



# SEMC Communiqué

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 10 May 2019. The key discussion items and resolutions from the meeting are summarised below.

## General Update

- SEMC expressed concern about the issues relating to telephone communications in emergencies that are being raised by District Emergency Management Committees and Emergency Management Agencies. Further analysis will be undertaken.
- SEMC congratulated the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Developments for the progress of the Animal Welfare Support Plan and their efforts in preparing for the upcoming exercise.
- SEMC considered the NDRP projects that were recommended through the competitive grant process. The endorsed proposals are now with the Emergency Services Minister for endorsement.
- The State Emergency Management Committee approved the hazards of Human Epidemic and Fire as the themes for the State Level exercise program 2020–2022. The program will assess the capabilities of Governance, Emergency Response, Resources, Community Involvement, Planning & Mitigation, Impact Assessment & Recovery.
- SEMC approved the revocation of Westplan – Human Epidemic and its replacement by State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity. The new plan also provides arrangements for the actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a biological substance covered by the former Westplan Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear.
- Approved amendments to the State emergency management (EM) documents:
  - to implement the State Exercise Framework:
    - State EM Policy sections 4.8-4.11 Exercising;
    - State EM Plan section 4.7 Exercises and Training;

- State EM Preparedness Procedure 19 Exercise Management;
  - minor amendments throughout to reflect above
- updates to State Hazard Plans – Search and Rescue, Energy Supply Disruption, HAZMAT, Terrorism; and
- statement of fact changes to the suite of documents.

## Governance

The SEMC approved a range of enhancements to the governance of SEMC. These changes include:

- Restructuring the reporting from District Emergency Management Committees, Subcommittees and Reference Groups. The development of the new reports will be in consultation with the impacted parties.

## Season Debrief

The Police Commissioner as the State Emergency Coordinator provided a summary of the State Emergency Coordination Group meetings held over the season. DFES was the Hazard Management Agency for the Cyclone Veronica event and members were pleased to see the effective multi- agency response and the opportunity to have the industry sector involved.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

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

[\*Profiling Australia's Vulnerability: the interconnected causes and cascading effects of systemic disaster risk\*](#) has been released by the Department of Home Affairs. Backed by an extensive scientific evidence base, this report has been co-designed and developed by a partnership team comprising government, research and academia, industry, private and public sector representatives. Guided by an advisory panel of eminent scholars (national and international) and involving over 200 Australians from across the nation, the work would not have been possible without the extensive research from the work of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

### **Risk:**

- An all hazards State Level Risk Profile is being developed for online access through the SEMC website.

**Capability:**

- The 2019 Capability Survey that underpins the Emergency Preparedness Report was provided to stakeholders in early April. Responses are due by 30 May for agencies and 5 June for Local Governments.
- The 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report will primarily comprise a section on the holistic capability for the State and a series of deep dive analysis into recurring and critical themes.

**Recovery:**

- A recovery network has been established in partnership with WALGA to assist in building local government and recovery sector capabilities and to share lessons learnt and best practice.

**Governance:**

- Scoping is currently underway to carry out an initial audit into the Preparedness Report and emergency management arrangements in WA.
- As of November 2018, of the 40 recommendations and opportunities for improvement, 34 Ferguson Report recommendations and opportunities for improvement were completed, with 6 in progress.

**Investment:**

- \$215,000 has been budgeted in 2018-19 for All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) activities that enhance community resilience, with an additional \$87,000 yet to be awarded from the last competitive grants round. The competitive grant round closed on 16 May 2019 and recipients are anticipated to be announced June 2019.

## SEMC MEETINGS

The next SEMC meetings is scheduled for 02 August 2019.

For SEMC related information or enquiries, please email [info@semc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@semc.wa.gov.au).