



**TOWN OF BASSENDEAN  
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT  
3 NOVEMBER 2021**

**STATE NEWS**

**AMENDMENTS TO STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS**

The State Emergency Management Committee has approved amendments to the suite of State Emergency Management documents including the incident level criteria descriptors outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan and State Emergency Management Procedure, and a revised Incident Declaration Form (EM Form 23).

The amended incident level criteria descriptors are a result of a project undertaken by a working group established under the Response Capability Subcommittee. A review of the incident level criteria descriptors within the State Emergency Management Framework (EM) identified several inconsistencies. The review also considered the incident declaration process and ensured the criteria for each incident level are contemporary, fit for purpose, and consistent across the State EM Framework.

**Accessibility Redesign**

The following plans have been converted into the new accessible design and are available on the [SEMC website](#):

- State Hazard Plan – Crash Emergency
- State Hazard Plan – Heatwave
- State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity
- State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information

In addition to updating the documents to the new designs, the DFES State Emergency Management Policy Branch has made amendments including:

- statement of fact amendments
- amendments to improve accessibility (e.g. removing overuse of acronyms and abbreviations and ensuring documents use appropriate headers)
- amendments to apply consistent formatting across all documents.

Details of these amendments are available on the [State emergency management documents amendments page](#).

## TWO STATE RECOVERY CONTROLLERS

The State Government of Western Australia are managing 2 major incidents requiring separate State Recovery Controllers to be appointed by Premier:

- **COVID-19**  
Public Sector Commissioner **Sharyn O'Neill**
- **Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seroja**  
DFES Director Risk, Capability & Analysis  
**Melissa Pexton**

## COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Consultation has now commenced on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper.

At the WA Emergency Management Conference held on 13 October 2021 the Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Emergency Services announced the commencement of the next round of consultation on the Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper.

The Discussion Paper describes the outcomes from the first round of community consultation and research into a proposed Community Disaster Resilience Strategy for Western Australia. Through consultation on the Discussion Paper we are seeking feedback on the strategic directions and initiatives to inform the final Strategy.

Views are sought on:

- The Five Outcomes – do they represent the right goals for a resilient community?
- Are the Transformational Shifts possible? Are there any others you might propose instead?
- Do you agree with the Change Initiatives?
- Is the Implementation Plan practical?

Information is available in the **Summary Document** and the full **Discussion Paper**.

Feedback can be provided via the website: <https://www.semc.wa.gov.au/resilience> or via email to [resilience@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:resilience@dfes.wa.gov.au).

## DISTRICT NEWS

### 2021 METROPOLITAN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (DEMC) COMBINED TRIALS

The role of the District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) is to create strong networks, maintain effective emergency management arrangements and fulfil responsibilities they have been given by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). A trial meeting structure was held in 2021 to consider a more

contemporary and sustainable emergency management committee meeting structure for the four metropolitan emergency management (EM) districts.

In April/May 2021 the trial combined meetings were held:

- North and Central DEMCs on 20 April 2021
- East and South DEMCs on 18 May 2021.

The meetings concluded with a discussion exercise “Exercise Navitas” to explore capabilities across boundaries in the metropolitan district.

An alternative format was trialled in October 2021. The meetings were separated but held on the same day:

- 12 October 2021 - North DEMC in the morning and Central DEMC in the afternoon
- 26 October 2021 - East DEMC in the morning and South DEMC in the afternoon

A joint 2-hour pre-season forum “Wooroloo Bushfire - Looking Back, Looking Forward” was held in between each meeting on the day.

Data is being collated from the evaluation surveys to determine how the Metropolitan District Emergency Management Committee’s will operate in 2022.

## LOCAL NEWS

### PREPARING AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

The Australian Government has committed \$600 million over six years from 2021-22 to 2026-27 for the Preparing Australia Program. The Preparing Australia Program will provide grants to support projects that mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, impact and consequence associated with large-scale natural hazards.

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) has released the guidelines for the Preparing Australia Program administered by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Local Governments are eligible in the Community Stream.

The Program will deliver Grants from \$20,000 and up to \$10million (with varying co-contribution requirements) across three years, so projects can run until March 2025. 21 WA Local Government have been identified by the NRRA as bushfire, flood or cyclone risk and their applications will be given extra weighting.

Some key information:

- Applications will be open for four weeks and Local Governments are encouraged to prepare their applications ahead of the short application period
- Grant Applications Open: **Friday, 10 December**
- Grant Applications Close: **Thursday, 6 January**
- The three activity categories eligible for funding are Planning, Awareness and Capacity, and Infrastructure

- Collaborative grants are available

More information is available here: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/preparing-australian-communities-local-stream>

### 2021 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 3 December 2021

### 2022 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 11 March 2022
- 5 May 2022
- 4 August 2022
- 13 October 2022
- 1 December 2022

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