



SEMC Communiqué

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 04 October 2019. The key discussion items and resolutions from the meeting are summarised below.

Presentations

- Prof Tarun Weeramanthri presented to SEMC on the Climate Health WA Inquiry. Formal public hearings started on 1 October and will conclude by mid December 2019. Prof Weeramanthri stated that stories collected throughout the public workshops illustrated how different areas in WA are experiencing Climate Change. The final report is anticipated in March 2020 and SEMC will continue to keep updated on the progress on the Inquiry.
- A presentation was given to introduce the first draft of the 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report for SEMC comment and feedback. The 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report follows a new structure with greater infographics and deep dives illustrating the complexity of Emergency Management. The Report will be made publicly available following consideration by the Minister.
- Commissioner Klemm and Ms Pexton presented on their experiences as part of a national delegation to the USA. The key learnings included the scale of emergencies in the USA and their vast impacts, evacuating 100,000's of people at times. The complexity of recovery was highlighted. The Commissioner confirmed that recovery during WA emergencies is now a focus during the traditional response phase, noting that prevention, preparedness, response and recovery are not strictly sequential.

General Update

- SEMC discussed the publishing of harvest and vehicle movement bans and undertook to research opportunities to streamline the availability of this information.

- SEMC approved referencing the Australian Institute of [Disaster Resilience Handbook – Lessons Management \(2nd edition\)](#) in the suite of State Emergency Management Documents as a guideline for use by all agencies. These amendments will be presented to stakeholders and subcommittees for feedback prior to submission to SEMC for approval.
- A competitive NDRP grant round of approximately \$1.34 million was approved. This will be released quarter one of 2020.
- SEMC approved the amendments to the suite of State EM documents. This included:
 - Inclusion of new roles and responsibilities for the State Recovery Controller;
 - Inclusion of additional State Emergency Coordination Group functions to clarify the State-level recovery role;
 - Submission of new Impact Statement to replace the former Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CIA);
 - Submission of an Impact Statement Guide as an attachment to State EM Recovery Procedure 4. This guide will support the preparation of an Impact Statement;
 - Revision of requirement for the controlling agency to ‘undertake an initial impact assessment’ to the requirement to ‘provide of known or emerging impacts to be reported to the Local Recovery Coordinator and State Recovery Coordinator’
 - Revision of requirement for Impact Statements to be completed prior to the transfer of responsibility for management of recovery to the affected local government;
 - Clarification of Impact Statements to be required for all level 3 incidents and level 2 incidents where there are impacts requiring recovery;
 - Revision of State EM Preparedness Procedure 20 – SEMC Subcommittees and Reference Groups;
 - Clarifications regarding post-operational, State Emergency Coordination Group and recovery reporting arrangements;
 - Statement of fact changes to provide clarification and update agency names, titles and locations; and
 - Corrections to typographical, formatting, and grammatical errors, contact details and outdated hyperlinks throughout the suite.
- A new Subcommittee, the Public Safety Communications (PSC) Subcommittee was established. The Government Chief Information Officer will Chair the Subcommittee which will support the development and operation of effective and efficient Public Safety Communications (PSC) in Western Australia.¹

¹ Public Safety Communications include those capabilities, services and systems that support communications within and between public safety agencies (e.g. law enforcement and emergency service organisations), and between those agencies and the community.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

The Executive Officer update summarised key outcomes since the last meeting that impact on emergency management within Western Australia.

- A exercise held on 13 September to validate the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare. This was a collaborative exercise which proved valuable in testing the support plan. It also tested the proposed templates for the Exercise Management Guideline.
- At the March 2018 meeting SEMC supported the creation of a Network of Personnel for Incident Management, in alignment with recommendation 7 of the *Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire*. As a result an interagency working group has been established to create a framework that allows for greater resource sharing during times of need.
- An all hazards State Level Risk Profile is being developed for online access through the SEMC website.
- WA is currently in the process of negotiating a further 5-year National Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth.

SEMC MEETINGS

The next SEMC meetings is scheduled for 13 December 2019.

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