



SEMC

Annual Report 23-24

State Emergency Management Committee



Acknowledgement of Country

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples throughout the state of Western Australia (WA) as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work, and volunteer. We recognise Aboriginal peoples' continued connection to land, waters, and community, and pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Aboriginal people should be aware this publication may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.



Disclaimer: This report is copyright and may be reproduced provided the source is acknowledged. All photographs within have been used with permission and remain the property of the SEMC or the contributors. The report has been produced in electronic format and is available to download from the SEMC's website in PDF. The report is available in alternative formats on request. For hearing or speech-impaired access, please contact the National Relay Service TTY 133 677.

Contents

From the Minister	4	District and Local Emergency Management	35
Letter of Compliance	5	District and Local Emergency Management Committees	36
From the SEMC Chair	6	Kimberley	38
Introduction	9	Pilbara	39
The Role of SEMC	10	Midwest Gascoyne	40
The Emergency Management Structure in WA	12	Goldfields Esperance	41
2023-24 SEMC and emergency management support activities	15	Wheatbelt	42
SEMC Members and Meetings	17	North and Central Metropolitan	43
SEMC Members	18	South and East Metropolitan	45
SEMC Meetings	20	South West	47
Strategic Context, Challenges, Priorities and Outcomes	21	Great Southern	48
Key Achievements, Actions and Emerging Trends	22	State Emergency Management Framework	49
Subcommittees and Reference Groups	27	Overview	50
Public Safety Communications Subcommittee	28	State Plans	52
Climate Change Subcommittee	29	Financial Disclosure	58
Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee	30	Remuneration of Members	59
Risk and Capability Subcommittee	32		
Response Policy Subcommittee	34		

From the Minister

The 2023-24 Annual Report for the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) marks another significant year of service to our community. I am incredibly proud of the dedication, professionalism, and courage demonstrated by our emergency services personnel across the State.

I thank the Chair of the SEMC, Ms Emma Cole, for submitting the Annual Report in accordance with section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The past year has presented a range of challenges for Western Australians. We faced unseasonal and severe weather events including ex-Tropical Cyclone Lincoln, and a destructive tornado that impacted the Bunbury community. Additionally, bushfires including the Mariginiup and Parkerville fires, and the North Metro Complex of Bushfires that affected the Chittering, Gingin, and Bindoon regions. Further, the energy supply disruption in January 2024 caused 8,800 homes and businesses to be without power in the Perth Hills, Goldfields, and Wheatbelt following a summer storm.

These events tested our emergency management personnel, who responded tirelessly to protect the lives and property of Western Australians. The Western Australian community is strong and resilient, and I commend our incredible volunteers and the emergency management sector for its ongoing commitment to keeping our State safe.

Maintaining and strengthening the State's emergency management arrangements and capability is an important and ongoing focus. I recognise everyone who has contributed to emergency management this past year, including the members of the SEMC, its subcommittees and reference groups, and the District and Local Emergency Management Committees.

The effective coordination of emergency management in WA is largely attributable to these vital contributions and robust partnerships maintained with local governments, the community, and other organisations and agencies. A collaborative approach ensures we are well-prepared to address emerging threats and challenges, deliver high-quality emergency management capabilities, and strengthen community resilience.

As we look ahead, I am confident the SEMC will continue to be a leader in emergency management and provide the State with strong guidance to prepare and respond to challenges, while safeguarding our State.



Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Emergency Services

Letter of Compliance

Dear Minister Dawson,

In accordance with section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, I hereby submit the Annual Report of the State Emergency Management Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2024, for your information and presentation to Parliament.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Emma Cole
Accountable Authority
30 August 2024

Minister Stephen Dawson



Credit: Department of Fire and
Emergency Services

From the SEMC Chair

The SEMC plays a critical role in ensuring Western Australia is a prepared, resilient, and safer State. Our achievements during the 2023-24 reporting year are driven by collaboration between the many agencies, organisations, local governments, and volunteers who make up WA's dedicated and highly capable emergency management sector.

Our collaboration is strongly based on a shared commitment to keep our emergency management arrangements contemporary and effective, with a strong focus on the horizon.

In my first year as the SEMC Chair, I have reflected on the shifting emergency management landscape as we faced unseasonal and cascading events. SEMC's 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report highlighted the need to evolve as we confront new and increasingly interconnected risks. The key themes for SEMC to address include systemic approaches to emergency risk management and understanding social vulnerabilities, leveraging the opportunities presented by technology and big data, and continuing to champion and grow sector innovation and adaptation.

In an era of big data, we are presented not only with new opportunities but also challenges. With the increasing risk of cyber security incidents, SEMC has undertaken substantial work through the reporting period towards prescribing a Cyber Security Incident as a new hazard and is close to finalising a supporting State Hazard Plan.

Our State's current emergency arrangements were put to the test through both planned exercising and complex and cascading incidents. We applied the valuable lessons learned from these experiences through comprehensive reviews of several key SEMC plans. These include the State Hazard Plans for Severe Weather, Crash Emergency, Human Biosecurity, Search and Rescue, and the State Support Plan for Emergency Relief and Support. The State Hazard Plan Energy Supply Disruption was also undergoing extensive review during this period after the State experienced severe thunderstorm cells that caused significant and extended electricity supply disruptions across the Metropolitan, Wheatbelt, and Goldfields districts.

A topic close to my heart is emergency management at the local level. Local governments excel in serving and engaging with their communities, and this community connection leads to locally responsive emergency management outcomes. The SEMC and the WA Local Government Association are working together to reform local emergency management arrangements (LEMA). Our aim is to achieve scaled, fit-for-purpose and streamlined local arrangements to better assist local governments to effectively undertake their emergency management functions.

During 2023-24, the SEMC operated under the newly reconstituted subgroup and governance structure following a 2022 review. I congratulate and thank subcommittee and reference group chairs and members for their renewed strategic focus and high value contributions. The Risk and Capability Subcommittee made a strong start on tackling the complex matter of systemic approaches to emergency risk management. The Climate Change Subcommittee demonstrated exemplary preliminary work in preparing the Emergency Management sector for climate change sectoral adaptation planning.

The Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee oversaw the development of the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy, released in October 2023. The Strategy was supported by \$1.5 million in National Disaster Risk Reduction grant funding.

During the reporting year, we had significant movement around the SEMC table. In October 2023, we farewelled our former SEMC Chair, Dr Ron Edwards. We extend our sincere appreciation for Dr Edwards' leadership and commitment to the emergency management sector, with six excellent years at the helm.

We also extend our thanks to departing members, Peter Dans in July 2023, and former Executive Officer, Rick Curtis in February 2024, for their dedicated service to the SEMC.

Finally, we warmly welcomed new SEMC members; Rhys Williams as Deputy Chair, Stuart Smith, representing the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Melissa Pexton who rejoined the SEMC as Executive Officer in February 2024.

I am thankful for the incredible work undertaken throughout 2023-24 by the SEMC membership, across the sector at the state, district, and local level, with strong support from the SEMC business unit. I look forward to progressing our combined efforts to build resilient and prepared communities through contemporary and highly capable emergency management in WA.

Emma Cole
Chair, State Emergency
Management Committee
30 August 2024



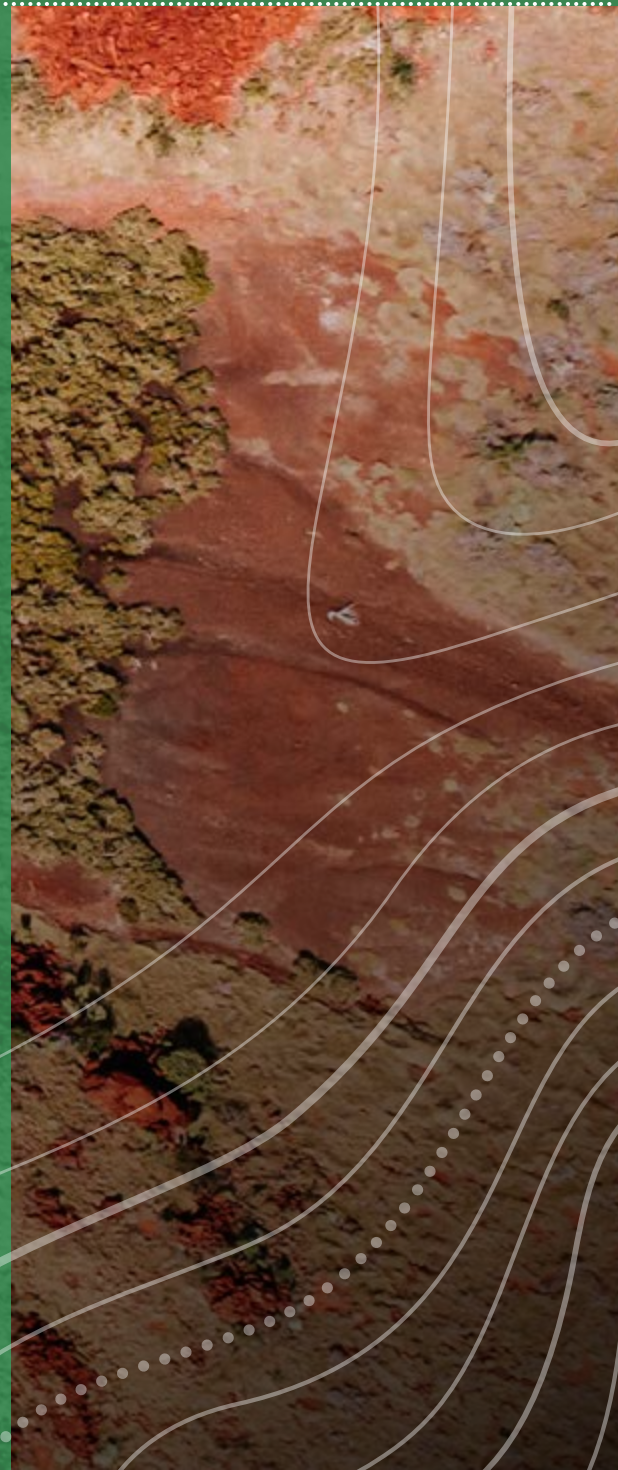


SEMC



Introduction

The Role of SEMC	10
The Emergency Management Structure in WA	12



The Role of SEMC

Established by section 13 (1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, the SEMC is a standing committee that provides strategic advice to the Minister for Emergency Services.

The SEMC is a group of experienced and dedicated people appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services. The SEMC meets five times a year to provide oversight and direction to the emergency management sector.

One of the SEMC's primary responsibilities is to advise the Minister on the State's emergency management arrangements and how WA is prepared to manage emergencies. To help provide this advice, the SEMC is supported by subcommittees and reference groups whose members are experts in various aspects of emergency management.

Read about the SEMC's members, subcommittees, and reference groups in the following sections of this report.

Examples of the types of issues SEMC considers, the guidance provided, and its oversight include:

- Reviews and amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework documents, State Hazard Plans (SHP), and State Support Plans (SSP) by the responsible agency (Hazard Management, Combat, and Support Agencies).
- The status of Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and the progression of the LEMA Improvement Program.
- District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) and Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) activities, emerging issues, meeting dates, and exercising.
- Issues around climate change, and adaptation initiatives and work undertaken by state government agencies.
- Commonwealth Government programs and projects that relate to, and impact on, emergency management, and the relationship with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
- Identifying and investigating emergency management sector capability.
- Situational awareness, for example, hazard events and their impacts, and the instances when the State Emergency Coordination Group is activated, and the reasons for its activation.
- Continuous improvement in the emergency management sector through awareness of operational reviews of bushfires and other incidents, including the effects of the incident, the recommendations from the review, and status reports.
- Review and endorsement of SEMC governance structures, and the work they undertake.
- Develop and coordinate risk management strategies to assess community vulnerability to emergencies.
- Provide a forum to develop information systems to improve communications during emergencies.
- Guide and support public authorities, industry, business, and the community to plan and prepare efficient emergency management.

