SEMC COMMUNIQUÉ

October 2026

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 1 October 2026.

The Chair welcomed the Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Emergency Services who acknowledged and recognised the significant contributions being made across the Emergency Management sector.

Presentation

Prescribed Burning | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

The SEMC noted a presentation by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on Prescribed Burning. The presentation highlighted the strategic value of landscape-scale prescribed burning as a long-term risk reduction measure that strengthens community resilience, enhances emergency response capability and supports the protection of life, infrastructure, environmental and cultural values across Western Australian.

Discussion Items and Outcomes

H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development updated the SEMC on the current situation of the State's preparedness to combat H5 HPAI.

State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act

The SEMC approved the revised State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act, supporting a coordinated, contemporary approach to preventing for, responding to and recovering from hostile act emergencies across Western Australia.

The revised plan incorporates stakeholder feedback, clarifies operational roles and responsibilities, aligns recovery arrangements with current state frameworks and updated terminology and governance arrangements to ensure they are contemporary and effective emergency management practices.

State Emergency Management – Impact Statement Guideline and Template

The SEMC approved the new Impact Statement Guideline and Template and revoked the previous guideline and template. The new design is to assist agencies on improved situational awareness, support informed decision-making, and provide greater clarity for agencies during significant emergency incidents. The revised approach offers increased flexibility while ensuring consistent reporting across emergency management arrangements. The decision will deliver a more consistent and contemporary framework for impact assessment, strengthening information sharing, supporting timely recovery planning and improving outcomes for communities affected by emergencies across Western Australia.

Developed through extensive consultation with emergency management agencies, key stakeholders and local governments, the updated approach provides clearer guidance, more consistent assessment methodologies and streamlined reporting processes, helping agencies better understand the social, economic, environmental and infrastructure impacts of emergencies. These

improvements will support more informed decision-making, enhance coordination across the emergency management sector and enable more effective planning for community recovery.

The new Impact Statement Guideline and Template can be found on the SEMC website.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State Emergency Management documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2026:

State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plan Biosecurity - comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency – extension approved by SEMC until August 2026 (37/2026)	State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act – approved by SEMC at October 2026 meeting and published on SEMC website
State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency. Broad consultation closing 20 November 2026	Local Recovery Guideline – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency
State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain – Executive Officer is undertaking targeted consultation with Senior Officials.	Impact Statement Guideline and Template – approved by SEMC at October 2026 meeting and published on SEMC website
State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency. *Communicating in Recovery Guidelines – part of SSP Emergency Public Information review*	State Hazard Plan – Maritime Environmental Emergencies – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency
State Hazard Plan – Collapse – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency	WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency
State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act – comprehensive commenced by Responsible Agency	State Hazard Plan – Heatwave – comprehensive review commenced by responsible agency
State Hazard Plan – Tsunami – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency	State Hazard Plan – Earthquake – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency. Broad consultation closing 18 December 2026
Traffic Management during Emergencies Guideline – responsible agency advised of comprehensive review	District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Handbook – comprehensive review underway by responsible agency

Further information on State Emergency Management Publications, document amendments and current open consultation activities is available via the following links: amendment log, EngageWA or the SEMC website.

Next Meeting of the SEMC

The next meeting of SEMC will be held on 3 December 2026.

Contact Us

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