

SEMC COMMUNIQUE

DECEMBER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



The final meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for 2021 was on Friday 3 December.

The key items from the meeting are summarised below.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

The [2021 – 2024 SEMC Strategic Plan](#) has been released and is now available on the SEMC website.

The [2020 – 2021 SEMC Annual Report](#) has also been finalised and will be published on the SEMC website shortly.

The SEMC received two presentations. The first was on the risk of Coastal Inundation presented by the WA Local Government Association. The risks of coastal inundation to key low-lying areas in the south west of WA are caused by increased storm intensity (winter and summer cyclones), which can be mitigated by the preparation level of these communities. SEMC noted the Department of Transport's work on vulnerable inundation 'hotspots', which informed this presentation.

The second presentation was from the Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety. An overview of WA's transportation and regulation of dangerous goods was provided, and how it is being managed to prevent risks to the community and emergency management sector.

The SEMC noted the Shire of Harvey's case study on 'Long Tail' Recovery following the 2016 Waroona Complex Fire. The case study reflected the Shire of Harvey's perspectives, reflections and roles associated with long-term recovery, including how they organised their own people, resources, governance, systems and processes over the five years since the fire. The key themes identified provide invaluable lessons for other local governments into the complexities of recovery following a significant emergency incident and noted the good preparation and planning by local governments. The Case Study will be published shortly in the [SEMC State Recovery Toolbox](#).

State Emergency Management Framework

- The SEMC approved four State Hazard Plans – Tsunami, Earthquake, Collapse and Maritime Transport Emergencies. The Committee noted the Communication and Marketing Strategy for each of the plans.
- The approval of State Hazard Plans – Earthquake and Collapse concludes the Westplan Rationalisation Strategy.
- The SEMC approved the extension of the COVID-19 State Recovery Controller's authority (under Appendix AA within the State Emergency Management Policy and State Emergency Management Plan) to continue in undertaking recovery activities and leading a whole of government approach for the duration of the term of appointment.

A summary of all amendments made to the State Emergency Management Framework can be found on the SEMC website by viewing the [State Emergency Management Document Amendments and Review Schedule](#).

Next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Friday 11 March 2022. Agenda items are to be submitted no later than Friday 18 February 2022.

Consultation

The following emergency management related documents are scheduled for consultation during January/February 2022:

- State Emergency Management Response Procedure 20; Australian Government Physical Assistance/Defence Assistance to Civil Communities.
- State Emergency Management; Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines.

To give feedback on the above plan [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 Information Reference Group	9 February 2022
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 Group	7 April 2022
Risk Subcommittee	12 April 2022
State Exercise Coordination Team	TBC
Lessons Management Reference Group	TBC

On 18 November 2021 the SEMC subcommittee and reference group chairs and executive officers met for their second forum of 2021. The forum included discussion on roles and responsibilities within the SEMC structure and key priorities for 2022.

Community Disaster Resilience Strategy

Consultation is continuing on the WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper. 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 a strategy would be useful for them.

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

Preparing Australian Communities Program (PACP Local)

The Preparing Australian Communities Program for projects of local significance (PACP Local) is open for applications. The program will support projects that mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, impact and consequence associated with large-scale natural hazards and is coordinated by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and administered by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

This round is open to a wide range of eligible applicants including local governments, community organisations and businesses across the nation. This round of the program focuses on three hazards - bushfire, flood and cyclone.



For more information on PACP Local grant documentation, [click here](#).

To download the grant guidelines, [click here](#).

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program 2021-22

The second round of the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program opened for applications on 30 November 2021. This round of the program offers \$50 million over the 2021/2022 financial year to support communities across Australia to invest in flood mitigation preparedness. Applications close on 04 February 2022. The grants are administered by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. For more information and to download the guidelines, visit the [National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program 2021-22](#) website.

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.