Underpinning the SEMC structure is a business unit, with staff and other resources provided by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that enable the SEMC to fulfill its duties.

Shared responsibility

To undertake its functions, the SEMC relies on strong relationships with multiple public sector agencies and private organisations, not limited to:

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Western Australia Police Force
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Communities
- Main Roads WA
- Water Corporation
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Health
- St John Ambulance WA
- Geoscience Australia
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Public Transport Authority
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety
- ChemCentre WA
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority Rescue Coordination Centre Australia
- Energy Policy Western Australia
- Western Australian Local Government Association
- A total of 138 local governments across Western Australia.

The SEMC acknowledge the valuable contributions of the organisations, community groups, and individuals who assist local communities prepare for, reduce the impact of, and recover from emergencies and disasters.

The ongoing collaboration and integration of all parties in the SEMC governance structure and the Emergency Management Framework is critical to the success of the SEMC, and the progression and stability of emergency management arrangements across the State.

Disclosures and compliance

Established by section 13 (1) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act), the named Responsible Minister for SEMC is the Hon, Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs, and Trade.

The SEMC assists the Minister for Emergency Services in administering the EM Act.

The Emergency Management Structure in WA

Emergency management in Western Australia is responsive and effective because of the coordinated efforts of many community members, organisations, and agencies all working together to keep our State safe.

WA's emergency management structure is organised into three levels: local, district, and state. This hierarchy is overseen and supported by the SEMC, whose key role is facilitating and strengthening the connections between the three levels by administering committees, subcommittees, and reference groups.

[Figure 1](#) depicts the broader emergency management structure in WA, and [Figure 2](#) shows how the local, district, and state levels are organised under the SEMC in the emergency management structure.

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* is the foundation of this vast network of people and groups, which provides direction for the emergency management sector, along with policy, plans, procedures, and guidelines to make it possible to manage emergencies successfully.

The following pages introduce the SEMC members, the subcommittees, and reference groups, as well as the District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs) and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs). All collaborate and participate in emergency management to minimise the impact of hazards and disasters on the community.

Karijini Rescue Exercise (2022)



Credit: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Figure 1: Broader Western Australian emergency management structure

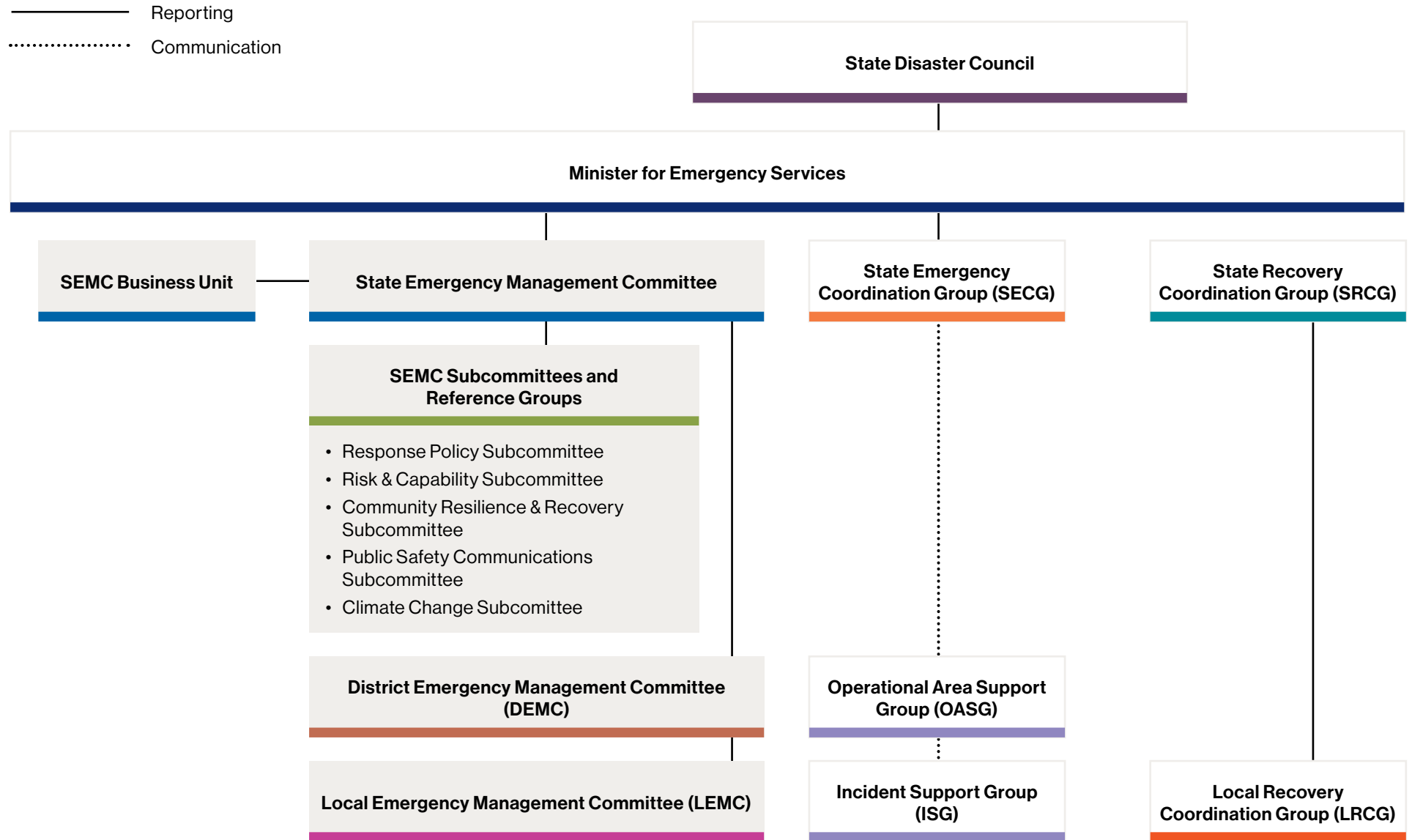
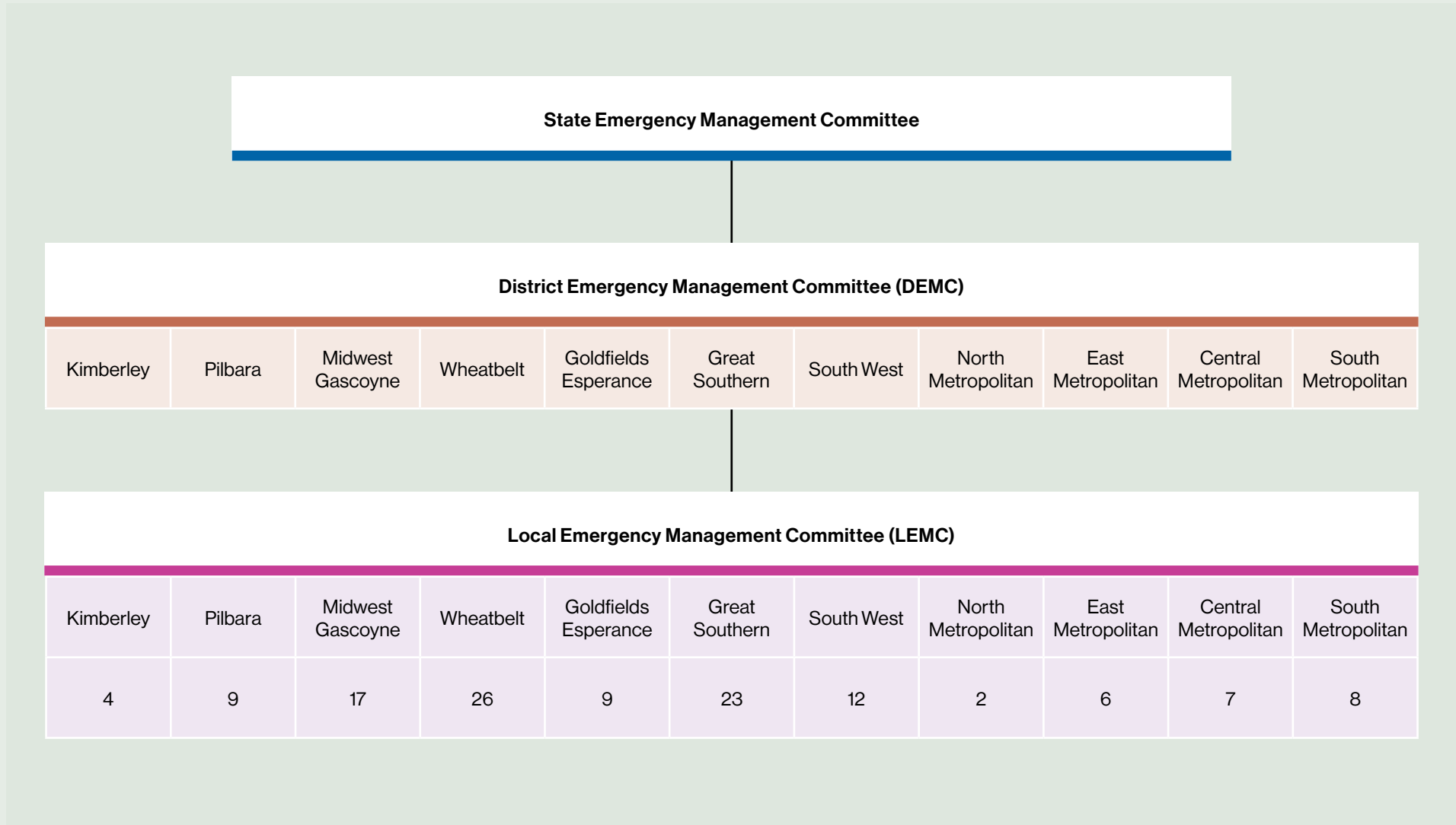


Figure 2: Local, district, and state levels of emergency management organised under the SEMC



Reporting

2023-24 SEMC and emergency management support activities

JULY 2023

4	Pilbara DEMC
5	Response Policy Subcommittee
6	Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee
6	Midwest Gascoyne DEMC
19	Risk and Capability Subcommittee
19	Public Safety Communications Subcommittee

AUGUST 2023

2	SEMC
9	Public Information Reference Group
10	Kimberley DEMC
16	Risk and Capability Subcommittee
19	SEMC Out of Session

SEPTEMBER 2023

7	Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee Out of Session
14	Public Safety Communications Subcommittee

OCTOBER 2023

4	SEMC
10	South West DEMC
11	Risk and Capability Subcommittee
17	Kimberley DEMC
18	Wheatbelt DEMC
18	Great Southern DEMC
19	Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group

NOVEMBER 2023

1	Response Policy Subcommittee
2	Goldfields Esperance DEMC
14	Public Information Reference Group
15	Public Information Reference Group Out of Session
21	SEMC Out of Session
21	Metropolitan North DEMC
23	Climate Change Subcommittee

DECEMBER 2023

2	SEMC
4	Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee

CONTINUED

2023-24 SEMC and emergency management support activities

JANUARY 2024		FEBRUARY 2024		MARCH 2024	
18	SECG	7	Climate Change Subcommittee	3	SEMC
19	SECG	19	SEMC Out of Session	14	Wheatbelt DEMC
31	Response Policy Subcommittee Out of Session			19	Kimberley DEMC
				19	Pilbara DEMC
				19	South West DEMC
				20	Response Policy Subcommittee
				20	Midwest Gascoyne DEMC
				20	Goldfields Esperance DEMC
				20	Great Southern DEMC
				27	Public Safety Communications Subcommittee
APRIL 2024		MAY 2024		JUNE 2024	
3	Climate Change Subcommittee	8	SEMC	5	Goldfields Esperance DEMC
10	Risk and Capability Subcommittee	30	Public Information Reference Group	12	Wheatbelt DEMC
18	Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee			19	Public Safety Communications Subcommittee
23	Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group			26	Risk and Capability Subcommittee
				26	Great Southern DEMC
				27	Climate Change Subcommittee



SEMC Members and Meetings

2023-24 SEMC and emergency management support activities	15
SEMC Members	18
SEMC Meetings	20



SEMC Members

The SEMC includes independent members and representatives of organisations essential to WA's emergency management arrangements.

