



2019/2020 Annual Report

State Emergency Management
Committee (SEMC)



SEMC
STATE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Statement of Compliance

for the year ended 30 June 2020



The Hon. Francis Logan MLA
Minister for Emergency Services

To the Hon. Francis Logan MLA, Minister for Emergency Services.

In accordance with section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, I hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the annual report of the State Emergency Management Committee for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron F Edwards".

Dr Ron F Edwards
Chair, State Emergency Management Committee
14 August, 2020

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From the SEMC Chair



Dr Ron F Edwards
Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

The SEMC plays a key role in setting the strategic policy framework in Western Australia, including facilitating consultation and coordination between emergency management stakeholders.

In the previous year, Australia has experienced emergencies of an unprecedented scale. They have changed the lives of community members and will have lasting impacts on our emergency management frameworks.

During December 2019, at the same time that Australia's Black Summer fires were burning across the Eastern seaboard, the Norseman West Bushfire Complex was ignited by a lightning strike. These fires resulted in significant disruptions to road and rail networks and saw several residents isolated from their communities. Others were displaced from their homes, some for more than ten days.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a widespread impact across the globe. It has been declared a public health emergency of international concern, a national pandemic, and a state of emergency in WA. Each of these declarations initiates powers, structures, and emergency management arrangements to support the response to – and recovery from – this emergency. Consequently, we have seen the extensive application of the State Emergency Management Framework and significant collaboration between government, not for profit, local government and industry.

These incidents also reinforced the complexity of emergencies within our State and the application of interrelated systems that underpin the SEMC's State Core Objectives.

It has been a privilege to Chair the SEMC within this environment. I would like to thank all agencies who contribute to SEMC by sharing their knowledge, time, and resourcing to create a better prepared, more resilient, and safer State.

An achievement that requires particular recognition is the approval of the WA Implementation Plan for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF). The Implementation Plan sets out the foundational work required within WA to reduce disaster risk, minimise new disaster risk, and deliver better climate and disaster risk information. Stakeholders from local and state government, not-for-profit community groups, and industry representatives contributed to this plan, which will allow WA to maximise local, state, and Commonwealth funding focused on disaster risk reduction.

Finally, I would like to thank continuing SEMC members for welcoming Mr Nick Sloan, Ms Michelle Andrews, and Ms Rebecca Brown to the Committee. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to the SEMC members and deputy members who left during 2019/20. Their significant contributions have enhanced emergency management in WA.

I look forward to continuing to empower decision-makers and sector leadership within our subcommittees, reference groups, district emergency management committees, and local emergency management committees to minimise the impact of emergencies on the community.

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From the SEMC Executive Officer



Mal Cronstedt AFSM MBA BA
Executive Officer, State Emergency Management

It is a pleasure to introduce the 2019/20 SEMC Annual Report. Great efforts have been made this year to support the work of the SEMC and WA as we prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

We have supported two sets of amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*:

- prescribed the additional hazard of 'hostile act', and updated existing hazards and hazard management agencies
- extended powers available to emergency services authorities during emergency declarations.

These amendments serve to strengthen Western Australia's ability to respond to emergencies.

We have also reviewed our policies and plans to ensure the currency of the State Emergency Management Framework. I thank the officers involved for their diligent work.

Communication within the committee structure and with stakeholders remains a key focus. We have restructured the website to support access to information, published regular communiques, and produced a suite of documentation to support SEMC members and contributing committees. I anticipate further work over the next 12 months.

SEMC has continued to contribute to national and state inquiries. We have made submissions to the Climate Health WA Inquiry and the ongoing Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

I look forward to another productive year and thank all SEMC members for their guidance and support.

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A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at dusk. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the city lights are beginning to glow. In the foreground, a waterfront promenade with modern architecture and blue lighting runs along the water. Several boats are docked at a pier, and their lights reflect on the water's surface. The background is dominated by a dense cluster of skyscrapers, some of which are illuminated from within, creating a warm glow against the twilight sky. A large blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the chapter title.

CHAPTER 1

Overview

Executive Summary

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* (the Act) provides for prompt and coordinated organisation of emergency management in WA. It covers matters relating to overarching emergency management frameworks and infrastructure, plus policy, planning, and coordination. It also provides for additional powers in the event of a significant emergency such as an 'emergency situation' or a 'state of emergency'.

The Act details the roles and responsibilities at State, district and local levels in relation to the four aspects of emergency management; prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The SEMC is established under the Act. We are a committee with a strategic, advisory role in relation to emergency management. The SEMC is the State Government's legislated advisory body for emergency management.

A subcommittee and reference group structure support the SEMC, providing expert advice on various aspects of emergency management.

Established under Section 13 of the Act, the SEMC's primary responsibilities are to:

- Advise the Minister on emergency management and the preparedness of the State to combat emergencies
- Provide direction, advise and support public authorities, industry, commerce and the community to plan and prepare for efficient emergency management
- Provide a forum for community coordination to ensure the effects of emergencies are minimised
- Provide a forum for the development of community-wide information systems to improve communications during emergencies
- Develop and coordinate risk management strategies to assess community vulnerability to emergencies.

The 2019/20 Annual Report provides an overview of the work, activities, and operations of the SEMC.

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Performance Highlights

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| <p>Prescription of Hostile Act as a hazard in the <i>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</i>.</p> | <p>Approved referencing the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience Handbook – Lessons Management (2nd edition) in the State Emergency Management Framework.</p> | <p>Approved the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies following validation of the plan via exercise Equus.</p> | <p>Supported the proposal to progress consideration of a cybersecurity hazard being incorporated into the State's emergency management arrangements.</p> | <p>Endorsed work to progress arrangements relating to freight supply chain disruption in an emergency incident.</p> |
| <p>Assisted with the State response to the COVID-19 Emergency.</p> | <p>Increased the number of local governments with current local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).</p> | <p>Approved the revised State Hazard Plan – Fire.</p> | <p>Approved a review of LEMA and responsibilities being undertaken using a sector-led approach.</p> | <p>Numerous SEMC policy and processes were suspended or streamlined to assist the emergency management sector focus on a COVID-19 response.</p> |
| <p>Approved amendments to the State Recovery Policy and Plan.</p> | <p>Approved the establishment of the Public Safety Communications (PSC) Subcommittee and its terms of reference.</p> | <p>Approved and published the revised Members Manual and Agenda Submission Handbook for SEMC members.</p> | <p>The SEMC Chair, Deputy Chair, and Executive Officer delivered a presentation at the Shire of Brookton focusing on existing local government activities that can be used to support emergency management.</p> | <p>Facilitated the Federal – State pre-season preparedness briefing.</p> |
| <p>Provided input to the Climate Health WA Inquiry.</p> | <p>Endorsed the WA Implementation Plan for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework for Western Australia that meets the National Partnership Agreement requirements.</p> | | | |
| <p>Participated in the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.</p> | | | | |

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Executive Summary

2017–2020 Strategy Update and Scorecard

The SEMC and Office of Emergency Management Strategic Plan for 2017–2020 was approved in August 2017. The table below illustrates the outcomes achieved against the Strategic Plan 2017–2020.

