

SEMC NEWS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 – FEBRUARY 2015



• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

STATE RISK PROJECT BEGINS
DISTRICT-LEVEL ROLLOUT • 2

KIMBERLEY TRANSPORT NETWORKS
EXAMINED DURING DISASTER RESILIENCE
WORKSHOP • 3

DEMYSTIFYING “EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT” JARGON • 4

POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW UPDATE • 4

EM SKILLS AUDIT TO TARGET DEMC AND
LEMC MEMBERS • 5

FORMER CHRISTCHURCH MAYOR TO
SHARE INSIGHT INTO OVERCOMING
DISASTER RECOVERY CHALLENGES • 6

SEMC LAUNCHES AUSTRALASIAN HAZARDS CONFERENCE WEBSITE

The SEMC Secretariat has launched a website providing key information for this year's Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference (ANHMC).

The website, which can be found at www.anhmc.org, provides information and registration details. This year's conference, hosted by the SEMC, will take place on October 13 and 14. Additional workshops are proposed for the 12, 15 and 16th of October.

The theme of this year's conference is Risk Capability and Impact.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for emergency managers, planners, risk assessors, asset managers and scientists to come together to share hazard research and experience.

Anyone interested in presenting at the conference is invited to upload an abstract via the website. Registrations will open shortly.

The theme of this year's Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference, hosted by the SEMC Secretariat, is “Risk, Capability and Impact”.

Hosted by the State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat - Western Australia

8TH AUSTRALASIAN NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

“Risk, Capability & Impact”

PERTH | 2015

www.anhmc.org

Register Soon



WHEN

13 - 14 Oct 2015

Workshops 12th, 15th & 16th



WHERE

PERTH, AUSTRALIA

University Club of WA

SEMC SECRETARIAT

20 Southport Street, West Leederville WA 6007

T. (08) 9482 1700

W. www.semc.wa.gov.au

E. semc.secretariat@semc.wa.gov.au

E. Communications Coordinator: publications@semc.wa.gov.au

STATE RISK PROJECT BEGINS DISTRICT-LEVEL ROLLOUT

The rollout of the State Risk Project for the District level is underway.

The State Risk Project team is scheduled to deliver presentations to District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs) on the following dates:

- 18 February: Wheatbelt DEMC, Northam
- 24 February: South West DEMC, Bunbury
- 10 March: Goldfields DEMC, Kalgoorlie
- 12 March: Great Southern DEMC, Albany
- 14 April: Kimberley DEMC, Broome



Work Sessions on offer to LEMCs

Following some of the DEMC presentations, work sessions are scheduled for the afternoons.

These work sessions are aimed at workshopping the WA Emergency Risk Management Guide.

DOWNLOAD THE NEW STATE RISK PROJECT BROCHURE!

The State Risk Project introductory brochure, containing core information for State, District and Local jurisdictions, has just been released and is available for download [here](#).

The brochure complements the Emergency Risk Management Assessment tools (including the WA Emergency Management Transitional Guide), which are available for download [here](#).



KIMBERLEY TRANSPORT NETWORKS EXAMINED DURING DISASTER RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

On 18 February the Broome Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and the Kimberley District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) held a Transport Network Disaster Resiliency Workshop to look at the resilience of transport networks in the face of the impact of a cyclone in the north.

This workshop looked at lessons from recent disaster events and examined opportunities for where improvements could be made, including a case study of Townsville, Queensland.

The project has been called for by the Western Australian and Queensland governments and is being developed by researchers from Griffith and Curtin University.

The workshop was facilitated by Candia Bruce, who recently facilitated the project workshop in Townsville.

During the workshop the group explored ways to improve the resilience of the transport networks in the Broome region prior, during, and after a disaster.

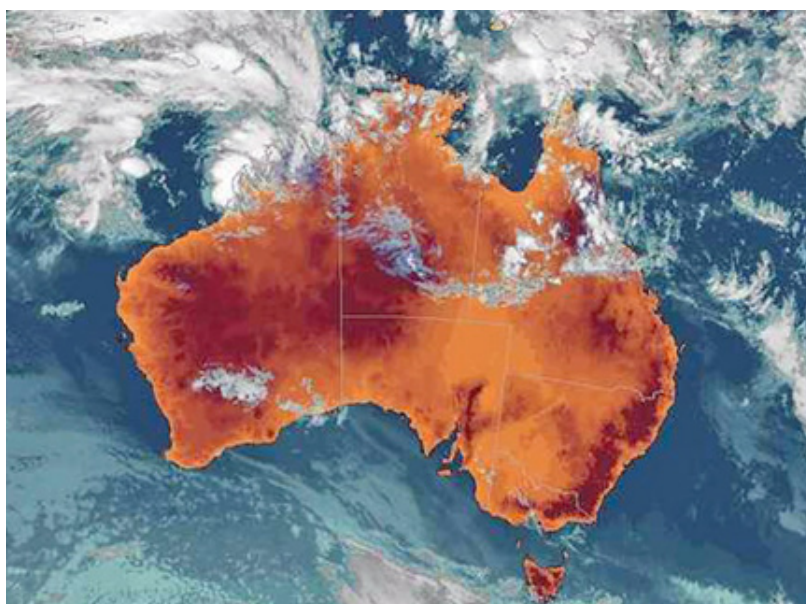
Phil Kuhne, Community Emergency Management Officer (CEMO), Kimberley - Pilbara:

"A resilient city persists in the face of adversities such as natural disasters and continues to deliver its core functions despite these daunting challenges. Much is understood about how to respond to disasters and it is crucial that this knowledge is shared and enhanced."

There was opportunity for the audience to share their visions, ideas, constraints, and opportunities as well as generating actions for the future. The workshop was a valuable opportunity to communicate experiences and enhance disaster responses in Broome and around the State.

