

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

**National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting
(NEMMM)**

Summary of Outcomes

Meeting – Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Wednesday 7 June 2023 – 2:00pm – 3:30pm (AEST)

Item 1 - Welcome and introductions*

Apologies noted: Minister Ellis.

New members welcomed: the Hon Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Emergency Services, New South Wales (NSW).

Attending on behalf of: Councillor Karen Chappel, Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association attended on behalf of Councillor Linda Scott, Australian Local Government Association.

Communiqué

No communiqué is required.

Item 2 – Observations on the High Risk Weather Season*

Summary of discussion:

Members discussed the following observations and learnings:

Emergency Housing shortages

- Housing issues, in particular accessibility of affordable temporary housing, remain a priority along with planning and development in disaster prone areas.

Skills Shortage across trades

- Skills shortages are affecting critical road and infrastructure rebuilding across multiple jurisdictions.
- Multiple jurisdictions are experiencing difficulties accessing tradespersons willing to travel to regional and remote areas, noting a lack of local tradespeople to meet demand.

Delays to Insurance Assessments

- Insurance companies are lacking capacity to meet scaled demands post-events, and are unable to undertake the scope of work assessments required in a timely manner.
- These assessment gaps are particularly impacting flood affected communities.

Volunteer Capacity not meeting surge needs

- Limited capability and challenges in building a sustainable volunteer workforce are being felt across most jurisdictions.

Understanding, and accessibility, of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

Page 1 of 11

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

- A lack of understanding was noted as a barrier to getting DRFA funding out and into communities quickly to meet urgent needs.
- Education in what is available within the DRFA and clarifying the application process was emphasised as a way to help councils navigate applications for DRFA and meet evidentiary requirements to improve the speed of approvals and increase the equity of recovery payment allocation.

Mental health and wellbeing challenges in remote areas

- Impacted by limited resources including an inability to find professionals willing to travel to regional areas.

Food security and supply issues

- Food security and supply chain issues are a common challenge across jurisdictions, particularly in regional areas and where road closures are preventing vehicle access.

Legacy flood gauges failing or providing limited information

- Legacy flood gauges hinder the response effort and engagement.
- The 2023-24 Federal Budget provides for more than \$236 million over 10 years to address critical, long-standing risks in Australia's flood gauge network.

Final Communiqué: Refer Attachment B

Action Item: Nil

Item 3 – National Capabilities**Summary of discussion:**

Minister Watt confirmed budget commitments to the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Network (\$10M), National Messaging System and to the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF).

Members:

1. **discussed** opportunities to collaborate and advance the delivery of a national Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) capability following the Australian Government's response to the Independent PSMB Review at Attachment A of the paper;
2. **agreed** that timeframes for PSMB deliverables and progress made be brought back to the NEMMM out of session within one month;
3. **noted** the Defence Strategic Review, publicly released on 24 April 2023, recommended that the Commonwealth work with the states and territories to develop national resilience and response measures for adverse climate change at the local level without the need of Australian Defence Force support, except in the most extreme emergencies;
4. **noted** the Australian Government's commitment to bolstering Australia's ability to respond and recover from crises by enhancing Australia's crisis response and recovery capacities, ahead of the 2023-24 High Risk Weather Season;
5. **agreed** the Government would work with states and territories together with local governments, the private sector and not-for-profit sector to determine how the Government can further support state and territory-led emergency response and recovery activities;

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

<p>6. noted that \$200 million is available in 2023-24 to support Round One of the DRF projects, with successful projects to be jointly announced on 7 June 2023; and</p> <p>7. agreed in principle that the design of Round Two of the DRF support the aspirations of the Second National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction.</p>
<p>Final Communiqué: Refer Attachment B</p>
<p>Action Item:</p> <p>NEMA to progress PSMB deliverable and timeframes to the NEMMM out of session within one month.</p>
<p>Item 4 – Second National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction</p>
<p>Summary of discussion:</p> <p>Minister Watt advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Second National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (the Plan) was now in final stages of development and NEMA will be seeking endorsement out of session from ANZEMC in July for a launch at the next NEMMM meeting on 25 August 2023 in Brisbane. ○ The Plan will develop a national picture of existing risks, the hazards and mitigation of risks. ○ The insurance industry are keen to discuss investment in mitigation. <p>Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. agreed in principle to review for endorsement the Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework out-of-session in July, with a view to the proposed launch during the week of 21 August 2023; 2. agreed in principle that the aspirations within the Plan will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. establish a consistent picture of natural hazard risk across Australia; b. ensure that individuals and communities are aware of their risk, have preparedness/resilience plans in place and are exercising these plans; and c. guide government investment so that it is targeted toward the mitigations identified in these plans, and is supported by robust evidence of risk reduction impact; 3. noted that NEMA is undertaking final consultation across governments and key stakeholders to finalise the Plan and intends to consult across sectors to develop subordinate Sector Plans with tangible commitments to action; 4. agreed in principle that the “Government Sector Commitments” will be developed in parallel to the Action Plan, to demonstrate government leadership through tangible commitments that will progress action.
<p>Final Communiqué: Refer Attachment B</p>
<p>Action items:</p> <p>NEMA to circulate the Plan out of session to the NEMMM for endorsement.</p>
<p>Item 5 – Stewardship and Governance</p>

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Summary of Discussion:**Independent Review into National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Governance Review):**

Dr Robert Glasser from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), who is leading the Governance Review, highlighted the following emerging themes from preliminary discussions:

- There is no longer business as usual as disasters become more frequent with cascading impacts.
- The general sense is that government structures need to be flexible and dynamic to remove additional bureaucracy.
- Emerging priorities include housing, insurance, supply chains and building resilience.

