



STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

EARTHQUAKE

(WESTPLAN – EARTHQUAKE)

Prepared by



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Amendment List

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2	September 2006	Amend 2004 version, congruous with the provisions of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> .	
3	May 2011	Complete revision.	
4	May 2016	Complete revision including statement of fact amendments	DFES and SEMC Secretariat
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A copy of this Westplan is available at www.semc.wa.gov.au/

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1 INTRODUCTION

Western Australia has high levels of seismic activity compared with most other regions of Australia¹. Between 2005 and 2015, WA experienced a total of 2252 earthquakes of varying magnitudes². WA has experienced Australia's second strongest earthquake at Meckering in 1968 (magnitude 6.5) resulting in major damage and Cadoux in 1979 (magnitude 6.1). WA continues to receive reminders of the earthquake threat in the form of minor structural damage such as that which occurred in Burakin in 2001 and Kalgoorlie in 2010 (magnitude 5.0)³.

This Westplan has been prepared to meet the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) planning requirements under the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act 2005)*. It is to be read in conjunction with the following suite of State Emergency Management (EM) documents:

- the State Emergency Management Policy (State EM Policy);
- the State Emergency Management Plan (State EM Plan);
- relevant State Hazard Specific Plans (Westplans);
- the State Emergency Management Procedures (State EM Procedures);
- the State Emergency Management Guidelines (State EM Guidelines); and
- the State Emergency Management Glossary (State EM Glossary).

The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner, is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for earthquake⁴.

1.1 Aim and Objectives

The aim of Westplan – Earthquake is to detail the emergency management arrangements for earthquakes in WA.

Objectives:

- ensure WA has effective emergency management arrangements in place for an earthquake emergency;
- define the responsibilities of DFES, Australian Government agencies, State Government agencies, local government, and emergency management agencies in the event of an earthquake emergency;
- detail arrangements in relation to the preparedness for, control, coordination of, response to, and recovery from, an earthquake emergency;

¹ T. Jones, et al, *Natural Hazard Risk in Perth Western Australia*, 2005, Geoscience Australia, p. 12.

² [Geoscience Australia, Historic earthquakes of Australia](#)

³ T. Maqsood, et al., Seismic vulnerability functions for Australian buildings by using GEM empirical vulnerability assessment guidelines, 2016, *Natural Hazards* 80, p. 1628.

⁴ *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* s 17(2)

- provide guidance for earthquake emergency management plans at district and local level; and
- detail arrangements for the review of planning at all levels.

1.2 Scope

Westplan – Earthquake covers emergency management earthquake planning within the geographic boundaries of WA. The plan deals with risk treatment strategies, preparedness for earthquake, response to an earthquake beyond a normal emergency services response and initiation of recovery arrangements following the impact of an earthquake.

1.3 Hazard Definition

An earthquake emergency is defined as the occurrence of an earthquake which is of such a nature or magnitude that it requires a significant and coordinated response.

Earthquakes are the vibrations caused by rocks breaking under stress. The underground surface along which the rock breaks and moves is called a fault plane. Earthquakes in Australia are usually caused by movements along faults as a result of compression in the Earth's crust⁵.

For further information on the earthquake hazard refer to the Geoscience Australia website (www.ga.gov.au/earthquakes/).

1.4 Special Considerations

Society is increasingly dependent on services and infrastructure such as energy supply, transportation, water, sewerage and drainage systems, and communication networks. This vital and critical infrastructure can be vulnerable in an earthquake emergency. Restoration may take significant time and prolonged outages may create secondary effects in the community.

Some facilities such as power, communication and transportation networks are particularly susceptible to the effects of earthquakes.

As communities become more connected through modern telecommunications, increasing expectations are placed on emergency management agencies to respond sooner, over wider areas and in ways that are more sophisticated. There is also a growing need for public information.

A number of people within the community have special-needs and require particular consideration in state, district and local level plans. Section 4.3 identifies these special-needs groups.

1.5 Related Documents

- Emergency Management Act 2005 (the EM Act);
- Emergency Management Regulations 2006;
- Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 1998;
- Fire Brigades Act 1942;

⁵ [Geoscience Australia, What is an Earthquake?](#)

- Occupational Safety & Health Act 1984;
- State EM Policy;
- State EM Plan;
- Relevant State Hazard Specific Plans (Westplans);
- Westplan – Collapse;
- State EM Procedures;
- State EM Guidelines;
- State EM Glossary;
- State Health Emergency Response Plan;
- State Emergency Welfare Plan;
- State Emergency Public Information Plan; and
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

1.6 Authority to Plan

The SEMC has delegated responsibility for coordinating the development, maintenance, exercise and review of Westplan – Earthquake to the FES Commissioner, as the prescribed HMA⁶.

1.7 Plan Responsibilities

The development, implementation and revision of Westplan – Earthquake is the responsibility of DFES in consultation with key stakeholders and emergency management agencies⁷.

1.7.1 Advisory Groups/Subcommittees

There are no formal advisory groups or subcommittees for earthquake planning; however, DFES maintains regular liaison with Geoscience Australia (GA) which conducts earthquake research, has considerable expertise in earthquakes and provides earthquake notifications.

1.8 Exercise and Review Periods

The response elements of Westplan – Earthquake will be exercised annually at the State and Regional level in accordance with State EM Policy Section 4.8 and State EM Plan Section 4.7. The activation of this Westplan counts as an exercise, if the post incident report is completed.

Westplan – Earthquake will be reviewed by DFES, annually, with a major review every five years.

1.9 Organisational Roles and Responsibilities

This Westplan details organisational responsibilities at a State-level and requires that participating organisations support planning at district and local level.

⁶ State EM Policy Section 1.5.

⁷ State EM Policy Section 1.5.

As the HMA for earthquakes, the FES Commissioner is responsible for ensuring effective preparedness and response to this risk within the community.

Agencies that may be involved in response to an earthquake should have a Business Continuity Plan to ensure their continued ability to respond in the event of a serious earthquake. Organisations that have roles and responsibilities for providing essential services to the community should also have business continuity plans so they can function to the best of their ability post-impact.

A coordinated response to an earthquake requires emergency management agencies to undertake a variety of agreed and statutory responsibilities. These responsibilities are outlined at Appendix B.

