



SEMC Communiqué

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 8 March 2019. The key discussion items and resolutions from the meeting are summarised below.

TRACKING DANGEROUS GOODS

- Main Roads WA provided a presentation detailing the legislative and regulatory framework around restricted assess vehicles and as-of-right vehicles.
- The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety added to this by presenting on the legislative and regulatory framework around dangerous goods and their transport and handling.
- The SEMC noted the presentations and reaffirmed their intent to seek a stronger framework for transporting dangerous goods within Western Australia.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- noted the intention of the Shire of Victoria Plains to establish a Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) for its local government district.
- approved the Interim State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies with an effective date before 15 March 2019 and noted the Communication and Marketing Strategy for Interim State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies.
- noted the local emergency management arrangements provided by the Shire of Chittering, the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu and the Shire of Mukinbudin.
- approved the use of operational events to negate the annual exercising of the Hazardous Substances and Land Search State Hazard Plans.
- approved the revised review schedule of Interim State Hazard Plan Fire and State Hazard Plans Severe Weather and Collapse/Earthquake.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

The Executive Officer update summarised key outcomes since the last meeting that impacts on emergency management within Western Australia. It was noted the Telecommunications

Legislation Amendment Bill passed through the House of Representatives on Thursday 14 February. The Bill contains two measures that support the operation of emergency services:

1. The Bill allows NBN Co to provide access to its fixed wireless towers to police, fire service and ambulance service personnel and state emergency services. This will allow these organisations to deploy their equipment on NBN Cos tower assets.
2. The Bill allows carriers to deploy temporary facilities (such as a Mobile Exchange On Wheels) using their powers and immunities under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* in emergencies and other specified circumstances. This will mean that carriers will more easily be able to deploy equipment to support emergency service organisations and the community in times of emergency.

Risk:

- An all hazards, State Level Risk Profile is being developed for online access through the SEMC website.
- The current NDRP grants round is being informed by the State Risk Project, State Capability Project and Preparedness Report data.

Capability:

- A revision to the 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report methodology is underway with proposed emphasis towards initiatives and actions addressing key and enduring issues.

Recovery:

- Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements (DRFA) - The new Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements (DRFA) commenced on 1 November 2018.
- A recovery network is being established to assist in building local government capabilities and share lessons and best practice. A webinar focussed on 'Preparing for Recovery: Organisational Resilience' was held in October. 43 representatives from local government attended, with a further 69 viewing the recorded presentation online. A survey indicated an increase in understanding of the topic and an intent to implement changes as a result of what was learned. Future webinars are being planned.
- Local Recovery Guidelines are currently being reviewed, with the next 12 months focussing on the development of online tools and resources that support local government's recovery capabilities.

Governance:

- Scoping is currently underway to carry out an initial audit into the Preparedness Report and emergency management arrangements in WA.

- As of November 2018, of the 40 recommendations and opportunities for improvement, 34 Ferguson Report recommendations and opportunities for improvement were completed, with 6 in progress.

Investment:

National Partnership Agreement (NPA)

- The NDRP competitive grants, based on existing funding to June 2018, closed 8 February 2019. \$4.2 million is available for allocation. The next steps are for the assessment panel to make recommendations to SEMC at the May meeting for Ministerial approval.

Prepared Communities

- The Project Agreement for Prepared Communities has been sent from the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs for signing by the Emergency Services Minister.

All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE)

- \$215,000 has been budgeted in 2018-19 for activities that enhance community resilience, with \$87,000 awarded via the last competitive grants round. An upcoming competitive grants round scheduled to open in March will award the remainder of the funds.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband (Proof-of-Concept Trial) and State Costs towards National Project Office

Following the Council of Australian Government's approval of the Strategic Roadmap for the design, implementation and operation of a federated national Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) capability the focus will shift to a PSMB Proof-of-Concept Trial; the establishment of the National Project Office and concluding negotiations on dedicated spectrum for PSMB.

The trial is planned to comprise four different phases that will take place in laboratory, urban, regional and remote environments to test different aspects of the preferred national PSMB delivery model. WA will participate in the trial to ensure that the national PSMB service delivery model is fit-for-purpose, especially for the remote areas of the State.

The SEMC noted the interagency collaborative efforts between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Premier and Cabinet and approved grant funds to enable Western Australia to participate in the national 'Proof-of-Concept' trial for the PSMB.

SEMC STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 – 2022

The current State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 was approved in August 2017. There have been a number of changes since the 2017-20 plan was approved, including the issuing of the Ministerial Statement of Intent and the machinery of government changes to amalgamate the OEM into the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Further, many of the current members of the SEMC were not involved in the approval of the current plan. Given these changes, and that the current strategic plan is nearing its end date, it is timely to review achievements made under the 2017-20 plan and to establish an SEMC Strategic Plan for the next period (2021-24).

The SEMC approved the commencement of work to review and redevelop the SEMC Strategic Plan with a goal of releasing the revised plan in December 2019.

SEMC MEETINGS

The next SEMC meeting is scheduled for 10 May 2019.

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