Australian National Audit Office DRFA Performance Audit (the Audit)

Coordinator-General Brendon Moon (NEMA) noted the Audit tabled on 18 May 2023 and highlighted two key issues identified:

1. Timeliness of audit and assurance processes, and
2. Current reporting arrangements under the DRFA require updating. There needs to be a focus on performance monitoring to better track delivery on the ground and importantly, the effectiveness of measures to support individuals and communities to recover and rebuild following disasters.

Royal Commission Recommendation Implementation

Minister Watt confirmed the obligation to report publicly on implementation and noted that the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) had endorsed a report however it was general and did not align with the original Recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Members:

1. **noted** the shared strategic aims and insights of the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Funding Review), the Governance Review and the Review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements;
2. **noted** the Recommendations of the Australian National Audit Office performance audit of the Administration of the DRFA, which complements the agreement by NEMMM that states and territories will work with the Commonwealth to improve DRFA reporting, data sharing, monitoring and evaluation arrangements;
3. **endorsed** the closure of the 12 complete Commonwealth Recommendations from the Royal Commission, as agreed by the ANZEMC on 4 May 2023 at Attachment A of Item 5;
4. **endorsed** the Implementation Report, as agreed by ANZEMC on 4 May 2023 at Attachment B;
5. **agreed** an approach to public reporting on implementation of Recommendations from the Royal Commission including:
 - a. Attachment E of Item 5- the Draft National Implementation Report to return to the Royal Commission Time-limited Working Group (TLWG) to seek endorsement. Draft National Implementation Report to be progressed to ANZEMC for endorsement prior to seeking NEMMM endorsement; and
 - b. National Report to be produced in early 2024.

Final Communiqué: Refer Attachment B

Action Item:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Report at Attachment E – The Draft National Implementation Report to be referred to the Royal Commission TLWG for endorsement. Once endorsed to be progressed for ANZEMC endorsement. Once endorsed by ANZEMC to be returned to NEMMM for endorsement.

Item 6 – Other business and meeting close***Summary of discussion:**

Minister Watt confirmed the next meeting is to be held in person on 25 August 2023 to coincide with 'AFAC23' in Brisbane. Minister Watt advised that reflecting discussions in this meeting, key agenda items for the 25 August meeting will be housing, insurance and the Funding Review.

Resolution:

Nil

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Attachment A

Attendance List

Attendance List Jurisdiction	Minister
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Murray Watt Minister for Emergency Management
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib MP Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice
Victoria	The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP Minister for Emergency Services
Queensland	The Hon Mark Ryan MP Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Western Australia	The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering
South Australia	The Hon Joe Szakacs MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Mick Gentleman MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Northern Territory	The Hon Kate Worden MLA Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Karen Chappel (proxy for Councillor Linda Scott) Vice President of Australian Local Government Association (Shire of Morawa Western Australia)
Apologies	Minister
Tasmania	The Hon Felix Ellis MP (Nil proxy) Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Linda Scott President
Presenters	
Australian Strategic Policy Institute	Dr Robert Glasser Head of Climate and Security Policy Centre and Independent Lead for the Governance Review Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Jurisdiction	Observers
Commonwealth	<p>s22 Deputy Chief of Staff for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt</p>
	<p>s22 Adviser for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt</p>
	<p>s22 Executive Assistant to Senator the Hon Murray Watt Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt</p>
	<p>s22 Assistant Adviser for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt</p>
	<p>Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Joe Buffone PSM Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Hannah Wandel OAM A/g First Assistant Coordinator-General, Policy and Programs National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Andrew Chandler First Assistant Coordinator-General, Enterprise Governance National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Alison Sommerville Assistant Coordinator-General Review Taskforce National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>James Robinson A/g First Assistant Secretary National Resilience Taskforce Department of Home Affairs</p>
<p>Michael Crawford Assistant Secretary, Disaster Management and Resilience Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>	
New South Wales	<p>Zoe Allebone Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice</p>
	<p>s22 Deputy Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice</p>
	<p>s22 A/Director, Policy Group NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet</p>
	<p>s22 Manager, Policy Group</p>

