

State EM Documents Amendment List - June 2026

On 21 May 2026, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved an amendment to the **State Emergency Management (EM) Plan Appendix E** (resolution number 23/2026) to include a strategic, non-hazard-specific statement, highlighting emergency management agencies existing legislative obligations during emergency management activities in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act) and accompanying regulations, that came into effect on 31 March 2022. A new version of the State EM Plan (3.13) was published on 30 June 2026 to incorporate this statement.

On 21 May 2026, SEMC also approved amendments to the **State EM Procedures** (resolution number 24/2026) to include new State EM Preparedness Procedure 3.11: Prescribe, Review and Revoke a Hazard) to establish a consistent and standardised process for prescribing, reviewing and revoking hazards within the State EM Framework. A new version of the State EM Procedures (3.10) was published on 30 June 2026 incorporating the new procedure.

Consequential amendments to the **State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support** are summarised below, following the comprehensive review of State recovery arrangements approved by SEMC in December 2025 (resolution number 81/2025). Additional grammatical and statement of fact amendments made for clarification and accuracy were submitted by the Department of Communities in consultation with relevant stakeholders and the State Emergency Management Policy Branch. Amendments were approved by the SEMC Executive Officer (resolution number 17/2021) on 30 June 2026. A new version was published on 30 June 2026 to incorporate these amendments.

Redactions are shown in ~~red strikethrough text~~ and additions are shown with highlighted, underlined text.

Please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au to provide feedback or comment.

Note: Page numbers listed refer to the previous document.

State EM Plan Version ~~3.12~~ **3.13**

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
87	Appendix E: Roles and Responsibilities	Various officers, agencies and entities undertake activities in relation to emergency management in Western Australia. This appendix outlines some of these activities within the categories of: 1. Hazard Management Agencies 2. Combat Agencies/Support Organisations 3. Emergency Support Services 4. Service Providers <u>All agencies with roles or responsibilities should also be aware of their own legislative and regulatory obligations while carrying out emergency management activities. In relation to emergency management, this includes but is not limited to:</u> • <u>managing risks from other (non-prescribed) workplace hazards (such as structural integrity, site contamination, hazardous materials and health threats)</u> • <u>applying a risk-based approach and maintaining standard operating procedures to protect the health, safety and welfare of personnel and others.</u>	Statement added to draw attention to existing legislative obligations during emergency management activities. This approach does not create new or expanded responsibilities for emergency management agencies.

State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support Version ~~2.01~~ **2.02**

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
6	1.2 Scope	Under the State Hazard Plans, the Controlling Agency may activate Communities as a S support Agency organisation to provide ERS services.	Wording alignment to language in the emergency management regulations.
6	1.2 Scope	While <u>the</u> following aspects of emergency management are interrelated, ERS services do not include:	Grammatical change.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
9	1.9 Related Documents	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia	Duplication
11	2.3.2 State Emergency Relief and Support Committee	The State Emergency Relief and Support Committee (SERSC) is an advisory, consultative and reference group <u>committee</u>, which is responsible for: establishing and implementing plans for the delivery of ERS services at all levels throughout WA <u>undertakes planning and preparedness activities with partner agencies for emergency relief and support services</u>, and <u>making</u> sing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of ERS services delivery.	Changes to align to internal roles and language
12	2.3.4 Emergency Relief and Support Coordination Group <u>Committee</u>	At a local level, Communities <u>may</u> establishes Emergency Relief and Support Coordination Groups <u>Committees</u> to assist in <u>planning for</u> the delivery of ERS services across the preparedness, response and recovery phases. These are recorded on the LERSPs.	Change to name of local committees. Committees taken out of LERSP in last year's review. Wording changed to 'may establish' as this committee is not always stood up.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
15	3.3.3 Safety considerations	Evacuation centres will not be established in: • Bushfire emergency warning areas • Bushfire-watch and act areas (unless the HMA/Controlling Agency has provided assurance that it is safe to do so) • areas where there are no safe access routes <u>or alternative egress routes</u> to the evacuation centres • facilities where there are structural concerns, and/or health concerns (for example, no running water, no drinking water, non-functioning sewage system, gas or chemical leaks in the area).	Wording amended to align to all hazards and consider Australian Warning System (AWS) changes.
16	3.3.4 Planning for People at-risk (Evacuation)	There are individuals whose circumstances put them at greater <u>higher</u> risk in the event of an emergency. Organisations providing support to groups who are at greater <u>higher</u> risk to the effects of a hazard are responsible for having suitable plans and response capabilities in place prior to an emergency.	Change at 'greater risk' to 'higher risk' to keep in line with language used in sector
16	3.3.4 Planning for People at-risk (Evacuation)	State Hazard Plans may identify at-risk groups that may experience greater challenges resulting from that hazard. To assist with evacuation planning, specific arrangements should be documented in LEMAs. To assist with evacuation planning, specific arrangements should be documented in LEMAs.	Duplicate wording
17	3.4.2 Planning for AUSRECEPLAN	As per State EM Policy 5.9.6-, Communities develops State level plans...	Grammatical change

