



## DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT APRIL 2021

### STATE NEWS

#### **New National Recovery and Resilience Agency**

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring people impacted by natural disasters and drought get the support and advice they need to recover, while also delivering initiatives that reduce the risk and lessen the impact

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the new National Recovery and Resilience Agency has been established, in direct response to a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. The new Agency brings together the experience and learnings of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

We will continue to provide ongoing recovery support for individuals and communities affected by the 2019-20 Bushfires, the 2019 North Queensland Monsoon Trough, drought and other disasters with no reduction of Australian Government support. A second phase of transition from 1 July, will see the Agency incorporate the disaster risk reduction and recovery functions from the Department of Home Affairs and the rural financial counselling programs from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

We have been preparing to form this new Agency since it was first flagged by Prime Minister Morrison in November 2020. The new Agency is ready to hit the ground running. There will be no disruption to how we support our communities.

The Agency will have its 'boots on the ground' through a national network of Recovery Support Officers who live and work in communities across Australia. These Officers are my eyes and ears and will make sure people get the information they need and direct them to the help and support that's right for their situation. We will also continue to provide advice back to the highest levels of Government about what is working and what needs to be improved, aiming to streamline and simplify the recovery process. The Agency will also provide national leadership and coordination to drive efforts to minimise the impact of future disasters.

As we have before, we will work in close partnership with local councils, health services, charities, our federal and state government partner agencies and peak industry bodies.

The Agency will have an important role in driving efforts to minimise the impact of future disasters. We can never flood, cyclone, drought or fire proof the nation, but we can be better prepared. As one National Recovery and Resilience Agency, we aim to bring hope and confidence to our partners and the communities we serve.

I look forward to working with you to make a difference to people on the ground, and I hope to see you on the road soon.

## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

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

### **New Bill to extend timeframe for COVID-19 response measures**

- Omnibus Bill to be introduced into Parliament to help keep WA safe and strong
- Bill will seek a further six-month extension for COVID-19 legislative amendments
- It will allow the McGowan Government to effectively respond and deal with unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, which poses an ongoing threat to the community

An omnibus Bill will be introduced into State Parliament to extend the timeframe for the COVID-19 legislative amendments, and help keep Western Australians safe.

The further extension will allow the McGowan Government to respond to the challenges of the pandemic, which poses an ongoing threat to the community.

The Bill amends the Emergency Management Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020 and the Criminal Code Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020, which have been vital to the State's successful management of the virus.

The amendments will continue to give authorised officers the power to direct a person to take any action reasonably necessary to prevent, control or abate risks associated with COVID-19.

Importantly, they allow WA to implement its border arrangements, put in place quarantining measures that stopped the spread of the virus, and for contact tracing and physical distancing measures in line with health advice.

The amendments also allow for increased penalties for serious assaults and threats against frontline officers in the context of COVID-19 as they work to protect the public.

These increased penalties of up to 10 years' jail reflect the seriousness of deliberately coughing or spitting on public officers who are trying to help keep the State safe.

The new Bill will seek to extend those necessary provisions for another six months from July 4, 2021 to January 4, 2022.

## **SEMC UPDATE**

The following documents were approved by SEMC, effective 12 March 2021. All amended documents are now available on the SEMC website:

1. [State Emergency Management Preparedness Procedures 1 to 5](#)  
(SEMC Resolution Number 17/2021)
2. [State Emergency Management Local Recovery Guidelines](#)  
(SEMC Resolution Number 15/2021)
3. [Impact Statement Guide \(Attachment to State Emergency Management Recovery Procedure 4\) and Template](#)  
(SEMC Resolution Number 18/2021)
4. [State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex A Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship](#)  
(SEMC Resolution Number 16/2021)

## CONSULTATION REQUEST STATE HAZARD PLAN ANIMAL AND PLANT BIOSECURITY

The DFES State EM Policy Branch is seeking your feedback on the proposed amended plan to help us identify and address any concerns prior to requesting endorsement and approval from the SEMC.

### **State Hazard Plan Animal and Plant Biosecurity**

The DFES State EM 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 [SHP Animal and Plant Biosecurity](#) review (<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/animal-and-plant-biosecurity/animal-and-plant-biosecurity-home>)

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process.
- Download and view the proposed amendments.
- Submit your feedback.
- Join the discussion or post a question.

