

SEMC COMMUNIQUE

MAY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 07 May 2021. The meeting was attended by the Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Emergency Services.

The SEMC noted the appointment of SEMC Executive Officer, Ms Pexton as State Recovery Controller for Tropical Cyclone Seroja and that Ms Pexton will apply for a leave of absence from the SEMC.

The key discussion items and resolutions from the meeting are summarised below.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

- The SEMC discussed the current emergency events: COVID-19, Wooroloo Bushfire and Tropical Cyclone (TC) Seroja. The concurrent and enduring nature of these events have significantly impacted key personnel who have been working long hours for more than a year. The SEMC noted the work and support provided by the State Solicitors Office.
- The SEMC noted the Commonwealth announcement of the new [National Recovery and Resilience Agency](#) and awaits further detail from the Australian Government on the role and scope of this agency.
- The SEMC discussed alternative models for lessons management and assurance and the future of the Lessons Management Reference Group. The SEMC Business Unit will submit an options paper to SEMC at the August 2021 meeting.
- The SEMC considered a paper regarding the benefits of wider community use of personal locator technologies to improve land-based search and rescue. The matter was referred to the Response Capability subcommittee for investigation and to report back to the SEMC.
- The State Emergency Coordination Group reported a need for better data regarding the conditions and structural standards of potential evacuation centres. The SEMC requested the Response Capability subcommittee to initiate a project to update the evacuation centre register with a particular focus on wind rating and structural adequacy of buildings. To be completed as a priority project.
- The SEMC endorsed the Shire of Dandaragan's Local Emergency Management Arrangements.
- The SEMC noted the release of the State-wide Emergency Capability Summary. The SEMC also noted the status of the review of the Capability Framework and requested a workplan for beyond June 2022.
- The SEMC resolved to review and complete the draft SEMC Strategic Plan for consideration by the Minister.

State Emergency Management Framework

- The SEMC approved a revised review completion date of October 2021 for the State Hazard Plans for Earthquake, Collapse and Tsunami.
- The SEMC approved that the draft State Hazard Plan – Severe Weather be adopted as an interim plan without further consultation, noting that the Plan does not include material changes from the previous plans, and on the basis that a comprehensive evidence-based review of the draft plan will be undertaken, informed by the lessons identified from TC Seroja. Full consultation will be undertaken for the updated draft following the review.
- The SEMC noted the redesign of the State Emergency Management documents to meet the WA Government’s Accessibility and Inclusivity Standard. The new design will be progressively rolled out across the suite of documents starting with the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan, Procedures and Glossary in June 2021.
- The SEMC approved statement of fact amendments to the State Emergency Management Policy and Procedure as part of the overall project to redesign the Emergency Management documents.

A summary of all amendments made to the State Emergency Management Framework can be found at the SEMC website by viewing the [State Emergency Management Document Amendments and Review Schedule](#).

The following Emergency Management documents are scheduled to go out for consultation in the coming period:

Currently consulting on:

- State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act/Terrorist Act (restricted access)
- State Hazard Plan – Animal Plant and Biosecurity
- Lessons Management Guideline

June/July

- District Emergency Management Committee Members Handbook
- State Hazard Plan – Tsunami
- State Hazard Plan – Earthquake
- State Hazard Plan – Collapse
- State Hazard Plan – Maritime Environmental Emergencies
- State Emergency Management Plan: roles and responsibilities; and
- State Emergency Management Response Procedure 20: Australian Government Physical Assistance/Defence Assistance to Civil Communities.

For further information on the State Emergency Management Framework, please contact semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

Subcommittee's and Reference Groups

Key outcomes of Subcommittee's and Reference Groups meetings were noted, including the inaugural meeting of the Public Safety Communications Subcommittee.

SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Groups proposed meetings dates for the upcoming period:

State Exercise Coordination Team	11 June 2021
Lessons Management Reference Group	17 June 2021
Essential Services Network Reference Group	17 June 2021
Public Safety Communications Subcommittee	22 June 2021
Response Capability Subcommittee	23 June 2021
Risk Subcommittee	24 June 2021
Recovery & Community Engagement	25 June 2021
Public Information Reference Group	3 August 2021

Grant Updates

The SEMC endorsed the revised dates for the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Fund competitive grant rounds and approved the opening of the first grant round in June 2021 pending Commonwealth agreement. The National Disaster Risk Reduction fund replaces the National Disaster Resilience Program and will deliver \$12.528 Million of funding over five (5) years. Further information is available on the [SEMC website Grants page](#).

SEMC Capability Survey

The SEMC Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey (the capability survey) opened in April. Respondents have approximately 8 weeks to complete and submit their organisation's survey, due in June 2021. Completion of the survey is an eligibility requirement for the NDRR grant program. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services – State Capability Team manage the survey on behalf of the SEMC. For more information, please contact semc.capability@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Resilient Australia Awards- Closing 18 June 2021 (extended)



Do you have a disaster resilience initiative to share with Australia?

Submit now: aidr.org.au/raa

 SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

 RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Now in its 22nd year, the Resilient Australia Awards recognise outstanding contributions across eight categories. Winning submissions in each state and territory are considered for national awards. These Awards are an opportunity to highlight initiatives that are making communities safer, more connected and better prepared.

Submissions will now be accepted until 11.59pm AEST on Friday 18 June 2021.

For details and guidelines, visit www.aidr.org.au/raa.

The next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Friday 13 August 2021.

Agenda item submissions are currently open and close on Friday 23 July 2021.