Key Strategies

Outcomes achieved as at 30 June 2020

| Key Strategies | Outcomes achieved as at 30 June 2020 |
|--|--|
| Risk | |
| Develop an emergency management risk profile of the State and promote targeted investment in mitigation activities that reduce the State's risk profile | |
| Facilitate the assessment of a comprehensive emergency risk profile for the State: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning commenced to undertake risk assessment for the terrorist act hazard |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate the assessment of the State's key risks at a State and district level ▪ Provide advice and training on the application of the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines at the local level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 128 out of 139 local governments introduced to the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines risk assessment process ▪ Produced the WA Emergency Risk Management Treatment Manual 2019 prototype to assist local governments treat identified risks |
| Report on the State's risk profile: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Level Risk Report being finalised ▪ 43 Local Risk Assessment Reports completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the key State, district and local risks | |
| Capability | |
| Develop an emergency management capability profile of the State and promote targeted investment in the State's emergency management capabilities | |
| Develop an emergency management capability picture for the State: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Emergency Management Exercise Framework developed and operational ▪ State Exercise Coordination Team established to coordinate the State Exercise |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate and report on the assessment of the State's existing capability ▪ Identify priority capability gaps | |

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Key Strategies

Report on the State's emergency preparedness:

- Provide an annual report on the emergency preparedness of the State
- Inform resourcing decisions across the emergency management sector

Recovery

Enhance the level of emergency recovery capability at the state and local level. Ensure the provision of coordinated recovery support to emergency affected communities

Provide emergency recovery coordination and support:

- Lead the maintenance and review of State recovery arrangements and plans
- Review the recovery arrangements framework established for local government
- Ensure the provision of coordinated recovery support to emergency affected communities

Outcomes achieved as at 30 June 2020

- Capability gaps being considered through the Preparedness Reports
- Preparedness Report published annually
- Preparedness Report and State Risk Project data used to inform 2018/19 National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) grants round and agency prioritisations

- Undertook an annual review of the Impact Statement with hazard management agencies and local governments impacted by an event in 2018/2019 to improve the process and guidelines

- Undertook 3 Recovery Network Webinars in collaboration with Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) for local governments and State Government agencies focusing on organisational resilience and waste management

- Undertook training to improve decision-making skills associated with the management of bias, psychological safety, maintaining situational awareness, managing pressure and divergent thinking and the recognition in the overlap between the concepts that underpin these skills
- Just in Time Recovery training delivered to the State Recovery Cadre and the State Recovery Coordination Group to ensure a contextual understanding of their roles and responsibilities and lessons learnt from past events
- DFES Recovery Directorate is currently administering nine disaster events under the joint Commonwealth and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This has impacted over 25 local governments and state agencies. The DRFA commenced in November 2018 and has introduced new requirements

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Key Strategies

Outcomes achieved as at 30 June 2020

Assurance

Develop and maintain an emergency management assurance framework.

- Develop a lessons management framework
- Track recommendations from incident inquiries

- Construction and development of Lessons Management Database including WA inquiries from 2009 to current
- Initiated the inaugural audit into the Emergency Preparedness Report to inform ongoing assurance activities

Investment

Administer and manage the provision of funds to eligible groups and individuals to:

- Undertake programs to prepare for, prevent and respond to emergencies; and
- Recover from emergencies

- Due to COVID-19, no grants have been awarded since the end of June 2019
- OAG Audit into Grants Administration included samples from SEMC programs. Findings included in grant governance review currently in progress
- The State-funded All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program initiatives that were funded in 2019 continued to be delivered in 2020. These included the development of a Metropolitan DEMC Heatwave Exercise, Hostile Act Exercise, Pandemic Influenza Exercise, Ferry Disaster and the planning for a subterranean environments/structural State level exercise for the Forrestfield Airport Link tunnel

Governance

- Ensure robust emergency management arrangements are in place
- Ensure there is clarity on roles and responsibilities for emergency management
- Foster relationships and networks to facilitate coordination of emergency management
- Provide guidance on emergency management arrangements

- Continued amendments and revisions made to State emergency management arrangements
- Progressed amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*
- Facilitated meetings across three subcommittees and four reference groups

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Figure 2: 2017–2020 Strategy Scorecard



CHAPTER 2

Report on Activities

The Emergency Management Structure in WA

The emergency management structure in Western Australia follows a three-tiered hierarchy, as established by the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. The following pages explain the role of the SEMC subcommittees and reference groups, district emergency management committees (DEMCs) and local emergency management committees (LEMCs).

The structure illustrates the number of agencies that participate across the State, district and local levels to minimise the impact of emergencies on the community. SEMC continues work to strengthen the connection and communication between these committees and levels.

| State Emergency Management Committee | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| Lessons Management Reference Group | | | Lessons Management Reference Group | | | Response Capability Subcommittee | | Risk Subcommittee | | | STATE LEVEL |
| State Exercise Coordination Team | | | Public Information Reference Group | | | Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee | | Public Safety Communications Subcommittee | | | |
| Kimberley District Emergency Management Committee | Pilbara District Emergency Management Committee | Midwest Gascoyne District Emergency Management Committee | Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee | Goldfields Esperance District Emergency Management Committee | Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee | South West District Emergency Management Committee | North Metro District Emergency Management Committee | Central Metro District Emergency Management Committee | East Metro District Emergency Management Committee | South Metro District Emergency Management Committee | DISTRICT LEVEL |
| 4 Local Emergency Management Committee | 9 Local Emergency Management Committee | 17 Local Emergency Management Committee | 25 Local Emergency Management Committee | 9 Local Emergency Management Committee | 23 Local Emergency Management Committee | 12 Local Emergency Management Committee | 2 Local Emergency Management Committee | 7 Local Emergency Management Committee | 5 Local Emergency Management Committee | 7 Local Emergency Management Committee | LOCAL LEVEL |

Figure 3: Western Australian emergency management structure

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SEMC Membership

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* establishes and provides for the composition, roles and responsibilities of the SEMC. The SEMC comprises representatives appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services from those organisations, including a representative of local

government, that are essential to the State's emergency management arrangements. It includes persons from within – and external to – the public service. The *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* state that membership must not exceed more than 11 members.



Dr Ron Edwards
Independent SEMC member; Chair*



Ms Melissa Pexton
Independent SEMC member SEMC; Deputy Chair*



Ms Linda Savage
Independent SEMC member*



Mr Malcolm Cronstedt AFSM
SEMC Executive Officer*



Mr Chris Dawson APM
SEMC member;
Commissioner of Police*



Mr Darren Klemm AFSM
SEMC member;
Fire and Emergency Services
Commissioner*



Ms Rebecca Brown
SEMC member;
A/Director General, Department
of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)**



Mr Mark Webb PSM
SEMC member;
Director General, Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation and
Attractions (DBCA)*



Dr Andrew Robertson CSC PSM
SEMC member;
Chief Health Officer, Department
of Health (DoH)*



Ms Michelle Andrews
SEMC member;
Director General, Department of
Communities (DoC)**



Mr Nick Sloan
SEMC member;
Chief Executive Officer, WALGA**

* Appointed in a personal capacity
** Ex officio

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Deputy Members who acted as proxies during the reporting period ending 30 June 2020

Ms Helen Gladstone – deputy member for Mr Darren Foster

Mr Peter Dans – deputy member for Mr Mark Webb

Mr Ross Tomasini – deputy member for Ms Michelle Andrews

Member updates

Mr Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer of WALGA – appointed ex officio as a member

Ms Michelle Andrews, Director General, Department of Communities – appointed ex officio as a member

Mr Darren Foster – Resigned as an ex officio member

Ms Melissa Pexton – Resigned as Deputy Chair

Mr Gary Budge – Resigned as deputy member

Mr Colin Blanch, Deputy Commissioner, WA Police Force – appointed ex officio as a deputy member

Mr Peter Dans, Deputy Director General, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – appointed ex officio as a deputy member

Mr Craig Waters, Deputy Commissioner Operations, Department of Fire and Emergency Services – appointed ex officio as a deputy member

Mr Ross Tomasini, Executive Director, Office of the Director General, Department of Communities – appointed ex officio as a deputy member

Presentations

04 October 2019

1. Climate Health WA Inquiry

Professor Tarun Weeramanthri and Ms Faye Bowman delivered a presentation on the findings from the Climate Health WA Inquiry.

2. 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report

DFES Director Risk, Capability and Analysis Mr Andrew Sanders delivered a presentation on the 2019 Emergency Preparedness Report.

3. Californian Delegation Debrief

The FES Commissioner and SEMC Deputy Chair delivered a presentation on their delegation to the USA to investigate catastrophic disaster management in the United States.

13 December 2019

4. Telstra Emergency Procedures

Mr Paul Harrison, National Emergency Manager, Telstra delivered a presentation on Telstra's Emergency Management Framework and response mechanisms.

06 March 2020

5. Great Southern 2029 Report

Superintendent Ian Clarke delivered a presentation on the strategic roadmap for the Great Southern Emergency district for the next ten years.