2 RISK ASSESSMENT

Earthquakes have the potential to cause catastrophic losses. Although Australia is considered to have a low earthquake risk, a major earthquake could still occur in a heavily developed and populated area in WA. The impact of such an earthquake could have widespread consequences throughout Perth and surrounds. While there is a low probability that this event will occur in the future, it is important to recognise the potential for such catastrophic events.

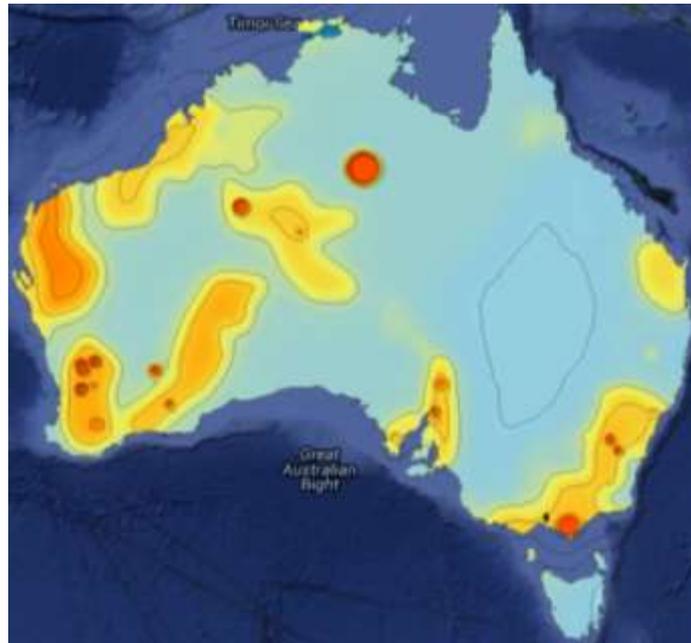


Figure 1 – Earthquake hazard map 2012⁸.

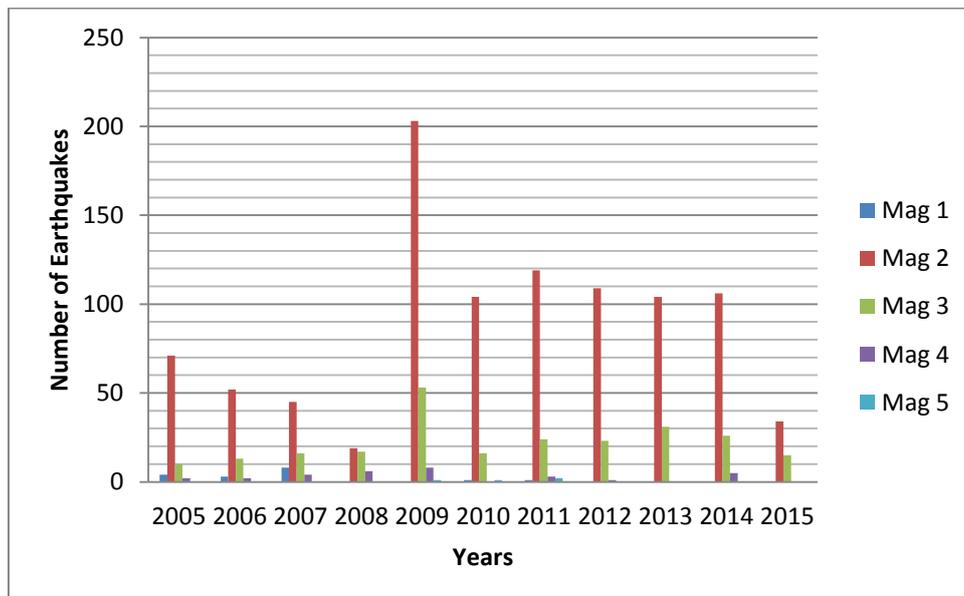


Figure 2 – Earthquakes in WA 2005 - 2015⁹

⁸ [Geoscience Australia, Earthquake Basics](#)

⁹ [Geoscience Australia, Earthquake Database](#)

In 2013, the SEMC coordinated risk assessment workshops to analyse the risks from natural hazards to six key areas fundamental to the wellbeing of the State, namely the potential impacts to the People, Economy, Social Setting, Governance, Infrastructure and Environment of Western Australia¹⁰.

With WA containing a number of seismic zones, particularly in the South West and Pilbara, the earthquake data plots significantly in the area of low likelihood and high consequence. This reflects the relatively low likelihood of a major event (for example, 7.1 magnitude) taking place near to a population centre. However if it did take place the nature of destruction would generate a particularly high consequence¹¹.

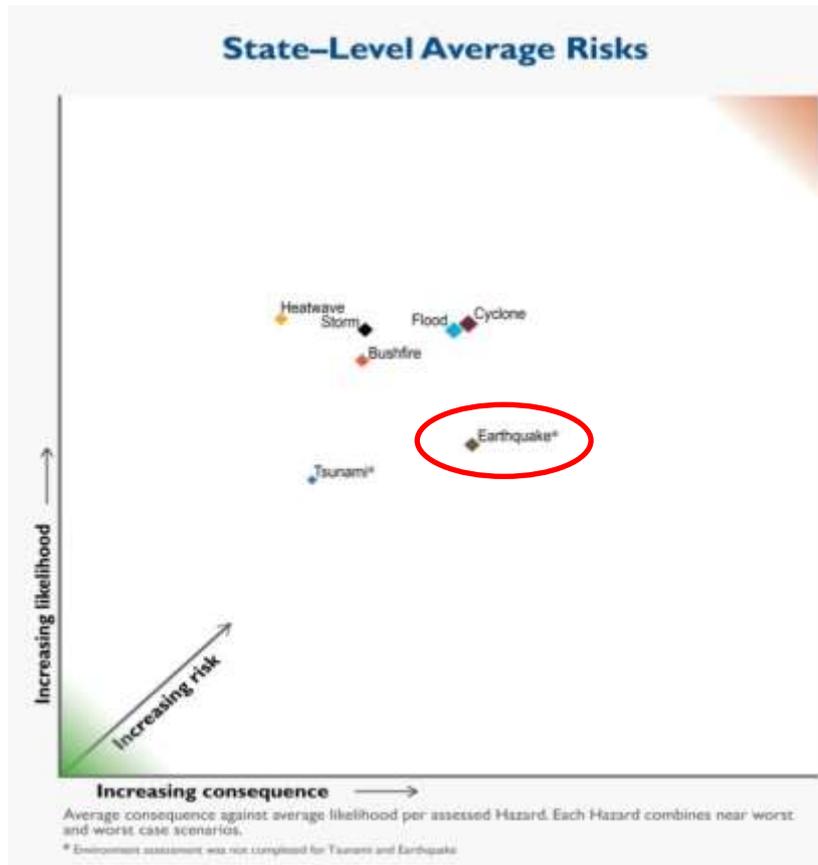


Figure 3 – Average consequence against average likelihood per hazard. Each hazard combines worst and near-worst case scenarios.¹²

¹⁰ SEMC, *Western Australian State-level Risk Assessment*, 2013, p. 2.