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Jurisdiction	Observers
	NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet
	s22 Executive Officer Office of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice
	s22 Department Liaison Officer Office of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice
	s22 Executive Director Emergency Management Policy and Coordination NSW Reconstruction Authority
Victoria	Ken MacPherson Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC
	s22 Advisor Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC
	Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary Emergency Management, Chief Executive Emergency Management Victoria
	Amanda Leck A/g Emergency Management Commissioner Emergency Management Victoria
Queensland	s22 Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
	Deputy Commissioner Michael Wassing Deputy Commissioner Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
	s22 Principal Policy Officer Strategic Policy Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Western Australia	Darren Foster Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
	s22 Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
	Melissa Pexton Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management Department of Fire and Emergency Services
South Australia	s22 Ministerial Adviser Department for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Jurisdiction	Observers
	<p>s22 A/Director Security, Emergency and Recovery Management Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>Julia Waddington-Powell RN MIPH MHM Chief Executive Officer South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission</p>
Tasmania	<p>s22 A/g Executive Director, Resilience and Recovery Tasmania Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Richard Glenn Director-General Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p> <p>Georgeina Whelan AM, CSC and Bar Commissioner ACT Emergency Services Agency</p> <p>s22 Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p> <p>Ellen Pinkas A/g Chief of Staff Office of Mick Gentleman MLA</p> <p>s22 A/g Advisor Emergency Services Office of Mick Gentleman MLA</p>
Northern Territory	<p>s22 Senior Policy Advisor Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 Director Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>Michael Murphy A/g Commissioner / Chief Executive Officer Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p>
Australian Local Government Association	<p>s22 Director Policy Australian Local Government Association</p>
National Governance Secretariat – National Emergency Management Agency	
Chris Connolly A/g Assistant Coordinator-General , National Capability and Governance	
s22 Director, National Governance and Projects Coordination	
s22 Assistant Director, National Governance and Projects Coordination	
s22 Assistant Director, National Governance and Projects Coordination	
s22 Advisor, National Governance and Projects Coordination	

OFFICIAL: Sensitive**Attachment B**

COMMUNIQUÉ

National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting 7 June 2023

A meeting of the National Emergency Management Ministers was held virtually on 7 June 2023. Emergency Management Ministers and the Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by senior officials from Australian, state and territory and local governments.

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) was chaired by Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management.

Meeting Outcomes

Observations on the High Risk Weather Season

NEMMM members shared observations from the 2022-23 High Risk Weather Season and committed to working collaboratively to address current and future challenges. Members noted the improved cooperation between different levels of government had delivered better disaster response and recovery and identified areas for further work, based on experiences from the 2022-23 season.

National Capabilities

Members discussed and agreed on collaboration to support measures from the 2023-24 Budget to strengthen national response and preparedness for disasters including through the Public Safety Mobile Broadband, Non-Defence capability and the Disaster Ready Fund.

Second National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction

Members noted the progress of the Second National Action Plan to implement the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* and agreed in-principle to the concurrent development of tangible government sector commitments for action.

Stewardship and Governance

Members discussed the strategic aims and insights of current emergency management reviews, including how they will come together to improve Australia's national disaster management system.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Members discussed the ongoing review of the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* and committed to transparency in reporting.

Members agreed an approach to public reporting of progress in the implementation of recommendations from the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements*.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

Friday, 25 August 2023, Brisbane

Outcomes

Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management and NEMMM chair welcomed NEMMM members, observers and presenters to the meeting. • Min Watt acknowledged the Hon Felix Ellis MP, Minister for Emergency Management Tasmania would join the meeting at approximately 10:15am. • Minister Watt sought agreement to the Communiqué during the meeting for publication immediately after the meeting. <p>Refer Attachment A for attendance and Attachment B for the agreed Communiqué.</p>
Item 2 – Update from the 21 August 2023 Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the update from Brendan Moon, Coordinator-General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) from the 21 August 2023 ANZEMC meeting. • Coordinator-General Moon outlined that the following key matters were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the need for consistency in approach to data collection, impact assessment and data sharing during and post disaster events, ○ establishment of a working group to develop a consistent impact assessment methodology to inform recovery and investment, ○ establishment of a working group to develop principles for recovery assessments ○ the need to develop a methodology for a risk profile aligning to the Second National Action Plan and National Climate Risk assessment.
Action: Nil
Item 3 – Seasonal Outlook – Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the presentation on the Spring seasonal outlook from Andrew Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Bureau of Meteorology, and summary of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) seasonal outlook provided by Joe Buffone PSM, Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response, NEMA. • Mr Johnson highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 70% likelihood of El Nino forming, ○ high risk of dry lightning during El Nino, ○ the bushfire risk, and ○ that heatwave will be a significant risk for the upcoming season, communication to communities should be around remaining vigilant during extended periods of high temperature weather to minimise risk. • Mr Buffone outlined the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strong collaboration nationally, that has ensured a shared understanding of risk, ○ status of the National Emergency Management Stockpile, and capacity to deploy to states and territories between October-November 2023,

- the status of investment in Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) to increase capacity. DRA can be deployed by Federal Government under Australian Government arrangements once a particular threshold is reached,
- under a threshold by Federal Government,
- NEMA will host the Preparedness Summit, 25-26 September 2023,
- AFAC fire outlook advised high risk of grass and scrub fires, potential for forest fires, and
- aviation firefighting capacity nationally is sound.

