



NSW State Emergency Management Committee

Annual Report 2018-2019

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 17 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* to describe the work and activities of the State Emergency Management Committee during the financial year 2018-19.

The report has been produced by the Office of Emergency Management, NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

All photographs within have been used with permission of the contributors (Office of Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, and NSW Police).

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Introduction

Foreword

From the SEMC Chair

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* to ensure that New South Wales has robust, effective and flexible arrangements in place to cope with any emergency that occurs. The Committee plays a lead role in coordinating efforts to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters of all kinds and across all agencies.

The 2018-19 period once again brought about challenges to test NSW emergency arrangements with a long bushfire season causing significant fires along the North Coast in August 2018 and up to Northern NSW in February 2019. A severe storm season in December 2018 caused significant damage across much of NSW.

I commend the commitment of the emergency service workers and volunteers who worked tirelessly to provide assistance to all affected communities.

During 2018, the SEMC undertook a strategic reform process. The aim was to identify a unifying vision of building a more disaster resilient NSW, and to set out actions to achieve that vision within the SEMC Strategic Plan.

The SEMC Strategic Plan 2019-2021 sets key priorities and strategies for the next three years. These are:

- Risk reduction
- Capability
- Community engagement and preparedness

- Assurance

The implementation of priority projects ensures that the SEMC is prepared for the increasingly significant impact of climate change, land-use planning and infrastructure on emergency management.

Importantly, as part of the reform process a series of actions have been endorsed that will align SEMC strategic priorities with regional and local levels.

In addition, key projects that were progressed during the year included the endorsement and publication of the:

- NSW State Tsunami Plan
- Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan
- Botany Bay Precinct Emergency Sub Plan
- Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan
- Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Emergency Plan.
- NSW Cyber Security Emergency Incident Sub Plan.

I would like to thank SEMC members who left during 2018-19 for their significant contributions to the committee.

The SEMC remains committed in its work to provide safe and secure communities. I look forward to continuing to work with the SEMC to enhance emergency management and ensure a more resilient NSW.

Andrew Cappie-Wood

Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

Part 1: State Emergency Management Committee

Role and Functions

The SEMC is established under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

As at 30 June 2019, the Minister responsible for administering the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* is the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Emergency Services.

In accordance with section 15 of that Act, the SEMC has the following functions:

- To advise the Minister on all matters relating to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies (including the coordination of those activities of government and non-government agencies in connection with those matters).
- To review, monitor and advise the Minister on the adequacy of the provisions of this Act relating to emergency management.
- To provide strategic policy advice to the Minister in relation to emergency management.
- To review, monitor and develop emergency management policy and practice at a state level and to disseminate information in relation to any such policy and practice.
- To review the NSW State Emergency Management Plan and to recommend alterations to it.
- To endorse any sub plans or supporting plans established under the NSW State Emergency Management Plan.
- To facilitate strategic State level emergency management capability through interagency coordination, cooperation and information sharing arrangements.
- Such other functions as conferred or imposed on the Committee by or under the Act or as are related to this Act and

assigned to the Committee from time to time by the Minister.

The SEMC membership consists of:

- the State Emergency Operations Controller,
- the State Emergency Recovery Controller,
- the chief executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW,
- the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW,
- the Commissioner of Police,
- the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service,
- the Commissioner of the State Emergency Service,
- representatives of such relevant government and non-government agencies as the Minister may from time to time determine, and
- such other persons as may be nominated by the Minister from time to time.

In addition to the Emergency Services, nine functional areas coordinate functional support for emergency operations in accordance with the SERM Act. These functional areas are:

- Agricultural & Animal Services
- Energy & Utility Services
- Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Health Services
- Public Information Services
- Telecommunications Services
- Transport Services
- Welfare Services

The Act also establishes Regional and Local Emergency Management Committees whose primary role is to prepare emergency management plans for their region or local areas.

Changes to Emergency Management Legislation

The *Emergency Services Legislation Amendments Bill 2018* made a number of amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

These changes enhanced and modernised New South Wales' disaster response and recovery arrangements. It provides a clear and statutory basis for the broad range of emergency management functions undertaken by emergency services and has also made miscellaneous amendments to reflect modern operational emergency management practices, terminology and structures.

These changes include:

- The express recognition of Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Volunteer Association, and Surf Life Saving New South Wales as emergency service organisations within the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*;
- amending the definition of emergency to include a failure of, or significant disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure;
- abolishing the State Disasters Council and transfer its functions to the SEMC and to decorporatise the State Rescue Board;
- updates the membership of the SEMC;
- provisions to permit the Premier to publish on the internet an order declaring a state of emergency;
- requirements for the personnel register of a rescue unit to be provided to the State Rescue Board on request (rather than every 6 months);
- provisions to protect employees who take part in emergency operations from victimisation;
- protections for government sector employees and members (and members of staff) of emergency services organisations from personal liability for executing the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*; and
- provisions to expand the class of persons who can give directions to take safety measures.

