



## State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)

### 10 June 2014 meeting: Highlights

The SEMC met on 10 June 2014. This meeting also included the SEMC's second season review meeting ([Season Review communiqué](#)).

Key discussion areas are summarised below:

#### PARKERVILLE-STONEVILLE-MT HELENA BUSHFIRE REVIEW

The SEMC endorsed the *Parkerville-Stoneville-Mt Helena Bushfire Review* report for transmission to the Minister for Emergency Services. The Report was previously considered by the review's Steering Committee in May.

The review team comprised of representatives from Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the SEMC Secretariat, an independent consultant and two independent experts sourced through Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC). The Steering Committee identified that for a joint review to be effective, it needed to be a collegial and learnings exercise.

The Committee commented positively on this overarching approach to the review, particularly the collegial style and continuous learning attitude. This approach to the review can be summarised as a knowledge management and improvement exercise, concentrating on "what worked well" and "what needs improvement". This style allows much to be learnt from assessing dynamic, pressurised and complicated situations like fighting a serious bushfire, where judgments need to be made quickly, logistical difficulties can arise and the mix of fire-fighting tactics and resources can be assessed for effectiveness.

The SEMC endorsed this approach to the review and its effectiveness and have requested this approach be used for future reviews conducted by the SEMC and that the Secretariat coordinate a six-monthly update on the progress of suggested improvements.

The Report was tabled in Parliament on 12 June 2014 and is available on the [SEMC website](#).

#### NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The SEMC noted a range of information regarding the allocation of funding in the past three years for the previous National Partnership Agreement (NPA), including the number of disaster resilience projects that have been awarded, the number of organisations that have secured these awards, the total value of these awards, and the number of projects that remain currently active.

The SEMC determined that the SEMC Secretariat will have oversight of the National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) and is to provide regular reports on the progress of the projects to the SEMC.

The Committee also noted that the new NPA should be finalised by the end of June 2014, and this, together with the implementation plan, will open up WA's eligibility to receive Commonwealth funding for the 2014/15

financial year. A Productivity Commission Inquiry has been launched by the Federal Government into the effectiveness and sustainability of natural disaster funding arrangements. The first draft of the review will be available in September 2014.

## **THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT**

The SEMC Secretariat has worked with agencies to further develop a Capability Assessment Tool aiming to capture more quantitative data (including rating scales for each capability). The Secretariat consulted a range of organisations to gain feedback on the processes and methodology used in the 2013 report. The Secretariat also worked with key stakeholders to further integrate risk and capability, which should reach maturity in 2015.

The SEMC noted the proposed content of the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Report. This year's edition will focus on the existing 10 Capability Areas which will include key findings, relevant data and case studies relating to specific areas of the Capability Framework. Heatwave, the Parkerville-Stoneville-Mt Helena Review, Recovery and an overview of Essential Services will also be included in this year's report.

## **POLICIES AND PLANS**

The list of State Emergency Management Policies and Procedures currently under review and the progress on the State Emergency Management Plans (Westplans) was noted by the Committee.

The SEMC approved the State Emergency Management Policy 4.7 – Community Evacuation and WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guide.

The SEMC approved the revised Westplan - Human Epidemic, Westplan - Air Crash and noted and approved the interim Westplan - Electricity Supply Interruption.

## **OTHER PROJECTS AND PLANS**

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

- The SEMC noted the following report reviews:
  - The Keelty Report "*Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire 2011*": There has been good progress on the recommendations. The Bushfire Review Implementation Group (BRIG) have concluded their major areas of work and will now cease. The limited number of outstanding items will now be monitored by the SEMC.
  - The Department of Parks and Wildlife's update on the Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire - Implementation Plan Progress.

## **SEMC SECRETARIAT UPDATES**

The Executive Director provided updates on recent work undertaken:

- The report on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) was presented to the Committee. From the last meeting the SEMC received a total of six sets of LEMAs.
- The SEMC noted the proposal from the Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia to form a new combined Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).
- The SEMC's Annual Business Plan 2014 projects are progressing steadily including the Policy framework research and the State Risk Project.
- The District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Overview report was presented to the SEMC. The Committee requested the report become an ongoing information item.

The SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Group minutes were noted. The SEMC Chair commented positively on the work undertaken over the past months and acknowledged particularly the Risk Subcommittee. The Chairs of the Subcommittees and Reference Groups meet regularly and this is proving to be effective in improving communication between the groups.

In concluding this meeting, the Chair announced that this was the SEMC Secretariat Executive Director, Noelene Jennings' last meeting. The Committee acknowledged her excellent and professional work and expressed appreciation to her for her contribution to the Committee, the SEMC Secretariat and emergency management.

## **SEMC MEETINGS**

The final two SEMC quarterly meetings in 2014 are scheduled to take place on 19 August and 2 December. There will be an additional meeting, planned on 7 October, to review the annual Preparedness Report.

For further information, please contact the SEMC Secretariat on (08) 9482 1700 or visit [www.semc.wa.gov.au](http://www.semc.wa.gov.au).