¹¹ SEMC, p. 19.

¹² Adapted from: State Emergency Management Committee, 2014. *Emergency Preparedness Report 2014*. State Emergency Management Committee, Perth.

3 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

3.1 Responsibility for Prevention and/or Mitigation

DFES has limited responsibility for risk reduction aspects of earthquakes, within the limitations of its legislative powers, the EM Act 2005 and resource capabilities. State EM Policy Section 1.5 requires DFES to coordinate the development and maintenance of Westplan – Earthquake, including impact reduction aspects.

Local government has the main responsibility for risk treatment strategies for earthquake emergencies within WA, principally through application and enforcement of the building codes.

Building construction standards are set by the State, usually by reference to the National Construction Code of Australia. Local governments, together with registered building surveyors, have responsibility for ensuring adherence to building construction standards.

3.2 Legislation and Codes

Legislation is one of the key initiatives to ensure that risk reduction strategies are consistent and enforceable. Legislation applicable to managing the earthquake risk includes:

- *Building Act 2011;*
- *Building Regulations 2012;*
- *Emergency Management Act 2005;*
- *Emergency Management Regulations 2006;*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 1998;*
- *Fire Brigades Act 1942;*
- *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960;*
- *Local Government Act 1995;*
- *Occupational Safety & Health Act 1984;*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005;*
- National Construction Code of Australia; and
- AS1170.4 - 2007 Earthquake Actions in Australia.

3.3 Risk Reduction Strategies

The occurrence of earthquakes cannot be prevented, but strategies to reduce their impacts on communities can include: engineering solutions, such as hardening buildings; or social solutions, such as community education in areas identified as being at risk from earthquake.

Risk reduction strategies contribute to the increased resilience and reduction in vulnerability of communities by proactively reducing the effects of hazardous events.

Key strategies are employed to reduce the risks associated with earthquake emergencies. These strategies are shown in Table 1.

Strategy	Responsible Organisations
Earthquake risk mapping.	DFES and Geoscience Australia (GA)
Application and enforcement of the <i>Building Codes of Australia</i> and informed land use planning for vulnerable areas.	Local governments (LG)
Participation in research and development programs directed towards risk treatment strategies.	DFES and GA
Promoting an improved state of resilience within communities to improve the management of future risks.	DFES and Insurance Council of Australia
Developing resilience in the community and minimising the vulnerability of communities to effects of earthquake.	DFES in partnership with LG
Promote the uptake and maintenance of adequate insurance against earthquakes.	DFES
Promotion of, and participation in, community awareness campaigns for 'at risk' communities.	DFES assisted by LG
Provision of support to voluntary emergency organisations.	DFES and LG
Provision of earthquake advice to the community.	GA and DFES
Identification of suitable buildings for designation as Welfare/Evacuation Centres.	Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) in consultation with LG
Maintenance of a register of potential evacuation centres.	CPFS in consultation with Local Emergency Management Committee
Ensuring the sustainability of service delivery of critical infrastructure through design and maintenance standards.	Essential services
Providing advice in relation to the design and maintenance status of critical infrastructure services and access routes in 'at risk' communities.	Essential services
Structurally retrofit, where necessary, facilities, which provide essential services following any earthquake event. These facilities should be examined by suitably qualified engineers on a site-by-site basis to assess their expected performance under earthquake loadings. This recommendation is pertinent for Wheatbelt communities in or near the South West Seismic Zone.	All relevant agencies

Participate in research in social vulnerability models as they apply to sudden impacts of hazards.	Relevant agencies and LG.
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Table 1 Earthquake Mitigation Strategies

4 PREPAREDNESS

4.1 Responsibility for Preparedness

This section outlines measures to be taken in preparation for earthquake emergencies together with relevant responsibilities. Most of these activities commence well before the earthquake emergency, often years before, and regular maintenance, testing and checking of these measures should be undertaken to retain confidence in their performance during emergencies.

As the HMA for earthquake, the FES Commissioner has responsibility for:

- promoting resilience activities within communities to improve the management of future risks; and
- ensuring that emergency management activities related to earthquake preparedness are undertaken.

4.2 Planning and Arrangements

Emergency management plans are to be developed and based on:

- best practice principles;
- technical and scientific knowledge;
- research, including historical data and post incident analysis; and
- Local knowledge and experience.

Successful earthquake operations depend on good planning, effective resource utilisation and a coordinated response which is timely, efficient and effective.

The concept of this Westplan is to employ and coordinate the resources of local, State and Australian Government departments, authorities and agencies; resources available to private industry; and resources available to volunteer groups, for earthquake operations. This concept is based on:

- availability of the DFES 24-hour State Operations Centre (SOC) for receipt of earthquake notification reports;
- establishment of operational facilities at three levels (State, Regional and local), from which management of earthquake operations takes place;
- deployment of emergency service personnel;
- provision of expert technical advice on earthquake modelling by State and Australian Government agencies when requested by DFES;
- provision of expert technical advice on essential services when requested by DFES; and
- tasking of agencies in a coordinated manner in support of DFES. Agency procedures are then employed to carry out tasks.

Local government is responsible for the development of local emergency management arrangements¹³. The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) is to provide advice to local government in this regard.

4.3 Groups with Special Needs

Special needs groups include individuals and groups of people within the community for whom special consideration must be given in state, district and local level plans. These groups may require unique arrangements in regard to resources, mobility, timings, support or communications when responding to an emergency.

