



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 1 March for the first meeting of 2016. Prior to this meeting, the SEMC considered two items out of session—Emergency Alert Funding and the Revised Capability Framework.

EMERGENCY ALERT FUNDING

The SEMC endorsed an inter-agency funding model in support of the Emergency Alert system on 22 January 2016.

REVISED CAPABILITY FRAMEWORK

On 11 February 2016 the SEMC noted and endorsed the modification to the Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework.

The SEMC Secretariat began the review of the capability framework to ensure its relevance and to align with the new 2015-18 SEMC Strategic Plan.

The development of the new framework included a review into major capability tools in use both within Australia and in highly capable nations such as the United States and New Zealand. Capability areas across these tools were merged and rationalised for the Western Australian context. They were then reconciled against the six state core objectives (people, economy, infrastructure, social setting, government and environment) to ensure they included all elements at risk. Finally, they were assessed against all the 27 legislated hazards to determine if the new framework would be able to incorporate and address specific capabilities needed across all of the identified potential hazards.

The revised framework aims to:

- align to the SEMC Strategic Plan 2015-2018

- further add to the completeness of capability assessments
- increase incisiveness in reporting
- reduce impost on contributing stakeholder agencies
- provide efficiencies by reducing duplication
- streamline data collection and analysis

The new Emergency Management Capability Framework will underpin the survey questioning for the 2016 Emergency Preparedness Report. It is available on the [SEMC website](#).

Key discussion areas from March meeting are summarised below.

BUSHFIRE REVIEW REPORTS

The SEMC noted the release of the O'Sullivan and Lower Hotham Bushfire review report on 1 February 2016. An implementation plan was presented to the SEMC for noting. The Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) considered relevant items at their scheduled meeting in February 2016, while other items will be directed to relevant agencies. The SEMC will receive a progress report at each meeting.

The SEMC noted the progress made in completing the remaining recommendations in the Bushfire Review Report, which includes the 2011 Margaret River Fire, the 2011 Perth

Hills Fire and the 2014 Parkerville Stoneville Mt Helena Fire. The SEMC supported the creation of a single database to track all review recommendations.

STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ACTIVATIONS

The SEMC noted the reported activations of the State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG), including meeting summaries. The minutes of all meetings were tabled with the SEMC endorsing the issues identified and actions taken. It was observed that SECG arrangements appeared to be working very well.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION UPDATES

The Emergency Management Amendment Bill was submitted to the Minister on 13 January 2016 for progression through Parliament.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROJECT

The seven phased Policy and Governance Review project is progressing well. Phases 3 and 5 are in their final stages—the amalgamation of existing EM policies into one State EM Policy document and the creation of the State EM Plan should be released within the next few months. Phase 7, which includes the progressive transformation of existing Westplans into Hazard Specific Plans, is scheduled to occur through to December 2017.

The SEMC Secretariat, aiming to manage any potential variance between the new State EM Plan and current Westplans awaiting review, proposed the introduction of a transitional phase in the lead up to the public release of the new State EM Policy and Plan.

The SEMC approved the proposed transition phase and noted the detailed breakdown of activities to be undertaken.

POLICIES AND PLANS

The SEMC approved the State Emergency Management Committee Policy (SEMP) 2.4 – District Emergency Management and SEMP 4.1 – Incident management, including Operational Procedures 1, 14 and 23. These policy statements and procedures will be reflected in the new State EM Policy and Plan.

The SEMC endorsed Westplan Nuclear Powered

Warship and the extension of Interim Westplan Recovery Coordination until 30 June 2016.

STATE RISK PROJECT UPDATE

The District risk assessment workshops will continue in Goldfields-Esperance, South West, Pilbara, Midwest-Gascoyne and Perth Metropolitan districts. The top 5 to 6 hazards per district will be the focus.

The first risk report summarising the risk assessments for the Kimberley district's five priority hazards is complete. The information was used for the first Kimberley Risk Treatment Framework development workshop held in February.

Scoping for the local level roll out is underway with relevant stakeholders, including Local Government, Consultants, Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the SEMC Secretariat. Five options are being considered:

1. Local Governments to work autonomously utilising guideline/tools on the SEMC website
2. Consultants to undertake the process
3. A SEMC Secretariat/WALGA partnership
4. SEMC Secretariat
5. Hybrid of any of the options above

The preferred options will be trialled and included in an Interim report with final recommendation presented to the SEMC June meeting.

DAMBREAK RISK ASSESSMENT

Following recommendations in the 'State Dam Risk Review' report, it has been agreed to establish a reference group, with the provision of support from the SEMC Secretariat. The establishment of this group is in progress, and the membership and terms of reference are yet to be determined.

The SEMC Secretariat will discuss the need for risk assessments of gully dams with the District Emergency Coordinators, as Chairs of the DEMCs, and the SEMC District Advisors at the upcoming DEMC Chairs meeting scheduled for May 2016.

The SEMC Secretariat will continue to investigate viable solutions on how to manage the resultant flood from a dambreak.

OTHER UPDATES

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

- The Productivity Commission – Report on Government Services 2016. The SEMC commented that the data and analysis needed to be interpreted with great care.
- The progression of the Strategic Bushfire Stocktake report. The SEMC noted the items to be addressed prior to finalisation.
- The District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) overview report.
- The SEMC Subcommittee minutes.
- Directed Evacuation - following discussions undertaken by the Response Subcommittee relating to evacuation, the SEMC Secretariat facilitated a meeting between executive officers from DFES and WA Police on 21 December 2015. This allowed for relevant issues to be identified. The SEMC Secretariat will investigate these issues and develop policy amendments as required. This may include advice from the State Solicitors Office.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) status report was noted. Discussions continued regarding the challenges local governments face in completing LEMAs. The SEMC considered a range of potential measures to support timely completion and review.

ZIKA VIRUS

Dr Andrew Robertson from WA Health gave an update on the Zika virus disease. He reported, that as at 28 February 2016, there were 33 cases reported in Australia. They have all been from overseas infections. There have been two WA cases. The disease originates from Africa but is now widespread in South America and, while the disease is relatively mild for most people, it does present high risk if contracted during the first trimester of pregnancy. There are links to abnormal foetal brain development, known as microcephaly, causing permanent brain damage to the unborn baby. Information on the Zika virus can be found on the [WA Health website](#).

The SEMC was satisfied with the update and agreed to monitor future developments, particularly with the upcoming Olympics scheduled to take place in Brazil.

SEMC MEETINGS

The SEMC meetings scheduled for 2016 are 10 May, 2 August, 4 October and 6 December.

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

The 2016 Resilient Australia Awards applications will open on 21 March 2016.

Further information is available on the [Emergency Management website](#).