Action: Nil

Item 4 – Emergency Housing Coordination

- Minister Watt advised s22, Senior Advisor Housing, Office of Minister Collins MP joined the meeting for this item.
- Minister Watt sought member input on the creation of a National Emergency and Temporary Housing Register.
- Members discussed the intention of a register and the type of housing infrastructure to be included, for example, mobile, deployable hard and soft wall accommodation, and caravans.
- Members discussed how to define temporary accommodation given communities are utilising temporary accommodation for longer periods than initially anticipated.
- Members acknowledged that temporary accommodation is used for various purposes not only in the event of disasters.
- Members identified that a suite of solutions are needed to suit diverse community requirements, including culturally appropriate and inclusive solutions.
- Members acknowledged the benefit of developing a register of tradespeople such as the South Australian 2023 flood example for electricians.
- Members raised concerns regarding working on a plan coming into the Higher Risk Weather Season and potential impacts on resourcing.

Resolutions:

Members

- 1) **NOTED** the current national housing/accommodation shortages that continue to impact the ability to provide appropriate emergency and temporary accommodation solutions following large-scale, or concurrent and compounding, disasters during the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season.
- 2) **AGREED** for states and territories to work with the Commonwealth to develop a National Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Register as the first step in a National plan for providing emergency and temporary accommodation following disasters that incorporate culturally appropriate and inclusive practices.
- 3) **AGREED** to seek discussion of post disaster accommodation needs by Federal, State and Territory Housing Ministers.

Actions:

National Emergency Management Agency to return to Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee with a proposal to develop a register of temporary and emergency accommodation utilising readily available data from states and territories.

Members to seek discussion of post disaster accommodation needs by Federal, State and Territory Housing Ministers.
Item 5 – Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Watt introduced Andrew Colvin, Independent Lead of the Review of Disaster Funding Arrangements (Funding Review). Andrew Colvin provided the meeting with an update of the Funding Review including key emerging themes. Coordinator-General Moon discussed the challenges raised from local councils in relation to the DRFA and informed members of the steps being taken to provide information, simplify the system and build confidence in the system. Members discussed the need for simplification of the system, embedding competency and capability within councils and the need to maintain flexibility. Minister Watt reiterated that the Commonwealth was prepared to work with jurisdictions and councils to assist with the application process.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AGREED that members will ensure their portfolio agencies work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to support national consistency including to achieve streamlined processes for local governments to access support under the DRFA measures. NOTED the update on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.
Action: Nil
Item 6 – Lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles and safety considerations for Emergency Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon Minister Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Emergency Services Queensland (Qld) spoke to the Qld sponsored paper. Minister Ryan acknowledged the challenges and issues surrounding the increasing uptake of technology that utilises Lithium-ion batteries including the risk to emergency services workers and communities in general. Members discussed the need for safety education within the community regarding appropriate charging, disposal as well as consideration regarding placement of charging stations.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DISCUSSED the emerging risks and impacts on emergency service organisations (from both response and recovery planning perspectives) arising from increasing adoption of the use of lithium-ion batteries. AGREED to task ANZEMC to consider the next steps to ensure appropriate action in cooperation with other relevant agencies to mitigate the potential risks posed by lithium-ion batteries to front line emergency services and the community.
Action: National Emergency Management Agency to provide a proposal to ANZEMC to consider the next steps to ensure appropriate action in cooperation with other relevant agencies to mitigate the potential risks posed by lithium-ion batteries to front line emergency services and the community.

Item 7.1 – National Capabilities Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Watt introduced Joe Buffone PSM, Deputy Coordinator-General NEMA to speak to the National Capability Projects. • Mr Buffone addressed the status of the National Capability Projects for the Public Service Mobile Broadband, the National messaging System and the National Emergency Stockpile. • Coordinator-General Moon discussed the National ‘Tell Us Once’ program highlighting the current status of each of the three phases of the program.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NOTED the ongoing development of the National Emergency Management Stockpile and the National Messaging System. 2) NOTED that the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Taskforce has now been established and the revised PSMB Governance Structure at Attachment A of the paper. 3) NOTED the National ‘Tell Us Once’ Program has completed the second phase. 4) AGREED that National Emergency Management Ministers’ Meeting continue to provide Ministerial level sponsorship and oversight for the National ‘Tell Us Once’ Program.
<p>Action: Nil</p>
Item 7.2 Mental Health Plan for Emergency Services Workers 2023-2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Watt commended everyone involved on the development of the Mental Health Plan for Emergency Services Workers. • Members agreed to change the date range in the plan from 2023-2026 to 2024-2027.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members ENDORSED the National Mental Health Plan for Emergency Services Workers: 2024-2027 <i>A commitment to continued action.</i></p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
7.3 Second National Action Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Watt thanked everyone involved in the development of the Second National Action Plan.
<p>Resolutions:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ENDORSED the Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. 2) NOTED the Ministerial Foreword. 3) AGREED to release the Second National Action Plan. 4) AGREED to provide the Second National Action Plan to National Cabinet for further endorsement.

Action: NEMA to work with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to determine an appropriate time and means of progressing the Second National Action Plan to National Cabinet.

Item 7.4 – Update on the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) seeking endorsement of High Level Principles for Round Two

- Minister Watt summarised the learnings from DRF Round One.
- Coordinator-General Moon advised the members of the high level outcomes of Round One, and that the changes to the guidelines for Round Two will be released by end of 2023.
- Members advised that the program has had many positive outcomes and Ministers are grateful to see the Commonwealth working toward a more streamlined program for future rounds.