State EM Policy Section 4.6 and State EM Plan Section 4.6.1 outline the individuals and groups whose circumstances require special consideration in emergency management planning.

Special needs groups should be included in the development of local risk plans for inclusion in Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

4.4 Resources

The identification of appropriate and adequate resources and expertise is essential to preparedness for an earthquake emergency. Planning at all levels should reference resource management, inventory and acquisition arrangements.

Resources used in earthquake emergencies may be required at short notice and may include: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) resources, transport resources, earth moving machinery, cranes, shoring and tunneling equipment, signage, electricity generating plants, lighting, pumps, temporary toilet facilities, tents, bedding, water or water purification systems, food and catering facilities, medical equipment and drugs.

DFES is responsible for the overall provision and management of resources required to physically respond to a potential or actual earthquake emergency, including acquisition, pre-positioning and inventory management. Emergency management agencies are required to provide their own resources in the first instance and to make requests for additional resources to DFES as required.

Local and district emergency plans should incorporate the use of community and industry resources. Such plans should also identify methods, such as resource registers, to acquire community resources during an earthquake emergency.

Where an operation is beyond the resources of the State, a request for assistance from other jurisdictions may be made in accordance with paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10.

4.5 Training

DFES is responsible for training and equipping an emergency service capable of assisting the community to manage the effects of an earthquake.

¹³ EM Act 2005 s 41(1)

Emergency management agencies are also expected to provide trained and equipped personnel. DFES is responsible for conducting multi-agency exercises for the relevant level of emergency management, thereby ensuring all agency personnel are aware of their role in the organised response.

4.6 Community Information

DFES, local governments, and GA provide a contribution to education programmes developed to inform and educate the public on earthquake notification, earthquake risk and earthquake management.

During earthquake events, DFES will provide community information in a coordinated manner through the Incident Controller and/or Operational Area Manager (OAM). This is detailed in sections 5.13.3.

Media and public information strategies are reviewed annually by DFES to ensure appropriate communication of earthquake information to the community.

4.7 Evacuation Arrangements

Evacuation arrangements are addressed in section 5.12 Evacuation in the response section of this plan.

4.8 Local and District Hazard Emergency Management Plans

Where earthquake prone areas are identified as a risk to the community, DFES may develop relevant local earthquake plans. DFES may develop Regional/District Earthquake Plans to coordinate activities during earthquake emergencies in addition to, or in place of, local earthquake plans.

4.9 Inter-Jurisdictional Assistance Arrangements

Should an earthquake emergency be beyond the resources of the State, support may be requested from the Australian Government, other States or overseas.

Assistance to interstate and overseas for earthquake emergencies will be coordinated by DFES. This will include determination of the process involved and recognition of pre-existing arrangements for inter-jurisdictional assistance by other agencies where such arrangements exist.

DFES is a signatory to the 'Arrangements for Interstate Assistance (Fire and Emergency Services)' which have been developed to provide for the timely and meaningful exchange of capability between Australian states and territories during significant incidents¹⁴. The Minister must be notified before any assistance is provided to other jurisdictions.

4.10 Australian Government Physical Assistance

When the total resources (government, community and commercial) of the State cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation the State Emergency Coordinator can seek non-financial assistance¹⁵ from the Australian Government under the Australian Government Disaster Response

¹⁴ EMA, Arrangements for Interstate Assistance (Fire and Emergency Services), v1, 2014.

¹⁵ The term 'non- financial assistance' refers, but is not limited to: planning expertise, provision of mapping services, counselling, advice, management of external resources and physical assistance.

Plan (COMDISPLAN)¹⁶. COMDISPLAN outlines the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency within Australia or its offshore territories. All requests for physical assistance are to be made in accordance with State EM Policy Section 5.10 and State EM Plan Section 5.6.

4.10.1 Defence Assistance to the Civil Community

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) can be provided in a number of ways which are defined as categories of assistance in State EM Response Procedure 20.

Category 1 DACC is emergency assistance for a specific task(s) provided by a Local ADF Commander/Administrator from within their own resources, in localised emergency situations when:

- a. immediate action is necessary to save human life, alleviate suffering, prevent extensive loss of animal life, or prevent widespread loss/damage to property; and
- b. local civilian resources are inadequate, unavailable or cannot be mobilised in time.

Requests for Category 1 DACC assistance are coordinated through the Manager Joint Operations Support Staff (MJOSS), or their Liaison Officer (LO), who will liaise directly with the Local Australian Defence Force (ADF) Commander to provide assistance. Availability of these resources should be identified in Local Emergency Management Arrangements. DACC 1 is only for local resources and limited to 48 hours. Requests for Assistance that are beyond the local resources or are likely to extend beyond 48 hours should be formalised as Request for Australian Government Assistance under the auspice of COMDISPLAN.

Other categories of DACC Assistance may be provided at the discretion of the Australian Government where the State requests Australian Government physical assistance. In these circumstances the initial resource request should be made through DFES, who will coordinate with the MJOSS or their LO in accordance with State EM Plan Section 5.6.1.

5 RESPONSE

5.1 Principles

The management of an earthquake emergency is based on a graduated approach using the following guiding principles:

- The FES Commissioner is the HMA for earthquake emergencies in WA;

¹⁶ Attorney-General's Department, COMDISPLAN, 2014, p. 16.

- DFES is the Controlling Agency for earthquake emergencies in WA in accordance with State EM Policy Section 5 and State EM Plan Section 5;
- DFES is responsible for coordinating the response to an earthquake emergency within WA;
- DFES will use arrangements which employ identified emergency management agencies (refer to Appendix B) to provide an effective and coordinated response;
- An earthquake emergency in WA will be managed using the emergency management and operational principles detailed in State EM Policy Section 5 and State EM Plan Section 5;
- Should another hazard occur as a consequence of an earthquake emergency and, if DFES is not the HMA/Controlling Agency for the consequent hazard, then the provisions of State EM Plan Section 5.1.2 will apply. DFES shall remain responsible for the overall management of the earthquake emergency;
- Responsibility for resourcing and responding to an emergency initially rests with the Incident Controller at the local level;
- An emergency beyond the capability of local resources will receive support from district resources. State resources will be provided if district resources are inadequate; and
- Communication between local, district, State and Australian Government authorities is essential to ensure intelligent and timely application of resources to manage the emergency.

