

# SEMC COMMUNIQUE

## OCTOBER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 1 October 2021.

The key items from the meeting are summarised below.

### Discussion Items and Outcomes

During the Wooroloo bushfires in early 2021, the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies was activated for the first time. The SEMC received a presentation from Pamela l'Anson and Brett Hopley from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on the activation process and outcomes:

- This was the first activation of the plan and the Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE).
- CAWE has 27 members who promote communication, collaboration and the integration of animal welfare into emergency management. CAWE members include Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA), RSPCA and Perth Zoo.
- During the Wooroloo bushfires an immense amount of support was given by the Australian Veterinary Association and individual vets, which SEMC and DPIRD commended. There were up to 40 veterinary professionals involved daily over the 4 days of the activation.
- Feedback was given to the community at the evacuation centres on the animal welfare situation and surrounding individual properties and animals. This information was well received by the public and helped to assure their animals were safe and fed. This in turn reduced the number of requests to enter high risk areas, reducing resources required to manage public safety.
- After the bushfires a review of the State Support Plan was conducted, which identified 18 recommendations which DPIRD have already commenced actions on to improve their response for the upcoming high threat period. The SEMC acknowledged DPIRD's efforts and actions to implement, collaborate and improve the plan for future activations.

The SEMC Business Unit presented on the progress of the 2021 Emergency Preparedness Report, which advises the Minister on the preparedness of the WA emergency management sector. This annual report analyses information from a range of sources including the State Risk Project, significant incidents (e.g. Tropical Cyclone Seroja and Wooroloo Bushfires) and interviews with key leadership across the emergency management sector.

The SEMC endorsed the allocation of over \$1.3 million of the Mitigation Activity Fund Royalties for Regions funding to treat priority bushfire risks on Crown land under the care, control and management of eligible Local Government Authorities in regional WA.

### Next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Friday 3 December 2021. Agenda items are to be submitted no later than Friday 12 November 2021.

## Consultation

The following items will open for consultation in November/December:

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

You can find and give feedback on items which are open for consultation by [clicking this link](#), scrolling to the relevant item and click 'Get Involved'.

For further information on the State Emergency Management Framework consultations, please contact [semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au)

## GENERAL UPDATES

### Subcommittee's and Reference Groups

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

Lessons Management Reference Group	14 October 2021
Essential Services Network Reference Group	14 October 2021
Public Safety Communications Subcommittee	20 October 2021
Risk Subcommittee	21 October 2021
Response Capability Subcommittee	27 October 2021
Public Information Reference Group	2 November 2021
State Exercise Coordination Team	TBC

The Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee met on Friday 8 October 2021.

### Community Disaster Resilience Strategy

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and Australian Red Cross were awarded funding in 2019 to prepare a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy for WA.



The Strategy aims to increase the capacity of communities to cope with and recovery from the possible impacts of natural hazards, identify resilience priorities and guide the development of programs and activities to address resilience gaps. The Strategy will align closely to the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

Through stakeholder consultation, a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper has been established. The next round of consultation on the Discussion Paper was officially launched at the WA Emergency Management Conference in Bunbury on 13 October 2021.

The consultation will ultimately inform the final strategy. DFES will be seeking feedback specifically on the proposed outcomes framework, transformational shifts, change initiatives and implementation roadmap.

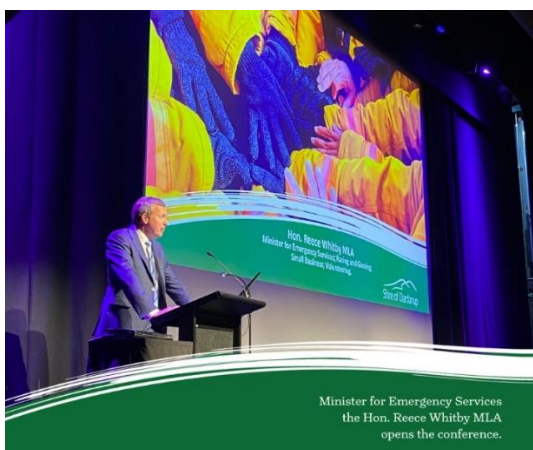
Thank you everyone who has contributed to date to this important project. Your input plays a key role in assisting us to deliver a robust Community Disaster Resilience Strategy for Western Australia.

Want to get involved? [Click here](#) to access the 'Ideas Wall' or join the mailing list to keep informed on the strategy and its progress.

## 2021 WA Emergency Management Conference

The SEMC would like to extend their congratulations to the Shire of Dardanup for hosting an engaging and motivational 2021 WA Emergency Management Conference at Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 13 October 2021. This conference was supported by the [All West Australians Reducing Emergencies \(AWARE\) Program](#) grant allocation, which is part of a competitive grants program which the SEMC oversees. For more information, please visit [www.semc.wa.gov.au](http://www.semc.wa.gov.au).

The range of speakers gave great insight into the emergency management sector both in WA and nationwide. Topics included a future focused emergency broadcast network, the impact of climate change on natural disasters, mental health for first responders (both career and volunteer) and the impacts on communities from long term recovery. The conference closed with an inspiring presentation from Clifton Tjapanangka Payirntarri Bieundurry, Traditional and Cultural Fire Officer at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence. Clifton shared personal cultural stories from his upbringing, detailing different methods of cultural fire practices and how it fits in today's growing world.



Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Reece Whitby MLA opening the Conference.  
credit: Shire of Dardanup



Dr Robert Glasser – Preparing for the Era of Disaster in a warming climate.  
credit: Shire of Dardanup

## Bushfire Community Day



The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is hosting the 2021 Bushfire Community Day on Saturday 30 October 2021.

The free event is at the new Bushfire Centre of Excellence in Nambeelup. Everyone including members of the public are encouraged to take part in exciting and informative sessions, explore the facility, enjoy a range of family-fun activities and more.

[Register your attendance here](#) to ensure we can notify you quickly and directly should circumstances change.