

Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

COMMUNIQUÉ

A meeting of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) was held virtually on 1 April 2025.

Higher Risk Weather Season Update

With significant disaster events impacting Australian communities during the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS), members shared reflections on the season to date with a focus on cross-border issues and national learnings across both emergency response and recovery. The outcomes of this discussion will inform how Australia prepares for future events.

Hazard Insurance Partnership Update

Members received an update on the Hazard Insurance Partnership, which brings the Australian Government and the insurance industry together to consider how to lower risk and better share information. The update covered the [National Resilience Action Library](#) launched on 20 January 2025, the National Insurance Dataset and insights from insurers following Tropical Cyclone Alfred and North Queensland flooding. More information on the [Hazards Insurance Partnership | NEMA](#) is available on the National Emergency Management website. NEMA will work with states and territories through the HIP to provide timely, accurate and relevant data.

National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile

Members discussed the development of a National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile, which will support decision-making across government agencies and the emergency management continuum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. A Minimum Viable Product of the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile will deliver a 'point-in-time' tool that provides a consolidated national picture of disaster risk for bushfire, riverine flooding, tropical cyclone and heatwave. NEMA will conduct ongoing calibration with state and territory systems through the Critical Stakeholder Group and members will consider the Minimum Viable Product at the second ANZEMC meeting of 2025.

Post Disaster Accommodation

Following on from a strategic discussion on the past-disaster accommodation journey at the September 2024 meeting, members agreed to establish a Time-Limited Working Group to identify and address barriers to the use of emergency shelter, temporary accommodation and transition to more permanent post-disaster housing. The Time-Limited Working Group will include two representatives from each jurisdiction, the Australian Local Government Association and the Commonwealth and representation from the Social Recovery Reference Group.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements – Transition of Recommendations

Members agreed to recommend to the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting they transition 16 recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, with one identified as implemented and 15 as transitioned to ongoing work programs. This includes 11 recommendations assigned to Australian, state and territory governments and five recommendations assigned to state and territory governments.

Lithium-Ion Batteries

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and New South Wales briefed members on work underway on national level mitigations for managing lithium-ion batteries. Members also discussed strategic lithium-ion battery issues, including national regulation and standards, public education and safety.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Members reviewed and agreed that the National Strategic Business Case (NSBC) for a Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) capability provides a baseline for the scope, value, benefits and potential costs of delivering a PSMB capability in Australia. Members confirmed that implementation of a PSMB capability remains a priority for some jurisdictions and the Commonwealth, with other jurisdictions on an opt-in basis. Members noted that work on a draft intergovernmental agreement is in train. Members agreed to develop a principles-based draft intergovernmental agreement by October 2025, noting that this does not commit jurisdictions to fund the PSMB until the relevant intergovernmental agreement schedules have been negotiated, agreed and approved through individual state and territory Cabinet approval processes. Members also agreed that the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting consider endorsement of the refined PSMB NSBC at its next meeting.