5.2 Earthquake Warning System

Geoscience Australia (GA) is responsible for the notification of earthquake occurrences. GA has a series of remote sensing stations which enable the determination of the severity and location of an earthquake. The sensor network is connected to alarms and instruments in Canberra which alert GA who interpret the seismic activity and pass relevant information to Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC). The notification system provides coverage 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

5.2.1 Earthquake Services

GA will send an email to DFES for all earthquakes. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) will advise DFES when an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude or less if it occurs within or near heavily populated areas or if there have been reports of damage or felt reports. EMA will advise DFES of earthquakes 4.5 magnitude or greater for any area in WA.

5.2.2 Distribution of Earthquake Notifications

DFES will distribute earthquake notification messages to key stakeholders and responders.

5.3 Alert

Unlike most other natural hazards, earthquake prediction and warning is not possible. The earthquake response phase commences as a result of the impact of an earthquake and the alert is initiated by DFES as the result of either community reports or notification from GA or the CCC.

Upon receipt of initial information about the earthquake, DFES will assess whether an earthquake emergency exists and may place some or all emergency management agencies on alert. Organisations placed on 'alert' should prepare to respond if needed and await DFES instructions before 'activating' significant resources.

5.4 Activation

When DFES assesses that the earthquake emergency will require a significant response, it shall 'activate' emergency resources and emergency management agencies which are appropriate to the magnitude and location of the earthquake. This may include activation of relevant emergency personnel and local or district plans as required.

The level of implementation of plans and operational structures can vary considerably depending upon circumstances. Factors which may influence the level of response include the degree of threat to a community or whether a multi-agency response is required.

5.5 Levels of Response

Sound emergency management requires a graduated approach which is appropriate to the circumstances of the emergency.

State EM Response Procedure 2 describes the process for making an appropriate incident level declaration and associated responsibilities. The declaration of an incident level is a critical component of emergency management in terms of triggering the responsibilities and actions of emergency management stakeholders to ensure a response in which the size of both the Incident Management Team (IMT) and the coordination structure are proportional to the size of the earthquake emergency. State EM Response Procedure 2 enables one of three operational levels to be selected depending upon the characteristic 'factors' of the emergency. This procedure is aligned with State EM Plan Section 5.1.5 and the DFES WA Fire and Emergency Services Manual. The descriptors are guidance for DFES Operational Managers and are used for all of DFES's HMA and Emergency Management Agency responsibilities (refer Appendix B).

5.6 Incident Management System

During all emergencies, DFES will use the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS). All agencies with agreed responsibilities under this plan are encouraged to ensure their personnel are familiar with and able to work within the AIIMS structure. Further information on incident management is detailed in State EM Policy Section 5 and State EM Plan Section 5.

5.7 Hazard Management Structure/Arrangements

In assessing an earthquake emergency, DFES may determine that the response requires a level two or level three management structure as per State EM Response Procedure 2. When such management structures are required, DFES (as the HMA) should appoint an Operational Area Manager (OAM). The OAM will assume overall management of the earthquake emergency within their defined operational area.

DFES has a State Operations Centre (SOC) available 24/7 and Regional Operations Centres (ROC) around the State to:

- provide a robust facility from which to oversee the coordination of emergencies;
- facilitate coordination with other emergency service agencies and emergency management agencies;
- coordinate State and regional/district response to earthquakes and other emergencies for which DFES has responsibility;
- manage the dissemination of information to the community; and
- provide appropriate advice to all levels of government.

5.7.1 Incident Management

DFES, through the OAM, will appoint the IC(s) responsible for the overall management and control of an incident within specific localised communities or geographical areas.

5.7.2 Liaison Officers

All agencies involved in the response are requested to provide a Liaison Officer (LO) upon activation of the response section of Westplan – Earthquake. The LO must possess sufficient experience and seniority to assist DFES. LOs may be the representatives on the relevant Incident Support Group (ISG), Operational Area Support Group (OASG) or at an emergency operation centre. Some agencies may nominate their Agency Commander as the LO.

5.8 Response Priorities

The response to an earthquake emergency shall be based on the priorities of:

1. Life;
2. Critical infrastructure;
3. Property; and
4. Environment.

The safety of personnel tasked to the incident will be the fundamental priority in all phases of incident management.

Priorities for Incident Action Planning (IAP) are:

- The first priority will address the protection of community members and measures to keep them informed;

- The protection of property, critical infrastructure and community assets will be the next priority; and
- Protection of conservation and environmental values are to be factored into IAPs as the subsequent priority.

5.9 Multi Agency Support Structure and Arrangements

State EM Policy Section 5 and State EM Plan Section 5 detail the multi-agency support structure used for different levels of emergency. The following paragraphs elaborate on how this policy will be applied during earthquake emergencies.

5.9.1 Incident Support Group

The Incident Support Group/s (ISG) consist of the Local Emergency Coordinator and LOs from local agencies/organisations involved in the response to and recovery from the incident. Its purpose is to assist the IC through the provision of information, expert advice, support and resources relevant to each organisation.

DFES (as Controlling Agency) shall appoint the Chair of the ISG and determine its membership. The IC shall activate the ISG when an incident requires the coordination of multiple agencies.

5.9.2 Operational Area Support Group

When the FES Commissioner (as the HMA) identifies that multiple agencies need to be coordinated at a district level or multiple incidents are occurring simultaneously in one Operational Area, they may activate the OASG, which will be convened by the OAM. .

Membership of the OASG will be the OAM appointed by the HMA (who will also be the Chair), the District Emergency Coordinator and members (liaison officers from the key agencies involved in the response to and recovery from the incident).

5.9.3 State Emergency Coordination Group

A State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG) is established during a state of emergency, or may be established where an emergency occurs or is imminent, at the request of the FES Commissioner (as the HMA), or on the initiative of the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC), to assist in the provision of a strategic, coordinated multi-agency response to and recovery from the emergency. In addition, if a Level 3 incident occurs, the HMA must consult with the SEC to determine if a SECG should be established.

