



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 28 March 2017. This meeting marked the last one at the West Leederville premises. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has relocated to Level 1 Dumas House effective 3 April 2017.

Key discussion areas from the March meeting:

PRESENTATION ON MINES AND PETROLEUM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Acting Director General, Tim Griffin from the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) gave a presentation on the significance of Mining and Petroleum to the State economy.

As a regulator, the DMP work to ensure the industry remains viable. The outlook shows that Western Australia can maintain exploration and production for many more years, so it is important to understand the importance of resources to Western Australia. Mining dominates the Western Australian economy and needs to be managed carefully. Resources are essential and help build communities and support the Western Australian lifestyle.

The SEMC noted the presentation.

FERGUSON REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The SEMC and the OEM (former SEMC Secretariat) have made substantial progress on most of their recommendations and/or opportunities for improvement. The SEMC noted all the recommendations and opportunities, assigned to the SEMC and OEM, that have been completed. The status of the remaining items is:

Community sirens:

- The OEM has developed draft guidelines and an associated discussion paper. These have been circulated widely for comment. Discussions are continuing with local governments who are interested in piloting the guidelines and/or proceed to install one or more sirens.

Farmer and Forestry fire-fighting units:

- The OEM has prepared a discussion paper for wide circulation and has commenced discussions with the WA Farmers, Pastoralists and Graziers Association, Forest Industries Association and other stakeholders.

The SEMC noted the progress made in relation to assessing the applicability of strategic control priorities for fire being applied to all hazards. The SEMC Response Capability Subcommittee has discussed relevance to, and benefit of, applying strategic control priorities to all hazards. Further clarification and analysis is underway and will be presented to the SEMC once completed.

It is anticipated that the responsibility for monitoring the progress of Ferguson Report recommendations will transfer from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to OEM in April or May 2017.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The current SEMC Strategic Plan 2015-18 has effectively guided the former SEMC Secretariat's work and reporting. The creation

of the OEM, with the addition of assurance and recovery functions, has triggered a review of the plan to ensure it remains up to date.

The OEM have started drafting a vision and mission statement. During this process the current guiding principles and values are also being reconsidered.

The SEMC agreed that further consideration was needed to produce a revised SEMC Strategic Plan and new OEM Plan.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE FUNCTION

As response to Recommendation 1, the newly established OEM was tasked to develop an EM Assurance Framework for WA.

To date the OEM's Assurance team have completed a draft Concept Paper including research of other jurisdictions, consultation with key stakeholders and strategy development.

The SEMC discussed the Concept Paper considering the roles of the OEM and the SEMC in relation to the requirements of the new Assurance function.

The SEMC noted the EM Assurance Concept Paper and endorsed the continuation of work by the OEM to analyse and prepare a range of options to be considered at the next meeting.

OEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM (NDRP)

The NDRP competitive grants round opened on 8 December 2016 and closed on 22 February 2017. Of 41 applications received, 36 eligible applications are currently being assessed, with recommendations to be presented at the SEMC meeting in May. Western Australian and Commonwealth Ministers will then be required to endorse the recommendations. The announcement date is scheduled for June 2017.

STATE RISK PROJECT

The State Risk Project update:

State

- Gas fuel supply disruption workshop

completed on 2 March 2017.

- Rail Crash – Brookfield Rail hazard workshop was set for 22 February, but was delayed by the flooding. A new date has not yet been established, but will be in the next month or two.
- Nuclear Powered Warship/Space Debris Re-entry workshop likely to be held in July.

So far, the team have covered 17 hazards and are aiming to finish all by 27 December 2017. The seven natural hazards will re-assessed in May for Commonwealth reporting in June. This is the second assessment of these hazards, following the initial 2013 assessments.

District

All risk assessments have been completed and the reports finalised.

Local

Thirty nine local governments have participated in the first Group workshop (Stage 2) of the five stage process: 3 in Great Southern, 1 in South West and 1 in Wheatbelt, 1 in Goldfields-Esperance.

The information and materials within the workshops have been well received. Work will continue to determine the level of support required from OEM to the get LGs through the process.

STATE CAPABILITY PROJECT

Development of more qualitative capability collection methodologies is underway and will be in-part utilised in the 2017 Preparedness Report collection cycle. These new capability collection techniques will progressively be incorporated into the State Capability Project methodology as they mature.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROJECT: PHASE 4(B) POLICY CONTENT REVIEW

The OEM has commenced undertaking activities for Phase 4(B), with priority given to projects related to possible enhancements to the State EM Framework.

The SEMC noted that the topics and projects for review represent a significant body of work and project delivery is dependent on the availability of resources. In the event of a major incident review or the government directing the OEM to undertake specific projects, completion of some of the lower priority projects identified in the Report may not be attained by March 2018.

OTHER UPDATES

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

- The SEMC noted the draft SEMC Governance Manual. Further development will occur following contribution from SEMC members and consultation with the Minister for Emergency Services.
- The SEMC approved the initiation of discussions between the SEMC Chair and Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group (ESNORG) Chair about telecommunication blackspots and service disruption in the Wheatbelt and South West regions.
- The SEMC noted the 2015-16 summary of annual reporting to Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) on fuel management activities.
- The SEMC noted the 'Independent Review of the Extreme Weather Event South Australia 28 September 2016'. This type of review provides valuable insight, from an EM perspective, into the practical lessons learned from the consequences of such a power outage event.
- The SEMC noted the District Emergency Management Committee Overview report and the updated Local Emergency Management Arrangements for the City of Greater Geraldton and Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku.
- The SEMC noted the minutes of all SEMC Subcommittees recent meetings including the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee.

SEMC MEETINGS

The SEMC meetings scheduled for 2017 are 2 May, 1 August, 3 October and 5 December.

For further information, please contact the OEM info@oem.wa.gov.au.