



SEMC Communiqué

The SEMC met on 9 March 2018. The key discussion areas from the meeting are summarised below.

SMART FREEWAYS PRESENTATION

Mr James Dobinson, Congestion Program Director from Main Roads Western Australia provided the SEMC members with a presentation on the *Smart Freeways - Kwinana Freeway Northbound* project.

This project will deliver Perth's first Smart Freeway by early 2020. An additional lane will be created from the Canning Highway to the Narrows Bridge by allowing the emergency stopping lane to be used by general traffic during peak times. Smart technology will be used to close and reopen traffic lanes, adjust speed limits and provide emergency access during incidents, similar to the system used in the Northbridge tunnel.

Mr Dobinson explained how Smart Freeways are used successfully both nationally (in Victoria) and internationally to manage congestion, improve safety and use existing infrastructure efficiently. Concern was expressed by some Committee members about flow-on safety impacts from the closure of emergency stopping lanes. It was noted from discussions that the matter needed further consideration especially as it related to the community fully understanding the impacts of the project.

The SEMC noted the presentation and requested further updates as the project progresses.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE FUNCTION

In December 2017, the SEMC noted a paper that proposed an emergency management (EM) Assurance Framework for the State which included the proposal to add 'assurance' as a legislative function of the SEMC within the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* (EM Regulations). The SEMC members had the opportunity to provide their feedback concerning the proposal prior to the meeting.

Subsequent to this SEMC action item, on 14 February 2018 the Minister for Emergency Services announced that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will be integrated into the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) structure. The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) will evaluate the performance and compliance aspects of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act) and report on the degree to which agencies with assigned roles and responsibilities in State Emergency Management Policy and Plans are fulfilling their legislative obligations. The Minister confirmed that DFES will continue to provide policy advice and administrative and technical support to the SEMC, and that the SEMC will continue to lead the preparation of the State's Emergency Preparedness Report.

In response to these structural changes the OEM has developed a proposed model for EM compliance and assurance. The proposed model reflects the intent of Recommendation 1 from the Ferguson Report which is to provide separation between DFES and whole of government assurance. The model reinforces this separation by describing and allocating the role of 'compliance' to the OAG and 'assurance' to the SEMC. The SEMC's role in 'assurance' would be through the strengthening and validating of the Emergency Preparedness Report.

The SEMC noted the submissions from SEMC members. The compliance and assurance model discussion paper was endorsed 'in principle' as a basis for further discussion with DFES and OAG, subject to comments from members being included in the paper.

MERGER OF THE SEMC RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEES

The WA SEMC subcommittee structure was set up in 2013 to mirror the Commonwealth structure and maintain synergies with developments in the relevant areas across jurisdictions.

From July 2017 the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) reduced its four subcommittees to two. The SEMC Subcommittee Chairs and Executive Officers Committee agreed to monitor the progress of the new Commonwealth arrangements and review WA's subcommittee structure in 2018.

The subcommittee structure has now been reviewed. A merger of the SEMC Recovery and Community Engagement subcommittees is now appropriate as there are strong links between the two. However, it is proposed that the Response Capability and Risk subcommittees remain separate. The Risk subcommittee needs to maintain its focus on the State Risk Project, one of the SEMC's priorities, while the Response Capability subcommittee needs to be able to continue its focus on its response-specific issues.

The SEMC endorsed the merger. The new subcommittee will be called Recovery and Community Engagement subcommittee.

NETWORK OF PERSONNEL FOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

The SEMC approved the Ferguson Report Implementation Working Group progressing Recommendation 7 of the Report by establishing an appropriate network of WA State Government agency personnel who can be called upon for bushfire and emergency incident management capability within the State. In the discussion it was noted that leadership and network capabilities can emerge from community based discussions around who may be able to provide a contribution during incidents. Informal patterns of leadership may offer ready resources at the community level.

The SEMC agreed to draft a paper for the Public Sector Leadership Council to seek support for the development of this network.

SEMC AND DFES SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

One of the key functions of the OEM is to provide support to the SEMC and assist the Minister for Emergency Services in the administration of the EM Act.

In order to comply with Section 24(1) of the EM Act the Minister must ensure the SEMC is provided with the facilities and services that, in the Minister's opinion, are reasonably necessary to enable it to perform its functions.

With the recent structural changes to DFES announced by the Minister the OEM will be integrated into the new DFES Strategy and Emergency Management command. The responsibility of supporting the SEMC will lie with DFES.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been drafted between the SEMC Chair and Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner. The SLA details the services to be provided by DFES which will be required by the SEMC to enable it to perform its functions under the EM Act and to deliver on the SEMC 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

The SEMC approved the draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) 'in principle' and provided additional information to be included prior to finalisation.

EMERGENCY ALERT PHASE 4

The SEMC noted the cost allocation for the Emergency Alert Phase 4 upgrade between DFES, Western Australia Police Force, Department of Health and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The cost allocation is based on the number of hazards allocated to each of the four Hazard Management Agencies in the EM Regulations.

A meeting with the Department of Treasury is to be arranged to further discuss the proposed cost allocation model.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

In December 2017, the SEMC discussed the need to free up the agenda of administrative and routine items to leave more time to discuss strategic and other more important issues. As a result, a 'consent agenda' has been introduced to deal with administrative and routine items.

The SEMC:

- approved the minutes of the recent SEMC ordinary and out of session meetings
- endorsed assigning the role and responsibility for coordinating Animal Welfare in Emergencies to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- approved the updated State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act which replaces the Westplan version
- approved the revocation of Westplan – Dambreak
- noted the progress on the Policy and Governance Review Project: Phase 7 Westplan Rationalisation project and approved the revised completion dates for State Hazard Plans
- noted the progress in the Ferguson Report implementation update
- noted the Local Emergency Management Arrangements for the Shires of York and Leonora
- noted the SEMC subcommittee minutes.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

- State Risk Project: risk assessment work continues at the State level and to date 25 of the 27 hazards have been assessed. Local level roll outs are progressing and nearly 50 local governments have commenced the process. Treatment workshops are underway in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt, and have now commenced in the Goldfields-Esperance and the South West.
- The State Capability Framework has evolved, is proving robust and can be used for multiple applications. In 2017 the Emergency Preparedness Report capability survey was substantially enhanced and now allows for spatial and graphical viewing of capability across WA. It also has provided a benchmark for future comparison.
- Planning for the East Asia Summit Toolkit exercise from 8 to 10 May 2018 is progressing. This exercise will evaluate the Australian and WA EM arrangements for the receipt of international assistance into WA following a catastrophic event.
- The State Recovery Coordinator visited Broome from 6 to 9 March 2018. The visit provided the opportunity to scope the capability and capacity present to manage the recovery phase post the cyclones.
- The new Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding agreement is to be implemented by 1 July 2018. Negotiations with the Commonwealth are still ongoing. The next step will be to 'ready' the State and local stakeholders for implementation.
- Phases 4B and 7 of the SEMC Policy and Governance Review project continue and are scheduled for completion in 2018. An Emergency Management Framework Advisory Group has been established to support strategic EM projects within Phase 4B.

SEMC MEETINGS

The upcoming SEMC meetings for 2018 are scheduled for: 4 May, 3 August, 5 October and 7 December.

For SEMC related information or enquiries, please email info@oem.wa.gov.au.