The SECG is established in accordance with State EM Policy Statement 5.4.7, State EM Plan Section 5.2.3 and State EM Response Procedure 4.

Triggers for activation of a SECG include, but are not limited to:

- an earthquake has had a significant impact on a major community;
- widespread damage to residential areas or a large geographical area containing communities or assets at risk; and
- significant risk to critical infrastructure.

The requirements for membership of the SECG are outlined in section 26(3) of the *EM Act 2005* and State EM Response Procedure 4.

The *EM Act 2005* requires that the membership of a SECG include:

- the SEC, who is also the Chair;
- the Chair and Executive Officer of the SEMC;
- a representative of the HMA (FES Commissioner);
- a representative of the local governments in the emergency area or in the area where the emergency is occurring or imminent, as the case requires, nominated by the SEC; and
- any other members the SEC considers are necessary.

5.10 Emergency Powers

The FES Commissioner has powers in relation to natural disasters under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*¹⁷. These powers are wide-ranging and are normally adequate to respond to earthquake emergencies. Should additional powers be required, the *EM Act 2005* can be used to access emergency powers through the declaration of an 'Emergency Situation'¹⁸ or a 'State of Emergency'¹⁹.

5.10.1 Hazard Management Officers

In the case of an Emergency Situation Declaration, Hazard Management Officers may be appointed in accordance with State EM Response Procedure 6.

5.10.2 Authorised Officers

In the case of a State of Emergency being declared, Authorised Officers may be appointed by the SEC in accordance with State EM Response Procedure 13. Authorised Officers shall comply with all limitations and directions as per Section 61 of the EM Act.

5.11 Resource Management

The identification of appropriate and adequate resources and expertise is essential to preparedness for an earthquake emergency. Planning at all levels should reference resource management, inventory and acquisition arrangements.

DFES is responsible for the overall provision and management of resources required to physically respond to an earthquake emergency, including acquisition, pre-positioning and inventory management. Emergency management agencies are required to provide their own resources in the first instance and to make requests for additional resources to DFES as required.

¹⁷ *FES Act 1998* s 18B.

¹⁸ *EM Act 2005* s 50

¹⁹ *EM Act 2005* s 56

Local and district emergency plans should incorporate the use of community and industry resources, especially in relation to accommodation and welfare.

Where an operation is beyond the resources of the State, a request for assistance from other jurisdictions may be made in accordance with section 4.9 and 4.10.

5.12 Evacuation

The decision to evacuate residents from areas after impact is the responsibility of the IC. The decision will normally be taken in consultation with key stakeholders.

The responsibility for implementing the evacuation rests with DFES (as the Controlling Agency), which may require support from other agencies, particularly WA Police and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

DFES is responsible for arranging transport requirements for the evacuation from the emergency site. Local and district resources should be used wherever possible.

Refer to State EM Policy Section 5.7 and State EM Plan Section 5.3.2 for further guidance on evacuation.

5.12.1 *Triggers for Evacuation*

During an earthquake emergency, DFES may evacuate residents in risk prone areas due to factors such as:

- Structural Collapse – Buildings that are at risk of structural collapse as a result of earthquake damage should be evacuated.
- Earthquake affecting properties – Evacuation may occur if it is deemed likely that properties could be at risk from the effects of an earthquake.
- Isolation of properties – Persons who are not prepared for isolation or unsuited due to medical conditions, disabilities, age, etc. should be encouraged to evacuate.
- Failure of essential services – Failure of essential services such as sewerage, power, telecommunications and/or water pose significant health risks to the community. In the event of any or all of these systems failing, evacuation of individuals, families and the community may be necessary.

5.12.2 *Notification of Evacuation Arrangements*

The IC is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the Emergency Public Information, approving its release in coordination with the relevant agencies and terminating its broadcast. The Standard Emergency Warning Signal must only be used under strict instruction as advised by the HMA (the FES Commissioner) during an emergency, as defined by the EM Act, in circumstances when it is necessary for the community to take some action to prevent or minimize the loss of life or prejudice to the safety or harm to the health

of persons or animals or destruction of or damage to property or any part of the environment.

5.12.3 Refusal to Evacuate

Sometimes community members refuse to comply with a decision to evacuate an area. Management of such situations by the Controlling Agency (DFES) must include:

- provision of clear instructions to persons conducting an evacuation with respect to what action should be taken where a person refuses to evacuate;
- ensuring, as far as practical, that those who refuse to evacuate understand the risks of remaining and are capable of making an informed decision;
- where practicable, develop procedures to track the remaining (i.e. non-evacuated) residents' wellbeing.

5.13 Support Plans

Should additional support be required during an earthquake emergency, it will initially be sourced through the appropriate LO. Where additional support requires a more coordinated approach, the following plans may be activated:

- State Health Emergency Response Plan;
- State Emergency Public Information Plan; and
- State Emergency Welfare Plan.

In addition, the recovery provisions outlined in Section 6 of this Westplan may be activated.

The following paragraphs contain additional advice about triggers and processes for some of the support arrangements.

5.13.1 Health Response

The coordination of a state-wide WA Health response to a major disaster is through the State Health Coordinator (SHC) who has overall control and coordination of the health response.

The initial coordination of Health Services resources will be at a local level; this can be escalated to a district then state level. Should an earthquake emergency result in numbers of casualties beyond the capabilities of local health services, the State Health Emergency Response Plan and relevant sub plans can be activated to provide further support.

Activations of State Health Emergency Response Plan will be managed from the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC). The SHICC will be in direct contact with DFES and will liaise with Regional Health Coordinators and health stakeholders. The overall operational management, preparation and assessment of casualties in a major emergency will be managed by the SHICC.

5.13.2 Incident Response Communications

The provision of communications for emergency response measures under Westplan – Earthquake are based on the use of normal day to day communication facilities of participating organisations as far as practicable. DFES has a public emergency assistance line (132500), which complements the triple zero (000) service to facilitate requests for and the provision of emergency assistance to the community. The triple zero (000) service is used for life threatening situations only. This is distinct from the recorded emergency phone line (13 DFES or 13 3337), which only provides information to the community.

If communication with a community at risk has not been established, DFES may dispatch a USAR reconnaissance team including medical, community liaison and communication responders at the first available opportunity.