SEMC Membership

Members as at 30 June 2019

State Emergency Operations Controller

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy

State Emergency Recovery Controller

Mr Feargus O'Connor

NSW Ambulance

Commissioner Dominic Morgan

Fire & Rescue NSW

Commissioner Paul Baxter

NSW Rural Fire Service

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons

NSW State Emergency Service

A/Commissioner Kyle Stewart

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

Commissioner Mark Gibson

Marine Rescue NSW

Commissioner Stacey Tannos

Department of Premier & Cabinet

Ms Kristina Hickey

Maritime Combat Agencies

Mr Shayne Wilde

NSW Treasury

Mr David Withey

Office of Local Government

Ms Daniela Heubusch

Agricultural & Animal Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Peter Day

Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Ronan Purcell

Engineering Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Martin Dwyer

Environment Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Stephen Beaman

Health Services Functional Area Coordinator

Dr Gary Tall

Public Information Services Functional Area Coordinator

Sergeant Kevin Daley

Telecommunications Services Functional Area Coordinator

Ms Kylie De Courteney

Transport Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Greg Nott

Welfare Services Functional Area Coordinator

Mr Matthew McFarlane

Changes to SEMC Membership

The following members were farewelled in 2018-19:

- Commissioner Mark Smethurst, NSW State Emergency Service
- Ms Kate Foy, Telecommunications Services Functional Area Coordinator
- Mr Greg Nott, Transport Services Functional Area Coordinator (term finished 30 June 2019).

SEMC Meetings

During the reporting period ending 30 June 2019, SEMC members held the following meetings:

- Meeting 110 – 13 September 2018
- Meeting 111 – 6 December 2018
- Meeting 112 – 21 March 2018
- Meeting 113 – 20 June 2019

Out-of-session, a SEMC Strategic Planning meeting was held on 5 July 2018.

Attendance at SEMC Meetings

Member	110	111	112	113	Represented by proxy (No. of meetings)
State Emergency Operations Controller			✓	✓	2
State Emergency Recovery Controller (or Acting)	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
NSW Ambulance	✓	✓	✓		1
Fire & Rescue NSW	✓	✓		✓	1
NSW Rural Fire Service	✓	✓		✓	1
NSW State Emergency Service	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Marine Rescue NSW	✓	✓			1
Department of Premier & Cabinet	✓		✓		2
Maritime Combat Agencies	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
NSW Treasury					2
Office of Local Government	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Agricultural and Animal Services	✓		✓		2
Energy & Utilities Services		✓	✓	✓	1
Engineering Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Environment Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Health Services		✓		✓	2
Public Information Services		✓	✓		1
Telecommunications Services			✓	✓	2
Transport Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Welfare Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

Part 2:

Strategic Development

SEMC Strategic Plan 2019-2021

The SEMC Strategic Plan 2019-2021 was developed in consultation with key stakeholders from both within and outside the emergency management sector at state, regional, local and national levels.

The SEMC endorsed the adoption of four key priority areas of action:

- Risk Reduction,
- Capability,
- Community Engagement & Preparedness, and
- Assurance.

The SEMC Strategic Plan 2019-2021 was endorsed at SEMC 110 in September 2018. Other significant reform outcomes identified in the Strategic Plan are outlined below:

New business cycle

The SEMC adopted a new business cycle. The new business cycle emphasises the role of the SEMC in setting strategic priorities through its strategic plan, and taking an ongoing monitoring and evaluation role.

Extended membership

The SEMC agreed to expand membership to incorporate additional expertise around resilience and risk, and improving alignment with policy areas that are having an increasingly significant impact within emergency management, such as climate change, land-use planning and infrastructure.

Sub-Committee Reform

To assist in delivering its new strategic objectives, the SEMC reformed its sub-committee structure and retired the existing Mitigation and Capability Sub-committees. SEMC established three new sub-committees

which have each been linked to a specific priority within the Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022: Risk and Resilience; Capability Development; and Community Engagement.

State Exercise Plan 2019-2021

In December 2018, the SEMC approved the State Exercise Plan. The strategic planning meeting in 2018 identified the need to exercise regularly occurring hazards at the catastrophic level to test planning, capability and capacity assumptions.

In 2018-19, the SEMC prepared for Exercise Deerubbin to test emergency management arrangements in the case of a major flooding incident.

The State Exercise Plan was developed to test planning, capability and capacity against the impacts of severe and catastrophic scenarios at state and regional levels based on the priorities identified in the 2017 State Level Risk Assessment.

The Capability Development Sub-Committee is responsible for the maintenance and amendment of the State Exercise Plan and advising any affected stakeholders.

The State Exercise Program Policy is subject to review every three years, or as directed by the SEMC, to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the SEMC and the broader emergency management and search & rescue community.