Each representative brings a wealth of valuable knowledge to the Committee and a unique perspective from their different backgrounds, that fosters diverse input and robust decision-making.

Members are appointed by the Minister for Emergency Services, following the provision under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* for four designated positions and up to seven other members on the Committee.

Chair

Ms Emma Cole
Independent Member



Deputy Chair

Mr Rhys Williams
Independent Member



Executive Officer

Ms Melissa Pexton



**SEMC Member**

Dr Ron Edwards
Chair

*Member until October 2023

**SEMC Member**

Mr Rick Curtis
Executive Officer

*Member until February 2023

**SEMC Member**

Mr Darren Klemm AFSM
Fire and Emergency
Services Commissioner

**SEMC Member**

Mr Col Blanch APM
Commissioner of Police

**SEMC Member**

Dr Andrew Robertson
CSC PSM
Chief Health Officer,
Department of Health

**SEMC Member**

Ms Emily Roper PSM
Director General,
Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

**SEMC Member**

Mr Mike Rowe
Director General,
Department of
Communities

**SEMC Member**

Mr Nick Sloan
Chief Executive Officer,
WA Local Government
Association (WALGA)

**SEMC Member**

Mr Stuart Smith
Director General,
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

**SEMC Member**

Ms Julie Waylen
Independent Member

SEMC Meetings

The SEMC meets five times a year, in August, October, December, March, and May.

Throughout the 2023-24 reporting period, the SEMC held three out-of-session meetings to progress key projects and items for discussion. There were no extraordinary meetings convened in the same period.

The meeting dates and representation by the SEMC members are below.

MEMBER	Meetings represented					Out-of-session meetings represented		
	2023			2024		2023		2024
	2 Aug	4 Oct	6 Dec	6 Mar	8 May	28 Aug	21 Nov	19 Febr
Ms Emma Cole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Ron Edwards	✓	✓	–	–	–	✓	–	–
Mr Rhys Williams	–	–	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Ms Melissa Pexton	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Mr Rick Curtis	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓	✓	–
Mr Darren Klemm AFSM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Mr Col Blanch APM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Andrew Robertson CSC PSM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Emily Roper PSM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Mr Mike Rowe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Mr Nick Sloan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Stuart Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Julie Waylen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Attended ✗ Apology – Not a SEMC Member at time of meeting



Strategic Context, Challenges, Priorities and Outcomes

Key Achievements, Actions and Emerging Trends

22



Key Achievements, Actions and Emerging Trends

The SEMC provides collaborative leadership to the emergency management sector, resulting in strong relationships and an environment that empowers state, district, and local emergency management leaders.

Leadership Across the Sector

The SEMC Strategic Plan 2022-25 provides a focus on community and individual outcomes by highlighting prevention and preparedness, while addressing long-term challenges presented by an evolving emergency management landscape.

Activities of the SEMC align with the key focus areas of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025:

- Collaborative leadership
- Effective governance
- Capable sector
- Capable community
- Climate change.

The SEMC worked to maintain a contemporary emergency management framework throughout the 2023-24 reporting period, by approving the following State Hazard and Support Plans after comprehensive reviews:

- State Hazard Plan – Severe Weather
- State Hazard Plan – Crash Emergency
- State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity
- State Hazard Plan – Search and Rescue
- State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support

During 2023-24, the SEMC maintained awareness about emerging considerations that may impact Western Australia by participating in detailed briefings on:

- Tailings dam regulations and emergency response
- Cyber security and artificial intelligence
- Review of WA's COVID-19 management and response
- AUKUS arrangements
- State Recovery arrangements
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- Systemic risk
- Climate change.

Emergency Preparedness Report 2023

The SEMC's Emergency Preparedness Report (EPR) provides an annual overview of Western Australia's emergency management sector, highlighting key trends and the State's emergency readiness.

The 2023 report marked ten years of the EPR and provided an opportunity to reflect on the major trends and advances seen in our sector over the previous decade.

The EPR noted that the landscape of emergency management is undergoing rapid change. The growing frequency and severity of emergencies, including compounding, cascading, and concurrent events, is triggering significant reform to the overarching goals of the emergency management sector, and how capabilities are coordinated and delivered.

The 2023 EPR provided the following conclusions:

- **The Western Australian emergency management sector is increasingly adopting a systemic risk management approach. This is evidenced through efforts to improve understanding of risk, enhance coordination, and address social vulnerabilities.** Further work is needed to develop consistent approaches, methods, and definitions of systemic risk to drive coordinated action.
- **Data-driven approaches to emergency management are rapidly expanding. These technologies will enable the sector to work more collaboratively and provide greater insight into unfolding emergencies.** Resource and governance challenges are arising due to the complexity and scale of their application.
- **Learning and continuous improvement processes are embedded within the State Emergency Management Framework. These are embraced throughout the sector, particularly through exercising.** These processes need to adapt and evolve to accommodate systemic risk management approaches.

- **The sector is increasingly focused on enhancing community preparedness and resilience in partnership with communities and other stakeholders.** More work is needed to address underlying social vulnerability.

The report concludes that the SEMC is well placed to continue to provide leadership to the Western Australian emergency management sector as it deals with increasingly complex and systemic risks.

The SEMC conducted a Strategic Workshop in May 2023 which considered key outcomes of the 2023 EPR and the SEMC will continue to consider the conclusions of the EPR into the next reporting period.

Freight and Supply Chain

The Kimberley floods and other recent events have demonstrated the need for a whole of government approach to resupply and supply chain issues caused by emergency incidents:

- The 2020 Eyre Highway bushfires
- The COVID-19 pandemic
- The Inverleigh train derailment in Victoria.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements also outlined that Australian state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure the supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters.

Due to this, in August 2023, the SEMC endorsed the development of a State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain. The Support Plan will allow for the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities, purpose, and arrangements across government for the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery related to supply chain issues.

Community Resilience

As outlined in the 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report, the emergency management sector is increasingly focused on enhancing community preparedness and resilience in partnership with communities and other stakeholders.

Recognised in Western Australia's State Emergency Management Policy as a key principle, disaster resilience is a shared responsibility including all levels of government, business, the non-government sector, and individuals. Local communities have a unique understanding of their capabilities and capacity for resilience, and are best placed to know what they need to prepare for and how to reduce the impact of and recover from emergencies and disasters.

The Community Disaster Resilience Strategy was released in October 2023. The strategy supports a collaborative and community-led approach to disaster resilience, as utilising the broad range of locally available skills and expertise enables stronger and more effective emergency management across the PPRR spectrum (prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery). The guiding principles in the strategy have evolved from the key learnings and responses to disasters in both local and national communities, along with international research.

Noonkanbah community evacuation and relocation during the Martuwarra (Fitzroy) River floods (January 2023)



Credit: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

The Key Priority Areas of the strategy include:

- **Broaden Emergency Management** by increasing engagement with peak bodies and industry groups, creating more pathways to volunteers, and keeping communities informed about risk.
- **Work Locally to Increase Preparedness** with community planning for recovery and equipping more people with the skills and understanding to build resilience.
- **Collaborate to Reduce Vulnerability** through creating grassroots community processes for communication and building district support programs to help smaller communities.
- **Heal People and Communities** with support services to assist people to work through the recovery processes.

The release of the strategy was supported by the allocation of \$1.5 million through Round 5 of the National Disaster Risk Reduction grant program.

Cyber Security

A key developing issue for the SEMC's consideration was cyber security and the risks associated with cyber threats. The skills of the individuals undertaking cyber-attacks and the frequency of events are increasing, and they continue to find innovative ways to deploy online strikes.

Following briefings from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), the SEMC authorised the inclusion of cyber security as a new hazard in the State's emergency management arrangements, bringing the number of prescribed hazards to 29.

A State Hazard Plan for cyber security has been drafted. It provides an overview of the arrangements to manage cyber security emergencies in WA and contains information on prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Development of the plan was informed by the WA State Emergency Management Framework, procedures, and best practices, including:

- WA Government Cyber Security Policy
- WA Incident Control Management Framework
- Australian Cyber Security Centre's guidance on cyber security mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery.

It is proposed that the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* be amended to include a cyber security incident as a hazard and nominate the DPC as the Hazard Management Agency (HMA). The HMA will be responsible for ensuring effective prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery of this hazard for the whole of WA.

Recognition of cyber security as a new hazard allows opportunities for WA to be proactive by:

- Determining the resources and funding required to tackle cyber threats.
- Reviewing and updating relevant government cyber security policies and reports to make sure they are fit for purpose.
- Increasing involvement and collaboration with WA agencies to prioritise projects that improve the government's capability to detect and respond to cyber security incidents.

Capability

The Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework is designed to measure capabilities of any group, body, or agency that plays a role in addressing the likelihood, impact, and consequences of an emergency event. Since its initial development, the Western Australian emergency management landscape has undergone significant change.

As society moves toward a warmer and more interconnected world, and faces new and upcoming emergency management challenges, the SEMC approved an updated Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework in October 2023.

The updated Framework:

- Aligns with the Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework and other relevant state frameworks for improved inter-jurisdictional consistency.
- Coordinates core capabilities across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Includes a high-level capability development model.
- Separates capability elements from core capabilities to better enable assessment of current and future capabilities, including capability gaps.
- Updates core capabilities most relevant to the evolving Western Australian emergency management context.

Developing the capabilities of the emergency management sector, as well as the broader community, to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies, is recognised in Western Australia as essential for increasing our overall resilience to emergencies.

Subcommittees and Reference Groups

Public Safety Communications Subcommittee	28
Climate Change Subcommittee	29
Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee	30
Risk and Capability Subcommittee	32
Response Policy Subcommittee	34



Public Safety Communications Subcommittee

The Public Safety Communications Subcommittee's members represent the all-hazards emergency management sector. The group supports the development and operation of effective public safety communication technology in Western Australia.

Public safety communications depend on reliable mobile data, radio, Triple Zero, and Emergency Alert capabilities, along with other services and systems that support communication between law enforcement and emergency services organisations, and the community.

The Public Safety Communications Subcommittee is a collaborative inter-agency forum that provides advice to the SEMC on public safety communication matters. The group facilitates information-sharing within the sector, as well as undertaking work to identify capability risks and gaps, improvement opportunities, and greater efficiencies for investment.

To ensure optimal operation and improve communications during emergencies, members review and maintain the Western Australian Public Safety Communications Framework and community-wide information systems, and regularly participate in national public safety communication initiatives.

Subcommittee Outcomes

- Provided consideration of the draft Western Australian Emergency Services Digital Strategy.
- Examined the recommendations from the Review into Optus Outage and Triple Zero Services.
- Finalised the Public Safety Network Strategy program.
- Contributed to the State Connectivity Plan led by the Office of Digital Government and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The plan requires a whole of government view of connectivity priorities and needs and assets that may be required in the future.
- Maintained awareness and considered the Commonwealth led Public Safety Mobile Broadband project.

Chair

Greg Italiano

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Deputy Chair

Patrick Leach

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Executive Officer

Claire Mead

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Sponsor

Emily Roper

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Meetings

19 July 2023

14 September 2023

27 March 2024

19 June 2024

Climate Change Subcommittee

Established in late 2022, the Climate Change Subcommittee is a multi-agency group formed to lead, provide advice, and oversee the development of an Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP).

The SEMC recognises the mounting risks posed by climate change to Western Australian communities and the emergency management sector. It is committed to delivering strong action to enhance the climate resilience of the sector and respond to the impacts of climate change on emergency management, in the context of the *Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023* (Bill).

The Bill is proposed new legislation to support WA's response to climate change. It provides for greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, requirements to guide decision-making, and accountability for climate change mitigation and adaptation including sector adaptation plans.