5.13.3 Public Emergency Information and Media Management

State EM Policy Section 5.6, State EM Plan Section 5.3.1 and the State Emergency Public Information Plan details the emergency management arrangements for the provision of emergency public information (EPI), the responsibilities of the HMA (FES Commissioner), Controlling Agency (DFES) and other emergency management agencies in providing timely, accurate and consistent EPI to communities at risk.

DFES has arrangements to ensure the community of WA is informed of earthquake emergencies.

The DFES Public Information Operational Plan (PIOP) provides a framework for DFES communication to the community, media and other stakeholders in a timely, consistent and accurate way during an earthquake emergency.

The PIOP addresses all aspects of the provision and coordination of EPI during an earthquake emergency including the Statewide function (under AIIIMS), of Information and Warnings, Media Liaison and Community Liaison.

The DFES IC has overall responsibility for the issuing of information to the community at a local, district and state level, with relevant Public Information Sections (at local, regional and state level) delegated this function during an incident.

5.14 Financial Arrangements for Response

The SEMC website details the criteria for a variety of funding situations and should be consulted to determine the funding arrangements.

Where no prior arrangement has been made with DFES, only expenditure approved by the IC, OAM or DFES DAC will be funded by DFES.

5.15 Stand Down and Debriefing

The response element of this Plan may be stood-down (de-activated) when:

- the SECG (if activated) is stood down;
- the IC or OAM identifies that there is no longer a requirement for the plan to remain active; and
- A final comprehensive impact assessment has been provided to a Local Recovery Coordinator in accordance with State EM Plan Section 6.

5.16 Contact Arrangements

The key organisations participating in this plan are shown at Appendix B. Ongoing contact with these organisations shall be through LOs appointed by each organisation.

Detailed contact arrangements for activation of Westplan - Earthquake and for communication with LOs are held by DFES.

6 RECOVERY

Recovery management is the coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial, and economic wellbeing.

6.1 Responsibility for Recovery

It is a function of local government to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district²⁰.

DFES, as the Controlling Agency with responsibility for the response to an emergency must initiate recovery activity during the response to that emergency.

DFES is to ensure timely notification of the emergency, liaison and appropriate inclusion of those with recovery responsibilities in the incident management arrangements.

DFES is responsible for ensuring that in combating the effects of the emergency, activities have regard for the need to facilitate recovery.

DFES is also responsible for the coordination of assessment of all impacts relating to all recovery environments prior to cessation of the response, including a risk assessment and treatment plan to provide for safe community access to the affected area.

The decision point from when handover will occur from DFES to the local government to effect recovery will occur when the following circumstances arise:

- The community is no longer at risk from the hazard.
- Operational response activities are being managed, or able to be managed, at a local level.
- No further requirement for the HMA to provide leadership or coordination for the event and the leadership and coordination role becomes predominantly recovery focused.
- The remaining activities are mainly reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial, and economic wellbeing of the community.
- The final comprehensive impact assessment has been provided to a Local Recovery Coordinator.

Once the handover is complete DFES may still assist in the recovery effort.

For further detail refer to State EM Policy Section 6 and State EM Plan Section 6 and DFES Standard Administrative Procedure 3.1.I – Recovery Management.

²⁰ EM Act 2005 s 36(b)

7 INCIDENT ANALYSIS / REVIEW

DFES conducts three levels of post incident analysis following operational incidents. These are:

- Operational Debrief
- Post Incident Analysis
- Major Incident Review

The level of analysis required will be determined by the DFES Deputy Commissioner in accordance with DFES Policy Statement No. 54 - Incident Analysis Policy. The OAM/IC will ensure that all agencies involved in a multi-agency emergency are provided with the opportunity to submit input into any post operational analysis. Upon acceptance of recommendations an implementation schedule is to be developed and monitored for timely completion.

Post Operation Reports shall be provided to SEMC in accordance with State EM Policy Section 5.11 and State EM Plan Section 5.7.

7.1 Investigation/Assessment

Where DFES identifies any issue which has, or is reasonably believed to have contributed to the impact of the emergency upon the community, an investigation may be conducted into that cause. The purpose of the investigation shall be to determine the issues leading to the event, with the intent of developing mitigation prevention strategies to reduce the associated risk to the community.

7.2 Identifying Risk Treatment Strategies

During the recovery process there is an opportunity to identify future risk treatment strategies and often an opportunity to implement such strategies. DFES will identify key areas in the community infrastructure that failed during the earthquake and will promote actions and/or studies designed to minimise the effects of earthquakes on the community in the future. Examples of potential strategies include increasing building construction standards, improving land-use management, and disaster-hardening of key community facilities and utilities.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - Distribution

Westplan – Earthquake is available in electronic form on the SEMC website (semc.wa.gov.au). Addressees on this list will be notified when a new or amended version of the Westplan is posted on the SEMC website (semc.wa.gov.au) via the means shown below.

Organisation	Addressees
State Government Ministers	Minister for Emergency Services
	Minister for Police
	Minister for Planning
SEMC	All Members
	All Subcommittee Members
	SEMC Executive Officer
DFES	All staff
Emergency Management / Support Organisations	All agencies and organisations with responsibilities under this plan.
Community	Web search
Australian Government	Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre
	Geoscience Australia
Library Deposits	National Library Of Australia, Legal Deposits Unit
	State Library Of Western Australia, Battye Library

Table 2 Distribution List

APPENDIX B - Roles and Responsibilities of Organisations

Introduction

DFES, through the FES Commissioner as the HMA, has the primary responsibility for managing earthquake effects in WA. However, DFES requires the support and assistance of other organisations to ensure an integrated community response occurs.

Agency Responsibilities

The agencies will undertake the agreed responsibilities, as detailed below. All the agencies are to maintain appropriate internal plans and procedures in relation to the specific agency responsibilities.

Note: The capability and commitment of each Local Government to undertake the tasks and meet the responsibilities identified in this State Plan should be confirmed by the HMA and detailed in the Local Hazard Emergency Plan and/or Local Emergency Management Arrangements. This will ensure the varying capabilities of individual Local Governments are recognised.