Lessons Management Framework

In March 2019, the SEMC endorsed the Lessons Management Framework. The Framework was developed to create a consistent and robust foundation for

Exercise Deerubbin

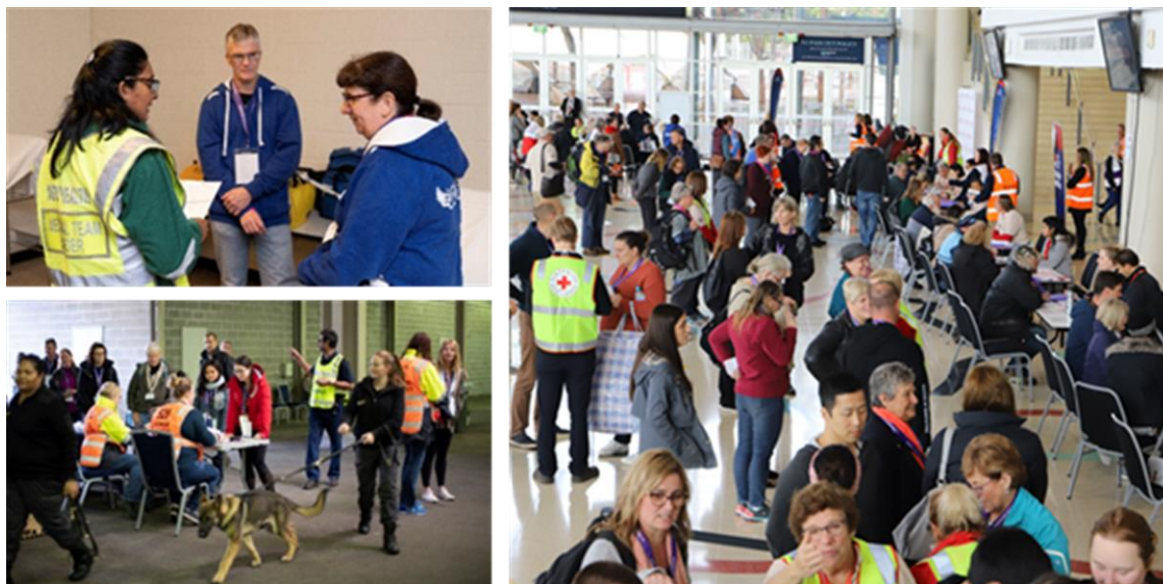
The 2017 State Level Risk Assessment identified flood as a priority hazard. A major flooding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system would create catastrophic impacts and consequences in NSW.

Exercise Deerubbin was designed to exercise command and control, consequence management, and recovery arrangements in the event of catastrophic flooding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system over three phases.

- Phase 1 (18 June 2019) – Response
- Phase 2 (26 June 2019) – Mass Evacuation
- Phase 3 (3 July 2019) – Recovery

The exercise involved more than 25 NSW government agencies and volunteer organisations and an estimated 500 role-players and emergency service responders.

The outcomes of the exercise will be reported back to the SEMC in 2019-20.



implementing lessons management across the sector.

The framework supports the development and delivery of:

- guidelines, tools and resources for lessons management;
- guidance on sharing of data, information and lessons;
- processes for moving towards lessons learned;
- leadership and cultural requirements to support learning;
- appropriate governance, monitoring and reporting practices for lessons management;

- guidance on organisational support for lessons management sponsorship, expertise and champions; and
- a shared repository of lessons for the emergency management sector.

Local Emergency Management Planning

In September 2018, the SEMC noted the recommendations of the Local Emergency Management Plan Review and endorsed the Local Emergency Management Information Guide.

The Guide facilitates consistent, high quality emergency management plans that are compliant with the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

The Local Emergency Management Information Guide has been developed as a principal resource for Local Emergency Management Committee members. The Information Guide was developed in

consultation with LEMOs, REMOs and LEMC stakeholders.

The Local Emergency Management Plan Review also recommended that opportunities to improve and simplify the local EMPLAN process be investigated, including updating associated guidelines and resources. This work will be undertaken by the Risk and Resilience Sub-Committee.

Part 3: Emergency Management Plans

The State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) is supported by sub and supporting plans which are reviewed and endorsed by SEMC every five years.

Sub Plans

A Sub Plan is an action plan required for a specific hazard, or event. Sub Plans may be prepared when the emergency management arrangements necessary to deal a hazard or requirements of an event differ from the general coordination arrangements set out in the main or supporting plans for the area.

The tables below list the Sub plans endorsed or under review in this reporting period ending 30 June 2019.

Sub Plan	Lead Agency	Status
NSW State Tsunami Plan	NSW State Emergency Service	Endorsed at SEMC 110 on 13 September 2018. The NSW State Tsunami Plan was reviewed in consultation with all SEMC agencies, local government councils and additional agencies as listed in the plan.
NSW Cyber Security Emergency Incident Sub Plan	NSW Government Chief Information Security Officer	Endorsed at SEMC 111 on 6 December 2018. The NSW Cyber Security Incident Emergency Sub Plan is a whole-of-government plan for significant cyber security incidents or crises affecting NSW Government organisations. The Sub Plan describes the interaction between the cyber security community, business continuity personnel and the emergency management sector to reduce impacts to NSW Government services, assets and infrastructure, coordinate information flow between agencies, and communicate to the public in relation to these events.
Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan	Fire and Rescue NSW	Endorsed at SEMC 112 on 21 March 2019. The Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan was reviewed in consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW and the SEMC and taking into account provisions of the State Rescue Policy.

