

Meeting 108 – 1 March 2018 COMMUNIQUÉ

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) held its first meeting of the year on Thursday 1 March 2018.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Capability

The Telecommunications Authority presented on recent national PSMB capability development activities. The multi-jurisdictional PSMB Senior Officials Committee and its Functional Working Group have continued progress towards developing a nationally interoperable PSMB capability. This includes the establishment of PSMB National Objectives and High-Level Requirements.

Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC and University of Wollongong Research Findings

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) engaged Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC and the University of Wollongong to conduct research looking at the community response, warnings and attitudes around planning and preparedness. Findings indicated that the majority of people found warnings easy to understand, up-to-date and useful, and that there was a preference for highly localised information.

In response to the findings, NSWRFS are making further improvements to public information and warnings, including enhancements to the Fires Near Me application and targeted engagement activities for farming communities.

State Heatwave Plan

The SEMC endorsed the revised State Heatwave Plan. The State Heatwave Plan is available at www.emergency.nsw.gov.au.

State Flood Plan

The SEMC endorsed the revised the State Flood Plan. The State Flood Plan is available at www.emergency.nsw.gov.au.

State Storm Plan

The State Storm Plan will be reviewed and submitted to the SEMC in September 2018.

Review of Sub and Supporting Plans

An update on progress of the status of reviews of Sub and Supporting Plans was considered by the Committee.

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Report on National Emergency Forums

Members were updated regarding the Australia – New Zealand Emergency Management Committee's (ANZEMC) February 2018 meeting and other matters raised via national forums.

Liquid Fuel Resilience Strategy

The Energy and Utilities Services Functional Area's 'Liquid Fuel Resilience Strategy' will establish a register of liquid fuel requirements of Emergency Services Agencies and functional areas, to ensure that essential services and sensitive loads are managed effectively during an emergency situation or system black incident.

Local Resilience Strategy

The Local Resilience Strategy (LRS) is a suite of programs managed by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The LRS will strengthen existing local emergency management arrangements and build new networks and capabilities at the community and local government level in the planning, preparedness, response and recovery phases. The LRS will involve pilot rollouts which will be refined based on feedback and close collaboration with local councils and emergency service organisations.

SEMC Strategic Planning

The Office of Emergency Management will hold a Strategic Planning Workshop in mid 2018, to identify SEMC's strategic Priorities and develop a coordinated strategic workplan for the next five to ten years.

The next State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled for 7 June 2018.