

May 2025

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 8 May 2025 and was attended by the Minister for Emergency Services, Honorable Paul Papalia CSC MLA. The Minister noted the important work of the SEMC to support the State to plan and prepare for emergencies and emerging challenges including cyber security and nuclear powered warships.

Presentation

Be Ahead of Ready | Natural Hazards Research Australia

Andrew Gissing, Chief Executive Officer, Natural Hazards Research Australia provided an overview of the Centre.

The Centre was established in 2021 as Australia's research and implementation centre for natural hazards resilience and disaster risk. The Centre uses an end-user driven model with a focus on creating and translating knowledge which is useful, usable and ultimately used.

The Centre consists of 32 participant organisations, who put forward ideas to be funded and are involved throughout the research processes to inspire and create utilisation. The Centre has 67 core research projects in progress with \$21 million in funding allocated.

New research projects include:

1. Tropical Cyclone Alfred Post-Event Research
2. Heatwave resilience and impacts
3. Communicating flood risk

Further information on the Centres research can be found at www.naturalhazards.com.au.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

Local Emergency Management Arrangements Project Update

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program is continuing to work toward a more capable and resilient community, through a local approach to emergency management.

The Western Australian Local Government Association has partnered with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on behalf of SEMC to deliver the improvement program.

Two streams of work are currently underway:

1. LEMA Pilot Program

Five local governments have been selected for the LEMA Pilot Program, and kick-off meetings have been held with all local governments. Over the next four months, participants will be supported to develop/refresh their LEMA using the new templates, tools, and processes.

2. Statement of Policy

Work is underway to compile resources for an online Local Government Emergency Management Statement of Policy in a single platform. The online tool also provides

comprehensive guidance to assist local governments in understanding their emergency management obligations and navigating the State EM Framework.

Until the reform of LEMA, local governments are advised to proceed as planned with LEMA reviews, so they maintain their obligations under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Colvin and Glasser Update

In 2023, two reviews were commissioned in response to the increasing size, scale, intensity, cost and complexity of natural disasters:

- [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#) – Andrew Colvin APM OAM – commissioned by the Australian Government.
- [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#) – Dr Robert Glasser – commissioned by the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting.

The reviews were released on 25 October 2024, both finding that Australia's disaster management frameworks and arrangements have not evolved at the same rate as the changing nature of disasters.

In January 2025 the SEMC established a multi-agency working group to consider the impacts and potential opportunities arising from the recommendations. The working group will submit a report to the SEMC outlining their findings in May 2025.

Climate Change Subcommittee Options Paper

The Climate Change Subcommittee is a time-limited committee, tasked with leading the development of the Emergency Management - Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) for climate change.

The SEMC approved the extension of the committee until 30 June 2027, acknowledging the SEMC Strategic Plan identifies Climate Change as a key strategic objective and the committee will assist in guiding adaptation and climate change considerations across the EM framework.

The SEMC also acknowledged the need for an integrated approach to climate change, systemic risk and preparedness, and requested the subcommittee terms of reference reflect these interdependencies.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State Emergency Management documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2025:

State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)	WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident	Local Recovery Guideline
State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain	Impact Statement Guideline and Template

Next Meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of SEMC will be held on 7 August 2025.

Contact Us

If you have feedback or questions, get in touch at info@semc.wa.gov.au.