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SEMC Meetings

During the reporting period ending 30 June 2020, the SEMC members held the following meetings:

- Five ordinary meetings: 2 August 2019, 4 October 2019, 13 December 2019, 6 March 2020, 8 May 2020 (The 8 May meeting was virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions)
- Five out-of-session meetings

| Name | Attendance 02/08/19 | Attendance 04/10/19 | Attendance 13/12/19 | Attendance 06/03/20 | Virtual Meeting 08/05/20 | Represented by Proxy (number of meetings) | Observer (number of meetings) | Attendance at the SEMC out-of-session meetings |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Dr Ron Edwards (Chair) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Ms Melissa Pexton (Dep Chair) [Resigned 17.06.2020] | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20 |
| Mr Malcolm Cronstedt (XO) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Mr Chris Dawson (WA Police) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Mr Darren Klemm (DFES) | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Craig Waters (1) | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Mr Darren Foster (DPC) [Resigned 14.4.2020] | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | Helen Gladstones (1) Justin Court (2) | Ms Mia Onorato- Sartari (5) | 08/11/19 |
| Mr Nick Sloan (WALGA) | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20 |
| Mr Mark Webb (DBCA) | - | ✓ | ✓ | - | ✓ | | Stefan de Haan (1) | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Ms Michelle Andrews (DoC) | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | Ross Tomasini (2) | | 20/08/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20 |
| Dr Andrew Robertson (DoH) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 08/05/20 |
| Ms Linda Savage (Independent) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | 20/08/19, 08/11/19, 21/11/19, 08/05/20, 19/05/20 |
| Ms Rebecca Brown (DPC) [Appointed 14.4.2020] | | | | | ✓ | | | 19/05/20 |

Figure 4: Attendance at the SEMC ordinary meetings

Figure 5: Attendance at the SEMC out-of-session meetings

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The SEMC Subcommittees and Reference Groups

Section 21 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* allows the SEMC to establish subcommittees as required. Subcommittees are established to advise on aspects of SEMC functions or to assist with any matters relevant to the performance of its functions. Subcommittees may, but need not, consist of or include members of the SEMC.

This year SEMC approved the establishment of the Public Safety Communications Subcommittee chaired by the

Government Chief Information Officer. This subcommittee will support the development and operation of effective and efficient public safety communications in Western Australia. It will also provide advice on projects to better align technology across agencies. The Committee replaces the previous Emergency Services Communications Strategy Committee. Membership nominations are being sought prior to the inaugural meeting.

| State Emergency Management Committee | | | | | | | | | | | STATE LEVEL |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| Lessons Management Reference Group | | | Lessons Management Reference Group | | | Response Capability Subcommittee | | Risk Subcommittee | | | |
| State Exercise Coordination Team | | | Public Information Reference Group | | | Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee | | Public Safety Communications Subcommittee | | | |
| Kimberley District Emergency Management Committee | Pilbara District Emergency Management Committee | Midwest Gascoyne District Emergency Management Committee | Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee | Goldfields Esperance District Emergency Management Committee | Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee | South West District Emergency Management Committee | North Metro District Emergency Management Committee | Central Metro District Emergency Management Committee | East Metro District Emergency Management Committee | South Metro District Emergency Management Committee | DISTRICT LEVEL |
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Figure 6: Subcommittee and reference group positioning in the SEMC structure

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Key Achievements

Each subcommittee and reference group reports to the SEMC on their annual activities. The table below highlights their activities during the financial year ending 30 June 2020.

| Subcommittee / reference group | Objective | No of meetings | Key achievements and updates |
|---|--|----------------|---|
| <p>Response Capability Subcommittee</p> <p>Chair: Mr Col Blanch APM, WA Police</p> <p>Sponsor: Mr Chris Dawson APM, WA Police</p> <p>Executive Officers: Mr Matt Verney, DFES</p> | <p>To provide a forum that promotes collaborative and strategic dialogue to consider and promote strategies to address the State's emergency response capability gaps.</p> | <p>2</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes to the Defence Act 1903 (CTH) pt IIIAAA. Amendments that came into effect in June 2019 enable the greater Army to be deployed by State governments to assist the civil community. ▪ Formation of an Incident Level Criteria Working Group to review the suite of State emergency management documents, to ensure the criteria for each incident level is contemporary, consistent and fit for purpose. ▪ The completion of the State Crisis Information Management System (WebFusion) Project. ▪ Joint development of a multi-agency traffic management plan template. The plan has been in development since 2018 and response agencies will be encouraged to trial it during the 2019/20 southern bushfire/cyclone season. ▪ Formation of the First Responders Operating in Active Armed Offender (high threat) Incident Sites Working Group. ▪ SEMC approved the State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act. |

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| Subcommittee / reference group | Objective | No of meetings | Key achievements and updates |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| <p>Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee</p> <p>Chair: Ms Melissa Pexton, SEMC</p> <p>Sponsor: Ms Melissa Pexton, SEMC</p> <p>Executive Officers: Ms Suellen Flint, DFES</p> | <p>To support the SEMC in strengthening the State's resilience through enhancing emergency management recovery and community engagement capabilities.</p> | <p>2</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed the State Recovery Preparedness Reporting Project. The project will measure and enhance the preparedness of State agencies to assist in recovery from significant emergencies. ▪ The State Recovery Coordination Group participation in Stretch Thinking Capability Training. The Stretch Thinking Capability Training was designed to improve decision making skills associated with the management of bias, psychological safety, maintaining situational awareness, managing pressure and divergent thinking, and the recognition in the overlap between the concepts that underpin these skills. ▪ The national Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee (CORS) identified a current gap in Australia's recovery planning and capacity, as well as in Australia's ability to respond to, and recover from, a severe to catastrophic event. CORS hosted a two-day industry workshop to facilitate discussions around the establishment of national preparedness and recovery priorities and initiatives. |

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| Subcommittee / reference group | Objective | No of meetings | Key achievements and updates |
|--|--|----------------|--|
| <p>Risk Subcommittee</p> <p>Chair: Mr Malcolm Cronstedt AFSM, SEMC</p> <p>Sponsor: Dr Ron Edwards, SEMC</p> <p>Executive Officers: Mr Andrew Sanders, DFES</p> | <p>To act as a reference group to consult and advise on ways to improve the coordination and application of an evidence-based approach to emergency risk management for all hazards.</p> | <p>2</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members have been involved in the DFES led Decision Support System (DSS) and Risk Ownership projects. The DSS will support an understanding and management of risks associated with coastal inundation, earthquake and bushfire in Western Australia with policy, planning and investment interventions. The Risk Ownership Project will complement the DSS and State Risk Project by discussing how businesses and communities could reduce risks by appreciating them, and then wanting to do something about them. ▪ Member agencies have contributed to the new State Climate Policy and to the Climate Health WA Inquiry. ▪ Members and member agencies were part of the Department of Home Affairs' Profiling Australia's Vulnerability Project which has published the vulnerable profile along with five accompanying documents. |

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| Subcommittee / reference group | Objective | No of meetings | Key achievements and updates |
|--|---|----------------|---|
| <p>Public Information Reference Group (PIRG)</p> <p>Chair: Mr Howard Gretton, WA Police</p> | To provide advice and support to the SEMC and its subcommittees in relation to arrangements for the provision of emergency public information and public awareness. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded EMPA national readiness and resilience award. Under the State of Emergency declared on Tuesday 17 March relating to COVID-19, the State Emergency Coordinator directed the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator to establish an Information Coordination Centre (ICC). The State Emergency Public Information Coordinator is Chair of the ICC. The ICC is based at Dumas House, where a range of communications specialists from government departments and agencies have been brought in, under the PIRG structure. The ICC's key responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency liaison through the establishment of a Public Information Team, under the State Support Plan – Public Information. Updating key COVID-19 related information on wa.gov.au. Multi-media public information campaigns. Oversight of the 13COVID helpline which incorporates the first-ever establishment of the State Public Information Line (SPIL). |
| <p>Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group</p> <p>Chair: Mr Mark Vassiliou, Main Roads</p> <p>Executive Officer: Sarah Clarke, Water Corporation</p> | To provide a forum for the exchange of information that will assist or improve emergency management for the benefit of the community. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members explored and implemented contingency options and lessons to reduce impact of supply chain disruption. |

