



Meeting 90 – 12 September 2013

COMMUNIQUÉ

On 12 September 2013, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) held its third meeting for the year.

The SEMC endorsed the State Storm Plan and the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Plan and approved the Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan.

Pre-Season Briefing

The NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner provided a seasonal outlook for the upcoming bush fire season.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons advised that there had been over 1,300 fires since 1 June 2013, and that NSW had experienced an unusually warm winter, with August experiencing its lowest number of rain days. Commissioner Fitzsimmons advised that it is likely to be a difficult fire season.

Service NSW

Mr Steve Griffin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer from Service NSW provided a brief presentation. Service NSW is establishing one-stop-shop fronts which will become single points of contact for the NSW Government.

Service NSW also commenced operating a 24 hour telephone hotline, which will receive increased promotion. It was broadly agreed that further dialogue needs to occur to determine how Service NSW can assist the emergency management sector and vice versa.

Disaster Resilience

Ms Wendy Graham, Director of Resilience and Planning at the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services gave a presentation on disaster resilience. A recent workshop on resilience hosted by the Ministry identified that a number of agencies are working in this field, and that there would be benefits to developing a common introductory resilience module (for training purposes) that all agencies could build upon for their needs.

Emergency Alert

A discussion about the use of Emergency Alert in NSW resulted in broad agreement that the current frequency of its usage was appropriate. It was also agreed that Emergency Alert should not be solely relied upon for public messaging, particularly as the infrastructure that it relies upon is susceptible to damage during disasters.

The next meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee is scheduled for 5 December 2013.