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
17	3.4.3 Perth Airport Aerodrome Emergency Plan	Communities is also responsible for chairing the Aerodrome Emergency Relief and Support Sub-committee and conducting annual hypothetical field exercises.	Remove. Not currently undertaken. Consulted with Perth Airport who agree with this rationale.
17	3.4.4 Disaster Information Support and Care Centre Guidelines	3.4.4 Disaster Information Support and Care Centre and Disaster Victim Identification Guidelines As per State EM Plan 5.5.4, Communities is responsible for maintaining the Disaster Information Support and Care Centre (DISCC) and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Guidelines, which outline the arrangements for: supporting the Western Australian Police Force (WAPOL) and bereaved family members/friends through DVI processes providing emergency relief and support services in the event of a major emergency involving significant personal loss and grief establishing and operating a DISCC. establishment of a DISCC in the event of a major emergency when: many people experience significant personal loss and grief existing infrastructure and services are not considered by the requesting authority to be adequate or appropriate, and/or mass disaster victim identification processes are to be used.	Wording aligned to updated 'Disaster Information Support and Care Centre (DISCC) and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Guidelines'. Extensive consultation with WAPOL throughout document development.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
22	4.5.3 Establishing Evacuation Centres – Role of the local government in establishing evacuation centres	When an emergency takes place within the boundaries of a local government, ...	Grammatical change
23	School Evacuations	If schools do not have sufficient items. If schools do not have sufficient items, Communities may share spare items or provide information about where to source additional items.	Duplicate wording
23	School Evacuations	Communities is responsible for providing ERS services to the evacuated school and supporting the HMA/Controlling Agency at on request.	Grammatical change
23	4.6 Emergency relief and support services	Each LERSP identifies local services which can aid the delivery of ERS services	Remove, no longer recorded in LERSPs.
23	4.6.2 Emergency Food	A list of identified approved food providers can be found in the respective LERSP.	Remove, no longer recorded in LERSPs.
24	4.6.3 Emergency Clothing and Personal Requisites	Donated Goods and Services Communities is not responsible for coordinating or collecting monetary donations and donated goods and services.	Deleted to reflect Recovery Chapter changes.
24	4.7 Registration and Reunification	Inquiries Enquiries about individuals can be coordinated, intrastate locally, interstate or internationally.	Grammatical change