Resolutions:

Members:

- 1) **NOTED** the update on Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF).
- 2) **NOTED** the proposed DRF investment principles outlined for Round Two.
- 3) **NOTED** that further consultation will be undertaken with lead government agencies and other stakeholders on the design of Round Two, including to refine the investment principles and implement a number of practical improvements.

Item 8 – Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness

- Minister Watt provided the members with an update on the Commonwealth arrangements regarding Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness.

Resolution:

Members **NOTED** the update from the Commonwealth on Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness.

Action: Nil

Item 9 – Insurance Arrangements

- Minister Watt welcomed Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones and Kylie MacFarlane, Chief Operating Officer, Insurance Council of Australia (ICA).
- Assistant Treasurer Jones spoke regarding representations from constituents after the 2021-22 floods and concerns around insurance affordability. Addressing underlying mitigation of risk is the principal action in response to insurance concerns.
- Assistant Treasurer Jones discussed the parliamentary enquiry. This was established from the flood experience, however the Terms of Reference are broad enough so as to capture other experiences.
- Coordinator-General Moon provided an update regarding the Hazard Insurance Partnership.
- Ms MacFarlane provided the following update:
 - flooding in New South Wales and Queensland in 2021-22 was the second largest insurance event in the world and Australia's largest for 2022,
 - ICA has announced an independent review into 2022 flooding by Deloitte, which will focus on insurance response time frames, resources deployed, claims handling, complaints handling and communication with policy holders,

- the importance of managing risk as a principal driver to impact insurance premiums,
- ICA is calling on the DRF to be a rolling 10 year program,
- drivers affecting insurance include affordability risk, inflation, increasing re-insurance costs and state taxes, and
- discussed resilience being included in the National Construction Code.
- Members discussed the challenges faced by communities in insurance and rebuilding.
- Ms MacFarlane spoke to work between the ICA, NEMA and the National Hazards Partnership regarding household mitigation.

Resolutions:

Members:

- 1) **NOTED** the insurance challenges relating to efficacy, affordability and availability of insurance in the context of increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events.
- 2) **AGREED** the ANZEMC engage with the Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) on appropriately targeting mitigation measures to both reduce disaster risk and put downward pressure on insurance premiums.
- 3) **NOTED** the Australian Government’s commitment to take forward issues raised through the National Emergency Management Ministers’ Meeting discussion, as appropriate, to the November 2023 HIP meeting.

Action: The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee engage with the Hazards Insurance Partnership on appropriately targeting mitigation measures to both reduce disaster risk and put downward pressure on insurance premiums.

Item 10 – Meeting Close and Other Business

- Members discussed concerns with emergency services fatigue, building capability and identifying initiatives to cross-pollinate across volunteer organisations.
- Minister Watt discussed the use of Australian Defence Force (ADF) capability in emergencies. Minister Watt re-iterated that ADF support for specialist capabilities will not be withdrawn.
- Minister Watt confirmed the next meeting is to be held online on Friday, 20 October 2023.

Resolution: Nil

Action: Nil

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

Friday, 25 August 2023, Brisbane

Attachment A

Attendance List

Jurisdiction	Member
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Murray Watt Minister for Emergency Management
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice
Victoria	The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP Minister for Emergency Services
Queensland	The Hon Mark Ryan MP Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Western Australia	The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering
South Australia	The Hon Joe Szakacs MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Tasmania	The Hon Felix Ellis MP (Online) Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Mick Gentleman MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Northern Territory	The Hon Kate Worden MLA Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Karen Chappell (Proxy for Councillor Scott) Vice President
Apologies	Minister
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Linda Scott (Proxy Karen Chappel) Vice President

Speakers and Presenters	
Deloitte Australia	Andrew Colvin AO APM Partner, Financial Advisory Deloitte Australia
The Treasury	The Hon Stephen Jones MP (Online) Minister for Financial Services, Assistant Treasurer
Bureau of Meteorology	Dr Andrew Johnson FTSE FAICD CEO and Director, Meteorology Bureau of Meteorology
Insurance Council of Australia	Kylie MacFarlane Chief Operating Officer Insurance Council of Australia

Jurisdiction	Observers
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Tony Sheldon Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery
	Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency
	Joe Buffone PSM Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response National Emergency Management Agency
	Andrew Chandler A/g Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery National Emergency Management Agency
	Sandon Morrell CSM A/g First Assistant Coordinator-General, Enterprise Governance Division National Emergency Management Agency
	Jason Dymowski (Online) Assistant Secretary, Response, Recovery and Resilience Branch Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
	s22 (Online) Adviser, Recovery Section, Resilience, Recovery and Response Branch Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
	Michelle Healy Chief of Staff Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
	s22 Deputy Chief of Staff for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
	s22 Adviser for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
s22 (Online) Senior Adviser: Housing	