Organisation	Responsibilities
Department for Child Protection and Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Management of services under State Emergency Welfare Plan and its annexures on Reception and Registration and Reunification as required. b. In consultation with DFES, and consideration of available resources, determine the number and location of welfare / evacuation centres to be opened during the earthquake emergency. c. In consultation with the Local Emergency Management Committee, determine a register of potential welfare / evacuation centres. d. Staff welfare / evacuation centres. e. Facilitate evacuee registrations. f. Participate in the emergency recovery arrangements for people affected by earthquakes. g. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. h. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.
Department of Fire & Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discharge the duties of HMA and Controlling Agency for earthquake Emergencies, in accordance with the EM Act and Section 5 of the State EM Policy and Section 5 of the State EM Plan. b. Liaise with other Controlling Agencies to ensure response operations are coordinated. c. Ensure the development and maintenance of response and risk treatment plans specific to earthquakes. d. Periodically test and validate local, regional/district and State earthquake plans. e. Recommend the adoption of risk treatment strategies to State, District and Local Emergency Management Committees. f. In cooperation with other agencies, provide communities with earthquake risk awareness, information and education. g. Raise, train and equip an emergency service, especially USAR, capable of responding to the effects of an earthquake. h. Liaise with local government in the provision of incident control centres in earthquake susceptible areas of the State. i. Appoint emergency managers at all levels for a particular

	<p>earthquake.</p> <p>j. Facilitate the provision of assistance as required.</p> <p>k. Request activation of a SECG and provide a representative for SECG, if required.</p>
Department of Health	<p>a. Coordinate the health response in an earthquake situation, including the activation of State Health Emergency Response Plan if required.</p> <p>b. Advise DFES on all medical and health aspects in relation to an earthquake situation</p> <p>c. Through the hospital stream, provide acute medical care and relief to injured persons.</p> <p>d. Through the public health stream, provide environmental health, public health, mental health, radiation health and communicable disease control services, as required.</p> <p>e. Maintain an awareness of the readiness of health service infrastructure including assessment of impact on clinical services, response and/or evacuation requirements.</p> <p>f. Provide health advice and support to the designated recovery committee.</p> <p>g. Provide acute health services, particularly to those persons within the affected community who have chronic medical conditions.</p> <p>h. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required.</p> <p>i. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.</p>
Department of Parks and Wildlife	<p>a. Notify DFES of impacts on native wildlife and DPaW managed lands.</p> <p>b. Provide chainsaw teams to support DFES (where possible).</p> <p>c. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required.</p> <p>d. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.</p>
Department of Planning	<p>a. Incorporate earthquake risk treatment measures into state and local planning and development processes.</p> <p>b. Provide representatives on the local and regional/district earthquake planning committees, where practicable.</p> <p>c. Provide an LO to DFES SOC, if required.</p> <p>d. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.</p>
Emergency Management Australia	<p>a. Notify DFES regarding seismic events magnitude 3.5 and above within WA.</p> <p>b. Activate COMDISPLAN if required to provide Australian Government non-financial assistance.</p> <p>c. Provide an LO to DFES's SOC if required.</p> <p>d. If required, develop an Australian Government Incident Brief and/or Australian Government Talking Points.</p>
Energy Suppliers and Network Managers	<p>a. Disconnect and restore energy services as prioritised by DFES or the designated recovery authority. Restoration priority will include consideration of other lifeline interdependence requirements.</p> <p>b. Provide technical advice to DFES in relation to energy supply, disconnection and restoration.</p> <p>c. Assist in the provision of emergency energy as requested by DFES or the designated recovery authority.</p> <p>d. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake planning committees.</p> <p>e. Provide an LO to DFES SOC, if required.</p> <p>f. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.</p>

Geoscience Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in research and development of earthquake models and techniques to improve earthquake forecasting /notification. b. Provide an earthquake prediction, interpretation and notification service. c. Establish and maintain data collection networks and monitor earthquake events. d. Store and provide historical earthquake intelligence data and information. e. Contribute to the planning, installation and maintenance of new and improved earthquake warning/notification systems. f. Participate in community awareness programs on earthquake warning systems. g. Provide advice to DFES's SOC, if required.
Local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in community awareness programs on earthquake risks. b. Provide resources to assist DFES when requested. c. Make available suitable local government buildings to be used as welfare / evacuation centres. d. Issue closure notices for airports and airfields when necessary. e. Close and open roads within their jurisdiction, when requested by DFES. f. Provide details on road conditions to DFES. g. Initiate and lead the local community through the recovery process. h. Inspect and declare earthquake affected properties fit for habitation.
Main Roads WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide advice to DFES of the potential and actual impacts of an earthquake on the State road network. b. Close and open State roads when requested to do so by DFES. This Plan recognises that the Commissioner of Main Roads (or delegated Officers) has the power to close or open roads under the <i>Main Roads Act 1930</i>. c. Assist in the recovery process through State road and State road infrastructure repair and reconstruction. d. Communicate road closures to the public. e. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. f. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.
Public Transport Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide advice to DFES of the potential and actual impacts of earthquake on the public transport system. b. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake planning committees (where practicable). c. Close and open transport services when requested by DFES. d. Assist in the recovery process through rail infrastructure repair and reconstruction. e. Communicate service closures to the public. f. Provide an LO to DFES SOC, if required. g. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.
Telstra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide advice regarding the provision of emergency communications services. b. Give priority consideration to emergency communications requirements of authorities responsible for hazard and emergency management within WA. Actual service provision and restoration priorities will depend on Telstra's network configuration, the safety and availability of staff, material availability, local community issues and national and local security issues. c. Provide an LO to DFES SOC, if required. d. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.

Water Corporation WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restore water supplies and sewerage systems as prioritised by DFES or the designated recovery coordinator. b. Ensure water quality delivered by the system meets appropriate health standards. c. Assist with the provision of potable water to affected communities until normal services are restored. d. Provide a representative on local and regional/district earthquake planning committees (where practicable). e. Provide an LO to DFES SOC, if required. f. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.
Western Australia Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support DFES in conducting evacuations. b. Assist DFES with security of evacuated areas. c. In the event of mass casualties provide Disaster Victim Identification. d. Assist with the provision of road traffic management where appropriate. e. Provide an emergency coordinator to the IMT/ISG and/or OASG f. Provide a liaison officer to DFES SOC, if required. g. Provide a representative for SECG, if required.