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
25	4.8 Support During a Major Emergency	Communities may be activated by the HMA/Controlling aAgency to provide support in the event of a major emergency when	Grammatical change
25	4.8 Support During a Major Emergency	The activation of a DISCC is determined by the State Relief and Support Coordinator, in consultation with the eControlling aAgency or the HMA.	Grammatical change
25	4.8 Support During a Major Emergency	The State Relief and Support Coordinator may appoint a Communities Incident Coordinator who would assume the responsibilities of the Disaster Victim Incident Support Services Coordinator (DVISSC). The DVISSC may appoint a DISCC Services Coordinator to undertake operational management of the DISCC.	Change of titles in line with new DISCC and DVI Guidelines
27	Part Five: Recovery	<u>Recovery roles and responsibilities and coordination arrangements are set out in Part 6 of the State EM Policy and Plan and Part 5 of the State EM Procedure.</u> <u>The recovery arrangements within this Plan provides emergency relief and support specific considerations and requirements where relevant. It should be read in conjunction with the State EM Policy, Plan and Procedure.</u>	Introduction included to refer to overarching recovery arrangements within the State EM documents.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
27	5.1 Recovery Definition	Recovery is the “restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better’, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk” (Australian Disaster Recovery Framework (2022)). Recovery is defined as ‘the support of emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing’ (section 3, EM Act). The recovery process begins at impact. It operates in parallel to the response phase and may continue after the response phase is complete. Depending on the nature of the impact, recovery phases will continue where there is defined community need.	Definition of Recovery updated to align with State EM Policy 6.1.1.
27	5.1 Recovery Definition	WA’s recovery activities are underpinned by <u>the State Strategic Recovery Priorities and</u> the National Principles for Disaster Recovery and delivered across four environments <u>domains</u>: social, built, <u>environmental and</u> economic and natural. The local government is responsible for the overall management of recovery activities as per section 36(b) of the EM Act.	Inclusion of the State Strategic Recovery Priorities to align with State EM Policy statement 6.1.8, updates to naming of recovery domains.
27	5.2 Recovery Assessment	Comprehensive impact information is required by local governments to assist in planning recovery activities. As described in State EM Policy section 6.2.12 <u>and State EM Plan section 6.2.1.2, the HMA Controlling Agency</u> is responsible for coordinating an <u>impact statement, which provides a point-in-time overview of known and emerging impacts arising from the emergency.</u> assessment of all impacts relating to all recovery environments, prior to cessation of the response. This includes a risk assessment and treatment plan to provide safe community access to the affected area.	Update of responsibility assigned to HMA and definition of impact statement to align with State EM Policy statement 6.2.2 and State EM Plan section 6.2.1.2.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
27	5.2 Recovery Assessment	To facilitate effective coordination of the ERS recovery process, an <u>needs</u> assessment of the ERS recovery requirements may be conducted, as soon as possible, and when safe to do so, after the onset of an emergency. The purpose of this assessment is to understand the <u>ongoing ERS recovery needs in a community.</u> community's capacity and resilience to direct their own recovery and to identify community needs.	Clarification provided to differentiate between Impact statement and the ERS assessment.
27	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	The local government is responsible for managing recovery following an emergency affecting a community within their district <u>(section 36(b) of the EM Act)</u> State EM Policy section 6.3). This includes identifying a Local Recovery Coordinator and having a Local Recovery Plan.	Correction issued to refer to overarching legislative requirement and to align with State EM Policy statement 6.1.2.
27	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	Where more than one local government is affected, a coordinated approach should <u>may</u> be facilitated by the Local Recovery Coordinators. The Local Recovery Coordinator is responsible for coordinating local level recovery activities in conjunction with the Local Recovery Coordination Group, when formed.	Correction to align with wording in State EM Policy statement 6.3.7.
27	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	<u>Where the complexity of recovery exceeds the capacity and capability of the local government(s) to manage, the State Government will have an increased role in recovery. This may include the State Recovery Coordinator activating the State Recovery Coordination Group and the State Recovery Domains.</u>	Inclusion of State Government recovery roles to align with State EM Policy sections 6.4 and 6.8.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
27	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	The Local Recovery Coordinator, <u>State Recovery Coordinator and/or the [Event] Recovery Coordinator / Controller</u> can request Communities' involvement in recovery, with the delivery of ERS services. Communities will work with the <u>relevant Coordinator(s)</u> Local Recovery Coordinator to develop and support community strategies that will build on strengths and support resilience.	Updates to align with State EM Policy statements 6.6.3, 6.6.4 and 6.7.3.
28	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	Communities is responsible for supporting the local government in relation to the social environment <u>domain</u> once the recovery arrangements under this Plan have been activated. This includes working with the Local Recovery Coordination Group and State Recovery Coordination Group to advocate for the social needs of impacted people and community recovery. <u>When activated the State Social Recovery Domain is chaired by Communities. As Chair, Communities is responsible for the coordination of the State Social Recovery Domain, ensuring the identification of social recovery needs, the recommendation and development and monitoring of social recovery activities and programs.</u>	Update to 'domain' terminology and inclusion of Communities role as Domain Chair for the Social Recovery Domain in alignment with State EM Recovery Procedure 5.2
28	5.3 Responsibility for Recovery	If a request from the Local Recovery Coordinator, <u>State Recovery Coordinator or, where appointed, the [Event] Recovery Coordinator / Controller</u> is not received, Communities may advocate for the continuation of its ERS service responsibility. This includes responding to other priorities as directed by the State Relief and Support Coordinator.	Updates to align with State EM Policy statements 6.6.3, 6.6.4 and 6.7.3.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
28	5.3.1 Emergency Relief and Assistance in Recovery Support for Managing Donations and Volunteers	State EM Policy section 6.12 recommends that local government should establish arrangements to coordinate donations of goods and offers of volunteer assistance to impacted communities. Where appropriate, and particularly in significant events where local capacity is exceeded, local government may request Communities to assist with establishing these coordination arrangements.	Updated heading to better reflect the content of the sections that relates to volunteers and donations. Inclusion of new State EM Policy section 6.12 responsibilities.
28	5.3.1 Emergency Relief and Assistance in Recovery Support for Managing Donations and Volunteers	At the local level, Offers of, or requests for, volunteer assistance with recovery activities and spontaneous donations should be coordinated through the Local Recovery Coordination Group local government to avoid duplication of effort. (State EM Policy section 6.9). At a State level, significant offers of financial or material assistance will be coordinated ion of assistance is undertaken by the State Recovery Coordinator or, where appointed, the [Event] Recovery Coordinator or Controller or the State Recovery Coordination Group, if established (State EM Policy section 6.12.48).	Wording amended to align with updated State EM Policy Section 6.12.
28	5.3.2 Interstate Assistance	Communities is also responsible for requesting interstate assistance with provision of ERS services, consistent with the process outlined in 4.3.54 of this Plan.	New subsection added relevant to content.
28	5.3.32 Exchange of Information During Recovery	The Communities' State Relief and Support Coordinator or an appropriate delegate will be consulted regarding the exchange of information.	