The workshop will inform the development of a Broome case study outlining improved disaster preparation and response strategies to be provided to the Western Australian Government.

The research team was made up of researchers from Griffith and Curtin University and are a part of the 'Sustainable Built Environment Natural' Research Centre.



A key objective of the Transport Network Disaster Resiliency Workshop, held by the Broome LEMC and the Kimberley DEMC, was to examine the resilience of transport networks in the face of the impact of a cyclone in the north of the State.

DID YOU KNOW?.... demystifying “emergency management” jargon

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In Western Australia, the management of emergency risks is a shared responsibility governed by a set of laws, policies and practices complete with its unique terminology and acronyms. Two terms: “emergency management” and “emergency services” are often confused.

Emergency **management** encompasses how the state, as a whole, addresses the potential and actual impact of a range of hazards on things we value (such as people, towns and infrastructure) that can readily turn into emergencies. This requires a consistent, coordinated and effective state-wide system to address responsibilities.

This is all underpinned by the Emergency Management Act 2005, which provides for emergency management policy, framework, standards and guidelines across all agencies

and across the State. The State Emergency Management Committee is Western Australia’s peak emergency management body.

Emergency **services** on the other hand are agency specific and deliver day-to-day services (or treatments), that address risks when they emerge.

For example, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), WA Police and WA Health deliver emergency services relevant to their area of expertise. These emergency services are governed by agency specific legislation, for example the DFES Bush Fires Act, Fire Brigades Act and Fire and Emergency Services Acts¹.

For any further information please email policy@semc.wa.gov.au.

¹ DFES are currently reviewing the Emergency Services Acts, with the aim of creating a single comprehensive emergency services act.

POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW UPDATE

Late last year the SEMC endorsed, for consultation purposes, the single policy document. This has allowed the SEMC Secretariat to seek further feedback from a number of agencies.

To date, there has been consistent support for the project, with the aim of simplifying and streamlining the framework viewed very positively.

In March, the combined State Emergency Management policy document will be considered by the SEMC for endorsement, prior to the current individual policy documents being replaced on the SEMC website.

In addition to the stakeholder advisory group, emergency management agencies can expect to be invited to participate in the policy content review which will take place throughout 2015.

Work will also be undertaken during the year to develop the overarching State Emergency Management Plan.

The SEMC Secretariat looks forward to the ongoing participation of the emergency management sector in this project.

EM SKILLS AUDIT TO TARGET DEMC AND LEMC MEMBERS

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat will be conducting a skills audit of the Western Australian emergency management sector as a component of a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) project.

As part of this project we will be sending out a questionnaire, via Survey Monkey, in February/March 2015.

The survey will target District and Local emergency management committee (DEMC and LEMC) members to help us put together an accurate picture of the Emergency Management (EM) skills held by the sector.

The survey will be complemented by in-depth surveys of EM agency training managers and private sector training providers.

For the purpose of the questionnaire, EM skills are NOT the set of occupational skills needed in order to perform day to day duties – for example, paramedical skills for ambulance personnel or fire-fighting skills

for firefighters.

EM skills in this context refer to the skills and knowledge that enable committee members to contribute meaningfully to the work of the LEMC or DEMC such as the ability to work alongside other agencies which you would not normally have contact with, your understanding of EM planning and roles and functions of parties under the Emergency Management Act 2005.

The questionnaire will be sent to selected committee members by either the executive officer of the relevant DEMC or LEMC or their local Community Emergency Management Officer (CEMO).

Members sharing their experience and knowledge is vital to our research so if you receive a survey request please take a few minutes to complete it.

If you would like to participate, please speak with your CEMO to ensure your name is on the list!

SEMC Secretariat CEMOs:

- Ms Yvette Grigg, Goldfields-Midlands Region CEMO.
E. yvette.grigg@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0488 907 187
- Mr Adam Smith, Great Southern Region CEMO.
E. adam.smith@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0429 104 007
- Mr Phil Kuhne, Kimberley-Pilbara Region CEMO.
E. phillip.kuhne@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0409 415 256
- Ms Merveen Cross, Metropolitan Region CEMO.
E. merveen.cross@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0427 996 676
- Mr Vik Cheema, South West Region CEMO.
E. vikram.cheema@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0429 688 130
- Ms Jonelle Tyson, Midwest-Gascoyne Region CEMO.
E. jonelle.tyson@semc.wa.gov.au T. 0408 843 907

BREAKFAST WITH SIR BOB PARKER

FORMER CHRISTCHURCH MAYOR TO SHARE INSIGHT INTO OVERCOMING DISASTER RECOVERY CHALLENGES

In February 2011 the beautiful city of Christchurch, New Zealand was struck by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake, killing 185 people, being the fourth deadliest disaster to ever affect New Zealand.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) invites you to an exclusive breakfast with the former Mayor of Christchurch Sir Bob Parker, who in February 2011 was the media face of the recovery efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake, working with the police and the army and rescue squads, as well as answering the media's questions.

His presentation will highlight the critical issues and challenges New Zealand faced, and what it took to lead the Christchurch community through a disaster of this scale.

Date: Monday, 16 March 2015

Time: 7.30am – 9.30am (registration from 7.00am)

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

Cost: \$120.00 (incl GST)

Register By: Monday, 9 March 2015



Sir Bob Parker will share his Christchurch Earthquake experience with a Perth audience on 16 March 2015.

To download the flyer and register please follow the links below.

[Registration – Breakfast with Sir Bob Parker](#)

[Flyer – Breakfast with Sir Bob Parker](#)

For further information please contact the WALGA Marketing and Events Officer Ulla Wolter, on (08) 9213 2043 or email registration@walga.asn.au.



Images of Christchurch following the magnitude 6.3 earthquake which occurred in February 2011.