Jurisdiction	Observers
	<p>Office of Minister Collins MP, The Treasury</p> <p>s22 (Online) Assistant Adviser for Emergency Management Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt</p>
New South Wales	<p>Superintendent Greg Moore (Proxy for Peter Thurtell APM) Commander, Incident & Emergency Management Command, Sydney Police Centre NSW Police</p> <p>s22 Associate Director Premier's Department</p> <p>s22 Associate Director, Emergency Services Coordination Premiers Department</p> <p>Zoe Allebone Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice</p>
Victoria	<p>Chris Stephenson Acting Emergency Management Commissioner Emergency Management Victoria</p> <p>Stephen Butler Advisor, Office of the Hon Jacklyn Symes MP</p> <p>Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary Emergency Management Department of Justice and Community Safety</p>
Queensland	<p>Greg Leach AFSM Commissioner Queensland Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>Shane Chelepy APM Deputy Commissioner, Disaster and Emergency Management and State Disaster Coordinator Queensland Police Service</p> <p>s22 Principal Policy Officer Strategic Policy Queensland Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>s22 Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services</p>
Western Australia	<p>Darren Klemm AFSM FES Commissioner, Fire and Emergency Services Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>

Jurisdiction	Observers
	<p>Deputy Commissioner Melissa Pexton Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>Amanda Pickrell PSM (Online) Deputy Director General, Intergovernmental Relations & Strategic Priorities Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 Principle Policy Advisor Office of Mr Mick Gentleman MLA</p> <p>s22 (Online) Principal Policy Officer, Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p>
South Australia	<p>Julia Waddington-Powell RN MIPH MHM Chief Executive Officer South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission</p> <p>s22 (Proxy for s22) Director, Security, Emergency and Recovery Management, Intergovernmental and Diplomatic Relations Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 Adviser Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services</p>
Tasmania	<p>Jeremy Smith AFSM A/Chief Officer, Office of the Chief Officer Tasmania Fire Service</p> <p>Todd Crawford (Online) Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy and Delivery Department of Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 (Online) Senior Adviser Office of Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Management</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Jason Jones Acting Commissioner ACT Emergency Services Agency</p> <p>s22 (Online) Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p> <p>Richard Glenn Director-General Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p> <p>s22 Advisor Office of Mick Gentleman MLA</p>

Jurisdiction	Observers
Northern Territory	s22 Director Northern Territory Emergency Service Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Michael Murphy A/g Commissioner / Chief Executive Officer Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Kelsey Branford Chief of Staff Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	s22 Director Policy Australian Local Government Association
Australian Strategic Policy Institute (Governance Review)	Dr Robert Glasser Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements Lead, Head, Climate and Security Policy Centre Australian Strategic Policy Institute
	Gill Savage Deputy Lead, Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements, Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute
Deloitte Australia	Sarah Millen Partner, Deloitte Business Modelling Deloitte Financial Advisory Pty Ltd
	Dr Tayannah O'Donnell Partner, Risk Advisory, Climate and Sustainability, National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Lead Partner
The Treasury	The Hon Stephen Jones MP (Online) Minister for Financial Services, Assistant Treasurer

National Governance and Coordination Secretariat	
Chris Connolly A/g Assistant Coordinator-General , National Capability and Governance National Emergency Management Agency	
s22 Assistant Director, National Governance and Projects Coordination National Emergency Management Agency	
s22 Advisor, National Governance and Projects Coordination National Emergency Management Agency	
s22 Assistant Director, National Governance and Projects Coordination National Emergency Management Agency	
s22 Advisor, National Governance and Projects Coordination National Emergency Management Agency	

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

Friday, 25 August 2023, Brisbane

Attachment B

Communique

National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting 25 August 2023

A meeting of the National Emergency Management Ministers was held in Brisbane to align with the AFAC 2023 conference on 25 August. Federal, State and Territory Emergency Management Ministers and the Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by senior officials from Australian, state and territory and local governments.

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) was chaired by Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management.

Meeting Outcomes

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook - Spring

NEMMM members were provided with a presentation on the seasonal outlook overview from Andrew Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Bureau of Meteorology and summary of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Seasonal Outlook provided by the National Emergency Management Agency. Members noted the increased likelihood of heatwave, grassfire and bushfire conditions this season and thanked all emergency services personnel for the extensive work undertaken to prepare for the coming season.

Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Coordination

Members discussed the current national housing/accommodation shortages and the need to pro-actively plan to deliver appropriate emergency and temporary accommodation solutions in response to disasters during the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season. Members noted that Commonwealth, state and territory officials are working together to develop advice on the broad range of options available under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and agreed to develop a National Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Register as the first step in a National Plan for providing emergency and temporary accommodation following disasters that incorporate culturally appropriate and inclusive practices. Members also agreed to seek discussion of these matters by Federal, State and Territory Housing Ministers.

Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting agreed the Commonwealth, states and territories will continue work together to support national consistency including to achieve streamlined processes for local governments to access support and local council awareness of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements measures ahead of the upcoming Higher Risk Weather Season.

Lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles and safety considerations for Emergency Services Workers

The Australian, state and territory governments agreed to consider emerging risks and impacts on emergency service organisations arising from the increasing use of lithium-ion batteries and associated risks to emergency services workers and the community.

National Capability Projects

Members noted updates to the following projects, Public Safety Mobile Broadband, the National Messaging System, the National Emergency Stockpile and the National 'Tell Us Once' Program and agreed on the importance of maintaining momentum on each project.

