



**BASSENDAN
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
7 OCTOBER 2020**

STATE NEWS

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Department of Health is continuing to work under the umbrella of a State Emergency Declaration to manage COVID-19.

LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS

In March 2020 the Emergency Management Amendment Regulations 2020 amended the EM Regulations to:

- **prescribe hostile act as a hazard;**
- prescribe heatwave as a hazard rather than rely on the 'or other natural event' definition;
- amend the scope and territorial jurisdiction for marine search and rescue;
- prescribe the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Transport as the Hazard Management Agency for marine transport emergency and spillage/release/escape of oil hazards;
- prescribe the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health as the Hazard Management Agency for the human epidemic hazard, spillage/release/escape of biological substance and heatwave hazards;
- prescribe the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as a combat agency for the emergency management activity of fire suppression; and
- administrative amendments to update the description of support function, update Hazard Management Agency name and Departmental references.

In April 2020 The Emergency Management Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020 amended the EM Act to:

- introduce new provisions into the Western Australian emergency management framework to strengthen the State's capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and similar events in the future;
- clarify and amend existing provisions to remove barriers in the existing laws that were impeding the COVID-19 response and future emergencies.

Related amendments were also made to the EM Regulations to introduce the ability for infringement notices to be issued for a failure to comply with directions under the EM Act. A detailed summary of the amendments to the EM Act and EM Regulations is available on the [SEMC Policy Amendments webpage](#)

Amendments to the suite of State Emergency Management Documents

The State Emergency Management (EM) Policy and Plan have been amended to facilitate the State Government approved whole of government approach to Western Australia's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The amendments were approved by the SEMC on 21 July 2020 (SEMC Resolution Number 42/2020).

The inclusion of appendix AA in State Emergency Management Policy and Plan permits the State Recovery Controller to continue leading the whole of government approach to Western Australia's recovery from COVID-19, whilst removing the responsibility of the HMA/Controlling Agency and Local Governments recovery functions as prescribed in the State Emergency Management Framework. The implemented changes are a consequence from a Ministerial direction issued to the SEMC, which fundamentally is a result from a Cabinet decision. Local Governments will continue to collate data and monitor progress for COVID-19 recovery activities at the request of the State Recovery Controller.

The SEMC approved the inclusion of the below statement as an Appendix (AA) to both the State EM Policy and Plan:

APPENDIX AA: COVID-19 RECOVERY

1. The following five sections of the State Emergency Management Framework are amended such that they do not apply for a period of 12 months retrospectively from the 15 July 2020 for recovery activities undertaken by the pandemic caused by virus COVID-19:
 - i. State Emergency Management Policy 6.2 Role of Controlling Agency
 - ii. State Emergency Management Plan 6.2 Commencement of Recovery
 - iii. State Emergency Management Plan 6.4.1 Impact Statement
 - iv. State Emergency Management Plan 6.5 Role of Local Government in Recovery
 - v. State Emergency Management Plan 6.8 State Level Recovery Plan
2. These five sections continue to apply for all other emergencies.

In addition to the above amendments, the SEMC recently approved (SEMC Resolution Number 40/2020) a revised State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare (Interim). It is acknowledged that further work and consultation will be undertaken on the Plan following the completion of the Department of Communities emergency services review.

The fundamental principles of the Plan remain unchanged, the main alterations include:

- Naming of the State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre.
- Re-designation of the Department of Communities, Emergency Services Coordinator to the Welfare Emergency Controller.
- Further details regarding scope and responsibilities pertaining to emergency food provision.
- New roles and responsibilities and process flow of activation of the AUSRECPLAN.
- Delegation capacities of the State Welfare Coordinator and Welfare Emergency Controller and emphasis towards scale-ability.

- Other minor expansions of explanation of scope, roles and responsibilities and statement of fact changes.

All documents are now available on the SEMC Website [State EM Policy](#) [State EM Plan](#) [State Support Plan - Emergency Welfare](#), it is strongly advised that all agencies review the updated documents.

For any queries, please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au.

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CONSULTATION REQUEST – LOCAL RECOVERY GUIDELINES

The State Emergency Management Policy Branch is conducting consultation via Social Pinpoint

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the [Local Recovery Guideline consultation](#) (<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/local-recovery-guideline>).

On the Local Recovery Guideline Consultation Page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process.
- Download and view the proposed amendments to the Guideline and the new Aide Memoires.
- Submit your feedback.
- Post an idea or question.

