

# State Emergency Management Committee



**SEMC**  
STATE EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

# Strategic Plan 2022-2025

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# From the SEMC Chair

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**Dr. Ron F Edwards**

Chair, State Emergency  
Management Committee

In recent times, WA has faced several large-scale emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Wooroloo Bushfire and Tropical Cyclone Seroja and in February 2022 a severe fire weather event leading to an unprecedented four concurrent Level Three bushfires across the south west land division. This is a key climate change indicator. These events have tested the resolve and resilience of the community and emergency management agencies.

In responding to, and recovering from, these emergencies, the strengths and capability of the emergency management sector have been highlighted, along with areas for improvement.

Significant events on the East Coast, including the Black Summer Bushfires and significant floods and storms, have further reinforced the need to look to the future and continue to strengthen the resiliency of WA.

The 2022-25 Strategic Plan provides for a greater focus on community and individual level outcomes by focusing on prevention and preparedness while addressing the long-term challenges presented by climate change.

This Strategic Plan provides the foundations on which the emergency management sector can build a better prepared, more resilience and safer community for all West Australians.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Dr Ron F Edwards**

Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

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## Acknowledgment of Country

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia (WA) and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities, their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

# Introduction

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The SEMC is a standing committee that provides strategic advice to the Minister for Emergency Services and delivers oversight of emergency management arrangements and capability in Western Australia.

The Committee includes representatives of Government and independent members. The primary responsibilities of the SEMC are to:

- Advise the Minister on emergency management and the preparedness of the State to combat emergencies
- Guide and support public authorities, including industry, commerce and the community to plan and prepare for efficient emergency management
- Assist the Minister for Emergency Services in the administration of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*
- Provide a forum for community coordination to minimise the effects of emergencies
- Provide a forum to develop community-wide information systems to improve communications during emergencies
- Develop and coordinate risk management strategies to assess community vulnerability to emergencies
- Arrange for the preparation of State emergency management policies and plans.

After consideration of recent large-scale emergencies, the SEMC has prepared a three-year Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan establishes priority outcomes and focus areas and is informed by ongoing change in the environment, community, workforce, technology, and in national arrangements for emergency management. The Strategic Plan is structured to address risks and opportunities that may arise from these changes.

The SEMC is committed to preparing the sector to adapt to a changing climate, which brings with it a forecast of emergencies that are more frequent, of higher intensity and threatening communities that have not previously been at risk.

The Strategic Plan will inform the agenda and strategic projects for the SEMC in the coming period. It is also used to establish work plans for the subcommittees and reference groups of SEMC, and the District and Local Emergency Management Committees.



# SEMC Strategic Plan 2022-2025

## Collaborative Leadership

Strong relationships enable informed decision-making amongst state district and local emergency management leaders

Clear strategic direction is provided and communicated across the Emergency Management sector

Responsible Ministers, public authorities, industry, commerce and the community remain briefed and informed

The SEMC has the expertise and experience, along with the facilities and services, to undertake its functions

The SEMC contributes to the national agenda through collaboration with Commonwealth, state, and territory governments

Clear strategic direction is provided and communicated at district and local level, including to District and local Emergency Management Committees

## Effective Governance

A coordinated and collaborative risk and evidence-based approach to emergency management that is trusted by the sector

A high standard of governance and reporting consistent with contemporary standards that promotes accountability

Subcommittees and Reference Groups are empowered to execute the strategic direction of the SEMC

Risk, capability and preparedness are measured and reported across the state

Public trust in the sector is maintained through social responsibility

### Our Vision

A better prepared, more resilient and safer State.

### Our Mission

To reduce the impact of emergencies on the community through empowerment of decision makers to create a better prepared, more resilient and safer State.

## Capable Sector

The emergency management sector has accomplished and innovative organisations and is known for its high performance and improvement culture

Risks, emerging trends and vulnerabilities are identified and communicated across the sector

A streamlined and evidence-based Emergency Management Framework, policies and plans

Continuous improvement through effective lessons management, exercising and the consideration of review recommendations

Public communications, technologies and data are optimised for risk and context

Philanthropic and Not for Profit organisations, as well as individuals and volunteers, are leveraged to the betterment of the community

Emergency management knowledge and networks are built across government, industry, and community

Local governments are supported and enabled to build resilience within their community through state Emergency Management frameworks

## Capable Community

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

Community vulnerability is reduced through risk reduction and adaptation

More agencies and businesses have plans to maintain service delivery to the community

Critical infrastructure is more resilient through risk reduction, mitigation and innovation

Community resilience is strengthened through self-reliance by supporting communities to connect people and create local networks

Communities are empowered to use local knowledge to develop local solutions

## Climate Change

The sector is prepared, willing and responsive to the impacts of climate change on emergency management

Community vulnerability is reduced through risk reduction and adaptation

Communities, individuals, and government have an increased capacity to build resilience to address climate risk

Local governments are supported in increasing preparedness due to increased risks associated with a changing climate

The Emergency Management Framework and the sector are prepared for, and adapting to, the impacts of climate change

# Disclosures and Compliance

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## Regulatory Matters

### Enabling Legislation

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

### Responsible Minister

The Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Volunteering.

### 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.

The SEMC is supported by a number of subcommittees and reference groups which comprise of 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.

## Service Level Agreement

The SEMC has a Service Level Agreement with DFES for the provision of staff and other resources to enable the SEMC to fulfill its duties.

Support from DFES under this agreement includes:

- Executive support
- Assurance
- Subject matter expertise
- Emergency management legislation and policy expertise
- Communications and ICT support
- Administrative support
- Projects and other key tasks.





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