Mental Health Initiatives

Members endorsed the first *National Mental Health Plan for Emergency Services Workers: 2024-2027: A commitment to continued action*. The plan acknowledges the specific challenges faced by emergency services workers and the essential role they provide in supporting communities before, during and after disasters, often at the risk of their own health.

The Second National Action Plan to Implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Members endorsed the Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and stand united in our commitment to work with all stakeholders to implement the Second National Action Plan, and to continue building a disaster-resilient Australia for generations to come.

Update on Disaster Ready Fund (DRF): High-level principles and design for Round Two

The Australian, state and territory governments discussed the implementation of projects approved through Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) and principles that will inform the design of Round Two to ensure the fund delivers safer, more disaster resilient communities.

Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness

Members received an update on the Government's progress on Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness.

Insurance Arrangements

Members discussed the challenges faced by communities relating to insurance efficacy, availability and affordability. Members agreed to continue to work across levels of government through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee to reduce disaster risk, and to put downward pressure on insurance premiums in the longer term. Members noted the Australian Government's intent to take forward issues raised by NEMMM to the Hazards Insurance Partnership meeting in November 2023.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

Friday, 20 October 2023, Virtual

Outcomes

Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management and Chair of NEMMM, welcomed members, observers and presenters to the meeting. • Minister Watt acknowledged members attendance and apologies (Attachment A) • Minister Watt discussed the collaboration by members across a number of programs highlighting progress in the Public Safety Mobile Broadband, the Disaster Ready Fund and the publication of the interim report on progress against recommendations from the <i>Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements</i> (Royal Commission).
Item 2 – Update on Outstanding Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) provided an update on the outstanding action items. • Minister Watt advised that he has requested, through the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing, post disaster emergency housing be included on the agenda for the next Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council meeting. • Minister Watt also thanked Members for the contribution their agencies made to the National Co-ordination Mechanism Meeting on Emergency Accommodation, which would contribute to the development of an emergency accommodation register.
Resolution:
Members noted the status of outstanding action items.
Action: Nil
Item 3 – Seasonal Outlook – Bureau of Meteorology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s22, National Manager of Climate Services, Bureau of Meteorology, presented the Seasonal Outlook for November 2023 to January 2024, highlighting the expectation of extreme heat, increased bushfire risk and drought.
Action: Nil
Resolution:
Members noted the update from the Bureau of Meteorology for the Seasonal Outlook for November 2023 to January 2024.

Item 4 .1 – Outcomes of the 2023-24 National Preparedness Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator-General Moon provided an update from the 2023-24 High Risk Weather Season (HRWS) National Preparedness Summit (Summit) held in Canberra on 25-26 September 2023, identifying preliminary insights derived briefings, panels and a discussion exercise designed to inform national preparedness for the upcoming season. Members agreed the Summit was a helpful initiative and supported future iterations.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the preliminary insights gained from the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season National Preparedness Summit.</p>
<p>Actions: Nil</p>
Item 4.2 – Emergency Services Workers’ Fatigue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed emergency services workers’ fatigue and its effects on paid, volunteer and Local Government staff involved in emergency response and recovery. Members discussed encouraging the use of employer provisions such as access to leave and mental health support for employees, and the reimbursement of out of pocket expenses to access and encourage volunteerism. Members raised the challenges faced and potential opportunities to maintain and engage volunteers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> streamlining support, recruitment and retention including reviewing training, accreditation and building engagement in event based volunteerism, removing barriers to people volunteering, and providing tax incentives for individuals to encourage employers to free up staff. the cost of living and labour market pressures impacting on the availability of volunteers, opportunities to volunteer in a support role, rather than operational, and leadership programs to build resilience in response to fatigue and mental health impacts, particularly in Local Government Areas.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted challenges and opportunities related to emergency services workers’ fatigue and agreed to share insights to the Department of Home Affairs for consideration in the context of the Alternative Commonwealth Capability for Crisis Response.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
Item 4.3 – Discussion on the risks associated with the reduced window for fuel reduction activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Coordinator-General Joe Buffone, NEMA, spoke to this item. Deputy Coordinator-General Buffone acknowledged the challenges created by the reduced window for fuel reduction given that the 2023-24 HRWS has already begun nationally. Members discussed the various conditions, challenges and fuel reduction programs in place across the states and territories.

<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the efforts of all jurisdictions to undertake fuel reduction and broader preparedness activities despite challenging conditions ahead of the 2023-24 HRWS and acknowledged the impacts of climate change on these activities.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 4.4 - Readiness of National Aerial Firefighting Fleet</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Rob Rogers provided members with an update from the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), on the readiness of the National Aerial Firefighting Fleet. • Commissioner Rogers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provided an overview of the status of the National Aerial Firefighting Fleet and advised that the nation was well placed moving into the 2023-24 HRWS, and ○ updated members on the ongoing work between the NAFC, AFAC, and NEMA to identify medium to long term aerial firefighting needs aligned to recommendations from the Royal Commission.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the status of the National Aerial Firefighting Fleet ahead of the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 4.5 – Australian Fire Danger Rating System</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Watt invited Commissioner Rogers and s22 from the NSW Rural Fire Service to speak to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). • s22 provided a presentation to members explaining the achievements of the current AFDRS system, challenges and future improvements. • Members discussed the recent media coverage of the AFDRS and initiatives to build community confidence in the AFDRS.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the achievements and operational status of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 5 – Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Australian Capital Territory, introduced Mr Nazir Afzal OBE to present to members on the findings of the Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade (Review). • Members discussed the parallels seen across various workplaces, addressing cultural challenges and the importance of engaged leadership.