Please submit your feedback by COB 14 October 2020.

As we continue to trial Social Pinpoint, we would also appreciate your feedback on this platform. You can share your thoughts and experiences in the 'Feedback on the use of Social Pinpoint' section at the bottom of the page.

If you experience any difficulties with accessing Social Pinpoint or have any other questions, please contact us on SEMCM.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

SEMC UPDATE

COVID19 has had a significant impact on Western Australia (WA) and the emergency management (EM) sector has worked well together to deliver a coordinated response for the WA community. The Chair of SEMC thanks you for the active and valuable role you have played.

As organisation's capacity allows the Chair strongly encourages emergency management meetings and business as usual activities, such as risk workshops, consultation and emergency management arrangement development, to resume.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY SUMMARY 2019

The Emergency Preparedness Report Steering Committee have determined not to release the Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey for 2020. This decision reflects the significant impact that COVID-19 has, and continues to have, on the EM sector across WA. It is expected that the 2021 survey will go ahead in April next year.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISE FRAMEWORK TRANSITION PROJECT

Several new and engaging exercise initiatives are now available to the Emergency Management sector. We encourage all agencies and organisations to utilise the resources and information that is now readily accessible.

SEMC Website

With several updates and additions, the EXERCISING tab on the SEMC website now provides the EM sector with easy to find references for:

- The State Emergency Management Exercise Framework
- The State EM Exercise Cycle
- The State Exercise
- Managing Exercises Online Training
- Templates, Guidelines and Resources
- Reporting of Exercises

Online Training

The Managing Exercises online self-paced training course is now available for all EM sector professionals. It is designed to provide greater accessibility to exercise training which will help with your preparedness to deal with hazards. It can be accessed on any device, from a desktop computer to a mobile phone and is optimised in Chrome. The course compliments the WA Managing Exercises Guideline

Exercise Schedules

The operational response to COVID19, EM exercising has been the last thing on agencies and organisations mind. As we come out the other side and the sector slowly returns to normality, agencies and organisations will commence exercising again. The exercise framework requires you to develop an Exercise Schedule for your agency or organisation, so you can progressively plan your exercises over the three-year period.

If you have started developing your Exercise Schedule, please submit the schedule to your DEMC who will forward the information on to the State Emergency Coordination Team. Schedules will eventually be used to populate the State Exercise Calendar.

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WA'S COVID-19 RECOVERY PANDEMIC - LETTER FROM STATE RECOVERY CONTROLLER

The State Recovery Controller, Ms Sharyn O'Neill, has sent a letter to all local governments acknowledging the considerable support local government have provided to their communities. Given the scale of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the extended nature of recovery efforts the Government has determined that WA's approach to recovery is most appropriately coordinated at a State level rather than local.

However, every local government will play a key role in recovery, particularly as they are the closest touch points to the community.

DISTRICT NEWS

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Metropolitan District Emergency Management Committee meetings have been confirmed. Calendar invites will be sent over the coming weeks once venues have been confirmed. The meetings will be hosted on the following dates:

DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	MEETING SCHEDULE
Central Metro	Wednesday 14 October
East Metro	Tuesday 20 October
South Metro	Wednesday 28 October

LOCAL NEWS

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM 2020-2021

The NDRP grant round is now open from 12pm (midday) 2 September 2020 and closes 12pm (midday) **Friday 16 October 2020**.

\$1.4 million is available to WA via a competitive grant round that will support the priorities of both the State and Commonwealth governments.

Eligible organisations capable of implementing sustained resilience programs or disaster mitigation strategies that will directly benefit the WA community, are strongly encouraged to submit an application.

The aim of NDRP is to deliver projects that reduce identified risks, and close capability gaps, to reduce future post-disaster funding needs.

Projects to enhance natural disaster resilience for at risk communities, including the disabled, Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, and projects designed to attract, support and retain volunteers are encouraged.

Organisations are eligible to apply if they work within the WA Emergency Management framework and includes Local and State Governments and not-for-profit organisations.

Further Information: <https://semc.wa.gov.au/funding/ndrp>

Email enquiries to ndrp@dfes.wa.gov.au.

2020 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 9 October 2020
- 4 December 2020

Complied by:
District Emergency Management Advisor
Metropolitan Operations
Department of Fire and Emergency Services