

SEMC COMMUNIQUE

MARCH 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 05 March 2021. The key discussion items and resolutions from the meeting are summarised below.

The Honorable Francis Logan, MLA outgoing Minister for Emergency Services joined the meeting and expressed his thanks to all in the emergency management sector for their hard work and contributions during his time as Minister and commented on the outstanding manner in which Western Australia (WA) has managed recent emergencies.

Discussion Items

- The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner confirmed that the State Government has not yet provided a formal response to the [Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#). A position is anticipated following appointment of the new Cabinet in WA. Notwithstanding this, the Commonwealth is progressing seven priority recommendations through the Australian- New Zealand Emergency Management Council ahead of the 2021-22 high risk weather season.
- The Government Chief Information Officer and Executive Director Corporate Services, Department of Fire and Emergency Services provide an update on innovations and progress made to date in addressing issues relating to telecommunications reliability and capacity in emergencies, on behalf of the Public Safety Communications Sub-committee.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services presented a summary of the proposed key strategic directions for the [WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy](#). The committee discussed the opportunities in this work and correlation with other current strategic initiatives.
- The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment presented an overview of the arrangements for managing human health on international commercial vessels. Lessons learnt and the strengthened collaboration between all levels of government and with non-government agencies was highlighted, of particular the partnership with WA Health in response to COVID-19 cases on vessels in WA ports.

Grant Updates

The SEMC approved the 2020/21 [All Western Australians Reducing Emergencies \(AWARE\)](#) competitive grant round. Over \$230,000 allocated across 16 local projects that aim to enhance WA's Emergency Management arrangements by investing in capacity building and preparedness activities at a local level. Congratulations to the successful applicants.

State Emergency Management Framework

- The SEMC approved the updated [Local Recovery Guidelines](#) and Local Coordinator Aide Memoire to improve the guidance provided to state agencies and local government for the preparation of a Local Recovery Plan and management of the recovery process in emergency affected communities.
- The SEMC approved the revision of [State Hazard Plan- Hazardous Materials Emergencies Annex A: Radiation Escape from Nuclear Powered Warship](#). The revision was carried out in line with the five yearly review in accordance with State Emergency Management Policy.
- The SEMC approved updates to the [Impact Statement Guide and Template](#) (attachment to State Emergency Management Recovery Procedure 4) and the consequential amendments to the State Emergency Management Plan Section 6.4 and State Emergency Management Recovery Procedure 4. The updates address feedback on the need for more support and guidance for impact statement and when an Impact Statement was required.
- The SEMC approved the updates to [State Emergency Management Procedures 1-5](#). The updates provide further clarity and consistency across procedures.

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 EM Policies are scheduled to go out for consultation in the coming period:

March

WA Police Force SHP Hostile Act/Terrorist Act (restricted)

April

DFES SHP Severe Weather/Earthquake/Collapse

DFES SHP Tsunami

DoT SHP Maritime Environmental Emergencies

DPIRD SHP Animal Plant and Biosecurity

Managing Exercises Guideline and Lessons

May

State EM Plan roles and responsibilities

Review of Australian Government Physical Assistance/Defence Assistance to civil Communities (State Response Procedure 20). (proposed)

For further information please contact semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

Sub Committee's and Reference Groups

Chairs and Executive Officers of the all SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Groups (the committees) participated in the Annual meeting chaired by SEMC Deputy Chair Emma Cole. The committees identified the priorities for the 2021-22 and identifying challenges that may impede achievement.

Upcoming SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Group Meetings for the period:

- Response Capability Subcommittee 24 March 2021
- Recovery & Community Engagement 26 March 2021
- Public Safety Communications 07 April 2021
- Risk Subcommittee 15 April 2021
- Public Information Reference Group 5 May 2021

Resilient Australia Awards



[The Resilient Australia Awards](#) celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors. This year a new category has been added to the program Resilient Australia Mental Health and Wellbeing Award

For further information on the program and to submit your project for an award, visit the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience website. Applications close Thursday 3 June 2021.

Local Government State Capability Webinar Link

On the 16th March 2021, WALGA and DFES co-hosted a webinar for local governments (LG) on the topic of State emergency management capability.

Presented by Peta Turner, Program Leader, DFES State Capability Team, the webinar covered the following topics:

- the SEMC State Emergency Management Capability Framework (how it has evolved over time, plans for its review and what it means to LGs)
- the associated Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey (scheduled for release in April 2021, including some of the practicalities for completing it)
- the individual LG capability summary reports (roll-out plans, how to interpret the findings and how the information can be used).

A link to a recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

SEMC Capability Survey to be Released

Each year*, the SEMC conducts its Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey (the capability survey). The survey is sent to a wide range of organisations who have a role in emergency management. The findings are used by the SEMC to report to the Minister for Emergency Services on the preparedness of the State to combat large scale emergencies.

The DFES State Capability Team manage the survey on behalf of the SEMC. The team is preparing to release the 2021 survey in mid-April. Respondents will have approximately 8 weeks to complete and submit their organisation's survey. For more information, please contact semc.capability@dfes.wa.gov.au.

*Note: due to the additional pressures created by COVID-19, the capability survey was not conducted in 2020.

The next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Friday 07 May 2021.

Agenda item submissions are currently open and close three weeks prior on Friday 16 April 2021.