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
29	5.5.2 Financial Assistance in Recovery	Under the State EM Plan Policy section 6.10, the primary responsibility for safeguarding and restoration of private assets affected by an emergency is with the owner. restoring public and private assets affected by an emergency rest with the owner.	Reference correctly attributed to Policy section and updated to align with new State EM Policy statement 6.10.1.
29	5.5.2 Financial Assistance in Recovery	Assistance is not compensation based; nor is it intended to replace or act as a disincentive for self-help, insurance or other mitigation strategies. Through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA), The State Government provides a range of relief measures to assist communities recover from an eligible event. Information about the availability and eligibility of these programs will be provided on the EmergencyWA Recovery webpage. State EM Recovery Procedure 5.2 for further information. Communities may provide some financial assistance in recovery for individuals and families if Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA) is activated. This assistance is to alleviate the personal hardship or distress arising as a direct result of an eligible emergency. It is assessed on a case-by-case basis and subject to income and/or assets testing. The State Relief and Support Coordinator has authority to set the financial limits for the categories of assistance. Other financial assistance may be available after an eligible emergency through Services Australia as described in section 6.10 of the State EM Plan.	Updated to align with current State EM Policy and Plan, which was broadened to acknowledge the many financial assistance arrangements available follow an emergency, including DRFAWA. Inclusion of EmergencyWA reference to find additional information as State EM Recovery Procedure regarding DRFAWA was removed as outside the scope of the EM Framework.

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
29	5.6 <u>Transition Planning and Cessation of Recovery Activities</u>	State EM Policy section 6.6-13 and State EM Plan section 6.3.3 outlines the formal process of <u>transitioning from recovery to ceasing State-level recovery arrangements</u> <u>business-as-usual arrangements</u> .	Updates to references and terminology to align with updated State EM Policy section 6.13 and State EM Plan section 6.3.3.
29	<u>Transition Planning and Cessation of Recovery Activities</u>	Communities' <u>Transition planning and final</u> cessation of Communities' <u>ERS</u> recovery <u>activities</u> services will be dependent on community needs, access to existing community services and individuals and community's resilience. Cessation will be determined by the State Relief and Support Coordinator in consultation with relevant parties such as <u>the local government</u> , State Recovery Coordinator or <u>[Event] Recovery / Coordinator or / Controller.</u> and local government. Communities' <u>transition planning and</u> cessation <u>of recovery activities</u> may differ across recovery projects.	Clarification that this section refers to the cessation of ERS recovery services. Updated State-level [Event] recovery coordinator or controller terminology to align with State EM Policy section 6.4.
29	5.7 Review of Recovery Activities and Lessons Learned	Communities will also participate in evaluation processes undertaken by the Local Recovery Coordinator <u>and/or the State Recovery Coordinator.</u>	Inclusion of State Recovery Coordinator evaluation process described in the update State EM Plan section 6.3.
36	Annex B Roles and Responsibilities	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries <u>Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (Office of Multicultural Industries)</u>	Public Sector Reform 2025 departmental name changes

Page	Section	Amendment to State Support Plan	Comment
37	Annex B Roles and Responsibilities	Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure Activate Communities as a result of a prescribed hazard for which Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure is responsible	Public Sector Reform 2025 departmental name changes
37	Annex B Roles and Responsibilities	Department of Treasury and Finance Negotiate how the Department of Treasury and Finance could assist.	Public Sector Reform 2025 departmental name changes
39	Annex B Roles and Responsibilities	Services Australia Provide Financial Assistance to people affected by the emergency in accordance with DHS Centrelink guidelines, policies and the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i>	Grammatical – year missing from Act name
43	Appendix D Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	Aerodrome Emergency Relief and Support Sub-Committee (Formerly known as the Aerodrome Emergency Welfare Sub-committee) Communities is responsible for chairing the Aerodrome Emergency Relief and Support Sub-committee and conducting hypothetical field exercises.	Remove as per amendments to section 2.3.4 – Communities no longer Chair this sub-committee.
44	Appendix D Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	Emergency Relief and Support Coordination Groups Committee (Formerly known as Emergency Relief and Support Welfare Coordination Groups) - these groups assist in planning for the delivery of emergency relief and support services across the preparedness, response and recovery phases.	As per amendments made to section 2.3.4 – change to name of local committees. Committees taken out of LERSP in last year's review.
49	Appendix E Distribution List	Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure	Public Sector Reform 2025 departmental name changes