

## GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COMMUNIQUÉ

MARCH 2016

### GREAT SOUTHERN DEMC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Great Southern DEMC met on 24 March 2016. Key discussions from the meeting are summarized below.

#### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The DEMC noted a number of local governments Local Emergency Management Arrangements, particularly following their five year major review. The DEMC will be presenting these to the next SEMC meeting for noting.

The DEMC acknowledged the new non-completion or non-adherence process SEMC has endorsed for local governments should they be failing to meet their emergency management obligations.

#### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISES

The committee expressed its concern regarding either the lack of emergency management exercises occurring at LEMCs or the lack of exercise reporting to DEMC. There have been three exercises reported to the DEMC for the 2015-2016 financial year to date.

#### DEMC ASSISTANCE TO LEMCs – GROUPING LEMCs FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For some time the DEMC has been considering how it can provide more effective support to LEMCs, primarily through DEMC members attending LEMC meetings. The committee considered a proposal to group LEMCs into hubs based on existing local government and agency relationships. The DEMC provided feedback on potential hub groupings. The purpose of the hubs would be to enable better sharing of information and professional development opportunities across LEMCs. Examples of activities may include joint exercises, joint meetings, guest speakers, workshops or support for local risk assessment projects. The committee will consider a final model at the next DEMC meeting.

#### MAJOR INCIDENT REVIEWS

The DEMC considered a number of recommendations from the NOUS and SEMC Major Incident Reviews of the Lower Hotham and O'Sullivan fires including recommendation on:

- Traffic management
- ISG and OASG operation
- Incident Controllers awareness of NDRRA/WANDRRA
- Networked agreements between local governments

- Agency withdraw from an emergency

### **SEMC PREPAREDNESS REPORT: GREAT SOUTHERN FOCUS**

The DEMC considered the outcomes of the SEMC Preparedness Report: Great Southern Focus. Of particular note was the reported lack of emergency management (local government responsibilities) being included on local government staff job descriptions.

### **DEMC MEETING DATES**

The DEMC considered a proposal to realign its meeting dates with SEMC meeting dates to enable more streamlined reporting from the DEMC to SEMC.

The DEMC resolved its meeting dates will be:

- 7 July 2016
- 10 November 2016
- 9 February 2017

The DEMC further resolved it would hold a minimum of one additional emergency management activity such as an exercise, further risk workshops or other professional development workshops to ensure a regular meeting cycle.

### **OUT-OF-SESSIONS**

The DEMC acknowledged that there are a large number of local emergency management arrangements being reviewed by local governments at present. In order to expedite the process of the DEMC noting the documents, the committee resolved to conduct out-of-sessions arrangements so they may be tabled at SEMC as soon as practical.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

The committee received a presentation from the Department of Child Protection and Family Support regarding their activities in the Waroona/Yarloop fires.

The Department of Planning will be providing a presentation regarding the Local Planning Scheme Regulation and State Planning Policy 3.7 *Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* at the next meeting.