Delivering the EM-SAP is an important step in implementing the Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy. It aims to advance the state's emergency management goals and align with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and the Second National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Chair

Rick Curtis
SEMC

Deputy Chair

Nicole Matthews
WA Local Government Association (WALGA)

Executive Officer

Mathew Fogg
SEMC Business Unit

Sponsor

Nick Sloan
WA Local Government Association (WALGA)

Meetings

23 November 2023

7 February 2024

3 April 2024

27 June 2024

Subcommittee Outcomes

- Developed and released the EM-SAP discussion paper.
- Undertook a three-month broad consultation on the EM-SAP discussion paper.
- Developed a consultation summary from the feedback received on the EM-SAP discussion paper.
- Participated in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation-led three-part cross sector mapping workshop series to identify common climate risks and opportunities for adaptation.
- Supported the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in the development of EM-SAP guidance documents and materials.

Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee

The Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee supports the SEMC in strengthening one of WA’s key emergency management functions: enhancing the preparedness and capability of state and local governments to undertake disaster recovery.

Local governments in Western Australia are prescribed in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act) to manage recovery following an emergency. Recovery is defined as ‘the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment, the community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing’, as set out in Section 3 of the EM Act.

The Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee plays an essential role in the ability

of communities exposed to disasters to prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with, and recover from the effects of shocks and stressors without compromising their long-term prospects.

In partnership with two project-based groups – the Waste Management and Recovery Review Working Groups – the Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee uses its extensive network to collaborate and knowledge-share with emergency management organisations and agencies to anticipate emerging risks and issues and identify ways to assist Western Australian communities in recovery.

The subcommittee’s advice to the SEMC uses best practice community disaster resilience and engagement that builds on already established knowledge. Consideration is taken of vulnerable groups and populations while supporting the effectiveness of state and local government recovery.

Chair

Kate Vivian

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Deputy Chair

Vacant

Former Deputy Chair

Jennifer Pidgeon

Australian Red Cross

Executive Officer

Leah Parlour

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Sponsor

Emma Cole

SEMC

Meetings

6 July 2023

18 April 2024

7 September 2023 (Out-of-Session)

Subcommittee Outcomes

- Finalised and released the Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy in October 2023. The strategy was supported by \$1.5 million in National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant funding to build community resilience, with Expression Australia, St John Ambulance, Volunteer Marine Rescue Port Hedland, and DFES as recipients.
- Convened a scoping workshop on 4 December 2023 to identify strategic priorities.
- Developed and endorsed a new Terms of Reference and workplan.
- Significant work to progress the Recovery Framework Review.
- Transitioned the Public Information Reference Group (PIRG) as a reference group reporting to the subcommittee.

Public Information Reference Group

With accountability to the Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee, the Public Information Reference Group (PIRG) provides support and advice to the SEMC about emergency public information and awareness arrangements.

The SEMC has delegated responsibility for the preparation, maintenance, and review of the State Support Plan - Emergency Public Information to the PIRG.

Chair

Joey Catanzaro

Western Australia Police Force

Executive Officer

Courtney Atkinson

Western Australia Police Force

Sponsor

Col Blanch APM

Western Australia Police Force

Meeting dates

9 August 2023

14 November 2023

30 May 2024

15 November 2023 (Out-of-Session)

Reference Group Outcomes

- State Public Information Line (SPIL) Memorandum of Understanding between the WA Police Force and Department of Transport was renewed, with changes made to reflect advances in technology and the way SPIL was set up for 13COVID.
- Review of the State Support Plan Emergency Public Information is progressing.
- Collaborative work undertaken by PIRG agencies in response to emergencies, as well as preparedness training activities.

Risk and Capability Subcommittee

Emergency management must be risk-based. The Risk and Capability Subcommittee consults and advises on improvements to the evidence-based approach to emergency risk management for all hazards.

An efficient emergency management sector anticipates and plans for emergencies, and has a coordinated, effective, and sustained approach to mitigating and managing risks. This approach depends on the capability and preparedness of individuals, organisations, and the community.

The role of the Risk and Capability Subcommittee is to develop and maintain a contemporary risk management framework that supports WA to reduce the social, economic, and environmental costs of emergencies, build resilience, and increase capability within the system.

Enhanced by a project-based group – the Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group (ESNORG) – the Risk and Capability Subcommittee provides strategic

advice to the SEMC, to enable it to meet legislated responsibilities and achieve objectives, including growing the State’s ability to prepare for, and adapt to, threats and changing environments.

In the emergency management sector, the Committee promotes best practices in emergency risk management and disaster risk reduction at the local, district, and state levels. It also guides how to embed these practices into statewide systems so risks are managed successfully, competence can be demonstrated, and continuous improvement is shown.

Chair

Antony Sadler

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Deputy Chair

Matthew Adams

Landgate

Executive Officer

Nick Best

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Sponsor

Darren Klemm AFSM

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner

Meetings

19 July 2023 10 April 2024

16 August 2023 26 June 2024

11 October 2023

Subcommittee Outcomes

- Held a workshop on 16 August 2024 to ensure alignment with SEMC’s vision and consolidate the scope and role of the subcommittee.
- Endorsed the revised State Emergency Risk Management Guideline and Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework.
- Coordinated a multi-agency and essential services collaboration within the State Space Weather exercise.
- Identified new and emerging risks and established a process to assess within the context of the State’s risk management processes.
- Transitioned ESNORG as a reference group reporting to the subcommittee.

Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group

Supporting the Risk and Capability Subcommittee, the Essential Services Network Operators Reference Group (ESNORG) is a forum of members representing utility, telecommunications, and transport agencies to exchange information that will assist or improve the operation of essential services in relation to emergency management for the benefit of the community.

Chair

Scott Northcott

Water Corporation

Deputy Chair

Mark Vassiliou

Main Roads WA

Executive Officer

Andrea James

Western Power

Meeting dates

19 October 2023

23 April 2024

Reference Group Outcomes

- ESNORG Annual Briefing 2023-24 was held on 26 October 2023.
- Strong and effective networks were built with increased collaboration among essential service network operator organisations, and major industry partners established.

Response Policy Subcommittee

The Response Policy Subcommittee's key responsibility is to ensure that the WA Emergency Management Framework and response arrangements are contemporary and fit for purpose, enabling effective emergency management.

Members of the Response Policy Subcommittee represent the groups essential to WA's emergency management arrangements, including state government agencies and organisations that have delegated responsibilities in State Hazard Plans (SHP), emergency volunteers, and the Commonwealth Government.

There are three Working Groups that progress specific strategic matters on behalf

of the Response Policy Subcommittee: First Responders Active Armed Offenders Working Group, All Hazards Restricted Access Permit System Working Group, and Emergency Management Information Systems Working Group.

The Response Policy Subcommittee and Working Groups have strong, cooperative relationships that support collaboration. Members consider approaches to address capability gaps, monitor emerging risks, challenges, and trends that could potentially affect emergency management response and policy, and ensure that efforts are coordinated. This information forms the basis of advice and recommendations offered to the SEMC, to guide and formalise best practice response arrangements.

Chair

Kylie Whiteley APM

Western Australia Police Force

Deputy Chair

Craig Waters AFSM

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Executive Officer

Matthew Verney

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Sponsor

Col Blanch APM

Western Australia Police Force

Meetings

5 July 2023

1 November 2023

20 March 2024

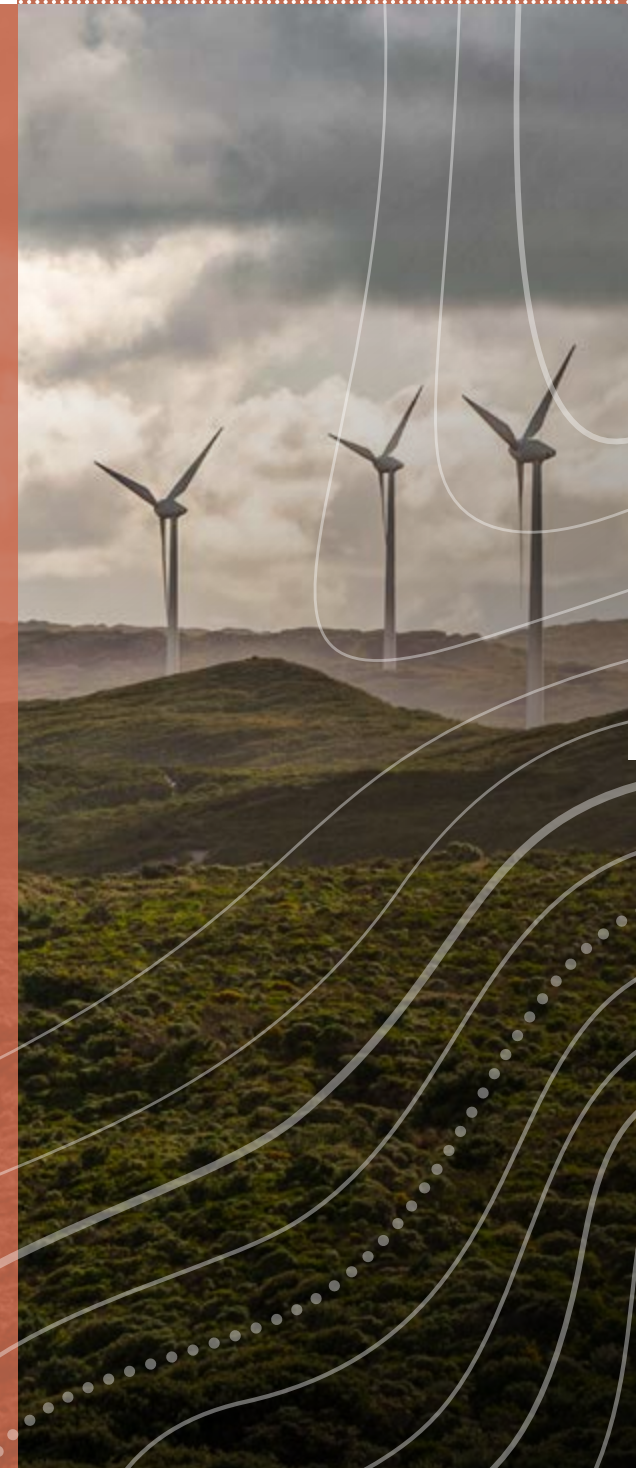
31 January 2024 (Out-of-Session)

Subcommittee Outcomes

- Completed the development of a Western Australian All-Hazards Restricted Access Permit System (RAPS) Guideline.
- Established a multi-agency working group to consider the AUKUS arrangements and undertake a review the State EM arrangements for the hazard from a Nuclear Powered Warship.
- Reviewed and endorsed several State Hazard and State Support Plans.
- The First Responders Active Armed Offender Working Group progressed with the development of a draft Standard Operating Procedures and operational terminology. A multi-agency practical exercise was held at Optus Stadium on 20 March 2024.
- The Emergency Management Information Systems Working Group reviewed the current Memorandum of Understanding, established business rules, and WebEOC Fusion has now been successfully utilised across six incidents.

District and Local Emergency Management

District and Local Emergency Management Committees	36
Kimberley	38
Pilbara	39
Midwest Gascoyne	40
Goldfields Esperance	41
Wheatbelt	42
North and Central Metropolitan	43
South and East Metropolitan	45
South West	47
Great Southern	48



District and Local Emergency Management Committees

District and local committees are vital in developing and maintaining effective emergency arrangements in Western Australia.

District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs) and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) meet regularly to plan for emergency management in their region. Each LEMC is supported by and reports to a DEMC which, in turn, reports to the SEMC.

District emergency management

Western Australia has 11 emergency management districts, each with its own DEMC, noting that Central and North Metropolitan and East and South Metropolitan districts are merged:

- Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Midwest Gascoyne
- Goldfields Esperance
- Wheatbelt
- Central and North Metropolitan
- East and South Metropolitan
- South West
- Great Southern

The key role of a DEMC is to ensure the effective coordination of emergency management activities, including establishing and maintaining emergency arrangements and creating strong relationships across the district.