Sub Plan	Lead Agency	Status
Botany Bay Precinct Emergency Sub Plan	NSW Police	<p>Endorsed by SEMC out-of-session in June 2019.</p> <p>The Botany Bay Precinct Emergency Sub Plan was prepared by an authorised Sub Committee and Sydney Metropolitan REMC in a cooperative arrangement involving SEMC agencies, local council and Bayside LEOCON.</p>
Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan	NSW Police	<p>Endorsed by SEMC out-of-session in June 2019.</p> <p>The Lucas Heights Emergency Sub Plan was prepared by an authorised Sub Committee and Sydney Metropolitan REMC in a cooperative arrangement involving SEMC agencies, local council and Sutherland Shire LEOCON.</p>
NSW Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Emergency Plan	Fire and Rescue NSW	<p>Endorsed at SEMC 113 on 20 June 2019.</p> <p>The NSW Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Sub Plan has been reviewed by the CBRN & Hazardous Materials Advisory Group and updated to reflect current policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Sub Plan was endorsed at the Capability Development Sub Committee meeting in May 2019.</p> <p>The Asbestos Sub Plan has been incorporated as an annexure in the Sub Plan.</p>
Natural Gas Supply Disruption Response Sub Plan	Energy and Utility Services Functional Area	Under Review.
Sydney CBD Safety Sub Plan	NSW Police	Under Review.

Supporting Plans

Supporting Plans are prepared by a NSW Government agency or Functional Area, which describes the support which is to be provided to the coordinating authority during emergency operations. They are an action plan to describe how the agency or Functional Area will operate in order to fulfil the roles and responsibilities allocated to them during an event.

The tables below list the Supporting Plans endorsed or under review in this reporting period ending 30 June 2019.

Supporting Plan	Lead Agency	Status
Public Information Services Functional Area Supporting Plan	Public Information Functional Area	Endorsed at SEMC 112 on 21 March 2019. The Public Information Services Functional Area Supporting Plan was reviewed in consultation with members of the Public Information Functional Area Sub Committee.
Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan	Environmental Services Functional Area	Endorsed at SEMC 113 on 20 June 2019. The review of the Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan involved significant consultation across participating and supporting agencies, and SEMC, REMC and LEMC members.

Regional Plans

Region Emergency Management Committees are responsible for preparing plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies in their region.

The table below list the Regional plans endorsed or under review in this reporting period ending 30 June 2019.

Regional Plan	Lead Agency	Status
South Eastern Regional Emergency Management Plan	South Eastern REMC	Endorsed at SEMC 110 on 13 September 2018. The South Eastern REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 23 July 2018.
North West Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan	North West Metropolitan REMC	Endorsed at SEMC 111 on 6 December 2018. The North West Metropolitan REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 27 June 2018.
Illawarra South Coast Regional Emergency Management Plan	Illawarra South Coast REMC	Endorsed at SEMC 111 on 6 December 2018. The Illawarra South Coast REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 6 September 2018.
Central West Regional Emergency Management Plan	Central West REMC	Endorsed at SEMC 111 on 6 December 2018. The Central West REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 6 September 2018.
New England Regional Emergency Management Plan	New England REMC	Endorsed at SEMC 111 on 6 December 2018. The New England REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 12 March 2019.
North Coast Regional Emergency Management Plan	North Coast REMC	Endorsed by SEMC out-of-session in June 2019. The North Coast REMC endorsed the REMPLAN at their meeting on 28 November 2018.

Part 4: Sub-Committee and Working Group Reports

Sub-Committees

Schedule 2 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* allows the SEMC to establish committees to assist it in connection with the exercise of any of its functions.

In 2018-19, the SEMC reformed its sub-committee structure to reflect its priorities as identified in the SEMC Strategic Plan 2019-2021.

The Risk and Resilience, Capability Development, and Community Engagement sub-committees were established and endorsed by the SEMC in September 2018.

Existing working and advisory groups were restructured to align to the new sub-committee structure. The Mitigation and Capability sub-committees were closed at SEMC 110 in September 2018.

Organisational Chart of SEMC Sub-committees as at 30 June 2019



Risk and Resilience Sub-Committee

Chair: Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, NSW Rural Fire Service

Deputy Chair: Mr Jim Henry, Director Emergency Management Capability and Planning, OEM

The Risk and Resilience Sub-Committee (RRSC) provides advice, recommendations and strategic direction to the SEMC on matters relating to disaster risk reduction and resilience at local, regional and state levels and data needs across the emergency management sector. The RRSC held its inaugural meeting on 27 November 2018.

The RRSC endorsed the establishment of the following three new working/advisory groups to directly support its key priorities:

- Data Working Group
- Land Use Planning Advisory Group
- Climate Change Advisory Group

The RRSC also has oversight of the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Advisory Group which replaced the existing Critical Infrastructure Review Working Group. The terms of reference and membership were updated to reflect the new sub-committee structure.

Capability Development Sub-Committee

Chair: A/Commissioner Kyle Stewart, NSW State Emergency Service

Deputy Chair: Mr Jim Henry, Director Emergency Management Capability and Planning, OEM

The Capability Development Sub-Committee (CDSC) advises the SEMC on matters relating to capability development, planning and innovation; learning and development, and exercise management. The CDSC held its inaugural meeting on 19 November 2018.

