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COMMUNIQUÉ

Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee Meeting

21 February 2019

A meeting of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) was held on 21 February 2019 in Perth, Western Australia. Representatives were present from all Australian jurisdictions, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

[Update on ANZEMC sub-committee work plans and status of projects](#)

At its meeting on 8 February 2019 the Mitigation and Risk Sub-committee discussed and agreed to priority areas for action through a workplan for 2019.

The Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS) was postponed to 28 March 2019. Since the last CORS meeting held in Queensland on 12 September 2018, the CORS work program has continued to progress. These programs include; catastrophic recovery planning, development of a stakeholder engagement framework/strategy, and gap analysis of education programs.

[National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Implementation, Governance and Stakeholder Engagement](#)

The ANZEMC agreed to seek Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management endorsement of the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* (the Framework) out-of-session and as soon as practicable; and to take immediate steps to align the work of the ANZEMC with the Framework and establish an industry advisory forum to advise it on cross-sectoral matters related to the implementation of the Framework.

[National Roadmap for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Update on Global Platform 2019](#)

The ANZEMC endorsed the National Roadmap for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

[Update on the June 2020 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction \(APMCDRR\)](#)

The ANZEMC were provided an update by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on the Australian Government's progress in preparing for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2020, to be held in Brisbane on 23 – 26 June 2020. By hosting this event, Australia will be able to showcase our world class disaster risk reduction initiatives and benchmark progress against the region.

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The Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework and the Catastrophic Disaster Capability Roadmap

The ANZEMC endorsed the *Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework*, which provides guidance to all Australian jurisdictions in understanding, developing and enhancing capability requirements to prepare for, manage and recover from severe to catastrophic disasters.

Triple Zero outage recommendations update, upgrades to Triple Zero service and ACMA review of the Telecommunications (Emergency Call Service) Determination 2009

The ANZEMC noted that the Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) is currently implementing the 11 recommendations of its *Investigation Report into the Triple Zero Service Disruptions* of 4 and 26 May 2018. DoCA has commenced working with Telstra on implementing a new Internet Protocol-based platform for the Triple Zero Emergency Call Service and the Advanced Mobile Location (AML) solution to automatically provide location coordinates for mobile callers to Triple Zero in Australia.

Strategic Review of Telephony-Based Warnings

The ANZEMC endorsed the terms of reference for a strategic review of the efficacy of new and emerging telephony-based emergency warning technologies to ensure Australia's future emergency warning systems are as effective and efficient as possible.

National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Update

The NFDRS Research Prototype trial has demonstrated that a new national system is achievable and will provide clear community, economic and operational benefits. The ANZEMC agreed to state and territory funding contributions totalling \$5.83 million to deliver Phase 3 of the NFDRS program for the next three years, supplementing the Australian Government's announcement of \$5.85 million under the Preparing Australia Package.

Proposal for the National Public Safety Communications Capability Strategy

The ANZEMC agreed to develop a new national Public Safety Communications Capability Strategy to improve public safety communications governance and capability development. Public safety communications is an important issue requiring ongoing collaboration. A national strategy will help deliver synergies and efficiencies, and improve the resilience of communities.

California bushfire lessons

The ANZEMC noted the plans to send a delegation of three senior officials from the Australian Government and state emergency management services to California to identify lessons learned from large scale disasters overseas.

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is proposing to lead a delegation of senior Australian disaster managers from the jurisdictions to meet with the Californian Governor's Office of Emergency Services and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Progressing AFAC Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (EMPS) national registration to enhance national capability

The ANZEMC noted the highlights of the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services' adoption of a scheme for the registration and certification of emergency management practitioners, offering an industry-funded national registry of individuals who meet nationally-agreed standards of proficiency, and promoting national interoperability and resilience.





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Per- and Poly-per-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Items Affecting Firefighters

The ANZEMC considered the benefits of a nationally coordinated voluntary blood testing program for firefighters exposed to Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This included exploring whether the existing volunteer blood testing program administered by the Commonwealth for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel could be extended to firefighters, noting the Australian Government's desire to improve participation in their program, and the potential to provide valuable data collection for the national epidemiological study.

Update on the AFAC Strategic Directions Achievements Report for 2018

The 'Strategic Directions' document identifies agreed priorities at the national level for Fire and Emergency Services. It creates a shared vision and a joint commitment to enhanced community resilience across all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand. In 2016 ANZEMC endorsed the Strategic Directions 2017-2021 which was subsequently approved by the former Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC) Committee. The AFAC Strategic Directions Achievement Report 2018 is reporting against the national document and highlighting achievements and outcomes of the strategy.

Prepared Communities Funding Prescribed Burning Initiative

The ANZEMC noted that prescribed burning remains a cost-effective way of reducing risk to communities from bushfires.

