stakeholders. The video captures the key objectives and plans of this complex and important project in an easily consumable, lively and light-hearted manner.

To view the two-minute video on the SEMC website please [click here](#).
BUSHFIRE REVIEW

The SEMC Secretariat will coordinate a review of the 2015 bushfires in Lower Hotham Block (Shire of Boddington) and O’Sullivan Block (Shire of Manjimup).

“The intent of this review is to understand the aspects of the event that worked well and could be built on, as well as highlighting any issues that can be improved. It will follow the successful model used in the Parkerville Stoneville Mt Helena Bushfire review” SEMC Secretariat Executive Director Mal Cronstedt said.

The report will be overseen by a subcommittee of the SEMC comprising, as a minimum, the SEMC Chair, Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner and DPaW Director General.

Further support will be sourced through the lead agencies (i.e. DFES, DPaW and SEMC Secretariat). Expertise will also be drawn from organisations such as the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) as required. The report is due to be tabled at the SEMC October meeting.

STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE STOCKTAKE

The SEMC Secretariat will undertake a strategic bushfire stocktake of whole of government activities and current investments in managing bushfire risk.

This stocktake will assist in gaining a better understanding of what is being done and what could be done better. It will also allow for a more comprehensive, integrated approach to management of risks, including funding options.

Since the initial Keelty-led inquiries into the Perth Hills Bushfires, significant work has been done to address the management of bushfire risk:

• Statutory planning policy is rapidly changing;
• Bushfire prone areas are being defined;
• DFES and DPaW fire-related resourcing has been enhanced;
• A system of developing local government Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BRMPs) has been developed;
• An extensive Are You Bushfire Ready risk awareness campaign invoked.

Despite this, there remains a need to examine more carefully what individual agencies are doing.

The SEMC Secretariat will deliver a report to the Minister by August 2015.
SUCCESSFUL NDRP APPLICANTS

Congratulations to the 21 organisations successful in obtaining over $1.6 million in funding as part of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program. The successful projects will enhance WA’s resilience to natural disasters, and contribute to safer, more sustainable communities.

High priority natural hazards that represent the greatest potential risk to WA are considered to be cyclone, bushfire, heatwave and flooding. Of the 26 projects being undertaken in WA (including State projects), the bushfire and flooding projects received a large proportion of funds, whilst all other projects will be undertaking mitigation activities to address all seven natural hazards.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICANT</th>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Belmont</td>
<td>Emergency Back-up Power Capability for Evacuation Centres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia (ADRA) Ltd</td>
<td>ADRA WA Online and Face-to-Face Volunteer Training Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Albany</td>
<td>Implementation of City of Albany Fuel Management Strategies (Stage 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Parks and Wildlife</td>
<td>Yawuru Joint Managed Reserves Fire Management Planning</td>
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<td>Department of Parks and Wildlife</td>
<td>Kalbarri Bushfire Risk Mitigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Parks and Wildlife</td>
<td>Parrngurr Community Bushfire Risk Management Planning and Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Parks and Wildlife</td>
<td>Punmu Community Bushfire Risk Management Planning and Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Albany</td>
<td>Torbay Hill Risk Assessment and Community Fire Management Strategy</td>
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<td>WA Local Government Association</td>
<td>Local Recovery Coordinators Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council</td>
<td>Understanding and Managing Flood Risk in Perth’s Eastern Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific &amp; Industrial Research Organisation</td>
<td>Integrated assessment of flood and stormwater management strategies – Bunbury, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Bassendean</td>
<td>Bassendean Flood Mitigation Program - round 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shire of Toodyay</td>
<td>Shire of Toodyay - Strategic Fire Access/Emergency Egress Tracks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Red Cross Society</td>
<td>Building Disaster Resilience of Community Service Organisations and their vulnerable clients’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA</td>
<td>Regional Business Resilience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Water</td>
<td>Murray/Peel Flood Risk Damage Assessment Study</td>
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<td>Midwest Gascoyne DEMC</td>
<td>Chapman River/Greenough River Flood Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shire of Kellerberrin</td>
<td>Purchase of Diesel Powered Mobile Lighting Tower</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Mandurah</td>
<td>Rewired for Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Parks and Wildlife</td>
<td>Reconstruction of a water point at the Pemberton Arboretum adjacent to Pemberton town site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire of Nannup</td>
<td>Nannup Welfare Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMC Secretariat</td>
<td>Bushfire Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMC Secretariat</td>
<td>Bushfire Stocktake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMC Secretariat</td>
<td>Emergency Services Communication Strategy</td>
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**DID YOU KNOW?... demystifying emergency services legislation**

*Emergency services legislation* is the collective term for the three statutes administered by DFES, including:


This suite of Acts, currently under review by DFES, provides the structure and powers for DFES, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and local government, amongst others, to respond to low level incidents including, but not limited to, bushfires, urban fires, search and rescue and hazardous materials incidents.