The CDSC has oversight of the following working and advisory groups:

- Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Group
- Exercise Advisory Group
- Lessons Management Working Group
- CBRN and Hazardous Materials Advisory Group
- Training Advisory Group

The terms of reference and membership of these existing groups were updated to reflect the new sub-committee structure.

The CDSC also endorsed the establishment of two new working groups to directly support its workplan: the Local Government Emergency Management Capability Working Group and Emergency Operational Centre Working Group.

In 2018-19, the CDSC endorsed the Capability Development Framework and Implementation Plan which will support achieving the key priority of identifying and prioritising the required capabilities to manage major to catastrophic emergencies that will require a multi-agency effort.

Community Engagement Sub-Committee

Chair: Ms Wendy Graham, Deputy SERCON

Deputy Chair: Mr Anthony Clark, NSW Rural Fire Service

The Community Engagement Sub-Committee (CESC) advises the SEMC on matters relating to community engagement, warnings, and community information, and develops and evaluates whole of government policy and initiatives regarding warnings and public information across a range of hazards. The CESC held its inaugural meeting on 7 November 2018.

The CESC has oversight of the Public Information and Warnings Working Group.

In 2018-19, the CESC began development of the Community Engagement Framework and Strategy. This work will continue in 2019-20.

Working and Advisory Groups

Each Working Group and Advisory Group reports to the SEMC on their annual activities. As of January 2019, reports for working and advisory groups were delivered to their relevant sub-committees.

The information below reflects their activities from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Working Group/ Advisory Group	Key achievements and updates
<p>Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) and Hazardous Materials Advisory Group</p> <p>Objective: To develop, maintain, and review the CBRN and HAZMAT multi-agency prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities within NSW.</p>	<p>Key achievements and updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and updated the NSW Hazardous Materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Emergency Plan for endorsement by the SEMC. Participated in the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Capability Exercise (CAPEX) in October 2018 with specialists from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States. CAPEX is designed to expose capability gaps and identify practical solutions that enhance detection, protection, investigation, decontamination and communications.
<p>Exercise Working Group</p> <p>Objective: To recommend strategic direction, review exercise proposals of state and regional significance, and to oversee the administration of exercise funding.</p>	<p>Key achievements and updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed funding for state, regional, and local emergency management exercises, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Lumen Tenebris (Sydney): A state functional exercise was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the Electricity Supply Emergency Sub Plan during a state-wide black out. Exercise Effervescent Shield (Sydney): A state level discussion exercise was conducted to establish and formalise the NSW Government Cyber Security Incident Emergency Sub Plan. Exercise Orange Juice (Griffith): A state level discussion exercise was conducted to review and evaluate NSW preparedness to a detection of the exotic pest citrus canker. Exercise Hot Cross Border (Broken Hill): A regional level discussion exercise was conducted to establish and reaffirm relationships and procedures between emergency service organisations across NSW, SA and QLD, to combat a severe bushfire across borders. Exercise Stayput (Lismore): A regional discussion exercise was conducted to increase knowledge and preparedness to respond to communities needs during longer term isolations as a result of significant flooding. Exercise Barrington SAREX (Barrington Wilderness Area): A regional level field search and rescue exercise was conducted to evaluate the multi-agency response, deployment and coordination to a remote area.

Working Group/ Advisory Group

Key achievements and updates

Exercise Working Group *Cont.*

- Exercise Starship (Dubbo) and Exercise Starship Enterprise (Mudgee): Local discussion exercises were conducted where LEMC agencies, functional areas, service providers, local Council and local businesses could self-assess their Disaster Readiness and ability to support their community.

Lessons Management Working Group

Objective:

To lead the design and delivery of an emergency management Lessons Management System.

Key achievements and updates:

- Developed the Lessons Management Framework and support tools including the State Level Data Collection Plan and Tool for endorsement by the SEMC.

Training Advisory Group

Objective:

To provide advice and strategic guidance to the SEMC and its member agencies to ensure that multi-agency emergency management training that is developed, delivered and evaluated aligns with NSW emergency management arrangements.

Key achievements and updates:

- Reviewed the training provisions in the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and EMPLAN to identify improvements to better support capability building and emergency management training in NSW.
- Developed the NSW Emergency Management Professionals Capability Set that identifies the common and core capability standards for Emergency Management professionals in NSW to support the training framework, incorporating NSW Public Sector Capability Framework and also informed by local, national and international emergency management competency trends.
- Established the mentor program, with 14 nominated mentors participating from seven SEMC member agencies.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Advisory Working Group

Objective:

To responsible for sharing information, advise the SEMC on strategic USAR capability issues, develop a multi-agency exercise program, and support Fire & Rescue NSW as the combat agency.