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| Subcommittee / reference group | Objective | No of meetings | Key achievements and updates |
|--|--|----------------|---|
| <p>State Exercise Coordination Team</p> <p>Chair: Mr Duane Bell APM and Mr Alf Fordham APM, Water Corporation</p> <p>Executive Officer: Mr Mark Jeffs, DFES</p> | <p>To be the coordinating body for emergency management exercises in WA. Provide expert advice, assistance and guidance to emergency management agencies and non-government agencies in the preparation, coordination, delivery and evaluation of exercise activities.</p> | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise 'Equus' was used to test the new State Emergency Management Exercise Framework and supporting documentation. Endorsed the 'Managing Exercises' guideline to standardise the processes for conducting, evaluating and reporting on exercises. |
| <p>Lessons Management Reference Group</p> <p>Chair: Ms Linda Savage, SEMC</p> <p>Executive Officer: Ms Tracy Smith, DFES and Ms Annette Balmer, DFES</p> | <p>To provide oversight of the State's lessons management framework. Identification and prioritisation of lessons and monitoring. Reporting on the implementation of resultant actions across the emergency management sector.</p> | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDRP - Historical Review Project. Stage one of the Lessons Identification Database is nearing completion and incorporates 275 recommendations together with related updates. All recommendations are linked with significant bushfires that have occurred in Western Australian during the last ten years. NDRP - Database project. Funding agreement (\$180,000) finalised. Approval by SEMC to use the Australian Institute Disaster Resilience lessons handbook to integrate lessons management principles into the suite of State EM documents. |

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District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs)

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* establishes emergency management districts in Western Australia. There are seven emergency management districts in the regions and four in the Perth metropolitan area.

The DEMCs are an integral part of the State's emergency management structure. Their members come from State and local government agencies, service providers and community agencies that have a key role in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities in their districts.

DEMCs are led by the Police Superintendent (Chair) and DFES Superintendent (Deputy Chair) in each district.

They form an important conduit between State and local emergency management. They are key forums for relationship building, bringing together decision-makers from emergency management agencies, industry and local government to discuss issues affecting their district.

District Advisors

District Advisors (DAs) provide support to emergency management districts. DAs are located in Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Northam and Broome and three are in the Perth metropolitan area.

The key role of DAs is to engage with people across their districts to enhance emergency management capacities and build resilience.

The DAs provide executive officer support to the DEMCs and provide advice and knowledge to local governments and LEMCs.

The DAs promote prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities and are a conduit between the regions and the SEMC on a wide range of topics including emergency management policy and legislation, recovery activities, recovery funding, risk assessment, capability development and preparedness, and annual reporting.



Figure 7: District emergency management committee (DEMC) positioning in the SEMC structure

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Some key achievements from the districts during 2019/20 were:

Great Southern

- Fourteen local governments across the District assessed 3,197 risks. Fire, storm, biosecurity and flood were the most highly assessed.
- Developed the Great Southern 2029 Report and presented to the SEMC.
- The Great Southern Emergency Management District Project 2029 developed a strategic outlook into the States' core objectives (people, economy, social setting, governance, infrastructure, and environment). The focus was on governance, responsibilities, and the capabilities of agencies involved in emergency management within the District. The strategic outlook highlights the challenges for the next ten years and identifies opportunities for improved collaboration.
- Bushfire risk management is active across seven local governments in the Upper Great Southern area, with five risk management plans completed. Applied for mitigation activity funding to treat the risks.
- Shire of Denmark's preparedness and risk management strategies, which include a \$137,000 Natural Disaster Resilience Program involving a State and Federal partnership.

Midwest Gascoyne

- Formed the DEMC Exercise subcommittee with representation from nine DEMC member agencies. Its scope is to develop and coordinate exercises for DEMC and district-level participation in accordance with the State's Exercise Management Framework.

- COVID-19 Remote Aboriginal Community Discussion Exercise.
- Situational awareness tour of the Abrolhos Islands funded via AWARE grant. Included the conducting of a risk assessment for a severe tropical cyclone impacting the Abrolhos Islands.
- Abrolhos Islands operation 'Shipton' and subsequent tours by Border Force to understand issues with remoteness. More than one tonne of drugs seized.
- The Skywalk project at Kalbarri completed. DBCA undertook a 'what if' exercise to prepare.
- Established an Emergency Operations Centre at Western Powers' Geraldton Depot. The Centre will be used in response to regionally significant incidents.

South West

- Noted new multipurpose facility planned for Collie, due for completion in August 2021.
- Western Power has completed the 2018-2019 works program for South West. South West depots have completed 8,500 silicone insulator treatments to reduce the risk of pole top fires. Western Power has deployed the use of LIDAR equipment across the South West to enhance the view of the network and GIS locations.
- Submitted a proposal to request SEMC consider a review into the future use of Class A recycled water for firefighting purposes. Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) considers the use of Class A recycled water poses a low health risk to firefighters. Western Australia does not currently have a state position or any formal agreement on the use of Class A recycled water for firefighting purposes.

Metropolitan (North, East, Central and South)

- The four Metropolitan DEMCs received an AWARE grant to collaborate with the Hazard Management Agency Department of Health to develop and facilitate a district exercise across the four Metropolitan emergency management districts. Exercise Fervidus (Heatwave) was the first time the four Metropolitan DEMCs have convened to exercise capabilities across boundaries. Heatwave is one of the seven priority hazards for the Metropolitan district region, as identified by the Metropolitan Emergency Management Districts "Risk Assessment Report – Highlighting potential disaster impacts".
- Funding for Emergencies Traffic Management. At the SEMC meeting held on Friday 2 August 2019 the committee endorsed the discussion paper from the four Metropolitan DEMCs to review the State EM Policy section 5.12, including the existing Funding for Emergencies – Criteria, for meeting costs associated with emergencies to provide clarification for the facilitation by local government in traffic management.

Wheatbelt

- Developing a schedule of 'EM and Recovery Training and Exercise' days to assist local governments and LEMCs to refresh their understanding of basic emergency management and recovery principles. They are being held in multiple locations across the Wheatbelt to ensure all local governments and LEMCs have the ability to attend. DEMC members have been very proactive in support of the project. The first day was held in Dowerin in March 2020 with eight local government areas represented.

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- State Risk Project – Local. Significant work undertaken across the Wheatbelt to assess risk with 16 local governments having completed their risk assessments. Six are progressing well and six are about to begin. Joint workshops were held to accommodate the large number of local governments undertaking this work. DEMC members were instrumental in providing relevant expertise.

Goldfields–Esperance

- The WA Contingency Plan for rail crash (East of Kalgoorlie) has been updated. We are currently developing a suite of additional appendices, including an emergency aviation response plan for incidents along the Eyre Highway, Great Central Road and East West Rail line.
- DFES are increasing the capability of emergency services in the Goldfields. DFES, with the assistance of membership agencies, increased volunteer numbers across the District. We are forming a more centralised model whereby volunteers from Kalgoorlie will assist outlying local governments during major incidents.
- The DEMC hosted a multi-agency workshop in March to outline the key success and issues from the Norseman West Fire incident and discuss any recommendations for improvement. The overwhelming feedback from the workshop was the effectiveness of multi-agency coordination and cooperation. The coordination allowed for timely and adequate resource provision, ensuring travellers and impacted communities were provided with the assistance and information they needed.

- Designed Exercise Zanthus to raise awareness of the challenges of accidents in remote areas. It was intended to inform the review of the current crash plan 'WA Contingency Plan for Rail Crash (East of Kalgoorlie) 2011'. The exercise was developed in response to a range of concerns about remote crash and distance from medical facilities in the Goldfields. It was decided that the rail crash exercise would be an excellent starting point in raising awareness of the issues and to identify areas for future work to improve preparedness.

Kimberley

- In principle support given for the establishment of the Kimberley Industry Emergency Management Committee and developed a draft reporting agreement.
- Established a working group to support the DEMC component of the State Emergency Management Exercise Framework.
- District Emergency Coordinator/DEMC Chair authorised the use of the DFES Kimberley Major Risk Warning Group to inform stakeholders of the pending disruption to Telstra services. This also ensured State Government agencies and local governments, and in particular, emergency services, had contingencies in place to deal with communication issues during this period.
- DEMC Chair called an extraordinary meeting of the DEMC to discuss the potential impacts of COVID-19 and to identify suitable preparedness initiatives. This group evolved into the Kimberley COVID-19 Operational Area Support Group.

