



# Strategic Plan 2026-29

## VISION

**A resilient, prepared, safer  
Western Australia.**

## MISSION

**Leading a connected, capable and  
progressive emergency management system  
to enhance resilience to emergencies.**

# Our Emergency Management System

The emergency management system constitutes an integrated approach across the emergency management cycle. The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) plays a central role across the system and with the emergency management sector using strong governance and relationships to foster collaboration between emergency management partners, communities, government, and organisations.

## People

People are at the heart of emergency management. We value the expertise and commitment of those involved to help Western Australia prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

## Relationships

Emergency management is a shared responsibility, built on trust and strong relationships. We actively build and maintain connections within the emergency management system, with our emergency management partners and in our communities.

## Governance

We are the stewards of the emergency management framework. We ensure emergency management arrangements are fit for purpose, contemporary, and accessible to all.

# Strategic Objectives

## Together, we...

### Leadership and Governance

...build strong relationships and effective governance to enable a trusted emergency management system.

### Hazard and Systemic Risk

...build our understanding of increasingly complex risk through a systemic and hazard by hazard approach.

### Community and Local Emergency Management

...build a safer and more resilient community through a local approach to emergency management.

### Capability and Capacity

...enhance capability and capacity across the emergency management system through proactive policy and stewardship of emergency management frameworks.

### Climate Change

...build our preparedness and resilience to the compounding and cascading impacts of climate change.

### A Whole of System Approach

...maintain integrity and clarity across a contemporary and evidence-based emergency management system.

# From the SEMC Chair

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Strategic Plan 2026-29 outlines how the SEMC will collaborate with Western Australia's emergency management sector to develop a comprehensive system that fosters resilience and preparedness in our State.

Through its stewardship of the emergency management framework, the SEMC is responsible for ensuring that the arrangements are fit for purpose, effective, contemporary, and accessible.

The SEMC is focussed on cultivating strategic partnerships and cross-sector engagement through an integrated and cooperative approach across the emergency management system. We value the people and relationships at the heart of emergency management, as well as effective governance to ensure trust and accountability.

We understand that people are central to emergency management, encompassing everyone who contributes to safeguarding Western Australia, from our communities and local governments through to emergency management agencies, SEMC subcommittees, and District and Local Emergency Management Committees.

Evolving the emergency management system to withstand emerging and unprecedented threats and risks requires strengthening relationships and supporting partnerships across all levels. This leads to responsive and inclusive emergency management outcomes, and the SEMC plays a vital role in enabling these connections.

I look forward to working with the SEMC to lead and enable our emergency management sector to build prepared and resilient communities. With a system grounded in people, partnerships, and strong governance, we are well-equipped to meet the challenges ahead, including those driven by systemic risks in a changing climate.



**Brett Chaloner**

Chair, State Emergency Management Committee  
30 September 2025





# Strategic Objectives

## Leadership and Governance

Together, we build strong relationships and effective governance to enable a trusted emergency management system.

### The SEMC will:

- Provide strong leadership and strategic direction to the sector
- Promote accountability and public trust through high standards of governance and reporting
- Ensure the strategic alignment of the emergency management system through communication, coordination, and collaboration
- Build trusted relationships within government to promote emergency management best practice and innovation in disaster risk reduction
- Support inclusive participation in emergency management governance, ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Ensure that all parties within the emergency sector are represented appropriately within governance arrangements.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Maintain system integrity through accountability, transparency, and good governance
- Promote a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities across the emergency management cycle and at the state, district, and local level
- Foster partnerships with Aboriginal people to ensure cultural knowledge and practices are acknowledged and respected
- Stay responsive to changing emergency management circumstances and future developments.

## Hazard and Systemic Risk

Together, we build our understanding of increasingly complex risk through a systemic and hazard by hazard approach.