Key achievements and updates:

- Contributed to the integration of Disaster Assistance Response teams (DART) and USAR activities across the Asia Pacific Region as tasked by the United Nations Asia Pacific Regional Committee. This work included:
 - Mentored the New Zealand USAR/DART team for their reclassification as a heavy team. This work will continue past 30 June 2019.
 - Mentored personnel from the Thailand Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation for their 2019 earthquake exercise.
 - Evaluated the Singapore USAR team as international USAR classifiers and attended for the team's heavy reclassification.
- Reviewed and updated the Major Structural Collapse Sub Plan for endorsement by the SEMC.

Part 5: Functional Area Reports

The SEMC is supported by nine functional areas established to coordinate the provision of functional support for emergency management activities.

Each functional area reports to the SEMC on their annual activities. The table below highlights their activities during the reporting period ending 30 June 2019.

Functional Area	Key achievements and updates
Agricultural & Animal Services Functional Area Representative: Mr Peter Day	Preparedness and prevention activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted two Multi-Agency Incident Management Team courses in conjunction with the Forestry Corporation, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and ACT Emergency Services Agency.• Piloted online and face to face training for field operations across primary production and the animal portfolio. The training prepares field operators to provide immediate assistance to landholders in event of natural disaster or biosecurity emergency.• Conducted a program of Foot and Mouth disease preparedness along with partner agencies. The program focusses on key policy, planning and operational preparedness measures, and aims to prepare NSW to identify and eradicate an outbreak within the state and/or Commonwealth. Significant operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responded to a number of small plant and animal pest and disease outbreaks, and invasive species incursions in the state.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nodavirus in Australian Bass – Port Stephens• Yellow Crazy Ants – Lismore• Salmonella Enteritidis in poultry – Sydney• Citrus Canker – Northern Territory (provision of support and surveillance in NSW).• Plague locust – Upper Hunter and small outbreaks in other regions.• Provided support the NSW Rural Fire Service with responses to bush fires by providing assistance to animal owners and primary producers in the form of care of evacuated animals, emergency fodder and water, and assessment of animals and impact.• Coordinated a number of damage and impact assessments relating to storm incidents across the state. Staff also and assisted landholders to collate and assess affects to primary production.

Significant Operations

Sydney Hailstorm

From 13 to 20 December 2018, a number of NSW communities were affected by severe thunderstorms. Over 2000 homes were affected, with 11 homes destroyed.

Operational Response

The NSW SES received over 4000 requests for assistance. Over 120 storm damage teams were deployed to provide assistance and support to affected communities. The NSW SES was supported by personnel from NSW RFS, FRNSW, and NSW Police.

Energy & Utilities Functional Area staff were deployed to assist in the response to significant power outages during and following the event. Telecommunications Services Functional Area

staff worked with FRNSW and carriers to restore telecommunications coverage to affected areas.

Recovery

Resilience & Recovery staff provided direct support to Liverpool and Hornsby Councils by assisting to conduct an emergency meeting of the LEMCs.

Welfare Functional Area staff opened Disaster Welfare Assistance Points at Chipping Norton and Berowra.

The Welfare Functional Area received over fifty requests for assistance through the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line and conducted Disaster Relief Grant Assessments for loss of essential household items and structural damage.



Northern NSW Fires

The fires in February 2019 severely affected communities around Armidale, Inverell, Kyogle and Tenterfield. The Tingha Plateau and Bruxner Highway fires lasted over 20 days and burnt over 31,000 hectares. 28 homes were destroyed.

Operational Response

The NSW RFS led the operational response supported by FRNSW and other combat agencies. NSW RFS also deployed three Large Air Tankers and a number of strike teams were drawn in from out of area to support firefighting operations.

The Public Information and Inquiry Centre was opened to assist family and friends of members of the public.

Six evacuation centres were opened at Tenterfield, Inverell, Guyra, Mummulgum, Bundarra and Bonalbo. Approximately 320 people were provided emergency accommodation.

Recovery

Resilience and Recovery staff were deployed and opened Recovery Assistance Points in Tabulam and Tingha. More than 400 requests for assistance were received.

Engineering Functional Area staff coordinated structural and asbestos assessments during clean-up. The Welfare Functional Area received eighteen Disaster Relief Grant applications for loss of essential household items and structural damage.



Photos contributed by Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, and NSW Police.

Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Energy & Utility Services Functional Area

Representative:
Mr Ronan Purcell

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Held the Sydney CBD Local Emergency Management Electricity Exercise (7th June). This was held as a desktop exercise to test the preparedness of Sydney's CBD during a total electricity loss. The exercise was a local precursor to Exercise Lumin Tenebris.
- Held an internal desktop exercise to test the effectiveness of Government Energy Action Response communication and activation, and assess the timing required to activate the Government Energy Action Response in each Department.