Pilbara

- DEMC utilised for the purposes of addressing preparedness initiatives for the pending disruption to Telstra services, including 000 which occurred on 11 December 2019.
- The District Emergency Coordinator/DEMC Chair provided leadership to the District to ensure State Government agencies and local governments, and in particular, emergency services had contingencies in place to deal with communication issues during this period.
- Established a working group to support the DEMC component of the State Emergency Management Exercise Framework.

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Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs)

Section 38 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (the Act) requires local governments to establish one or more LEMCs. The LEMCs advise and assist local governments to ensure that local emergency management arrangements (LEMA) are established, reviewed and tested in accordance with section 41 of the Act.

Within each LEMC, a Local Emergency Coordinator is responsible for providing advice and support in the development and maintenance of emergency management arrangements for the district.

The LEMCs have representation from organisations and agencies that play a role in emergency management within each area. Local governments are particularly important, providing expert knowledge about their communities and environments. It is the role of local governments not only to ensure that LEMAs are prepared and maintained, but also to manage recovery after an emergency.



Figure 8: Local emergency management committee positioning in the SEMC structure

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Status of Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* (the Act) prescribes that all LEMAs should be consistent with the Act and the State emergency management policies and plans.

A LEMA generally:

- Provides for implementation of a Local Recovery Management Plan (compulsory requirement)
- Nominates a Local Recovery Coordinator, who is responsible for the development and implementation of recovery arrangements, including preparation, maintenance and testing of the Local Recovery Plan, and coordination of the promotion of community awareness of the recovery arrangements
- Identifies the roles and responsibilities of public authorities and other persons involved in emergency management in the local government district
- Addresses matters concerning the coordination of emergency operations and activities
- Maintains a resource register for the purpose of emergency management. The resource register is used by hazard management agencies and combat agencies to identify local resources available for emergency management. The arrangements also identify resource deficiencies and logistical issues that may impact emergency management
- Assesses risks to the local government, and ensures appropriate insurance and funding is available to mitigate those risks

Local governments are required to have their LEMA noted by the SEMC.

During the reporting period, SEMC noted the following local governments' LEMA:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Shire of Chapman Valley | Midwest Gascoyne | Shire of Dowerin | Wheatbelt |
| Shire of Three Springs | Midwest Gascoyne | City of Kellerberrin | Wheatbelt |
| Shire of Mingenew | Midwest Gascoyne | City of Bunbury | South West |
| Shire of Upper Gascoyne | Midwest Gascoyne | City of Manjimup | South West |
| Shire of Wyalkatchem | Wheatbelt | Shire of Gnowangerup | Great Southern |
| | | Shire of Murray | South Metro |