When an emergency incident escalates to such a scale as to require a coordinated response from multiple agencies, the Emergency Management framework may be used by way of invoking the EM Act and the powers of Part 6 of that Act may be enacted by a prescribed hazard management agency.

The EM Act underwent a review in 2012, and an EM Amendment Bill is currently being drafted to enact various amendments identified during the review.

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**SEMC HOLDS HUMAN EPIDEMIC AND MARINE TRANSPORT EMERGENCY WORKSHOPS**

The SEMC State Risk Project ran two highly successful risk assessment workshops in March and April: the Human Epidemic workshop and the Marine Transport Emergency workshop.

Approximately 16 representatives from various WA State Departments and agencies attended each of the events.

The workshops were run by the State Risk Project team, with Andrew Sanders (Project Director State Strategic Risk Framework) acting as facilitator.

Dr Donna Mak and John Heslop (Department of Health) presented the scenarios and potential impacts for the Human Epidemic workshop, while Helen Gladstones (Department of the Premier and Cabinet) presented on impacts and assisted with scenario planning.

Matt Verney and Steve Wenban (Department of Transport, Marine Safety) assisted with the creation of the scenarios and potential impacts for the Marine Transport Emergency workshop, which were presented by Matt during the workshop.

The two workshops are part of a series of State Risk Project workshops that aim to collate robust data in order to build the State’s risk profile.

The methodology used in each workshop is consistent, allowing for comparisons with other risk assessments and giving each one a robust risk rating.
Local Recovery Coordinators Workshop - Leederville

The SEMC Secretariat is presenting a Local Recovery Coordination workshop on Monday 4 May 2015 with Anne Leadbeater and other guest presenters.

Anne’s background is in emergency management and community development and she will be presenting on effective recovery planning for local government, how to incorporate lessons learned into recovery planning and community resilience.

Bookings are now full for this workshop, however if you would like to receive information about future workshops, please send an email to semc.secretariat@semc.wa.gov.au to be included on the SEMC mailing list.


This presentation featuring Anne Leadbeater with guest presenters from the Red Cross and WA Country Health Service will cover effective recovery planning, preparedness activities in preparing for community recovery and managing response to a major medical emergency.

When: Tuesday 5 May 2015
Time: Registration from 9:45am, commencing at 10am – 4pm (lunch provided)
Where: Department of Education, Serpentine Road, Albany

Coordinate Resources in a Multi-agency Incident – Albany and Mandurah

Nominations are now being accepted for the upcoming “Coordinate Resources in a Multi-agency incident” workshops being held on the follow dates:
Mandurah: Tues 2 June – Thurs 4 June 2015

These workshops are units that form part of the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management) and are suitable for local, district or state emergency coordinators, emergency management coordinators (Police, Fire, Ambulance) local, state or federal government officers who play a role in emergency or coordination centres and liaison officers in organisations that have a role in emergency management.

All workshops are free and places are strictly limited. For further information and nomination forms please contact adam.smith@semc.wa.gov.au

District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Chairs Forum

June will see the SEMC Secretariat presenting a forum for the DEMC Chairs and Executive Officers about the Secretariat’s future direction and goals, including links to regional DEMCs.

It is hoped that participants will leave with a clear understanding of their role, how they fulfil that role and what they can expect from the Secretariat. It will also be a great opportunity to share challenges and leave with strategies to solve them.
Analysis of emergency management training needs in Western Australian (TNA WA) Report

Thank you to everyone who provided valuable input, comments and feedback to this recent survey.

We have received a very positive response return and work is currently underway on analysing the data and planning the way forward based on the collated information.

The initial review has provided an avenue for presenting workshops, potentially on a quarterly basis. These will be guided by a more detailed analysis of the survey data and more information will be available in the near future so ‘watch this space’.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Call for Abstracts – The 8th Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference: hosted by the SEMC, Perth, 13-14 Oct 2015 (optional workshops 12, 15, 16 Oct)

Abstracts must be submitted by 1 June 2015

The theme of the 2015 Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference is Risk, Capability and Impact. Participants are welcome to submit abstracts for oral presentations, posters or workshop sessions that align with this theme.

- The main conference program will include a mix of keynote addresses and presentations selected from the abstracts received.
- The conference committee will select abstracts based on the relevance to the conference theme of Risk, Capability and Impact.
- Due to the conference program, there will be a limited number of oral presentations. Abstracts not accepted for the oral session may be accepted for the poster session.

Workshops

Workshop sessions provide an interactive forum for participants and presenters to dig deeper into issues. Please submit an expression of interest by June 1st if you are interested in running a 2-3 hour workshop on Oct 12, 15 or 16: visit www.anhmc.org

Trade Displays

We are offering a range of opportunities for businesses and organisations involved in all aspects of natural hazards to participate in the conference. For further info, visit www.anhmc.org

To submit your abstract (and for abstract format requirements), please visit www.anhmc.org