

SEMC COMMUNIQUE



December 2022

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 5 December 2022.

Presentations

Total Solar Eclipse – Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

The Total Solar Eclipse is a natural phenomenon that will take place on 20 April 2023, at 11:27am, with the Total Solar Eclipse Celebration event taking place over three days (19 – 21 April 2023) in the Town of Exmouth.

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science & Innovation (JTSI) is leading the project to deliver a safe and enjoyable, once-in-a-lifetime experience for attendees that supports the local Exmouth and surrounding communities. There are several emergency management (EM) considerations to work through:

- the capacity of the town to support the number of visitors expected
- requirements of EM agencies
- incident response logistics, including access and egress to Exmouth.

JTSI is engaging with local governments (LG), Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), other Government agencies and local businesses, to plan for, and provide the necessary supports, and resources for this event.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements Review – WALGA

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) refers to the suite of emergency management documents, processes and agreements which apply to an LG area.

The LEMA Review commenced in 2022, and is being delivered as a partnership project with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) SEMC Business Unit and WALGA in response to the challenges faced by LGs in fulfilling their EM obligations, which include:

- clarity around EM roles and responsibilities
- alignment between EM and their day-to-day business
- financial and human resourcing to support EM planning.

WALGA has led the LG consultation for the review, with 100 of 139 LGs providing input. The consultations and feedback will inform the LEMA Improvement Plan which is expected to be finalised by June 2023.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

Cyber Security

A cyber security incident is a single or series of unwanted or unexpected event(s) that impact the confidentiality, integrity or availability of a network or system, and/or the information that it stores, processes or provides.

The Australian Government assesses that malicious cyber activity against Australian interests is increasing in frequency, scale, sophistication and severity. Given the increasing cyber threat activity, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) proposed the incorporation of a cyber security hazard into the State's EM arrangements.

The SEMC endorsed cyber security being incorporated into the State's EM arrangements as a hazard, and the Director General of DPC as the preferred Hazard Management Agency (HMA).

The proposal has been endorsed by the Minister for Emergency Services, and consultation will commence by DPC, as the preferred HMA, to draft a State Hazard Plan for Cyber Security.

Disaster Ready Fund

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) will replace the Emergency Response Fund, making up to \$200 million per annum available to the states and territories for five years, commencing on 1 July 2023.

The DRF will be administered by the National Emergency Management Agency and feature competitive grant rounds.

DFES is coordinating Western Australia's application on behalf of the SEMC for the DRF and will soon distribute the draft DRF guidelines and information about how to apply for funding.

The 2023 DRF grant round is expected to open in January.

SEMC Subcommittee and Reference Group Review

The objective of the SEMC Subcommittees and Reference Group review is to establish an effective and relevant subgroup structure that supports the SEMC to achieve its strategic objectives.

The SEMC were presented with an update on the review to date and were informed of the key messages received during the ongoing consultation process. The structure and associated governance arrangements will be finalised for SEMC consideration in March 2023.

State Emergency Management COVID-19 Documents

The *Emergency Management Amendment (Temporary COVID-19 Provisions) Act 2022* amended the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act) and other legislation to provide for a temporary, fit for purpose legislative framework for the ongoing management of COVID-19. The temporary scheme, which is to be in place for two years, commenced by proclamation on 3 November 2022.

To support the management of a COVID-19 event (subject to a COVID-19 declaration by the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC)), the following documents were approved by the SEMC:

- The State Emergency Management COVID-19 Policy to identify the roles and responsibilities of EM agencies for the management of the adverse effects from a COVID-19 event
- The COVID-19 Procedure for the Exchange of Information outlines the process for the disclosure of information by an Authorised COVID-19 officers and EM agencies during a COVID-19 declaration
- A suite of EM forms to support the SEC to make a declaration and to delegate powers to authorised COVID-19 officers.

GENERAL UPDATES

Natural Disaster Risk Reduction grant program

The Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program will make about \$2.5 million available in 2023 for projects that reduce disaster risk in Western Australia.

Projects may apply for between \$10,000 and \$250,000 grant funding for locally led projects, however there is no cap on funding for projects with State or sector-wide significance.

Applications for the 2023 round of the NDRR grant program will open on 24 April 2023 and close on 29 May 2023. More information on the NDRR can be found on the SEMC website.

Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (CERMP)

The successful CERMP Projects were announced by the Minister for Emergency Management, Senator Hon Murray Watt on 4 November 2022. WA received \$19.17 million in funding across eight projects.

1. Coast Capture WA
2. C Y O'Connor Engineered Fringing Reef Stage 2
3. Upgraded revetment for Denham Foreshore and Town Centre
4. West Busselton Coastal Stabilisation
5. City of Joondalup Coastal Risk Adaptation Program
6. Vincent Street Seawall Refurbishment
7. Mindarie Breakwater Upgrade
8. Esperance Bay - Sand Back-Passing Infrastructure

Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework

DFES State Capability Team has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SEMC's Emergency Management Capability Framework. The framework was developed in 2016 to enable systematic analysis of existing capabilities at a State and organisational level, and to guide EM development across the State. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the framework is consistent with evolving EM best practice and stakeholder needs.

The revised framework will be released at the end of 2022 for broad consultation.

2022 Individual Organisation Capability Summaries

The Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey is conducted each year by DFES State Capability Team on behalf of the SEMC. In 2022, the survey was sent to 166 organisations, including all HMAs, local governments, and other emergency management agencies. 152 organisations completed the survey in 2022 – a 91% response rate.

DFES State Capability Team have created capability summaries using each organisation's responses to the 2022 capability survey. The purpose of the individual capability summaries is to:

- assist with emergency management planning and prioritisation
- provide support for internal business cases
- show case areas of excellence
- highlight areas for further consideration and development.

The individual capability summaries will be sent to each organisation who responded to the survey by mid-December 2022.

2022 Emergency Preparedness Report

The SEMC approved the 2022 Emergency Preparedness Report (the Report). The Report provides a snapshot of WA's preparedness to prevent, respond to, and recover from significant hazardous events, with data collected from 152 organisations with various roles in emergency management.

The Report will be submitted to the Minister for Emergency Services before being published on the SEMC website.

Next meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of the SEMC will be held on Wednesday 8 March 2023.

Contact Us

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