Aggregated LEMA status as at 30/06/2020

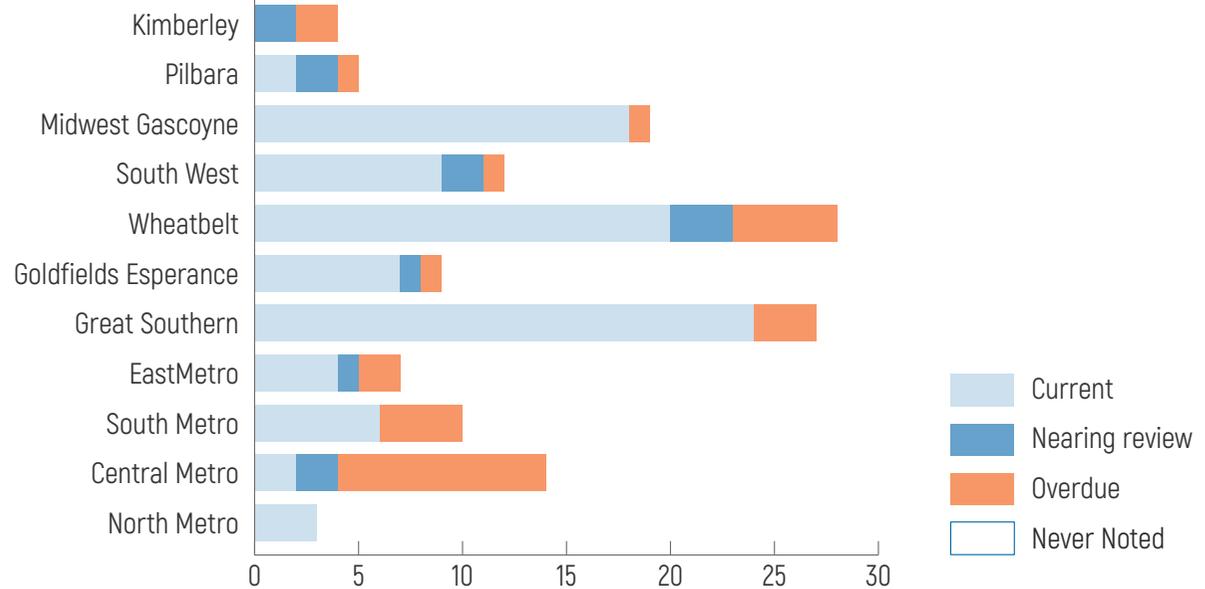


Figure 9: Aggregated LEMA status as at 30 June 2020

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LEMA Status 2020

Metropolitan EM Districts

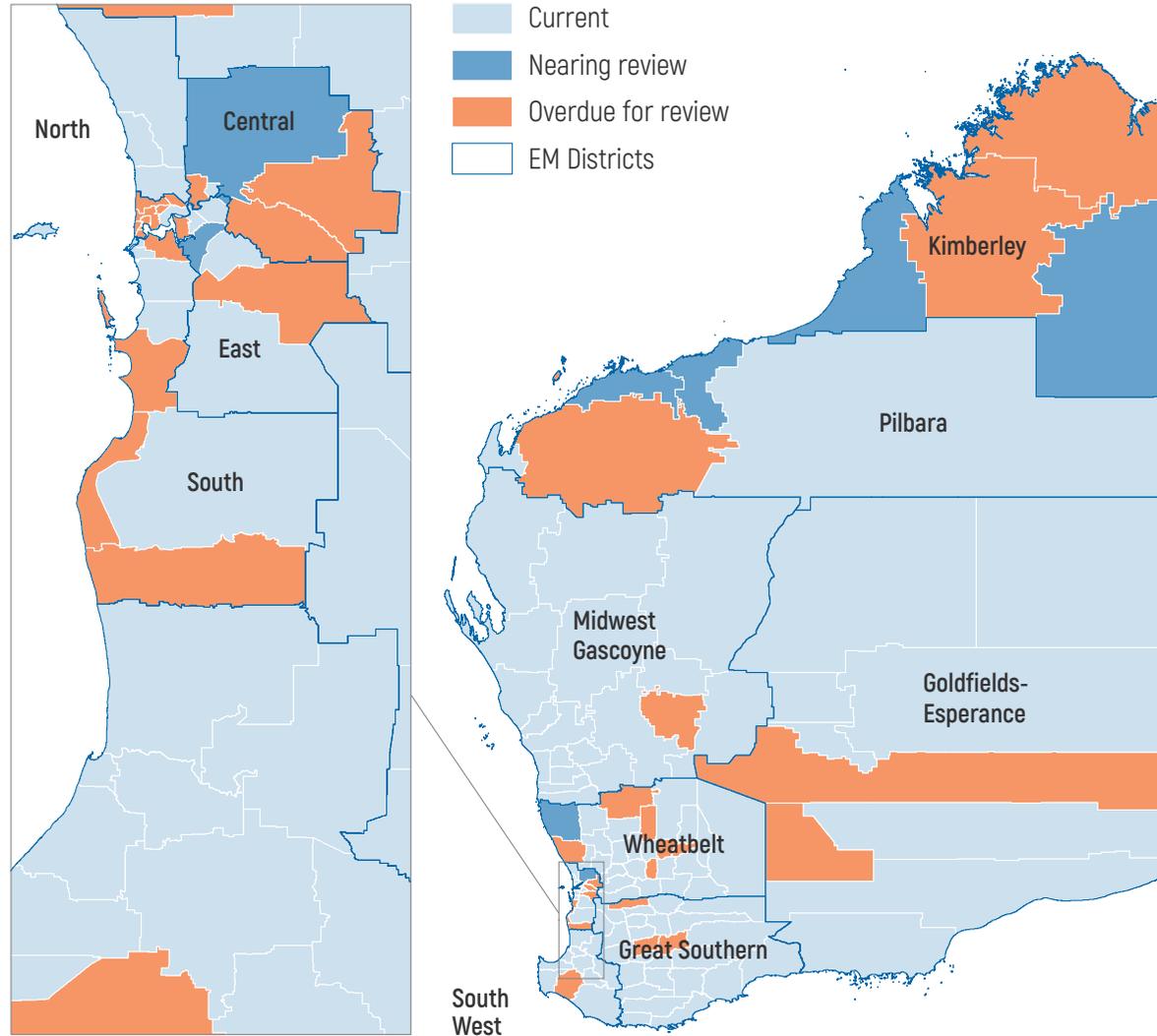
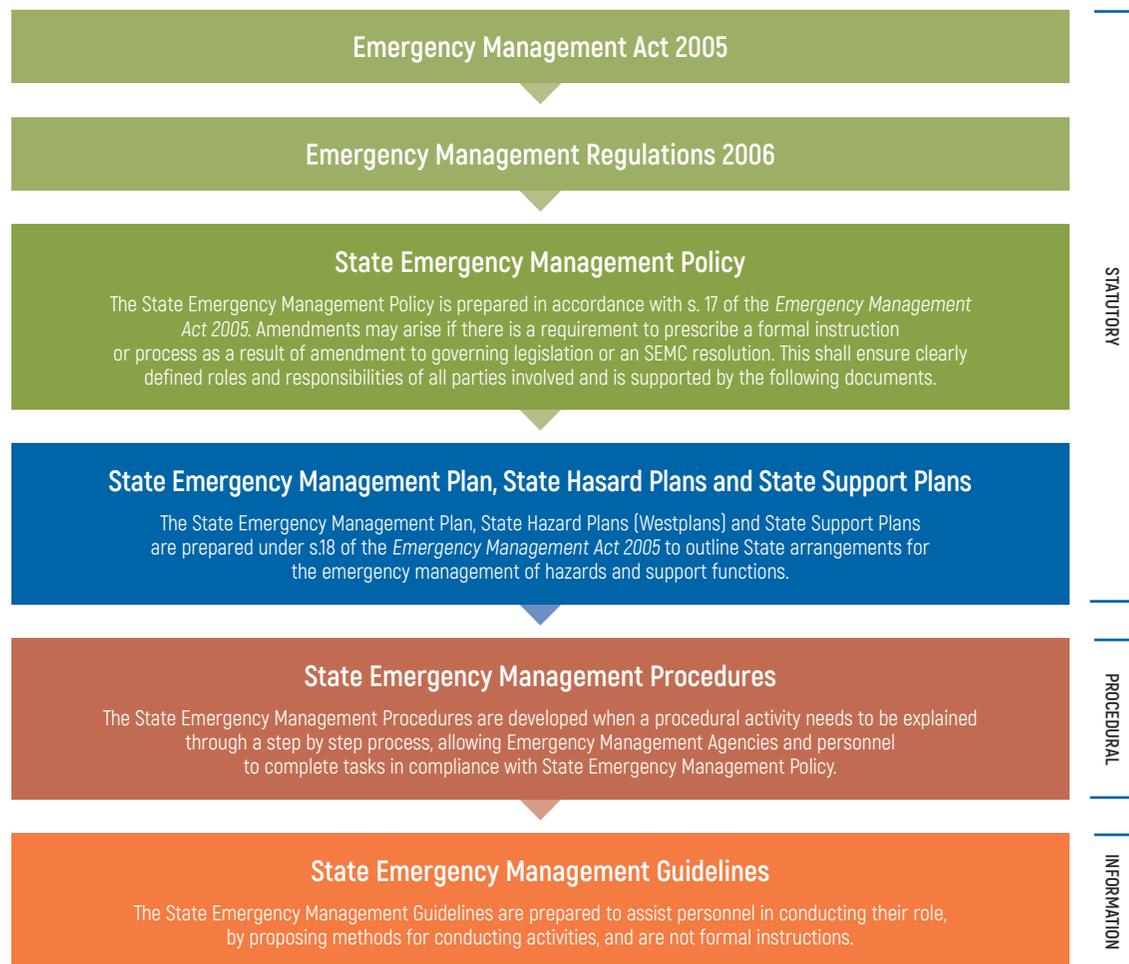


Figure 10: LEMA status 2020. This year there is an increase in Local Governments with current LEMA.

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The State Emergency Management Framework



The SEMC is responsible for supporting the Minister for Emergency Services in the administration of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (the Act) and associated regulations. Section 14 of the Act prescribes seven primary functions to the SEMC. As part of these functions, the SEMC advises the Minister for Emergency Services.

The SEMC also maintains an all hazard focused State-level Policy, Plan and Procedure that, together with the emergency management legislation, sets the emergency management framework in Western Australia. Under this framework the SEMC assigns responsibility for 28 designated hazards to identified positions or agencies – known as the hazard management agencies – and approves plans for dealing with these hazards through input at a State, district and local-level.

In 2019/20, the SEMC implemented a range of reforms to the emergency management legislation, some in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SEMC also approved a suite of changes to improve and maintain the accuracy of the various emergency management documents.

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Figure 11: The State Emergency Management Framework

Changes to emergency management legislation

In 2019/20, the SEMC guided the development of several significant amendments to the emergency management legislation.

On 27 March 2020, the *Emergency Management Amendment Regulations 2020* were published in the Government Gazette and made amendments to the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* as follows.

- Prescribed 'hostile act' as a new hazard with the Commissioner of Police as the hazard management agency. The introduction of the hostile act hazard enables provisions of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* to be used in a number of security related situations which are capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals or destruction of, or damage to, property or any part of the environment but are not 'terrorist acts'.
- Prescribed 'heatwave' as a hazard with the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health as the hazard management agency. Previously, arrangements for the management of heatwaves relied on the 'other natural event' hazard under Section 3 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. Due to its significance in Western Australia, heatwave has been prescribed as a hazard in its own right.
- Prescribed the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Transport as the hazard management agency for the marine transport emergency hazard

and spillage/release/escape of oil hazard. The change replaces the previously prescribed Marine Safety, General Manager, Department of Transport as the hazard management agency.

- Prescribed the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health as the hazard management agency for the human epidemic hazards and spillage/release/escape of a biological substance hazard. This change replaces the previously prescribed State Human Epidemic Controller and State Health Coordinator as the hazard management agencies respectively for these hazards.
- Prescribed the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as the combat agency for the emergency management activity of fire suppression.

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* was amended on 4 April 2020, introducing new provisions into the State Emergency Management Framework. The new amendments strengthen capacity to respond to COVID-19 and similar events in the future. They also clarify and update existing provisions to remove barriers that were impeding the COVID-19 response.

Together, the amendments to the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* and other justice-related regulations to introduce a modified penalty framework that enhances the State's ability to enforce compliance with directions given under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. The ability to issue infringements has been a key measure for enforcing social distancing and controlling the spread of COVID-19. The changes will also strengthen the State's capacity to respond to similar events in the future.

Changes to State emergency management documents

Throughout 2019/20, the SEMC approved changes to the suite of State emergency management documents. The updates support the State's emergency management principle for continuous improvement and ensure the accuracy of information.

Following the reforms to the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* in April 2020, the SEMC approved amending and publishing of the State Policy, Plan and other documents to reflect those changes.

The *Impact Statement Guideline* was published in October 2019 and replaces the former Comprehensive Impact Assessment. This change was implemented in response to recommendations made as part of a review by the Recovery & Community Engagement Subcommittee. An accompanying template was also developed to assist personnel tasked with preparing an Impact Statement. The draft Impact Statement guide and template were piloted during the 2018/19 summer season before being approved and published.

