

SEMC COMMUNIQUÉ



May 2026

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 21 May 2026.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

Hazard Insurance Partnership and NEMA Priorities

Assistant Minister Josh Wilson MP addressed the SEMC alongside the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to discuss the Hazard Insurance Partnership (HIP). The HIP is a voluntary partnership between the insurance industry and the government to identify the most pressing insurance issues, target and test the best policy solutions to reduce risk and insurance costs and support better consumer outcomes through education and awareness. It concentrates only on home and contents insurance products. More information on the HIP is available on the [NEMA website](#).

NEMA provided an overview of NEMA key priorities, including:

- AusAlert
- National Aerial Firefighting Fleet
- Public Safety Mobile Broadband
- National Emergency Management Stockpile
- Hazard Insurance Partnership
- Disaster Ready Fund.

H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) discussed the current situation of the State's preparedness to combat H5 - High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) and the development of the WA State Governance Plan: H5 – HPAI (Clade 2.3.4.4b).

Work has highlighted significant complexities, substantial challenges and gaps in the current response arrangements. Primary issues include:

- Governance and financial issues
- Land tenure responsibilities
- Wildlife coordination arrangements
- Communications and community engagement
- Capability and capacity considerations.

SEMC noted that further discussions are required between key stakeholders to finalise the WA State Governance Plan: H5 – HPAI (Clade 2.3.4.4b).

Review of the Emergency Management (EM) Framework

The SEMC noted the need to conduct a comprehensive review of the suite of documentation within the EM Framework, including the State EM Plan, Policy, Procedures and Glossary. The SEMC approved the allocation of \$1,132,161 from the State Level Project Fund for resources to undertake the review. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) will lead the review and will undertake a thorough consultation process.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Program

The SEMC noted the completion of Phase 1 of the LEMA Improvement Program in April 2026, with the delivery of a conceptual LEMA Development Model, new LEMA templates and guidance and the [Local Government Emergency Management Knowledge Hub](#).

The SEMC approved the allocation of \$242,000 from the State Level Project Fund to implement the following outputs of the LEMA Improvement Program:

- Publishing a SEMC Policy Communique confirming minimum LEMA requirements
- Releasing new LEMA templates and guidance, that meet these requirements, via the SEMC consultation portal.
- Providing practical support to local governments to adopt the new LEMA approach.
- Releasing the Local Emergency Management Development Model for sector wide consultation.
- Developing proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework to embed the LEMA Development Model and the new LEMA templates and guidance.

Further information on the LEMA Improvement Program is available at the [WALGA website](#).

Social Cohesion

The SEMC considered the incident at Forrest Place on 26 January and the associated impact and trauma on First Nations people that were attending a lawful event in a peaceful environment. Community leaders were praised for their role in addressing the situation and participation in recovery.

From an EM perspective, the WA Police responded to a Level 2 incident as the HMA for a Hostile Act (it was declared terrorism at a later stage) and undertook the new recovery arrangements simultaneously with response. This included WA Police supporting the City of Perth regarding crowded places and have linked with the Department of Communities to access counselling for grieving people.

Lessons from the incident are ongoing. The SEMC was advised that the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion is likely to make recommendations that may impact policing across the States and Territories.

General Updates

Disaster Ready Fund Round Four

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative **is now open**. Visit the [Disaster Resilience Grants webpage](#) for more information.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State Emergency Management documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2026:

State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plan Biosecurity	State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act – broad consultation currently open
State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident	Local Recovery Guideline
State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain	Impact Statement Guideline and Template
State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information	State Hazard Plan – Maritime Environmental Emergencies

State Hazard Plan – Collapse	WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act	State Hazard Plan – Heatwave
State Hazard Plan – Tsunami	State Hazard Plan – Earthquake
Traffic Management during Emergencies Guideline	Communicating in Recovery Guidelines
	District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Handbook

To review or provide feedback on the documents open for consultation, please visit [Engage WA](#).

Next Meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of SEMC will be held on 30 July 2026.

Contact Us

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