

SEMC COMMUNIQUÉ



July 2026

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 30 July 2026.

Presentation

Public Safety Network | Department of Premier and Cabinet

The SEMC received an update from the Chair of the Technology and Communications Subcommittee, Greg Italiano, regarding progress on the Public Safety Network (PSN). The PSN is a critical state digital asset to provide a secure, interoperable communications network for police, fire and ambulance services across WA. PSN has the following core objectives:

- **Interoperability:** Enable seamless communication between frontline responders and different emergency agencies.
- **Reliability & Coverage:** Upgrade communications infrastructure across both city and remote regional areas.
- **Coordination:** Improve whole-of-government responses during critical incidents, natural disasters, and daily operations

Emergency Management Survey | WALGA

WALGA presented to SEMC the 2025 Emergency Management Survey which shows that while Local Governments have established strong emergency management foundations, with high levels of compliance and preparedness for traditional hazards such as bushfire, storm and flood, the sector faces growing challenges from emerging risks. WALGA will continue to advocate for funding to assist local governments with capability and financial pressures to maintain essential services during an emergency.

Local Governments manage more than 550 bush fire brigades and around 18,000 volunteers, while leading or supporting initial bushfire response across approximately 92% of WA's landmass. Bushfire continues to dominate resources and shape discussions about future service delivery models, while the success of initiatives such as the CESM program demonstrates the value of targeted capability investment.

The 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Snapshot is publicly available on the [WALGA website](#).

Discussion Items and Outcomes

H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) updated the SEMC on the current situation of the State's preparedness to combat H5 - High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI).

WA Government Pandemic Plan

The SEMC has noted a multi-agency approach to strengthen Western Australian's pandemic preparedness by integrating pandemic arrangements into the State Emergency Management Framework, clarifying agency roles and responsibilities, establishing streamlined whole-of-government guidance. These measures improve governance, reduce duplication, enhance cross-

agency coordination and oversight whilst addressing key recommendations 3 and 4 of the *Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response*.

The SEMC approved the amendments to the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan and Procedures and the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity. State EM documents and detailed amendment logs are published on the [SEMC website](#).

DFES Strategic Plan 2026-2031

DFES presented Strategy 2026-2031 which has been prepared to guide the DFES actions over the next five years, ensuring it remains resilient, adaptive and effective in making WA a safer state. The four strategic priorities withing Strategy 2026-2031 are:

- Managing complex and evolving risks in our community
- Developing our future capabilities, leaders and skills
- Leveraging data and information to power our digital future
- Leading excellence in Emergency Management.

The SEMC was advised that the WA community remains central to everything DFES does.

NextGen Warnings

The SEMC approved an allocation of \$100,000 for DFES to deliver technical enhancements to EmergencyWA, enabling onboarding of Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure and Western Australia Police Force. This will allow for potential use to design agency-specific warning templates and functionality, support partner agency readiness through training and communications and strengthen the State's all-hazards warning framework.

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Western Australia Policy Round Table

The SEMC noted the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) Roundtable to be held in Perth on 24 September 2026. NIDR will be leading the facilitation and will give the opportunity for participants to engage with initiatives focused on strengthening relationships with Aboriginal communities and informing future disaster resilience policy development.

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 - comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency – extension approved by SEMC until August 2026 (37/2026)	State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act – submitted for SEMC subcommittee endorsement, prior to SEMC approval October 2026.
State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency	Local Recovery Guideline – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency

State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain - waiting on an update from SEMC BU, ministerial commitment was made to commence consultation mid-2026	Impact Statement Guideline and Template – submitted for SEMC subcommittee endorsement, prior to SEMC approval October 2026.
State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency	State Hazard Plan – Maritime Environmental Emergencies – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency
State Hazard Plan – Collapse – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency	WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency
State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act – comprehensive review due to commence October 2026	State Hazard Plan – Heatwave – comprehensive review due to commence October 2026
State Hazard Plan – Tsunami – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency	State Hazard Plan – Earthquake – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency
Traffic Management during Emergencies Guideline – responsible agency advised of comprehensive review	Communicating in Recovery Guidelines – part of SSP Emergency Public Information review
	District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Handbook – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency

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 1 October 2026.

Contact Us

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