### The SEMC will:

- Monitor emerging methodologies to assess and plan for systemic risks, societal vulnerability, and future scenarios
- Provide a forum for stakeholders to address and monitor hazard-specific and systemic risks
- Support the development of technologies and use of data to optimise risk management.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Understand prescribed and non-traditional hazards, hazard exposure, and the social dimensions of vulnerability
- Build capacity to identify, assess, and adapt to systemic risks and cascading and compounding events
- Monitor risks to critical infrastructure, the built environments, and essential services
- Protect social, natural, and cultural environments.







# Strategic Objectives (cont.)

## Capability and Capacity

Together, we enhance capability and capacity across the emergency management system through proactive policy and stewardship of emergency management frameworks.

### The SEMC will:

- Monitor capability and capacity across local, district, and state levels
- Provide a forum for capacity and capability development
- Seek insights from lessons and exercises to further enhance capability and capacity across the emergency management cycle
- Support emergency management agencies and other stakeholders to improve their emergency management capability and capacity.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Identify gaps for targeted capability and capacity building
- Leverage collective capabilities across the emergency management system to address concurrent and compounding emergencies
- Enhance the capability and capacity to prepare for, and respond to, new technologies, including those emerging from the renewable energy transition.

## Community and Local Emergency Management

Together, we build a safer and more resilient community through a local approach to emergency management.

### The SEMC will:

- Ensure that the SEMC, its subcommittees, and District and Local Emergency Management Committees are representative of the communities they serve
- Support local governments to provide fit-for-purpose and contemporary Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- Foster community and place-based disaster risk reduction, including collaboration with Aboriginal people and people at higher risk
- Provide a State Recovery Framework that provides for locally led recovery with assistance when needed.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Provide the tools and guidance that empower local communities to actively participate across the emergency management cycle
- Improve support for local leaders to enhance prevention and preparedness through local knowledge, context, and networks
- Support communities and people to heal through trauma-informed and people-centred recovery practices
- Optimise digital capabilities to ensure timely, coordinated, and localised information and services.







# Strategic Objectives (cont.)

## A Whole of System Approach Across the Emergency Management Cycle

Together, we maintain integrity and clarity across a contemporary and evidence-based emergency management system.

### The SEMC will:

- Lead a contemporary, proactive, and evidence-based emergency management framework
- Bring a balanced approach to the emergency management cycle, with a greater focus on prevention and preparedness
- Support and recognise the role of all government agencies across the emergency management cycle
- Support the emergency management system to adopt disaster risk reduction objectives
- Bring emergency management partners, agencies, communities, and people together.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Enhance the interoperability of emergency management services and systems
- Effectively coordinate for large-scale and complex response and recovery
- Identify and share lessons across the sector, including opportunities for continuous improvement
- Promote a culture of shared responsibility for emergency management.

## Climate Change

Together, we build our preparedness and resilience to the compounding and cascading impacts of climate change.

### The SEMC will:

- Support the disaster resilience of WA communities, industry, and economy to the impacts of climate change
- Monitor and improve the knowledge of climate risks and required capabilities
- Develop climate change adaptation actions, with monitoring and reporting across the emergency management system.

### To enable the emergency management system to:

- Apply risk management methodologies to identify, assess, and evaluate climate risks
- Support climate change adaptation and reporting through the emergency management system
- Build climate resilience for at higher risk people and communities.







# The Role of the SEMC

Established by Section 13(1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, the SEMC is a standing committee that provides strategic advice to the Minister for Emergency Services.

The SEMC is a group of experienced and dedicated public sector leaders essential to WA's emergency management arrangements, and independent members appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services.

Meeting five times a year, the SEMC provides oversight and direction to the emergency management sector and is supported by a broader emergency management system.

The emergency management system comprises emergency management agencies, SEMC subcommittees and reference groups, District and Local Emergency Management Committees, private industry, local government, and the Western Australian community.

One of the SEMC's primary responsibilities is to advise the Minister for Emergency Services on the State's emergency management arrangements and how WA is prepared to manage emergencies.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples throughout the state of Western Australia (WA) as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work, and volunteer. We recognise Aboriginal peoples' continued connection to land, waters, and community, and pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present. Aboriginal people should be aware this publication may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.

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