Chaired by the District Emergency Coordinator, DEMCs provide guidance and information to the LEMCs in their locality and participate in exercises and testing of local arrangements.

Local emergency management

LEMCs are established by local governments. While it is common for each local government to have one LEMC, they may also work together to form a combined LEMC or operate multiple LEMCs for their districts.

Managed and chaired by the local government, the LEMC includes representatives from emergency management organisations in the area. The main functions of a LEMC are to advise and assist the local government in preparing, reviewing, and testing Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), and other activities as directed by the SEMC.

The preparation of LEMA by local governments is prescribed under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and they must be updated at least every five years. Local governments have expert knowledge about their communities and environments, and their LEMA provides a community-focused and coordinated approach to managing potential emergencies.

An overview of DEMCs and LEMCs for each district is provided on the following pages.



Kimberley

2023-24 highlights

- Extended Kimberley flooding incident recovery operations, predominantly in Fitzroy Crossing, with recovery staff operating from a hub in Fitzroy Crossing.
- Establishment of a DEMC subgroup to investigate emergency management in remote marine park settings. The group was formed due to a large increase in significant tourist vessels entering remote marine areas and the increased potential for emergency incidents to occur. The subgroup is called the Kimberley Maritime Planning Committee and is chaired by the Department of Transport.
- A second DEMC subgroup is the Kimberley Industry Emergency Management Committee, chaired by Shell. This group meets to share industry updates, emergency plans, and exercises.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

10 August 17 October 19 March

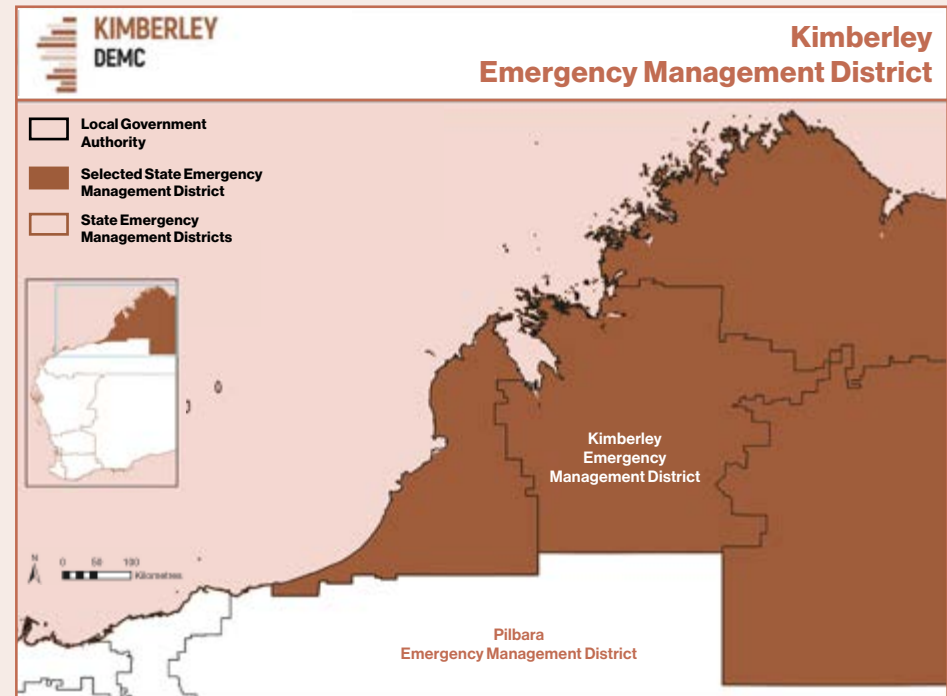
Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Kimberley District

Number of local governments	4
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	4
Local governments with current LEMA	4

Exercises in 2023-24:

- Exercise Granite: Hostile Act in a Shopping Centre, Broome
- Exercise Sapphire: Hostile Act in a School, Kununurra

Both exercises were facilitated by WA Police and involved DEMC members.



Preparedness and information sharing:

- Annual pre-wet season tour (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Emergency Management in Remote Park Settings (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)
- Australian Warning System update (DFES)
- Horizontal Falls incident: Response and coordination overview (Royal Flying Doctor Service)
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)
- Biodiversity Emergency Preparedness Plan (Rangelands Natural Resource Management)
- Post-wet season review: Lessons learned

Pilbara

2023-24 highlights

- Consultation with the oil and gas industry regarding potential impacts and planned response to oil spill incidents.
- WA Police and DFES trialed Starlink to address the issue of poor communication coverage in Pannawonica's remote areas that affected police and other emergency service responders.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

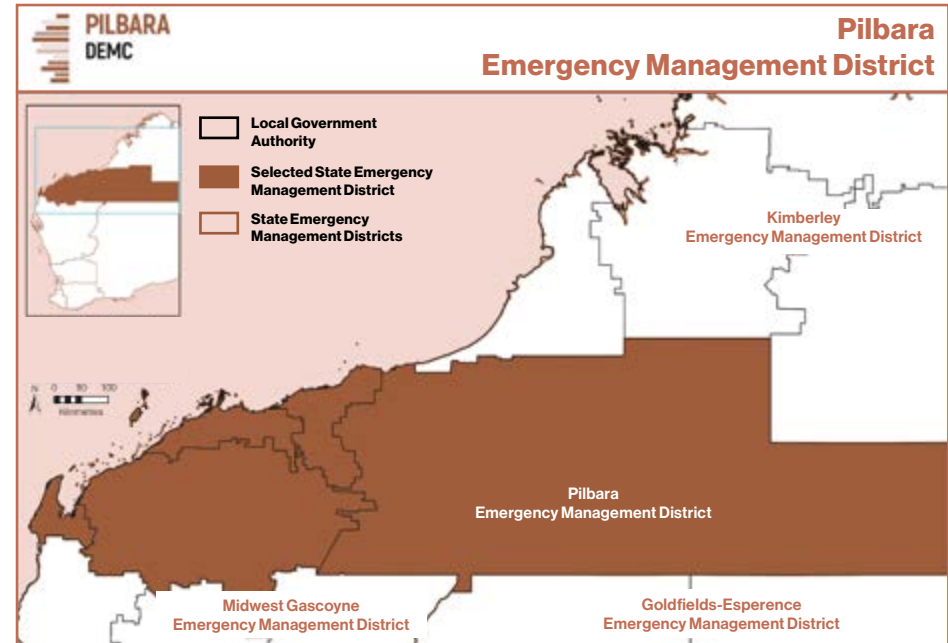
4 July

31 October

19 March

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Pilbara District

Number of local governments	5
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	9
Local governments with current LEMA	5
Exercises in 2023-24:	Nil



Preparedness and information sharing:

- Annual pre-wet season tour (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Food Security and Disaster Preparedness Project (WA Council of Social Services)
- Total Solar Eclipse event debrief and feedback from agencies
- Australian Warning System update (DFES)
- Pilbara assets and emergency management plans (Always Powering Ahead [APA])
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)
- Biodiversity Emergency Preparedness Plan (Rangelands Natural Resource Management)
- Post-wet season review: Lessons learned

Midwest Gascoyne

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

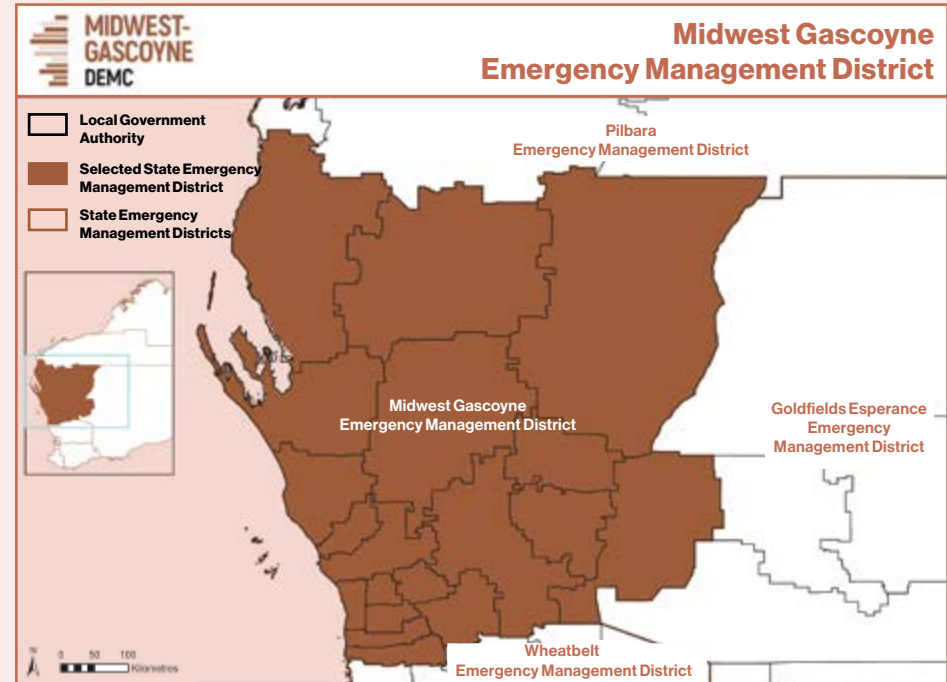
6 July 20 October 20 March

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Midwest Gascoyne District

Number of local governments	19
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	17
Local governments with current LEMA	8

Exercises in 2023-24:

- City of Greater Geraldton: Airport desktop exercise
- Shire of Morawa: Aerodrome emergency exercise
- DEMC: Cruise ship fire and evacuation desktop exercise
- Shires of Perenjori and Morawa LEMC: Cyclone and ISG exercise
- Shire of Mingenew: Road crash and bushfire exercise
- Shire of Meekatharra: Underground search and rescue plutonic mine exercise
- Shire of Meekatharra: Aerodrome exercise



Preparedness and information sharing:

- Pre-season overview (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Australian Warning System update (DFES)
- State Risk and Capability Project update (DFES)
- Rangelands Natural Resource Management Plan
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)

Goldfields Esperance

2023-24 highlights

- The storm event and subsequent energy supply disruption in January 2024 saw collaboration and coordination between agencies, and the restoration of power and water prioritised to those most in need.
- Planning and coordination between state government agencies and local governments meant there was minimal impact to major highways and critical infrastructure in the region from the southern fire season.
- Critical Incident Response Group was established to bring multiple agencies and services together when small remote communities are affected by major crime or other tragedy.
- Evacuation and risk assessment planning due to an increase in population from mining camps built within Goldfields communities.
- Construction of Outback Way (Great Central Road), to seal the road to allow for more travellers and the subsequent unknown impacts on isolated communities with limited rescue and medical services.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

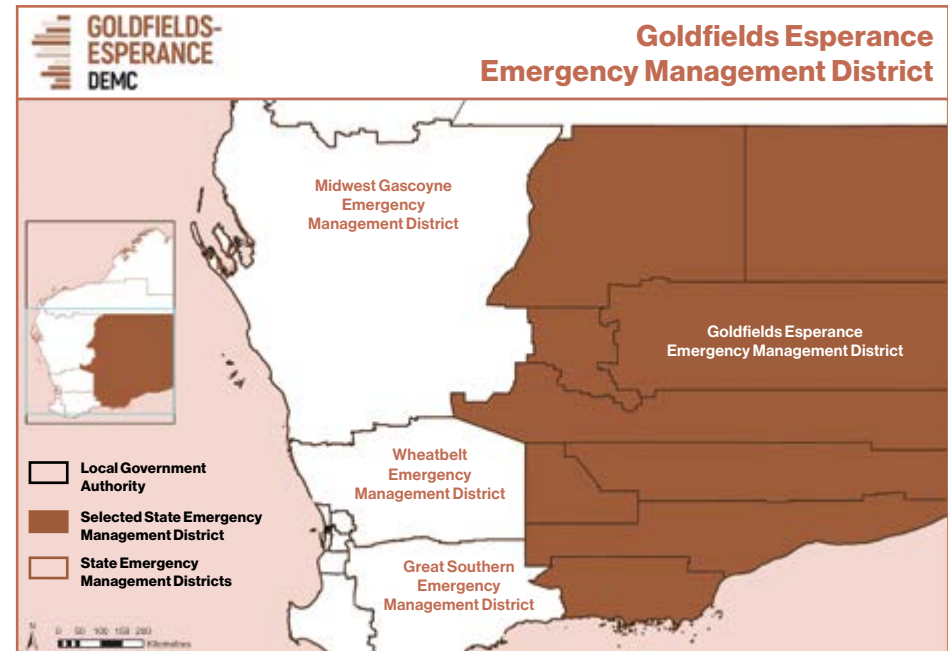
3 November

5 June

20 March

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Goldfields Esperance District

Number of local governments	9
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	9
Local governments with current LEMA	5



Exercises in 2023-24:

Pre-season forum for the Goldfields Esperance District including DEMC members and CEOs and Presidents of all local governments.

