



## **Meeting 91 – 5 December 2013 COMMUNIQUÉ**

On 5 December 2013, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) held its fourth and final meeting for the year.

The SEMC endorsed the Health Plan and the Telecommunication Plan, and also endorsed an amendment to the State Storm Plan.

### **October Bushfires**

A detailed presentation was provided by Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons of the NSW Rural Fire Service concerning the response to the October 2013 Bushfires. In the period 13-26 October 2013, there were 1,400 fires, and in the month 164,054 hectares were burnt, 19 Section 44 Emergency Declarations were made and a State of Emergency was declared by the Premier for the period 20-30 October 2013 following the destruction of 216 homes, and damage to a further 129 sheds and outbuildings.

Mr Phil Koperberg, who was appointed Recovery Coordinator of the Blue Mountains Bushfire on 18 October 2013, provided an update about the recovery, noting the enormous work that was undertaken to clean-up all asbestos contaminated material. The rapid and collaborative response by the NSW Government and non-government agencies to the bushfire disaster was also noted. The assistance provided by other jurisdictions was also recognised.

### **Emergency Marker Program**

Mr Des Mooney, General Manager of Land and Property Information gave a briefing on the Emergency Marker Program, with the result being that the NSW Emergency Marker Program – Business Case was endorsed.

### **Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) Course**

Dr Manning of NSW Health advised that work has been done to develop a course to improve the essential techniques and survival skills of medical teams that are deployed overseas. This is in addition to the medical team's clinical knowledge. NSW Health is working with Fire & Rescue NSW to test the mobilisation of the medical and habitat cache.

*The next meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled for 6 March 2014.*