



**BASSENDEAN
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
5 FEBRUARY 2020**

STATE NEWS

NSW and QLD FIRES

Given the early start to the fire season, it is a timely reminder that we are not immune and as our communities watch how other States respond, it is an opportunity for Local Governments to prepare themselves for the season ahead.

What you can do:

- Have the discussions with your Council, Executives and staff as to who will play key roles in a response and recovery effort.
- Make sure you have considered staff leave and have contingencies in place. Staff may need to be contacted after hours and may be required for long periods of time, so consider how this will work in your Local Government.
- Your staff may be affected by the emergency, so back up plans and sharing resources with neighbouring Councils is encouraged. Now is the time to review your MOU with neighbouring Councils and share your contact details.
- Use your LEMC to collaborate and get ready with your community and agency partners.
- Dust off your LEMA and recovery plans and make sure your contact details and resource lists are up to date.
- Link in with your DFES regional office.
- District Emergency Management Advisors can guide you through your responsibilities before, during and after an emergency and it is valuable to build relationships with operational staff in your region prior to an emergency.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DATA - assisting bushfire response

Landgate's data has been made available to various organisations to support response and recovery efforts for the bushfire emergencies occurring across Australia.

Topographic maps of Western Australia have been provided to the Australian Defence Force to support Operation Bushfire Assist in the event that WA is severely impacted by bushfires for the remainder of this bushfire season.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ACTIVATES STATE HAZARD PLAN - HEATWAVE

From Thursday, 10 December to Sunday, 15 December Perth sweltered through a heatwave. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast triggered the activation of the State Hazard Plan (SHP) Heatwave for a Level 1 Incident Response.

The Department of Health activated the State Hazard Plan (SHP) Heatwave for the Perth metropolitan area on Thursday, 9 December, based on forecast temperatures for the week ahead. In the Perth metropolitan area, the heatwave trigger is defined as a three-day average temperature (3DAT) calculation of 32 degrees Celsius or above. This 3DAT calculation is based on both daily maximum and minimum temperatures over a forward looking three-day prediction.

Measures as part of the activation included:

- the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) was activated
- DoH Communications Directorate disseminated heat-related public health messages, and
- notification to external agencies on commencement to advise that SHP Heatwave had been activated and provide information fact sheets to support their workforce and/or client base.
- External agencies were also required to fulfil certain actions, including:
 - ✓ reviewing planned works that may have an impact on critical systems that could compromise the agency's ability to manage in a severe heat event
 - ✓ reviewing planned events and outside works and suspend or delay these events to early morning or late evening during the heatwave, and
 - ✓ public event organisers and venues were specifically requested to review event plans to ensure heatwave conditions are adequately addressed.

By Monday, 16 December the temperature forecast was more favourable and conditions for heatwave had subsided. The SHP Heatwave transitioned to Stand Down phase and agencies and Health Service Providers were advised to stand down internal heatwave plans. As the heatwave activation was a Level 1 incident, a full debrief did not occur. Feedback was welcomed by the SHICC.

OUTCOMES OF SEMC MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2019

- SEMC endorsed the development of a WA Implementation Plan for the ***National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework for Western Australia***. The implementation plan will meet the requirements of the Commonwealth and be scalable to support future investment and allows granularity to be added as implementation occurs. Consultation will commence in early 2020 to support the development.

- **Cyber Security** was supported to be progressed to a State Hazard Plan to allow for consultation with relevant Controlling Agencies, the Western Australian Local Government Association and other relevant stakeholders.
- The Western Australian Local Government Association brought to the SEMCs attention some of the issues identified through feedback from WALGA members regarding the current Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMA) process. **SEMC approved a sector led review of the LEMA.** Scoping will commence early 2020.
- The **SEMC approved a review of the State Risk Project prior to commencing phase 5.** The project was commenced in 2013 and was designed to gain a comprehensive and consistent understanding of the risks faced at state, district and local levels. The review will assess how to move forward with the knowledge and data collated.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

Please be advised the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) recently approved the revised State Hazard Plan – **Fire and State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies**. These plans effective from 25 November 2019 are now available on the SEMC website [SEMC Plans](#).

Please note:

The **State Hazard Plan – Fire** replaces the previous interim version. A full content review was completed, with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services establishing a working group to review the large amount of feedback received from stakeholders and agencies, amendments to the plan include:

- Incorporation of the Parks and Wildlife Service’s State Commander role;
- Expansion and further clarification of treatment options
- Total Fire Bans amended to reflect changes to the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*;
- Financial Arrangements – Included to reflect the State EM Plan financial arrangements and DFES SAP 3.1A;
- Notifications – Amended and expanded;
- Warning systems into their respective standalone section; and
- Inclusion of Appendix B: Glossary of Terms / Acronyms.

The **State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies** replaces the previous interim version. A review of the plan was undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) following Exercise Equess (a joint exercise between DPIRD and the SEMC Business Unit), amendments to the plan include:

- Clearer triggers and processes for plan activation and authorisation;
- Documenting the role of DPIRD in an emergency prior to any plan activation;

- Clarification of DPIRD's responsibility where no other services or resources are available;
- Clarification regarding owners and carers proceeding to evacuation centres with their animals where no other information has been provided;
- Inclusion of the agreed Terms of Reference for the Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies which came into effect in March 2019; and
- Documenting the role of the operational Animal Welfare Emergency Group and inclusion of the Terms of Reference.