Significant operations:

- Activated the Government Energy Action Response and the Large Energy Users Voluntary Demand Response protocols reduce electricity demand in response to a forecast of tight electricity supply on 18 January 2019.
 - Engaged in responses to Lack of Reserve events, including liaising with the energy market operator and NSW network providers, issuing Situation Reports, activating demand reduction protocols and continuous monitoring of the situation.
 - Attended NSW Rural Fire Service Operational Headquarters and NSW State Emergency Service operations centre to assist the communication channels between the agencies and network businesses when bushfires or other disasters came in close proximity to transmission or distribution lines.
 - Martin Place Natural Gas Leak (July 2018): Provided a liaison officer to maintain communications between the LEMO and Jemena emergency management.
 - Sydney Hailstorm (December 2018): Deployed to NSW SES in Seven Hills on 21 December to assist in the response by liaising with industry and providing information to relevant stakeholders. Significant electricity outages during the storm and for several days following.
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Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Engineering Services Functional Area

Representative:
Mr Martin Dwyer

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Participated in the EEM Conference including an emergency management exercise focusing on major road closures, secondary to structural collapse.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SafeWork NSW regarding reducing risk of major structural collapse and improving emergency response.
- Participated in a review of asbestos testing and clean-up post bushfires.

Significant operations:

- Sydney Hailstorm (December 2018): Assisted with structural assessments and the tarp maintenance program.
 - Opal Tower Structural Failure (December 2018)
 - Northern NSW Fires (February 2019): Coordinated structural assessments and asbestos assessments.
 - Macquarie Park Building Collapse (April 2019)
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Environmental Services Functional Area

Representative:
Mr Stephen Beaman

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Provision of Incident Management Systems training to 43 staff and Environmental Services Commander training to 42 staff. Staff also participated in external emergency management training, exercises and conferences.
- Reviewed the Environmental Services Functional Area processes including the Environmental Services Functional Area Supporting Plan, Duty Incident Advice Coordinator and Environmental Services Liaison Officers.
- Stakeholder engagement workshop to develop a Disaster Waste Plan.

Significant operations:

- Iron Chieftain Ship Fire and YM Efficiency shipping container debris (June 2018).
 - Opal Tower (December 2018) and Mascot Tower (June 2019) structural integrity.
 - Northern NSW bush fires recovery (February 2019).
 - Asbestos remediation at Baryulgil and Jubullum Aboriginal communities.
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Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Health Services Functional Area

Representative:
Dr Gary Tall

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Developing a new framework to enable health facilities to manage emergency decontamination, where patients have bypassed the decontamination process at the incident scene.
- Development of an Emergency Evacuation Tool for Health and Aged Care Facilities which has been supported by the EMERGO Train Competence Centre, Centre for Research and Education in Disaster Medicine at the University of Linkoping, Sweden.
- Multiple local health districts and NSW Ambulance have run exercises testing NSW Health Plan and the supporting plans – Major Incident Medical Services Supporting Plan and the NSW Ambulance Major Incident Response Plan.
- Mass Vaccination Clinic Events – Multiple local health districts have run exercises to test local health districts' capability of running mass vaccination clinic as per the clinical component of the local Pandemic Plan whilst undertaking 2019 flu vaccinations.

Public Information Services Functional Area

Representative:
Sgt Kevin Daley

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Conducted monthly tests of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System on the last Friday of each month. The Sydney Alert System has also been scheduled for monthly tests on the same days. Combining both tests provides greater awareness of the systems through expanded audience reach.
- Contributed to the NSW Community Resilience and Response Plan. This plan aims to maintain and promote community harmony, build community resilience and better equip the State to prevent, limit, withstand, respond to and recover from situations that threaten community harmony in New South Wales.

Significant operations:

- Opal Tower Structural Failure (December 2018): Co-ordinated media releases and advice in relation to the Opal Tower incident at Sydney Olympic Park in December 2018.
 - NSW Heatwave (January 2019): Co-ordinated public information messaging in relation to the activation of the Heatwave Sub Plan. Teleconferences were conducted to ensure co-ordinated and relevant messaging across agencies.
 - Northern NSW Fires (February 2019): Opened the Public Information and Inquiry Centre to assist family and friends of members of the public.
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Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Resilience and Recovery

Representative:
Mr Feargus O'Connor

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Developed the Community Resilience Network Pilot to strengthen the relationship between the local emergency management committees and the community and business sectors. Community Resilience Network pilot workshops were held in Hawkesbury and Penrith Councils.
- Developed a template for a Local Recovery Plan, piloted with the Tweed-Byron and Northern Rivers LEMCs in August 2018.
- Developed the Get Ready program, including:
 - The Get Ready Business toolkit to raise awareness of disaster risk for business and to embed disaster preparedness into business planning.
 - A communications kit for local councils to use, to raise awareness of disaster risk and to encourage people to prepare. It is designed to help councils build localised all-hazards communications.
 - An online resource for community service workers to help them help their organisations and clients get ready for emergencies and for recovery.

