

SEMC COMMUNIQUE



December 2024

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 4 December 2024.

Presentations

National Emergency Management Agency

Brendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) attended SEMC and provided an update on the work NEMA is undertaking.

NEMA was established after the 2022 floods when the government combined the Emergency Management Agency and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency to coordinate across all phases in the emergency management spectrum.

NEMA provides coordination arrangements between the States and the Commonwealth government, acts as the convening mechanism during a national crisis, provides national coordination with the States and the private sector.

The SEMC were briefed on work currently underway which included:

- Building strong relationships with the States and Territories, the research and not for profit sector
- Developing a national risk profile
- Building the National Emergency Management Stockpile
- Investing in the workforce, national messaging system and Public Safety Mobile Broadband to build a national capability to support the States and Territories
- Administering grant programs such as the Disaster Resilience Funding Arrangements (DRFA), Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) and warning systems

Discussion Items and Outcomes

Colvin and Glasser Reviews

On 25 October 2024, the findings from the *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements* (the Glasser Review) and the *Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding* (the Colvin Review) were released.

The Glasser Review intends to improve Australia's national disaster committees to support effective nationwide decision making. The review was informed by the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and its recommendations on how the Australian Government, state and territory governments and local government should work together.

The Colvin Review took an evidence informed approach and explored the role for the Commonwealth in building resilience to extreme events Australia is projected to experience in the future.

To support the SEMC in understanding and defining the implications and benefits of these reviews, the establishment of a time limited working group was approved, which will be chaired by the SEMC Executive Officer.

National Emergency Management Stockpile

NEMA has established the National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS). NEMS is designed to be a flexible and scalable procurement, warehousing and logistics capability to enable

rapid and reliable access to specific supports, when states and territories ability to meet these needs are at capacity. The stockpile is available for near-term preparedness, response, relief and early recovery.

The NEMS has three main components:

1. a **national stockpile** of Australian Government-owned critical disaster resources, ready for deployment within 24-48 hours
2. a **national emergency management stockpile procurement panel** for goods, logistics and specialist services, which the Australian Government and State, Territory and local government agencies can access to procure capability.
3. **memoranda of understanding** with other Australian Government humanitarian and crisis response capabilities.

Space Weather Desktop Exercise Report

On 17 May 2024, the Risk and Capability Subcommittee ran a multi-stakeholder desktop exercise into space weather to explore the likelihood and consequence of a space weather event in WA, the capability of emergency management agencies in the event of a space weather event and the implications on the WA emergency management framework.

The Bureau of Meteorology defines space weather as *events beyond the Earth's atmosphere that impact technology on Earth and the near-space environment*. Space weather can occur anywhere from the surface of the sun to the surface of the Earth.

The exercise identified:

- The likelihood of a significant Space Weather event is very low, however due to the potential for widespread and severe impacts a Space Weather event is classified as high to extreme risk.
- The impacts of a Space Weather event are concurrent across multiple existing prescribed hazards and are systemic and prolonged in nature.
- The State Emergency Coordinator should assume a leadership role of a multi-agency response.
- The prescription of space weather as a hazard is not warranted.

Project to include Cyber Security Incident as a Hazard in the State Emergency Management Framework

At the 5 December 2022 meeting, SEMC endorsed that Cyber Security Incident be incorporated as a Hazard into the State's EM arrangements, and the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) as the preferred HMA for cyber emergencies. On 6 December 2023, SEMC noted the draft SHP – Cyber Security Incident and supported the progress on a legislative proposal for amendments to the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* (EM Regulations) to introduce a Cyber Security Incident as a Hazard.

In collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has finalised the legislative proposal to progress the prescription of a Cyber Security Incident as a Hazard in the EM arrangements and formal drafting instructions have been provided to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

An interim State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident was approved by SEMC to ensure its publication and release to stakeholders for the 12-week consultation period as soon as the Hazard is prescribed in the EM Regulations.

State Emergency Management Document Extensions

The following comprehensive reviews were granted extensions:

- State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity – March 2025
- State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies – March 2025
- State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information – May 2025
- Impact Statement Review – October 2025

General Updates

SEMC Annual Report 2023/24

The [2023/2024 SEMC Annual Report](#) was tabled in Parliament on 28 November 2024 and is available on the SEMC website.

The Annual Report demonstrates the work undertaken by the members of the SEMC, its Subcommittees and Reference Groups and the District and Local Emergency Management Committees over the reporting period. It showcases the achievements and the dedication of the WA Emergency Management sector to ensure that WA's Emergency Management Framework remains contemporary and at the required capability.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State EM documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2024/2025.

- State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information
- State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)
- State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident
- State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain
- Impact Statement Guideline and Template
- Local Recovery Guideline

Next Meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of SEMC will be held on 13 March 2025.

Contact Us

If you have feedback or questions, get in touch at info@semc.wa.gov.au.