



## State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

### 11 June 2013 meeting: Highlights

The SEMC met on 11 June 2013 to consider and discuss a broad range of issues and submissions. Key areas discussed and agreed during the meeting are summarised below.

#### RISK FRAMEWORK

In May and June, the SEMC Secretariat successfully facilitated five workshops to assess the State's risk levels for the remaining five sudden onset natural hazards. The workshops engaged wide expertise from the public and private sector including representatives from the SEMC agencies.

A range of credible scenarios for each hazard were analysed based on six focus areas aligning to the *State's Core Objectives* and the impact on *People, Economy, Infrastructure, Society, Governance* and the *Environment*. The risk assessments for the remaining sudden onset natural hazards (storm, bushfire, earthquake, heatwave and tsunami) were consistent with ISO 31000 and based on the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG).

The Chair commented on the professional nature of the workshops and the excellent participation from officers of the SEMC agencies. The results are good and will satisfy the conditions of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) and also serve as groundwork to continue determining risks and use this information to prioritise risk treatments.

The SEMC were informed that the risk information is to be further analysed and presented in a suitable form in the Preparedness Report 2013.

#### SEASON REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

The first SEMC season review meeting in May provided the opportunity to review incidents and exercises that had occurred in the past twelve months and share the lessons learnt.

Several agencies presented on a number of events, which initiated a discussion of key learnings among Committee members. The issues identified and associated follow-up actions, have been presented to the SEMC for allocation to the Recovery, Response and Community Engagement sub-committees as well as to the SEMC Secretariat.

An important issue raised was Western Australia's approach to safety issues—particularly in regards to the national harmonisation of Work Health and Safety laws and the impact these changes could mean for the Western Australian emergency management environment. The discussion also covered the need for timely dissemination of the safety learnings.

The SEMC endorsed the allocation of issues and the receipt of bi-annual reports from Hazard Management Agencies to the Risk sub-committee on the status of their significant safety incidents relating to emergencies and associated action plans.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REVIEW**

In April, the SEMC Secretariat distributed the *SEMC Sub-committee Review Discussion Paper April 2013* to stakeholders to initiate the second round of consultation. The *Discussion Paper* provided stakeholders the opportunity to further review the existing sub-committee structure and the proposed structure, and served as an avenue for comment on the proposed sub-committee terms of reference and membership. This resulted in valuable feedback from stakeholders, which informed further development of the proposal, highlighting the benefit of effective consultation.

The final proposal was detailed in the *SEMC Sub-committee Review Report June 2013* and proposed that in addition to the following four sub-committees:

- Community Engagement;
- Response;
- Risk; and
- Recovery,

that two reference groups be established, namely:

- Essential Services Network Operators (formerly Lifelines Services Sub-committee); and
- Public Information (formerly Public Information Group).

The SEMC adopted the proposed sub-committee structure, noting that:

1. The Recovery Sub-committee implementation may need to be modified.
2. Adoption of the proposal dissolves the existing sub-committee structure.
3. Review and amendment of relevant SEMC policies and procedures will be required, with the development of a new SEMC policy regarding sub-committees.

The SEMC considered that the sub-committees and reference groups will play an important role in ensuring progress, coordination, review and improvement in emergency management. The sub-committees will be well linked to the SEMC through sponsorship or chairing by SEMC members and SEMC Secretariat provision of executive officer and administrative support. Reference groups will be represented on a sub-committee or sub-committees, and will be represented on the SEMC through the SEMC Secretariat. Terms of reference and membership of the new groups will soon be published on the SEMC website.

All actions proposed will come into effect from 1 July 2013.

## **RECOVERY REVIEW**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) have requested that the recommendations from the March SEMC meeting relevant to the paper titled *State Recovery Control and Coordination* be placed 'in abeyance' to allow for analysis of further options.

As a result, all recovery arrangements detailed in State Emergency Management Policy 4.4 - State Recovery Coordination, Westplan Recovery Coordination and other Westplans will continue to apply. The current review of State Emergency Management Policy 4.4 - State Recovery Coordination will continue.

## **OTHER POLICIES, PROJECTS AND PLANS**

A range of policies, projects and plans were discussed and noted by the SEMC:

- The SEMC noted the National agenda updates including the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) meeting held on 31 May and the Land Use Planning and Building Codes progress report for WA.
- The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Guideline 6 was discussed with further work to be progressed on the eligibility of community buildings, and the classification of contractors.
- The SEMC endorsed the following Westplans and their relevant Communication and Marketing strategies:
  - Land Search.
  - Marine Search & Rescue.

- Road Crash.
- Gas Supply Disruption.
- The SEMC sub-committees' quarterly reports were noted.

The SEMC also noted the progress report updates from WA Police on the Evacuation Flagging project and the State Crisis Information Management System.

## **SEMC SECRETARIAT UPDATES**

The Executive Director provided updates on a number of ongoing reviews and reports:

- The SEMC noted the District and Local Emergency Management Committees update. A discussion paper is to be prepared for circulation to the DEMCs and LEMCs.
- The Capability Assessment Tool has been sent to relevant stakeholders including Local Governments and the preparation of the 2013 Preparedness Report is proceeding on schedule.
- The SEMC 2013 Annual Business Plan's priority items are continuing to progress effectively.
- A consultation paper on Exercise Writing Team is to be circulated for comment.
- The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) progress reports were noted.
- The NDRP update was discussed.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The next SEMC meetings scheduled for 2013 are on 3 September and 3 December. There will be an additional meeting, planned on 1 October, to review the annual Preparedness Report.

Papers on issues pertaining to emergency management and its continuous improvement are submitted to the SEMC for their consideration through the SEMC Secretariat.

# State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

## Overview

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is the peak emergency management body in Western Australia. The SEMC, appointed by the Minister, includes senior representatives (Directors General and Chief Executive Officers) from key agencies essential to the State's emergency management arrangements and also includes independent members with various expertise in government and the private sector.

The SEMC focuses on strategising, organising and overseeing the coordination and continuous improvement of emergency management in the State. This includes:

- promoting shared understanding and responsibility across whole of government and the wider community;
- establishing an emergency management framework based on a risk management approach;
- promoting preparedness for emergencies to minimise their impact and accelerate recovery; and
- providing advice to government on any matter in relation to emergency management.

The SEMC Strategic Plan is available on SEMC website ([www.semc.wa.gov.au](http://www.semc.wa.gov.au)).

## THE COMMITTEE

The 11 member SEMC comprises:

Ms Kerry Sanderson AO	Chairperson (Independent)
Ms Sue Ash	Deputy Chairperson (Independent)
Ms Noelene Jennings	SEMC Executive Officer
Mr Frank Edwards	Independent Member
Mr Peter Conran	Director General, Dept. of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Wayne Gregson APM	Commissioner, Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Mr Karl O'Callaghan APM	Commissioner, WA Police
Mr Jim Sharp	A/Director General, Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Mr Bryant Stokes	A/Director General, Dept. of Health
Mr Terry Murphy	Director General, Dept. for Child Protection
Ms Ricky Burges	CEO, Western Australian Local Government Association

A number of subcommittees (and associated working groups), with specific expertise, also exist and report to SEMC.

For further information, please contact the SEMC Secretariat on (08) 9482 1700.