**Please submit your feedback by COB Friday 11 June 2021.**

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.

## SEMC CAPABILITY SURVEY RELEASED

The DFES State Capability Team manage the survey on behalf of the SEMC. The 2021 survey was released mid-April and agencies have approximately 8 weeks to complete and submit their organisations survey. For more information on the survey please contact [semc.capability@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:semc.capability@dfes.wa.gov.au).

\*Note: Due to the additional pressures created by COVID-19, the capability survey was not conducted in 2020.

## THREE STATE RECOVERY CONTROLLERS

The State Government of Western Australia are managing 3 major incidents requiring separate State Recovery Controllers to be appointed by Premier:

- **COVID-19**  
Public Sector Commissioner **Sharyn O'Neill**
- **Wooroloo Bushfire**  
Chair of the State Emergency Management Committee  
**Dr Ron Edwards**
- **Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seroja**  
DFES Director Risk, Capability & Analysis  
**Melissa Pexton**

## DISTRICT NEWS

### TRIAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021 METROPOLITAN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The trial combined meeting for the Central and North (North) District Emergency Management Committee was held on Tuesday 20 April 2021.

The trial combined meeting for the East and South (South) District Emergency Management Committee was cancelled due to the recent COVID-19 break out and has been rescheduled to Tuesday 18 May 2021.

Both DEMC meetings included an "Exercise Navitas".

The trial combined meetings will be evaluated via "survey monkey" and members will receive a report on the outcomes.

## LOCAL NEWS

As you may be aware, 13 COVID hotline has been adapted to enable members of the public to book their COVID vaccinations.

Covid-19 Communications has updated the Roll up for WA [homepage](#) and the [How to prepare for your COVID-19 vaccine](#) and [How and where to get your COVID-19 vaccination](#) articles with strengthened messaging.

There is also some work being done on social media posts.

## WOOROLOO BUSHFIRE 1 FEBRUARY 2021

A total of 10,900 hectares were burnt and 86 properties were lost during the Wooroloo Bushfire on 1 February 2021.

The Metropolitan District Emergency Management Advisors (DEMAs) have been heavily involved with the Wooroloo Bushfire. Attending Incident Support Group meetings and liaising with the local governments during response. The DEMAs are currently supporting the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring at local, sub and joint Local Recovery Committee meetings and advising on recovery strategies.

A State Recovery Coordination Group has been established to coordinate State Government efforts to assist residents impacted by the Wooroloo Bushfire. The State Recovery Controller, Dr Ron Edwards, is leading DFES State Recovery, to support e State government, local government and not-for-profits to work together during the recovery process.

The Commonwealth has provided \$18.1 million funding through the State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance package.

The joint funding will cover:

- the delivery of a state-led coordinated residential clean-up program
- roll-out of a community and outreach program
- dedicated recreational asset restoration program.

DFES State Recovery has established a Wooroloo Recovery Operational Team to assist City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring in delivering recovery initiatives to get the community back on its feet as soon as possible.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NETWORK

WALGA has launched an online network (Google Group) for Local Government staff who work in Emergency Management.

In late 2019, we consulted members about ways WALGA could support the sector in Emergency Management and an online network was identified as a useful tool.

The purpose of the Network is to assist WALGA to share information and resources with, and obtain feedback from, the sector; enable the sharing of peer to peer advice and learnings between Local Governments; explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration between Local Governments; and coordinating of meetings and events.

If you are interested in joining the online network please send an email advising your name, position and email address to: [em@walga.asn.au](mailto:em@walga.asn.au)

## RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS 2021

The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action.

The awards provide an opportunity to highlight the hard work of individuals, organisations, councils and schools in our communities who show initiative in helping to create a more resilient Australia.

Submissions are now open to recognise outstanding contributions across eight categories:

- Business Award
- Government Award
- Local Government Award
- School Award
- Photography Award
- Community Award

The Resilient Australia Awards is a two-tiered program with winners from each state and territory considered for national awards.

Submissions close Thursday 3 June 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST).

To find out more and submit for an award visit [www.aidr.org.au/raa](http://www.aidr.org.au/raa).

## 2021 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 13 August 2021
- 1 October 2021
- 3 December 2021

**Compiled by:**  
**District Emergency Management Advisor**  
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