Significant operations:

- Tathra and Districts Bushfire (March 2018): Recovery Committee meetings have continued monthly and are progressing the ongoing Recovery Action Plan. The Tathra and District Fire Recovery Support Service continued to support the impacted community until the end of July 2019.
 - Sydney Hailstorm (December 2018): Resilience & Recovery staff provided direct support to Liverpool and Hornsby Councils by assisting to conduct an emergency meeting of the LEMCs. Assistance and advice was provided to Hornsby Council to conduct a community needs assessment.
 - Walcha Storm (December 2018): Resilience & Recovery Branch has provided support to the Regional Emergency Management Officers, local council and NSW Department of Primary Industries in conducting impact assessments of the damage.
 - Northern NSW Fires (February 2019): Resilience and Recovery staff were deployed to the Emergency Operation Centres to support the recovery operation. An initial Recovery Meeting was convened on 15 February.
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Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Telecommunications Services Functional Area

Representative:

Ms Kylie De Courteney

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Continuing to work with NSW Rural Fire Service on the development of an emergency risk management framework for Government Radio Network sites.
- Continuing discussions with Telstra and the Department of Communications and the Arts about improving the provision of telecommunications outage information and the frameworks which may support the process.

Significant operations:

- Coordinated the response to an Essential Energy Outage affecting telecommunications in the Wellington District of NSW in October 2018. A lightning strike on an energy transformer on Mt Wellesley caused an extensive telecommunication outage on both public and agency telecommunications services.
- Sydney Hailstorm (December 2018): Worked with Fire and Rescue NSW and telecommunications carriers after a severe storm impacted Berowra, with heavy storm damage, augmenting coverage and capacity within the affected area.
- NSW Heatwave (January 2019): Deployed to NSW Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre during the NSW heatwave. Three fires of note occurred in the Northern NSW Region.
- Conducted emergency response activities in response to community isolation caused by cable failure in multiple regions during the reporting period.

Transport Services Functional Area

Representative:

Mr Greg Nott

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Continued work on the review of the Transport Concept of Operations for Major Hazard Facilities.
- Continued to review the transport response plans in support of the Sydney and North Sydney CBD Emergency Evacuation Sub Plan.
- Continued review of priority transport critical infrastructure assets.

Significant operations:

- Deployed Transport Liaison Officers to the NSW Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre and Regional Fire Control Centres as needed throughout the reporting period.
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Functional Area

Key achievements and updates

Welfare Services Functional Area

Representative:
Mr Matthew McFarlane

Preparedness and prevention activities:

- Completed the 'Welfare Services – Strengthening Capability to Support Metropolitan Communities' project. Workshops and exercises were conducted with a focus on increasing the preparedness of Welfare Services to respond in significant and traumatic events.
- Developed a Seasonal Preparedness strategy which considers operations and preparedness of all key stakeholders to promote optimum, responsive and efficient activations.
- Currently implementing the Disaster Welfare Services Customer Relationship System. The System is an online case management and disaster relief grants application system that will increase efficiency and engage members of the public via an online portal.
- Targeted training in key welfare services evacuation centre processes for example, registration and needs assessment in Northern NSW.

Significant operations:

- Chatswood Apartment Fire (July 2018): 62 residents were evacuated from the building to a nearby evacuation centre. Due to access constraints and uncertainty as to when residents could return to their homes, evacuees were provided with emergency catering and the most vulnerable with commercial accommodation.
 - Shoalhaven Bushfires (August 2018): Two evacuation centres were opened in Ulladulla and Bomaderry. In total, there were 81 registrations and 18 persons/families were provided with overnight accommodation.
 - Salt Ash Bushfire (August 2018): Staff activated to attend two evacuation centres in Salt Ash and Soldiers Point.
 - Neutral Bay Apartment Explosion (September 2018): 51 residents attended the evacuation centre following an explosion in a shop in Neutral Bay which required the evacuation of the apartment complex above.
 - Campvale Bushfire (November 2018): Three evacuation centres were established at Tanilba Bay, Raymond Terrace and Irrawang.
 - Northern NSW Bushfires (February 2019): 18 applications have been received to access the Disaster Relief Grant Scheme.
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Acronyms

CAPEX	Capability Exercise
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CECSC	Community Engagement Sub-Committee
CDSC	Capability Development Sub-Committee
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team
EMPLAN	Emergency Management Plan
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LEMO	Local Emergency Management Officer
NSW	New South Wales
REMC	Regional Emergency Management Committee
REMO	Regional Emergency Management Officer
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RRSC	Risk and Resilience Sub-Committee
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SEOCAN	State Emergency Operations Controller
SERCON	State Emergency Recovery Controller
SES	State Emergency Service
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

Annexure 1 – NSW Emergency Management Regions

NSW is divided into 11 Emergency Management Regions. Each Region is made up of local government councils.

Central West

Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Cabonne, Coonamble, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Forbes, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire.

Far West

Balranald, Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Unincorporated Far West, Wentworth.

Hunter - Central Coast

Central Coast, Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter Shire.

Illawarra - South Coast

Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong.

New England

Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla, Walcha.

North Coast

Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Lord Howe Island, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tweed.

North West Metropolitan

Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-Ring-Gai, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Ryde, The Hills Shire, Willoughby.

South Eastern

Cootamundra-Gundagai, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, Snowy Monaro Regional, Snowy Valleys, Upper Lachlan Shire, Weddin, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley.

Sydney Metropolitan

Bayside, Cumberland, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick, Sutherland, Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra.

Riverina Murray

Albury, Berrigan, Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume Shire, Griffith, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Temora, Wagga Wagga.

South West Metropolitan

Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Strathfield, Wollondilly.