Preparedness and information sharing:

- Emergency Management Workshop: Resilience and LEMC functionality
- Seasonal outlook (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Australian Fire Danger Rating System update (DFES)
- Capability and ongoing projects (Red Cross WA)
- State Risk and Capability Project milestones presentation (DFES)

Wheatbelt

2023-24 highlights

- Recovery work, lessons learned, and improvements, including support for the ongoing welfare for the residents of Kellerberrin were shared at a multi-agency debrief following the hostile act (shooting) in the area.
- The storm event and subsequent energy supply disruption in January 2024 saw collaboration and coordination between agencies and the restoration of power and water prioritised to those most in need.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

19 October

13 March

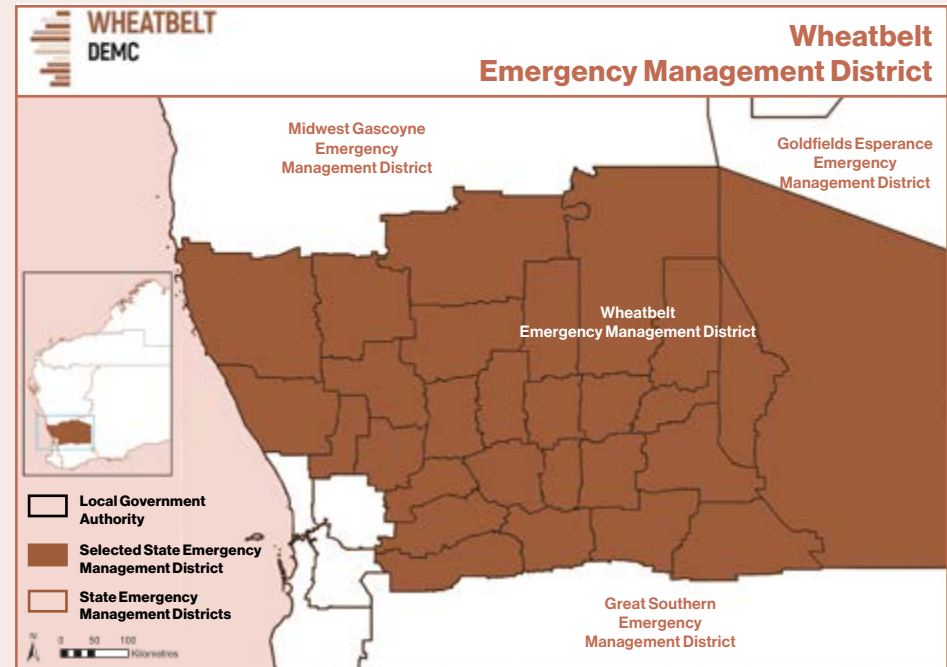
12 June

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Wheatbelt District

Number of local governments	28
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	26
Local governments with current LEMA	20

Exercises in 2023-24:

- Northwest Wheatbelt EM Day (workshop and exercise)
- Pre-season forum for the Goldfields Esperance District including DEMC members and CEOs and Presidents of all local governments
- Water Corporation: Multi-agency chlorine spill exercises
- WA Police: Avalanche exercise software (ammonium nitrate incident)
- Shire of Narembeen: LEMA testing exercise
- Workshop and exercise held in Wongan Hills with significant representation from DEMCs and local governments



Preparedness and information sharing:

- State Risk and Capability Project milestones presentation (DFES)
- EM workshop and exercise for the Shires of Dandaragan, Gingin, Chittering, Victoria Plains, Wongan Ballidu, Moora, and Dalwallinu
- Wheatbelt and Goldfields Volunteer Leadership Forum: Introduction to concepts around disaster-resilient communities
- Pre-season briefing (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Seasonal preparedness workshop
- Discussion on emerging risks (ammonium nitrate, Eucla Green Energy Hub)
- Australian Fire Danger Rating System update (DFES)
- Learnings from Kimberley floods and preparedness presentation (DFES)
- WA capability and ongoing projects (Red Cross)
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)

North and Central Metropolitan

2023-24 highlight

Metropolitan North and East Recovery Group Partnering Agreement was reviewed and endorsed by the eight member local governments.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

21 December (North Metropolitan)

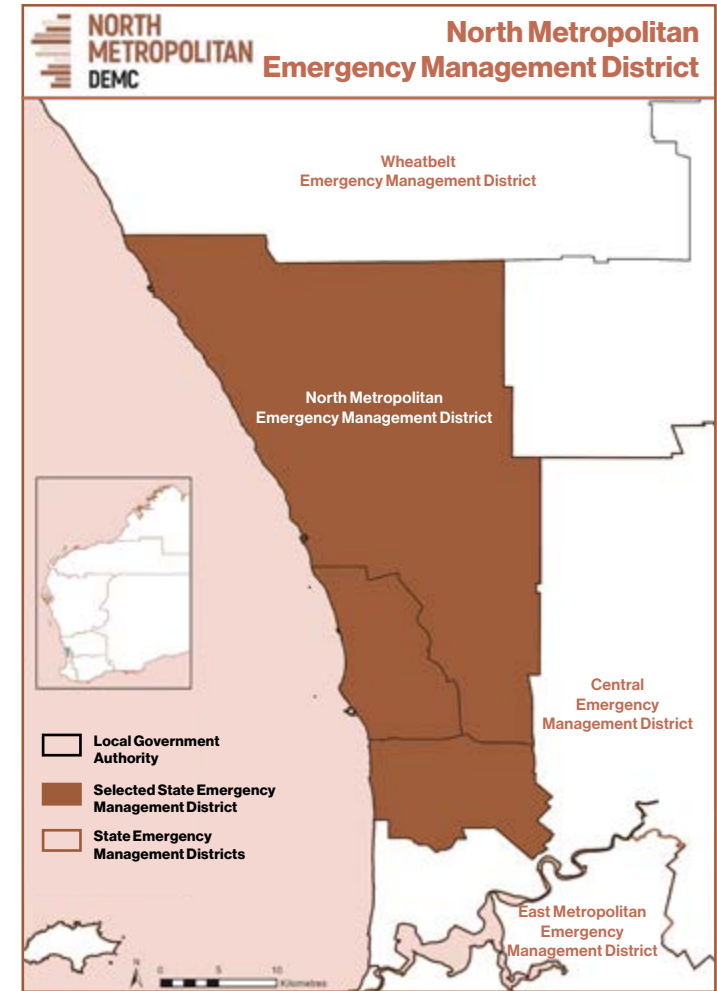
Planning for a second DEMC (April/May 2024) did not proceed due to the lack of available DEMC Executive Officer support.

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the North Metropolitan District

Number of local governments	3
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	2
Local governments with current LEMA	3

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Central Metropolitan District

Number of local governments	14
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	7
Local governments with current LEMA	12



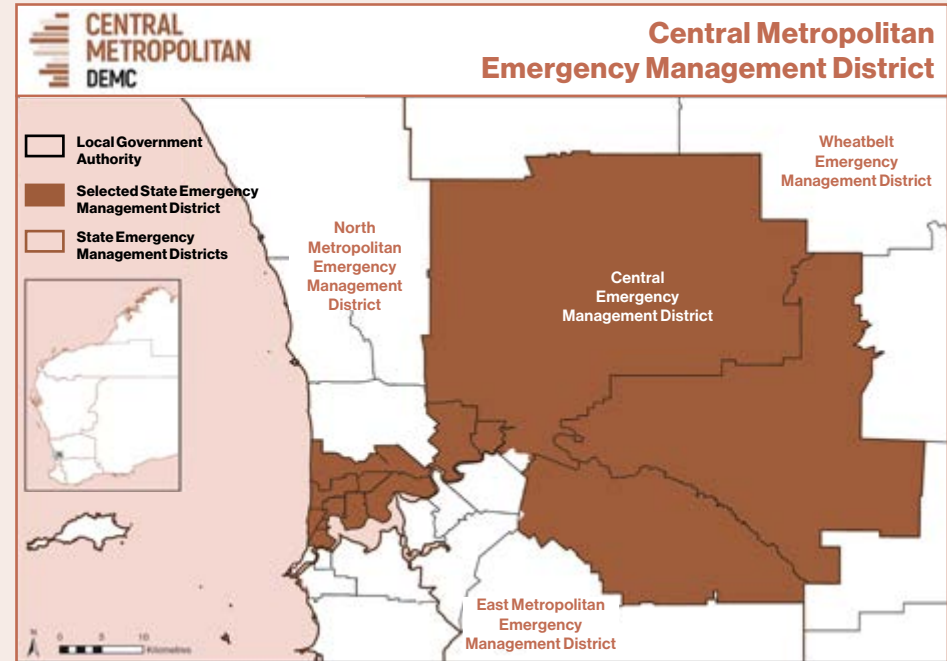
Continued

Exercises in 2023-24:

- City of Perth: Flood discussion exercise
- Cities of Joondalup, Wanneroo, and Stirling: Evacuation centre opening exercise
- City of Wanneroo: Nanovich ARK exercise
- City of Wanneroo: Exercise Staff Activation Flowchart
- City of Wanneroo: Exercise STAND NBN
- City of Wanneroo: Exercise Telephone System
- City of Bayswater: Response and recovery desktop exercise
- City of Kalamunda: Recovery exercise
- Shire of Mundaring: Exercise Zeus (multi-agency emergency management, coordination and cooperation arrangements)
- City of Stirling LEMC: Exercise Dual Strike (severe storm)
- DEMC: Terra Motus exercise (earthquake)

Preparedness and information sharing:

- Earthquake risk statement treatment (City of Bayswater)
- Kimberley Floods Seminar with keynote speaker presentations from DFES Operations and State Recovery
- City of Perth: Snapshot discussion (hostile act)
- Shire of Mundaring: Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning Forum



- City of Wanneroo: Overview of the Mariginiup fire recovery efforts (City of Wanneroo Local Recovery Coordinator)
- City of Bayswater: Hazard and Risk Reduction presentation
- City of Bayswater: Risk treatment workshop (HAZMAT)
- City of Kalamunda: WA Environmental Health in Emergency Management presentation (City of Kalamunda LEMC)
- City of Swan: Overview of emergency management operations at Perth Airport
- Western Central: Red Cross role in preparedness, response, and recovery

South and East Metropolitan

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

A DEMC was scheduled to be held on 29 November 2023. The DEMC meeting and exercise Terra Motus was cancelled due to the impact on agencies supporting the response and recovery efforts with the City of Wanneroo (Mariginiup Bushfire).