Please remove previous copies of these plans you may have and update your references as required.

RECOVERY AMENDMENTS

Significant amendments include:

- New Impact Statement template and Guide (replacing the Comprehensive Impact Assessment) - Impact Statements are to be completed by the controlling agency during all Level 3 incidents and Level 2 incidents where there are impacts requiring recovery activities.
- New roles and responsibilities for the State Recovery Controller and new procedures describing their appointment.
- Revision of the State Recovery Coordinator appointment and inclusion of a Deputy State Recovery Coordinator;
- Development of State Recovery Controller and State Recovery Coordinator aides memoire to assist in the consistent provision of state-level recovery support;
- Clarification regarding post-operational, State Emergency Coordination Group and recovery reporting arrangements;

Full details of all amendments are available on the [SEMC Policy Amendments webpage](#). It is strongly advised that all agencies review the updated documents.

If you have any questions regarding these recovery arrangements please contact Deputy State Recovery Coordinator, [Suellen Flint](#), or Recovery Manager Emergency Management, [Suzanne Blyth](#)

STATE EXERCISE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

The State will be issuing a newsletter informing the sector of the mechanics of the framework and what everyone is required to do after considering this feedback.

DISTRICT NEWS

EXERCISE FERVIDUS

The 4 Metropolitan DEMC came together for the first time for *Exercise Fervidus* on 28 November 2019. There were approximately 125 participants that represented the metropolitan local governments and emergency management agencies. The exercise was funded through an AWARE grant and adopted the SEMC Capability Framework to assess district preparedness across the full range of the emergency management spectrum.

Dr Andrew Robertson, CSC PSM, Director, Disaster Management and Deputy Chief Health Officer opened and provided background discussion on the exercise. Participants had the opportunity to hear from Neil Bennett, Media and Communication Manager, Bureau of Meteorology in WA and agencies involved in heatwave incidents as the Expert Panel.

Key stakeholders included State Emergency Public Information Coordinator (SEPIC), State Recovery Coordinator, North Commander WA Police Force and Professor Doctor Judy Esmond Curtin University.

An independent evaluation of the exercise is being conducted by Executive Risk Solutions and Edith Cowan University and will be distributed to the 4 DEMCs and forwarded to the State Exercise Coordination Team for information.

LOCAL NEWS

Disaster and Emergency Management Executive Education Workshop - Curtin University 2 April 2020

The workshop will be focused on **Community-Led Disaster Recovery** and considers what really happens behind the scenes, the connections between response and recovery, what needs to be considered, what works, what doesn't, etc. It will be informative, interactive and with some controversy.

A flyer will be sent out shortly with further information.

CONSIDERING ANIMAL WELFARE AS PART OF EMERGENCY RISK PLANNING

Having these plans in place not only improve Local Governments' ability to respond to animal welfare issues during an emergency, but will support DPIRD, when the [State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#) is activated, to know key local information such as where animal evacuation shelters can be held.

Local Governments can seek support from the WALGA Emergency Management team or DPIRD to develop local AWE plans. Although Local Governments are encouraged to have animal welfare plans in place, it is ultimately the owner or carer of an animal who is responsible for the welfare of that animal and should consider its welfare in preparedness for, response to and recovery from an emergency.

A wealth of emergency planning information aimed at animal owners/carers is available from the [DPIRD website](#). Local Governments can direct residents to these resources via their communications channels and encourage animal owners/carers to integrate animal welfare into their household emergency plans.

DPIRD

During an incident or emergency, please use the following sequence of notification when requesting a DPIRD representative as part of an ISG/OASG.

- 1) Contact the nominated DPIRD DEMC representative
- 2) If unavailable – contact the Proxy DPIRD DEMC representative
- 3) If unavailable – contact the DPIRD EM Branch On Call Coordinator **9368 3132**

STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE

The Recovery and Community Subcommittee secured NDRP funding to prepare a strategy for Community Disaster Resilience in order to address gaps identified in the 2018 State Preparedness Report. In particular the project seeks to build more effective engagement and collaboration across agencies, with non-traditional EM players and with the not-for profit and community sectors in order to increase community capacity and capability to respond to, and recover from, disasters and respond to systemic vulnerability.

- The WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy has been initiated by the State Emergency Management Committee with support from the Commonwealth Government of Australia to create a strategic and practical framework for building resilience across the State. It is supported by DFES and Red Cross as co-leads.
- The purpose of the project is to identify strategies and actions to improve the resilience of WA communities.
- The project responds to the National Disaster Resilience Strategy (2011) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2018),
- The project is taking a broad view of resilience because the evidence is that communities with strong networks and social capital as well as strategies to manage vulnerabilities will have more capacity to cope with and recover from a disaster. It will also consider resilient attributes and behaviours across the PPRR spectrum.
- The project will start with a strengths-based approach – what is working well in communities – and also has a principle of identifying things that can change and improve rather than adding new things to do.
- We are commencing engagement across the State now to draw on the experience, initiatives and ideas of community stakeholders including local governments and their communities, as well as stakeholder groups from social services, business and industry, and volunteering sectors.
- Local governments who are interested in getting involved in development of the strategy can contact the project officer Su Groome or their District Advisor.

2019 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 06 March 2020
- 08 May 2020
- 14 August 2020
- 09 October 2020
- 04 December 2020

**District Emergency Management Advisor
Metropolitan Operations Department of Fire and Emergency Services.**