The SEMC endorsed other changes to the State Emergency Management Framework to reflect the revised State Recovery Arrangements. These include:

- Inclusion of new roles and responsibilities for the State Recovery Controller
- Appointment of a State Recovery Coordinator

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- Inclusion of State Emergency Management Preparedness Procedure 5 – State Recovery Controller Appointment
- State Recovery Controller/Coordinator aides memoire
- Clarification regarding post-operational, State Emergency Coordination Group and recovery reporting arrangements

The Managing Exercises Guideline was approved in May 2020. The new guideline provides a standardised way of developing, writing, managing and reporting on exercises so that consistent metrics can be obtained. This subsequently aids the identification of lessons. The guideline is based on the *Tasmanian Government's Managing Exercises: A Handbook for Tasmanian Government Agencies*. It is consistent with WA's new capability-based exercise program and the State's new Emergency Management Exercise Framework. It has been specifically designed to assist emergency management agencies, public authorities and local governments to run exercises to better prepare for emergencies.

As part of the scheduled review cycle, the SEMC also endorsed revision and publication of:

- State Hazard Plan – Fire
- State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act (revised)
- State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The Westplan Rationalisation Project is progressing with three State Hazard Plans remaining to be completed. In acknowledgment of the significant Emergency Management Sector resources devoted to the COVID-19 pandemic, in April 2020 the SEMC approved the postponing of amalgamating the remaining Westplans into State Hazard Plans (SHP).

For a complete list of amendments please refer to the amendments tables published on the [SEMC Website](#).

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Emergency Management Plans

Hazard specific plans have been developed to support the all hazard focused State-level Policy, Plan and Procedure. Hazards are defined in both the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* to include 28 specific hazards.

The SEMC has delegated responsibility for the development, maintenance and review of all relevant State Hazard Plans to the hazard management agencies.

There is a range of support functions and services that are not hazard specific but support emergency management arrangements across all hazards. These include emergency public information, welfare, and health support. These services may be required regardless of the type of hazard that occurs and are detailed in State Support Plans (SSP).

The SHP highlighted in green boxes have not yet been converted to the new SHP format.

| SHP - Crash Emergency | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Hazard |  |  |  |
| | Air Crash | Rail Crash | Road Crash |
| HMA | Commissioner of Police | Public Transport Authority and Arc Infrastructure* | Commissioner of Police |
| Plan Review Date | Aug 2023 | | |

*Sections 20 and 21 of the Emergency Management Regulations 2006 detail the areas of the State for which each is HMA.

| SHP - Animal and Plant Biosecurity | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Hazard |  |
| | Animals and Plants |
| HMA | Agriculture Director General |
| Plan Review Date | Aug 2021 |

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| SHP - Collapse/Earthquake* - Name of plan still to be determined | | |
|--|---|---|
| Hazard |  |  |
| | Injury or threat to life of persons trapped by the collapse of a structure or landform (collapse) | Earthquake |
| HMA | Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner | |
| Plan Review Date | Mar 2021 | Aug 2021 |

| SHP - Severe Weather* - *Final name to be determined | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Hazard |  |  |  |
| | Cyclone | Flood | Storm |
| HMA | Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner | | |
| Plan Review Date | Mar 2021 | Mar 2021 | Mar 2021 |

| SHP - Energy Supply Disruption | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Hazard |  |  |  |
| | Loss of or interruption to the supply of electricity that is capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of a person (electricity supply disruption) | Loss of or interruption to the supply of natural gas, that is capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of a person (gas supply disruption) | Loss of or interruption to the supply of liquid fuel as defined in the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 section 3(1), that is capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of a person (liquid fuel supply disruption) |
| HMA | Coordinator of Energy | | |
| Plan Review Date | Dec 2023 | | |

| SHP - Fire | |
|------------------|---|
| Hazard |  |
| | Fire |
| HMA | Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner |
| Plan Review Date | Nov 2024 |

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| SHP - Human Biosecurity | |
|--|--|
| Hazard |   |
| | <p>Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a biological substance that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment.</p> <p>Human Epidemic</p> |
| HMA | Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health |
| Plan Review Date | May 2024 |
| SHP - Maritime Environmental Emergencies | |
| Hazard |   |
| | <p>Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of oil or an oily mixture that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment (marine oil pollution)</p> <p>Actual or impending event involving vessel (including a collision, a stranding or an incident of navigation) that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment (marine transport emergency)</p> |
| HMA | Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Transport |
| Plan Review Date | Sep 2020 |

| | SHP - Hazardous Materials Emergencies (HAZMAT) | SHP HAZMAT Annex A: Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) | SHP HAZMAT Annex B: Space Re-Entry Debris (SPRED) |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Hazard |  |  |  |
| | <p>Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a (a) chemical, (b) radiological or (c) other substance (HAZMAT) that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment</p> | <p>Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship</p> | <p>Space Re-entry Debris</p> |
| HMA | Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner | Commissioner of Police | Commissioner of Police |
| Plan Review Date | Aug 2023 | Mar 2021 | Aug 2020 |

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| SHP - Heatwave | |
|------------------|---|
| Hazard |  |
| | Heatwave |
| HMA | Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health |
| Plan Review Date | May 2023 |

| SHP - Search and Rescue | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Hazard |  |
| | <p>Land Search – for persons lost or in distress, that requires a significant coordination of search operations</p> <p>Marine Search – for persons lost or in distress in waters or on a vessel in waters within the limits of the State, all coastal waters of the State within the meaning given in the <i>Coastal Waters (State Powers) Act 1980 (Cth)</i> and areas within the limits of a port as provided in the <i>Shipping and Pilotage Act 1967</i>, and the <i>Port Authorities Act 1999</i></p> |
| HMA | Commissioner of Police |
| Plan Review Date | Aug 2023 |

| SHP - Terrorist Act | |
|---------------------|---|
| Hazard |  |
| | Terrorist Act |
| HMA | Commissioner of Police |
| Plan Review Date | TBC – will be reviewed in parallel with the development of the Hostile Act SHP |

| SHP - Hostile Act | |
|-------------------|---|
| Hazard |  |
| | Hostile Act |
| HMA | Commissioner of Police |
| Plan Review Date | In development |

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| SHP - Tsunami | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Hazard |  | |
| | Tsunami | |
| HMA | Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner | |
| Plan Review Date | Mar 2021 | |

| State Support Plans | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|
| SSP – Emergency Public Information | Public Information Reference Group | Dec 2023 |
| SSP – Animal Welfare in Emergencies | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development | Nov 2024 |
| SSP – Emergency Welfare Interim | Department of Communities | Jun 2021 |
| State Health Emergency Response Plan | Department of Health | Sep 2022 |

Figure 12: Status of State Hazard and Support Plans as at 30 June 2020

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CHAPTER 3

Significant Issues Impacting on the Committee

Current and Emerging Issues and Trends

COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, and for the first time ever, a State of Emergency was declared in WA under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (the Act). A number of directions have been issued under Part 6 of the Act to support the response to COVID-19.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been wide-ranging. It has resulted in a number of deferrals and interruptions to SEMC subcommittees, projects and activities.

The State Emergency Coordinator, Hazard Management Agency and State Recovery Controller have dedicated significant resources to ensuring the safety of the WA community. Many other public and private sector authorities worked together to prevent the spread and promote recovery activities.

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to impact all sectors of the community. The WA Government is diligently working to keep WA's response proactive and minimise its impact on the community and economy while focusing on public safety.

Western Australian government agencies have established teams to respond to COVID-19 at the State, organisational, district, and local levels. There are significant human resources being used to coordinate and deliver this response with most of these resources coming from within the emergency management sector.

Crowded Places

On 21 March 2019, the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee published its report titled 'No time for complacency; Final report for the inquiry into the protection of crowded places in Western Australia from terrorist acts'.

The report made several recommendations. These included making amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2005* to expand the definition of 'hazard'. This was in order to enable the Western Australia Police Force to exercise its additional powers during a suspected terrorist act where motive is unclear. This was achieved with the prescription of 'hostile act' in the Emergency Management Regulations 2006 in March 2020.

Climate Change

The [Climate Health WA Inquiry](#) started in April 2019 with the report now completed and awaiting a formal government response. The Inquiry was requested by the Minister for Health and Dr Robertson, the Chief Health Officer. Recommendations from the Inquiry will address measures to:

- Protect the public from the harmful health impacts of climate change
- Support communities and health services to prepare for extreme weather events (focusing on the most vulnerable)
- Reduce the health system's contribution to climate change
- Recommend terms of reference for a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Change Adaption Plan

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Changes at the National Level

Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) sets out the foundational work required across all sectors to reduce disaster risk, minimise new disaster risk, and deliver better climate and disaster risk information. It encourages us to rethink how we reduce disaster risk and address issues such as where and how we live, how our money is invested and the resilience of essential services like food, telecommunications and power. The NDRRF was endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in June 2019 and supported by SEMC at the December 2019 meeting.