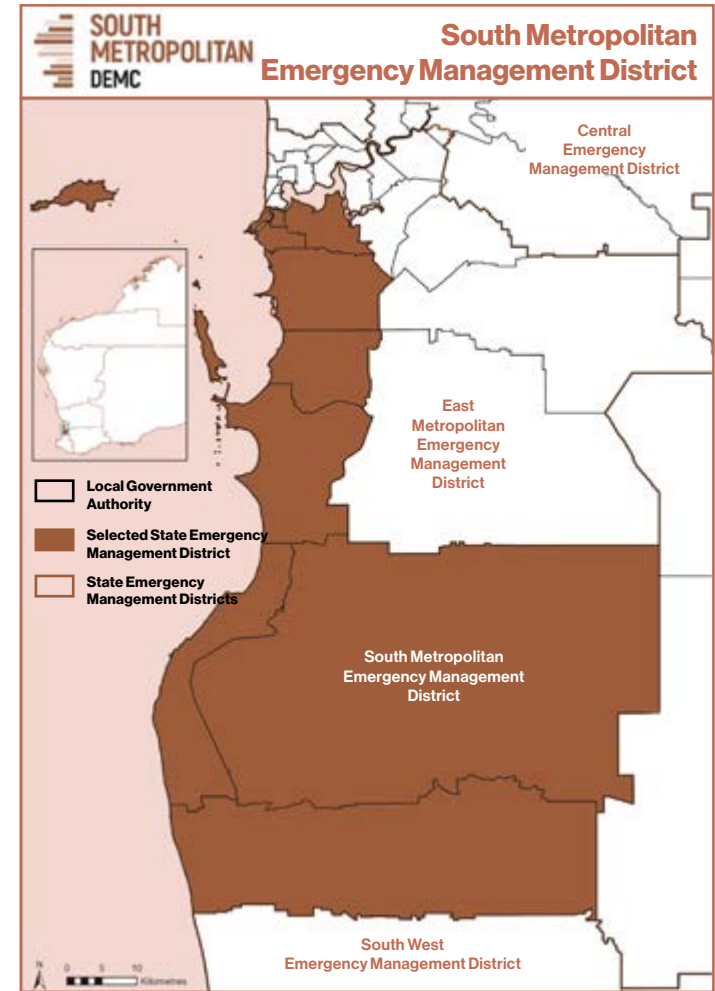
Planning for a second DEMC (April/May 2024) did not proceed due to the lack of available DEMC Executive Officer support.

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the South Metropolitan District

Number of local governments	10
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	8
Local governments with current LEMA	4

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the East Metropolitan District

Number of local governments	7
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	5
Local governments with current LEMA	6

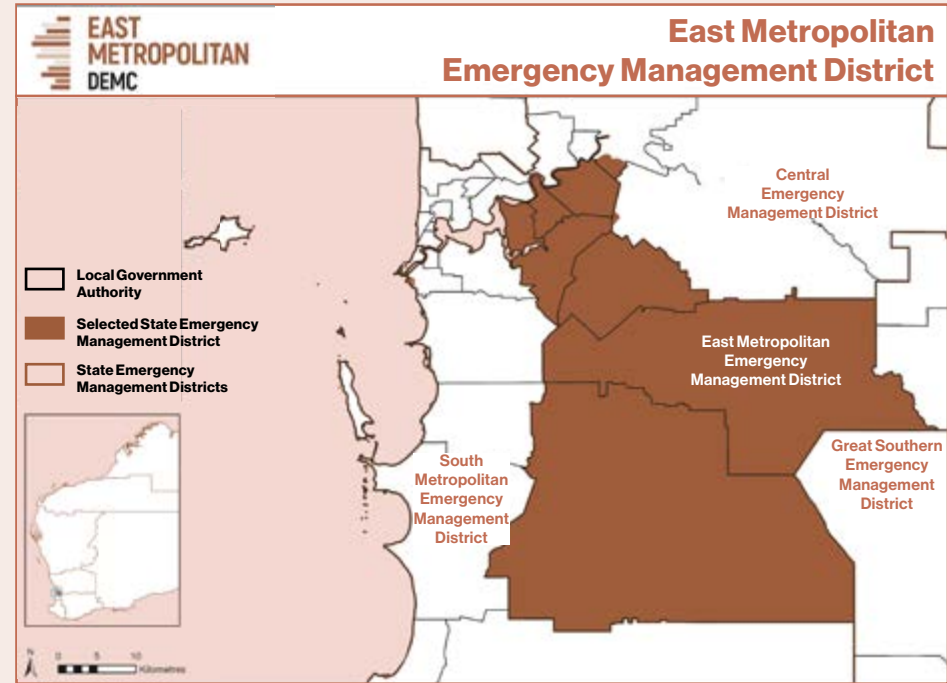


Continued



Exercises in 2023-24:

- Shires of Murray and Waroona: Lane Poole Reserve desktop bushfire exercise
- City of Rockingham: Bushfire, structure fire, Level 2 Incident Management Team and marine rescue exercises
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale: Exercise Scorcher (heatwave)
- City of Mandurah: Cyber security and twin cyclones discussion exercises
- City of Cockburn: Exercise Maloo Recovery
- City of Canning: Cyber security exercise
- Cities of Canning and South Perth: Aged care exercise
- City of Melville: Exercise round-up
- Fiona Stanley Hospital: Cyber security exercise
- HMAS Stirling: Exercise Vulcan Phoenix
- City of Gosnells: Exercise Initial Actions
- Cities of Canning and South Perth LEMC: Communicare communications-based bushfire exercise



Preparedness and information sharing:

- Kimberley Floods Seminar with keynote speaker presentations from DFES Operations and State Recovery
- City of Rockingham: Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning Forum and South EM District Emergency Management Forum
- Introduction to Emergency Management presentation to Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale LEMC (DFES)
- People and Communities At Risk presentation to City of Rockingham LEMC (DFES)

South West

2023-24 highlights

- Main Roads WA attended LEMC meetings to deliver information on traffic management, including highlighting their traffic management guideline.
- Lessons Learned:
 - Nannup telecommunications outage
 - Eaton bushfire
 - Kingston bushfire
 - Kimberley flood event
 - Wooroloo bushfire recovery
- The District held an Interagency Pre-Season Bushfire Forum, led by DFES with the Western Australia Police Force, DBCA, and St John Ambulance.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

10 October

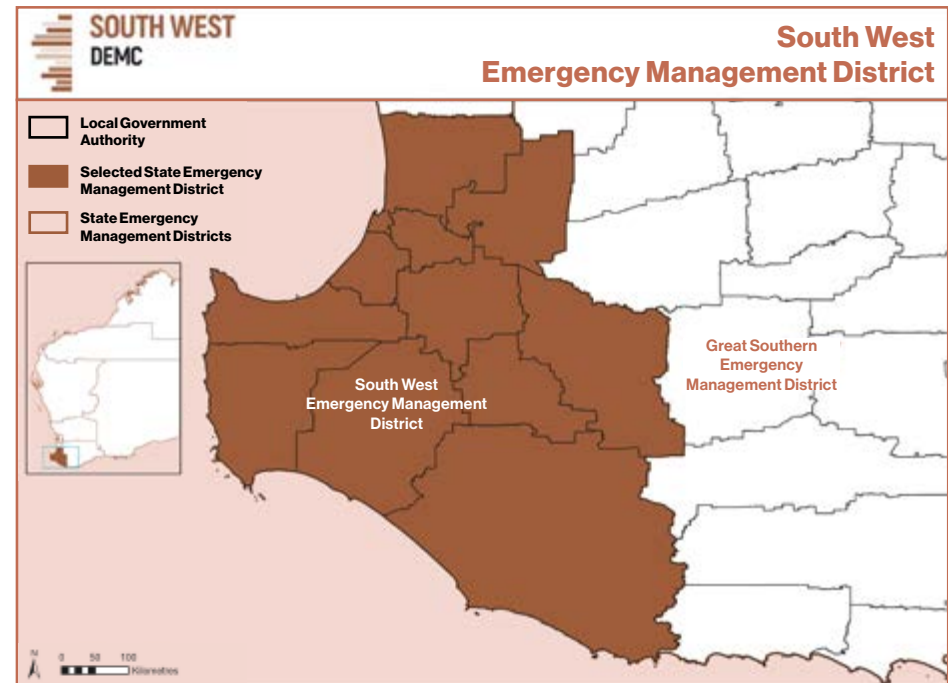
19 March

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the South West District

Number of local governments	12
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	12
Local governments with current LEMA	12

Exercises in 2023-24:

- Level 2 bushfire exercise
- Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami exercise (IOWave)
- Bunbury Health Campus exercise



Preparedness and information sharing:

- Dunsborough Preparedness week
- Seasonal outlook (Bureau of Meteorology)
- District Fuel Load presentation (DBCA)
- Wooroloo Bushfire Recovery presentation (SEMC)
- State Risk and Capability Project update (DFES)
- Bunbury Outer Ring Road project update (Main Roads WA)
- DEMC agencies: Emergency management skills training
- Kimberley wet season reflections and opportunities
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)
- Australian Warning System implementation (DFES)
- Interagency Pre-season Forum

Great Southern

2023-24 highlight

The Shire of Lake Grace’s power network was impacted by severe weather events that passed through the Wheatbelt and Goldfields area on 16 and 17 January. Collaboration and coordination with the Wheatbelt and Goldfields districts meant that support and assistance were provided to the identified communities to manage the impacts and restore power and water.

District Emergency Management Committee meetings

18 October 20 March 26 June

Local Governments and Local Emergency Management Committees in the Great Southern District

Number of local governments	27
Number of Local Emergency Management Committees	23
Local governments with current LEMA	12

Exercises in 2023-24:

- Great Southern Regional Bushfire Exercise involving key agencies which included:
 - Bushfire scenario discussion exercise
 - Regional bushfire exercise including Incident Management Team
- Great Southern Regional Operations Centre (ROC) walkthrough
- Incident Support Group (ISG) and Operational Area Support Group (OASG) exercise



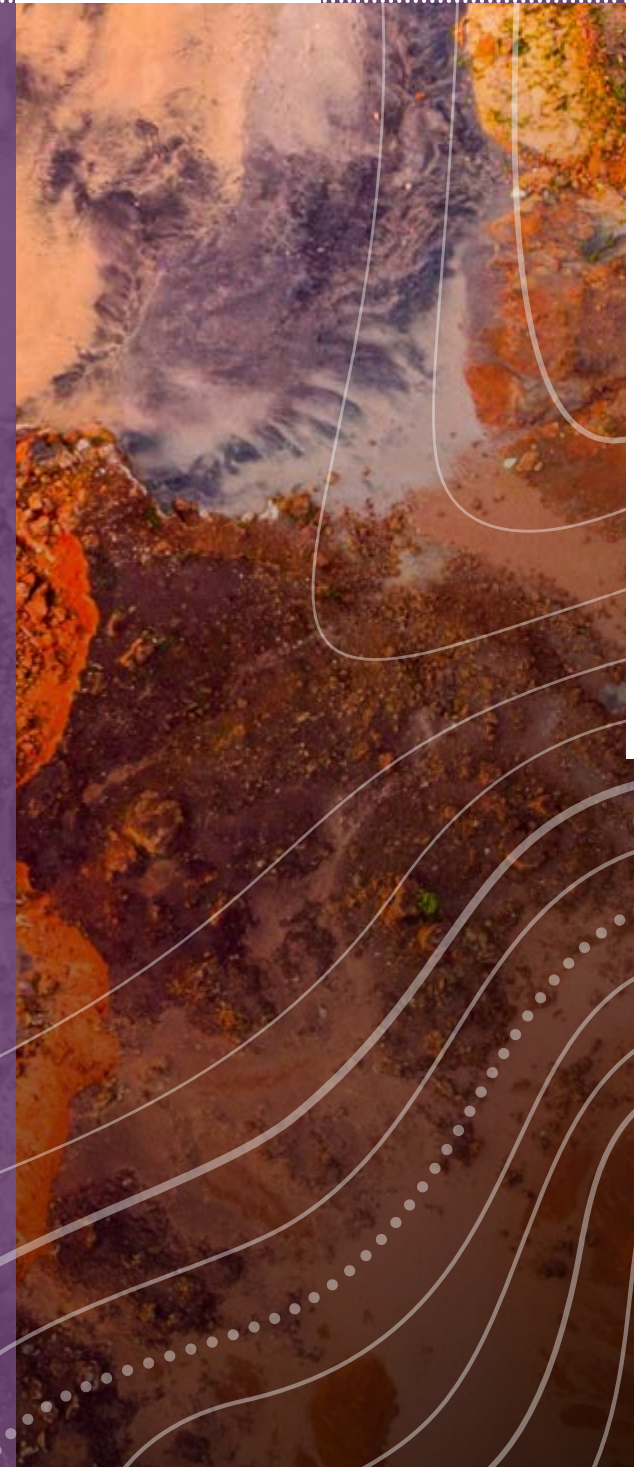
Preparedness and information sharing:

