

## Meeting 95 – 4 December 2014

# COMMUNIQUÉ

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 4 December 2014.

### **Ebola Presentation**

Dr Kerry Chant and Dr Jeremy McAnulty provided a presentation on the Ebola outbreak in Africa and the challenges West Africa face due to the absence of basic medical services. There have been no cases of the disease in Australia. Returned workers or travellers are being monitored. It was noted the risk of widespread transmission is low. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates 70% of transmissions are due to cultural practices handling dead bodies. There has been significant preparedness in NSW including plans, guidelines and medical procedures.

The NSW Health website provides further information on the Ebola virus disease <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/EVD.aspx>.

### **Sydney CBD Emergency Sub Plan**

The draft Plan was endorsed subject to changes discussed at the meeting. The Plan will be available at the March 2015 meeting for final approval.

### **Emergency Alert – Optus & Vodafone 4G Compatibility**

An update was provided on the Optus and Vodafone 4G network compatibility of the Emergency Alert system. Currently, Optus and Vodafone 4G customers may only be able to receive an Emergency Alert message when they are in a warning area covered by the two carriers' 4G networks and they have made/received a call or sent/received a text message in the hour before.

This usage causes a 4G mobile to revert to the 2G/3G networks, where Optus' and Vodafone's Emergency Alert Location Based Solutions can detect its location.

Without this usage the Optus and Vodafone Emergency Alert system may not be able to detect a 4G mobile on their 4G networks. As a result, the 4G mobile may not receive an emergency warning message.

All mobile phones revert to the 2G/3G networks when outside 4G coverage, so there is no problem in this scenario. The Committee recommended steps to be taken to address this deficiency.

### **Future EMA Pre Season Briefings**

The proposal for joining the Emergency Management Australia (EMA) briefing and the September State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was approved by members at

the meeting. It was noted that combining the two meetings would reduce duplication of the pre-season discussions at both the EMA and September SEMC and will ensure the attendance of all representatives. Members acknowledged the joining of the two meetings for an extraordinary meeting to occur in September may extend the time of the SEMC.

### **Recovery Outcomes of the Hawkesbury Nepean September Exercise**

An update was provided by the Deputy SERCON on the recovery outcomes of the Hawkesbury Nepean September Exercise.

### **Impact Assessment Framework (Recovery)**

The NSW Impact Assessment Project was established to produce an integrated, multi-agency, whole-of-government approach to data collection, sharing and analysis spanning the entirety of a disaster event.

An update was provided to the SEMC on the progress of the NSW Impact Assessment Project.

### **Recovery Strategy**

The revised NSW Recovery Plan under the NSW Recovery Strategy and supporting arrangements were presented to the Committee. The members were advised 30 submissions were received and significant consultation undertaken.

The Committee noted the changing nature of Recovery, and that the Strategy is based on issues identified in debriefings following each recovery operation.

Both the Final Draft NSW Recovery Plan and the Final Draft Recovery Operations Manual were endorsed by the all members. The Plan will continue to be reviewed over the disaster season to ensure the Plan is fit for purpose. If required, a further review will take place.

### **Kooragang Island Precinct Sub Plan**

The draft Plan was endorsed by all Members subject to further consultation and changes discussed at the meeting. Further discussions are likely to occur at the next meeting in March 2015.

### **Blue Mountains Recovery Coordinator Report**

The Blue Mountains Recovery Coordinator Report was endorsed by all Members. The report makes a number of key observations covering:

- Recovery planning and coordination
- Management and funding of clean up operations; and
- Engagement with the insurance industry.

The report can be found at <http://www.mpes.nsw.gov.au/home.html>.

**SEMC Annual Report 2013 – 2014**

The SEMC Annual Report 2013 – 2014 was endorsed by all Members. It will be made available once approved by the Minister and tabled in Parliament

**National Exercise Odysseus**

The Agriculture Functional Area Coordinator provided a presentation to the members on Exercise Odysseus being one of a series of exercises supporting National Livestock Standstill Exercise based on the Foot & Mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. The presentation was noted by all members.

**Annexure 10 of EMPLAN**

The SEMC endorsed the revision of the section of Annexure 10 of the EMPLAN to specify greater responsibilities for the Engineering Functional Area, with greater detail provided around where they will provide specialist advice, and including the coordination of asbestos cleanup and the establishment of Community Recovery Centres.

*The State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled to next meet on 5 March 2015.*