

SEMC COMMUNIQUE

MARCH 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



The first meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for 2022 was held on Friday 11 March and was attended by the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC. The Minister remarked on the dedication of the many staff and volunteers across the sector who serve our communities in their time of need, he also acknowledged the important leadership role that SEMC and its various arms has in guiding the State's Emergency Management sector. Minister Dawson also highlighted that he saw the role of SEMC growing in importance into future.

The key items from the meeting are summarised below.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

The SEMC received two presentations. The first was on the WA Government Climate and Health Policy presented by Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, President of the Public Health Association of Australia and Adjunct Professor, School of Population and Global Health at the University of Western Australia. The presentation gave an overview of the relationship of climate change to disasters, emergencies and human health. Professor Weeramanthri led the Climate Health WA Inquiry Final Report which was released December 2020 (<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/climate-health-wa-final-report>). The presentation reiterated to SEMC that climate change is happening faster than initially predicted and that the resulting impacts are occurring concurrently, are interconnected and are greater than expected. The SEMC will consider the issue of climate change further at its May meeting with the view to take a leadership role across the Emergency Management sector.

The second presentation was an outline of the role of the National Cyber Security Committee and the Australian Cyber Security Centre. Mr Greg Italiano, Government Chief Information Officer, informed SEMC of the role of the Office of Digital Government in cyber security policy, operations, incident response and exercising.

The SEMC endorsed a comprehensive review of the State Recovery Framework, including consideration of prioritised lessons identified in a number of reviews over the last 5 years.

The SEMC was asked to consider the role of philanthropic and private organisations within Emergency Management. The SEMC endorsed that the following SEMC Subcommittees investigate options and provide advice to the SEMC regarding the use of private and philanthropic organisations for Emergency Management in WA:

- Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee
- Response Capability Subcommittee
- Risk Subcommittee

Consideration was given by the SEMC to increasing Emergency Management training capabilities across Western Australia. The SEMC acknowledged the existing training opportunities and options available by various organisations and discussed that increasing training and knowledge outcomes is a critical body of work. SEMC have requested that a project scope and plan be provided for SEMC consideration at the August meeting.

Next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Thursday 5 May 2022. The meeting will be a strategic planning day and the SEMC will not be considering agenda items outside of this scope.

Consultation

The following Emergency Management related documents are scheduled for consultation.

Currently released for review:

- Traffic Management Guideline Review
- Revoking All Hazards Flagging Arrangements

Scheduled for consultation in the March, April and May 2022:

- Funding in Emergencies Arrangements
- State Emergency Management Roles and Responsibilities Review

The following plans are scheduled for circulation in the second half of the year:

- State Hazard Plan – Severe Weather

To give feedback on the above plans [click this link](#), and click 'Get Involved'.

For further information on the State Emergency Management Framework consultations, please contact semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au.

GENERAL UPDATES

Subcommittees and Reference Groups

The next meetings for SEMC Subcommittees and Reference Groups are scheduled for:

Public Safety Communications Subcommittee	15 March 2022
Response Capability Subcommittee	23 March 2022
Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee	25 March 2022
Essential Services Network Operators Reference	7 April 2022
Public Information Reference Group	4 May 2022
Risk Subcommittee	20 May 2022
State Exercise Coordination Team	TBC
Lessons Management Reference Group	TBC

Community Disaster Resilience Strategy

Consultation is continuing on the WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is seeking feedback from across the State and sectors.

State agencies, local governments, service providers and community organisations are encouraged to provide input on how the strategy would be useful for them.

Consultation will remain open during March 2022. Have your say at <https://semc.wa.gov.au/resilience>.

Grant Program Updates

The SEMC endorsed dates for the third round of the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program which will open 25 March and close 5 May. The NDRR is a program to deliver \$12.528 million in funding over five years. The third round of the NDRR program will have a maximum allocation of \$5 million for eligible projects.

The SEMC also endorsed that the 2022-23 round of the All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program will have a \$200,000 allocation and that the grant round will be open from 29 April 2022 to 10 June 2022. This grant is a State government initiative to enhance Emergency Management arrangements by building capacity and knowledge at both the local and district levels.

Further information on the NDRR and AWARE grant programs is available at <https://semc.wa.gov.au/funding>.

The SEMC Business Unit is providing support to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency in administering the Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program 2022-23. This Commonwealth funded grant seeks to address coastal hazards, such as inundation, storm surge and erosion. Further information is available at <https://recovery.gov.au/coastal-and-estuarine-risk-mitigation-program-22-23>.

Please contact semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au if you require any further information the grants programs.

DFES Site Restrictions - COVID Protocols

In accordance with the Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restriction on Access) Directions (No 2) issued under the *Public Health Act 2016 (WA)* all visitors to DFES premises will be asked to provide evidence of vaccination or exemption before entering.

Individuals who have not provided evidence of vaccination or exemption will be required to adhere to the DFES Infection Prevention and Control (COVID-19) Procedures.

Other agencies will have their own restrictions in place as well.

If you have any questions, please discuss them with the meeting organiser.