



Meeting 93 – 5 June 2014 COMMUNIQUÉ

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 5 June 2014.

The SEMC approved the first iteration of the Major Evacuation Centre Guideline, and endorsed the revised Welfare Services Plan and State Bush Fire Plan. Amendments to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Plan (endorsed in September 2013) were also endorsed.

Morwell Fire Presentation

Mr Tony Murphy AFSM, of the Victorian Fire Services Commissioner provided an overview of the significant issues encountered in combating the Hazelwood Mine Fire at Morwell in February and March 2014. This fire had a 3.5 kilometre front, and required 7,000 fire fighters working over 45 days to extinguish.

Step by Step Blue Mountains Bushfire Support Service

Ms Anne Crestani, Manager of the Step by Step Bushfire Support Service gave a presentation on the work conducted by the service since its inception on 8 November 2013.

This was the first significant support service of this type established in NSW following a disaster. In the first six months of operation, 415 clients were engaged, with over 2,800 referrals made.

Recent Weather and Forecast Conditions

The NSW Rural Fire Service gave a brief presentation about forecast weather conditions. This followed the hotter and drier May that was experienced, with predictions being a warmer and drier winter to come. The NSW RFS will disseminate information and conduct pre-season briefings in August in response to the likely early onset of the bush fire danger period.

Blue Mountains Recovery Operations and Lessons Learned

Ms Rachel Nibbs, Deputy State Emergency Recovery Controller gave an overview of the recovery operations in the Blue Mountains. Of note, was the recognition of increasing community expectations when it comes to recovering from a disaster.

Hawkesbury Nepean Taskforce and Exercise

A brief update was provided of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Review, which is looking to implement the priorities identified from Stage I of the Review.

Also discussed was the state-level Hawkesbury Nepean Exercise, held on 3 June 2014. It was agreed that this was well attended by most SEMC-Member agencies, and valuable insights were gained into the coordinated response of the sector.

The State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled to next meet on 17 September 2014.