

Meeting 97 – 4 June 2015

COMMUNIQUÉ

On 4 June 2015, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) conducted a Strategic Planning Day to consider strategic issues facing the sector and how it could be improved for the future.

Productivity Commission Reforms

The SEMC agreed a strategic approach to NSW arrangements for mitigation and disaster risk reduction is required to facilitate the assessment, prioritisation and management of NSW's natural disaster risks at the state, regional and local levels.

Emergency Management at Region Level

OEM will lead the review into Regional Emergency Management Planning, Regional Emergency Management Committees and Regional Rescue Committees. The NSW Police Force will lead the review into the roles of Regional Emergency Management Officers.

Local Government Reform

In September 2014, the NSW Government announced the Fit for the Future Local Government reform package to improve the system of Local Government. An update was provided to the SEMC on the changes associated with the reforms. Key details are:

- Possible changes to Local Government boundaries, depending on the outcomes of the Fit for the Future process and the Government response to this;
- The establishment of regional Joint Organisations from September 2016, creating a new mechanism for State and Local Government to work together to improve regional strategic planning, leadership and advocacy, and for Councils to work together to build capacity and share services;
- The Government commitment to creating principles based, enabling legislation for Local Government, based on Integrated Planning and Reporting;
- The possibility of a new service delivery and governance model for Councils in the Far West.

Public Information

The SEMC discussed the evolving nature of social media platforms and the way traditional media use the platforms to obtain and broadcast information. It is imperative that agencies give consideration to how they use both or individual mediums specifically when using these sites or networks to push out information such as warnings, advice or directions during emergencies. Further discussions will occur through the Public Information Functional Area Coordinator meetings.

State Emergency and Rescue Management Act

The *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* is currently being reviewed. The two key issues recommended for consideration were a reliable definition of emergency and the issue of protections for private industry workers in emergency events.

Amalgamation of Emergency Management Arrangements

The SEMC endorsed the amalgamation of the Local Emergency Management Committees for Bombala, Cooma Monaro and Snowy River for the purpose of emergency management.

Broken Hill Water Supply

The SEMC was provided with an update on the water supply issue affecting Broken Hill. The NSW Office of Water are working with stakeholders to secure the ongoing supply of water to the Broken Hill township. For further updates on Broken Hill see the attached link to the NSW Office of Water website at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/>.

The next meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled for 10 September 2015.

ENDS