

March 2025

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 13 March 2025.

Presentation

Strategic Projects Update | Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Rebecca Brown, Director General of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) provided an overview of the State's premier strategic industrial area, the Western Trade Coast (WTC), and the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) Defence Precinct. Covering 3,900 hectares, the WTC will play a key role in achieving the State's decarbonisation goals through the development and expansion of green energy supply chains. The AMC will deliver naval shipbuilding, sustainment, and nuclear-powered submarine depot maintenance. Contemporary and fit-for-purpose emergency management is crucial, and JTSI is working with industry and regulatory authorities such as the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to ensure appropriate emergency management plans are in place to support the development.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

Radiation Escape from Nuclear Powered Warship – Change of Hazard Management Agency

Currently, the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) is the Commissioner of Police. In response to the future AUKUS arrangements, the SEMC endorsed the transfer of HMA responsibility to the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner. A working group has been established with membership from across State government, to plan for AUKUS and to ensure the State Hazard Plan is fit-for-purpose.

SEMC Strategic Plan

The SEMC Strategic Plan for 2025-28 features six measurable, strategic objectives, and has been independently reviewed to ensure it reflects priorities identified by the SEMC and is consistent with similar jurisdictions.

Once approved by the Minister for Emergency Services, the SEMC Strategic Plan will be published on the SEMC website and shared with SEMC stakeholders. The SEMC Business Unit will then work with emergency management stakeholders including SEMC Subcommittees to implement the strategy.

Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan

Subject to the progression of the *Climate Change Bill 2023* (the Bill), the emergency management sector is required to develop a Sector Adaptation Plan (SAP) to support broader climate change objectives. Whilst the status of the Bill is determined by Government, the Climate Change Subcommittee will submit an interim Options Paper to the SEMC in May 2025.

State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity

The revised State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity was approved by the SEMC, having undergone extensive consultation and SEMC Subcommittee endorsement. Incorporating lessons from COVID-19 and other epidemics, the Plan aligns with the Australian Government's Pandemic Plan and State Framework.

State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The revised State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies was approved by the SEMC following its required five-year review. Activated seven times since its endorsement in 2019 during fire, flood, and cyclone events, the State Support Plan was ratified by the SEMC Subcommittees in February 2025.

Los Angeles Fires

The FES Commissioner provided an update on the recent Los Angeles wildfires in January 2025. Noting the similarities between California and Western Australia’s climates, he highlighted the key challenges experienced. DFES is maintaining contact with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection during their post-incident review.

General Updates

Disaster Ready Fund Round Three

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative. The third funding round of DRF is open until 2 April 2025. Visit the [Disaster Resilience Grants webpage](#) for more information.

Next Generation Emergency WA

The Next Generation Community Warnings and Australian Warning System (AWS) project successfully launched a new Emergency WA platform in May 2024, followed by the Emergency WA app in December 2024. The app has attracted 130,000 app downloads, demonstrating increased community awareness of disaster risks. The next stage will onboard three new HMAs, assess the feasibility of expanding the AWS to non-AWS hazards, and create Australia’s first multilingual and accessible emergency warnings system.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State Emergency Management documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2025:

State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)	WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident	Local Recovery Guideline
State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain	Impact Statement Guideline and Template

State Recovery Arrangements

A comprehensive review of the state-level recovery governance and coordination arrangements across the State Emergency Management Framework is currently underway. A [fact sheet](#) has been developed to provide an overview of the proposed revisions across the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan and Procedure.

Public consultation on the proposed amendments is open until 2 May 2025. To learn more about the proposed changes or to submit feedback, visit [Engage WA](#).

Next Meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of SEMC will be held on 8 May 2025.

Contact Us

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