The Commonwealth government has aligned a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) to the NDRRF with an annual allocation of \$2.5 million to WA for five years, commencing in 2020. This NPA was formally signed on 13 March 2020 at Council of Australian Governments.

In addition, the Emergency Response Fund pre-disaster resilience funding has also been aligned to the NDRRF. This pre-disaster resilience funding was announced following an Inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration.

A Western Australian Implementation Plan against the NDRRF was developed and approved following consultation with stakeholders from local government, State government, not-for-profit community groups, and industry representatives to identify the actions required to achieve the outcomes of the NDRRF.

Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019/20 which resulted in loss of life, property and wildlife, and environmental destruction. The final report is due in October 2020.

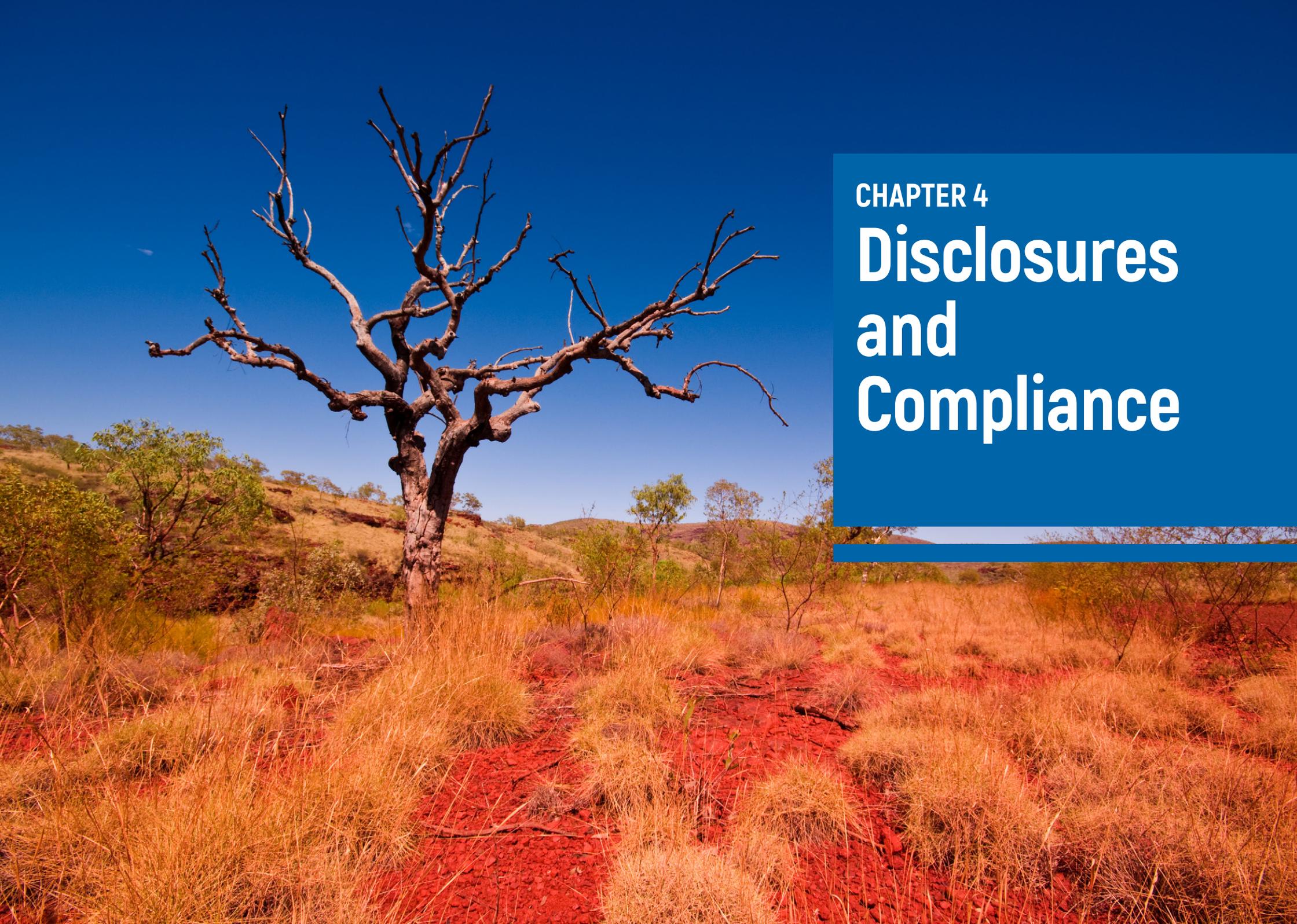
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CHAPTER 4

Disclosures and Compliance

Enabling Legislation

The SEMC is established by section 13 (1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Responsible Minister

The Hon. Francis Logan MLA,
Minister for Emergency Services.

Administered Legislation

The SEMC assists the Minister for Emergency Services in the administration of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Shared Responsibilities with other Agencies

The SEMC relies on the work of multiple organisations to undertake its functions. DFES supports the SEMC, three subcommittees and two reference groups.

WA Police supports the PIRG, DPC supports the PSC subcommittee and Main Roads and the Water Corporation jointly support the Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group. Each subcommittee and reference group comprise organisational executives and senior personnel from a range of public sector agencies and private organisations.

The ongoing collaboration and integration of all parties is critical to the success of the SEMC and the progression of emergency management arrangements across the State.

Ministerial Directions

On 10 February 2020, the Minister directed SEMC to undertake a review of the logistical management and coordination of the Norseman West Bushfire Complex.

Other Disclosures

The SEMC meets its requirements through arrangements with DFES. The DFES Annual Report contains information on how the Department meets the following requirements:

- Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes
- Compliance with Public Sector standards and ethical codes
- Recordkeeping plans
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Occupational Safety and Health

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Remuneration of Members

| Position | Name | Type of remuneration* | Period of membership** | Base Salary | Gross remuneration 2019/2020 |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Chair | Dr Ron Edwards | Per annum | Full Year | \$66,078 | \$66,078 |
| Deputy | Ms Melissa Pexton | Nil | 11/07/2019 - 17/06/2020 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Mr Malcolm Cronstedt | Nil | Full Year | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Mr Chris Dawson | Nil | Full Year | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Mr Darren Klemm | Nil | Full Year | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Mr Darren Foster | Nil | 01/07/2019 - 14/04/2020 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Ms Linda Savage | Per annum | Full Year | \$33,039 | \$33,039 |
| Member | Mr Mark Webb | Nil | Full Year | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Dr Andy Robertson | Nil | Full Year | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Mr Nick Sloan | Nil | 19/08/2019 - current | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Ms Michelle Andrews | Nil | 19/08/2019 - current | \$0 | \$0 |
| Member | Ms Rebecca Brown | Nil | 14/04/2020 -current | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | | | | | \$99,117 |

Figure 13: Remuneration of Members

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Acronyms

| | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|---|
| AFSM | Australian Fire Service Medal | DPC | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| APM | Australian Police Medal | ICC | Information Coordination Centre |
| AWARE | All West Australians Reducing Emergencies | LEMA | Local emergency management arrangements |
| CBRN | Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear | LEMC | Local Emergency Management Committee |
| CSC | Conspicuous Service Cross | NDRP | Natural Disaster Resilience Program |
| DA | District Advisor | NPA | National Partnership Agreement |
| DBCA | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions | PIRG | Public Information Reference Group |
| DEMC | District Emergency Management Committee | PSM | Public Service Medal |
| DFES | Department of Fire and Emergency Services | SEMC | State Emergency Management Committee |
| DMIRS | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety | SHP | State Hazard Plan |
| DOC | Department of Communities | SSP | State Support Plan |
| DOH | Department of Health | WA | Western Australia |
| DOT | Department of Transport | WALGA | Western Australian Local Government Association |
| | | XO | Executive Officer Contact information |

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