- Local Government State Council Meeting emergency management update (Lower Great Southern Local Government representative)
- National Emergency Management Agency update
- Seasonal outlook 2023/2024 (Bureau of Meteorology)
- Amendment to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* update (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
- Telecommunications support during an emergency (NBN Local)
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (SEMC)
- General Practice Emergency Response Team Project overview (WA Primary Health Alliance)
- Australian Warning System update (DFES)
- Great Southern Region Bushfire Risk Mitigation Program



State Emergency Management Framework

Overview	50
State Plans	52



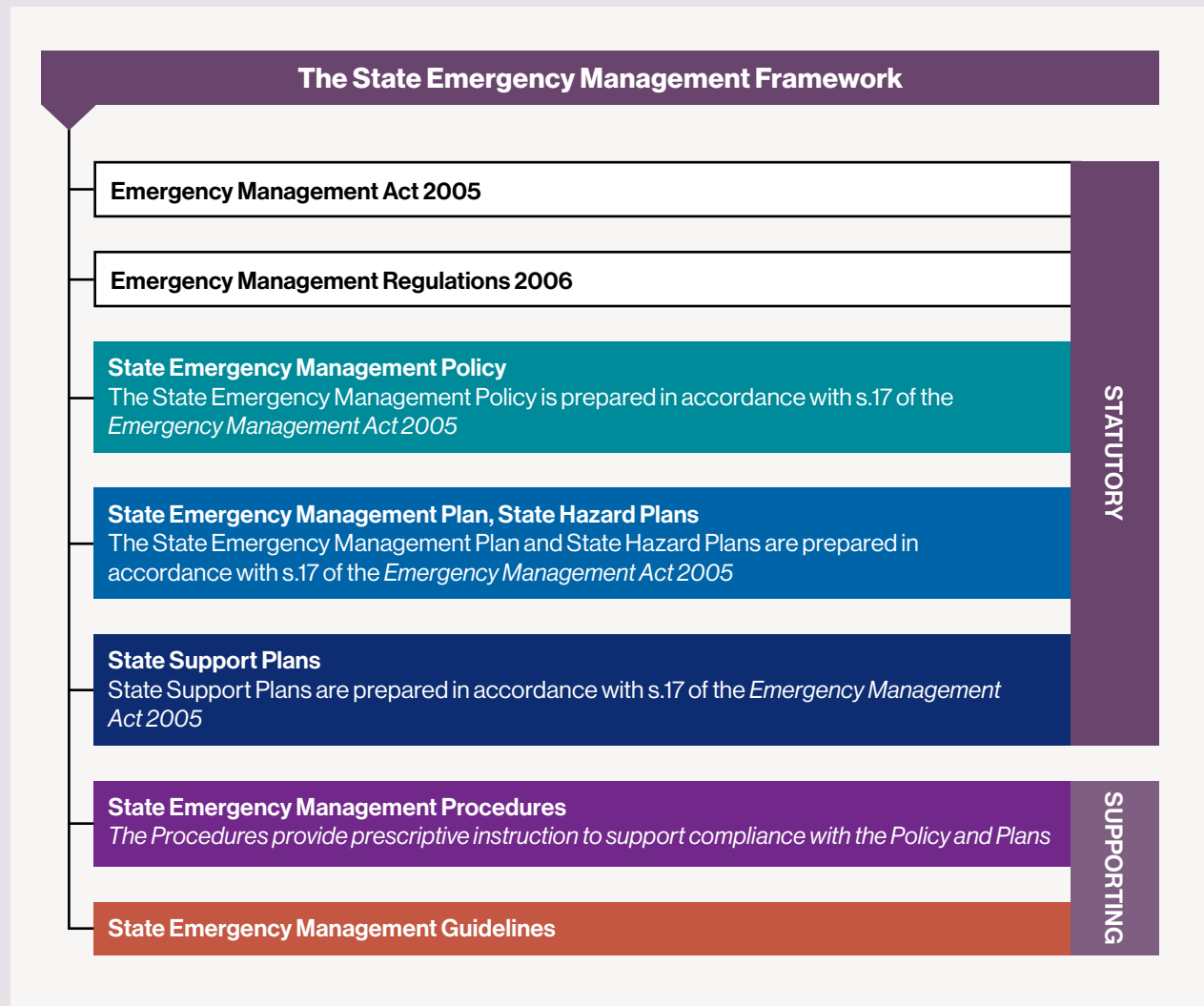
Overview

In Western Australia, the contemporary and coordinated structure of emergency management is built on the State Emergency Management Framework.

Emergency management in WA works well because of a collaborative effort between multiple organisations and individuals and all levels of government. The State Emergency Management Framework prescribes how we work together to maintain community safety and how effective coordination efforts are organised in an emergency.

The arrangement of the State Emergency Management Framework is depicted in Figure 5. It comprises essential resources such as legislation, policy, plans, procedures, guidelines, and a governance structure that supports all aspects of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, also known as PPRR.

Figure 5: The State Emergency Management Framework.



Updating the Framework

To guarantee that the State Emergency Management Framework remains contemporary, and to uphold the emergency management principle of fostering continuous improvement, the SEMC approved amendments to the Framework throughout the year.

Regular review and changes to the Framework are required to make sure that it maintains accuracy and reflects current practices. Once SEMC approves the updates, the amendments are made available on the SEMC website and are communicated to emergency management stakeholders.

The State Emergency Management Policy Branch, in collaboration with the emergency management sector, district and local emergency management committee members, state government agencies, local government entities, and others, revised the following in 2023-24:

- Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework
- State Emergency Management Policy, Plan, and Procedures
- State Emergency Risk Management Guideline
- Emergency Management Prevention and Mitigation Procedure
- Local Emergency Management Committee handbook
- All-Hazards Restricted Access Permit System (RAPS) Guideline
- Traffic Management During Emergencies Guideline
- **State Hazard Plan**
 - HAZMAT
 - Energy Supply Disruption
 - Crash Emergency
 - Severe Weather
 - Search and Rescue
- **State Support Plan**
 - Emergency Relief and Support

State Plans

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) oversees the preparation of emergency management plans for Western Australia.

State Hazard Plans provide details of how a specific hazard will be handled, including the responsible Hazard Management Agency (HMA), and the roles and duties of the organisations involved in the response.

Hazard events, situations and conditions are defined in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*. These events, situations, and conditions are managed by HMAs, with support from numerous Combat Agencies and Support Organisations. The arrangements for these hazards are consolidated into 16 State Hazard Plans, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Functions and services including emergency relief and support, emergency public information, and animal welfare in emergencies, support emergency management arrangements across

all hazards. While these services are not hazard-specific, they may be required regardless of the emergency, and are detailed in the appropriate [State Support Plan](#)¹, shown in [Table 2](#).

The SEMC instructs the relevant HMA or organisation to develop, maintain, review, and exercise their State Plan. When a State Plan is reviewed, key stakeholders provide their input, and the plan is submitted for consultation with the emergency management sector. Following review and feedback, the plan is approved by the SEMC and published online.

[The State Emergency Management Policy](#)², [State Emergency Management Plan](#)³, State Hazard Plans, and State Support Plans, along with the local emergency management arrangements developed by local governments, all underpin the emergency management arrangements for WA.








Minimising the impacts of an emergency on Western Australian communities requires shared ownership. Our cooperative statewide efforts mean WA is better able to withstand and recover from emergencies.

¹ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/emergency-management-plans#state-support-plans>







² <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-emergency-management-policy>








³ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-emergency-management-plan>

Table 1: Hazard Plans, responsible hazard management agencies, and review dates.

State Hazard Plan	Hazard	Hazard Management Agency	Last comprehensive review completed	Comprehensive review required
Animal and Plant Biosecurity	 Animal or Plant Pest or Disease	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	2021	August 2026
Collapse		Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2021	December 2026
Crash Emergency	 Air Crash	Commissioner of Police	2024	March 2029
	 Road Crash	Commissioner of Police		
	 Rail Crash Passenger	Public Transport Authority		
	 Rail Crash Freight	Arc Infrastructure Pty Ltd		
Earthquake		Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2021	December 2026

State Plans

State Hazard Plan	Hazard	Hazard Management Agency	Last comprehensive review completed	Comprehensive review required
Energy Supply Disruption	 Electricity Supply Disruption	Energy Policy Western Australia	2024	August 2029
	 Gas Supply Disruption			
	 Liquid Fuel Supply Disruption			
Fire		Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2019	March 2025
HAZMAT	 Chemical, Radiological, or Other Substance	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2024	May 2029
HAZMAT Annex A Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship		Western Australia Police Force	2021	March 2026

State Hazard Plan	Hazard	Hazard Management Agency	Last comprehensive review completed	Comprehensive review required
HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)		Western Australia Police Force	2020	August 2025
Heatwave		Department of Health	2022	October 2027
Hostile Act		Western Australia Police Force	2021	August 2026
Human Biosecurity		Department of Health	2019	December 2024
	 Human Epidemic			
Maritime Environmental Emergencies	 Marine Oil Pollution	Department of Transport	2021	December 2026
	 Marine Transport Emergency			

State Plans

State Hazard Plan	Hazard	Hazard Management Agency	Last comprehensive review completed	Comprehensive review required
Search and Rescue Emergencies	 Land Search	Western Australia Police Force	2023	August 2028
	  Marine Search			
Severe Weather	 Cyclone	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2023	December 2028
	 Flood			
	 Storm			
Tsunami		Department of Fire and Emergency Services	2021	December 2026

Table 2: State Support Plans.

State Support Plan	Support Organisation or Group	State Support Plan last review date	State Support Plan review date
Animal Welfare in Emergencies	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	2019	December 2024
Emergency Public Information	Public Information Reference Group	2018	December 2024
Emergency Relief and Support	Department of Communities	2023	October 2028

Financial Disclosure

Remuneration of Members

59



Remuneration of Members

Name	Position	Type of Remuneration	Period of Membership	Gross Remuneration 2022/2023
Ms Emma Cole	Chair Former Deputy Chair	Per annum	Part-year Part-year	\$67,987.97
Mr Rhys Williams	Deputy Chair	Per annum	Part-year	\$38,930.72
Dr Ron Edwards	Former Chair	Per annum	Part-year	\$25,389.18
Ms Melissa Pexton	Executive Officer	Nil	Part-year	
Mr Rick Curtis	Former Executive Officer	Nil	Part-year	
Mr Darren Klemm AFSM	Member	Nil	Full year	
Mr Col Blanch APM	Commissioner of Police	Nil	Full year	
Dr Andrew Robertson CSC PSM	Member	Nil	Full year	
Ms Emily Roper PSM	Member	Nil	Full year	
Mr Nick Sloan	Member	Nil	Full year	
Mr Stuart Smith	Member	Nil	Full year	
Mr Mike Rowe	Member	Nil	Full year	
Ms Julie Waylen	Independent Member	Per annum	Full year	\$36,673.52
Total				\$168,981.39

CONTACT INFORMATION

20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central
Western Australia 6164

semc.wa.gov.au



© Government of Western Australia published November 2024 by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, all other rights are reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.