<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the presentation provided by Mr Nazir Afzal OBE, regarding the findings of the Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 6 - Alternative Commonwealth Capability for Crisis Response Discussion paper</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr James Robinson, Acting First Assistant Secretary of National Security, Department of Home Affairs, provided an update on the review into how the Australian Government can bolster capabilities and national capacity to ensure it is able to continue to support state and territory led emergency response and recovery activities. • Mr Robinson reinforced the role of the Australia Defence Force (ADF) in supporting the state and territory led response, and provided an update on the breath of consultation underway across multiple stakeholders, as well as emerging key themes and next steps. • Members discussed the challenges with potential ADF alternatives such as interaction with existing services, situational/control management and the impact on existing voluntary organisations.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the update on the Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 7 - Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Watt introduced Mr Andrew Colvin, Independent Lead, Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, and advised members that he had been provided with the Interim Report into Commonwealth Disaster Funding. • Mr Colvin provided a presentation highlighting the interim report insights, an analysis of disaster funding data, an overview of preliminary findings and the next steps leading to the final report in April 2024. • Members discussed the challenge of varied understanding of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) requirements across jurisdictions. It was acknowledged that this is being addressed through a range of activities, including NEMA's DRFA Roadshows with states and territories.
<p>Resolution:</p> <p>Members noted the update on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.</p>
<p>Action: Nil</p>
<p>Item 8 – Meeting Close and Other Business</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed to the Communique (Attachment B) to be published on the NEMA website following the meeting. • Minister Watt thanked everyone for attending the final meeting for 2023. • The next meeting date will be advised when the 2024 meeting schedule has been finalised.
<p>Action: Nil</p>

Attachment A

Attendance List

Jurisdiction	Attendance
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Murray Watt Minister for Emergency Management
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice
Victoria	The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP Minister for Emergency Services
Queensland	The Hon Mark Ryan MP Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Western Australia	The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Office of the Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade
South Australia	The Hon Joe Szakacs MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Tasmania	The Hon Felix Ellis MP Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Mick Gentleman MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Karen Chappel (Proxy for Councillor Linda Scott) Vice President
	Apologies
Northern Territory	The Hon Kate Worden MLA (Nil proxy) Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Linda Scott (Proxy Councillor Karen Chappel) President
	Observers
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Tony Sheldon Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery
	s22 Disaster Recovery Advisor Office of Senator the Hon Tony Sheldon
	s22 Deputy Chief of Staff for Emergency Management Office of the Minister for Emergency Management
	s22 Adviser for Emergency Management Office of the Minister for Emergency Management
	s22 Assistant Adviser for Emergency Management Minister for Emergency Management
	Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency

Jurisdiction	Observers
Commonwealth	Joe Buffone PSM Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response National Emergency Management Agency
	Andrew Chandler A/g Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery National Emergency Management Agency
	Sandon Morrell CSM A/g First Assistant Coordinator-General, Enterprise Governance Division National Emergency Management Agency
New South Wales	s22 A/g Executive Director, Emergency Services Coordination Delivery and Coordination Group Premier's Department
	s22 A/g Director, Policy Group Premier's Department
	s22 Associate Director, Emergency Services Coordination Premiers Department
Victoria	Rick Nugent APM Emergency Management Commissioner Emergency Management Victoria
	Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary Emergency Management Department of Justice and Community Safety
	Ken Macpherson Chief of Staff Office of Jaclyn Symes MP
	s22 Advisor Office of Jaclyn Symes MP
Queensland	s22 Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
	R s22 Principal Policy Officer Strategic Policy Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
	Greg Leach AFSM Commissioner Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Western Australia	Darren Forster Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade
	s22 Principle Policy Advisor Office of the Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade

Jurisdiction	Observers
South Australia	Mark Stratton A/g Chief Executive Officer South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission
	s22 Director, Security, Emergency and Recovery Management Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	s22 Adviser Office of the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Tasmania	Elainia Deayton Chief of Staff The Hon Felix Ellis MP
	s22 Senior Adviser Office of Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Management
	Jeremy Smith AFSM A/g Chief Officer Tasmania Fire Service
	Todd Crawford Deputy Secretary, Policy and Delivery Department of Premier and Cabinet
Australian Capital Territory	s22 Senior Advisor ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services
	Wayne Phillips Interim Emergency Services Agency Commissioner Justice and Community Safety Directorate
	Richard Glenn Director-General Justice and Community Safety Directorate
	s22 Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Northern Territory	s22 Director Northern Territory Emergency Service Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Michael Murphy Commissioner of Police Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Kelsey Branford Chief of Staff Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	s22 Executive Director
Australian Strategic Policy Institute	Dr Robert Glasser Head of Climate and Security Policy
	Gill Savage Senior Fellow

Presenters	
Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade	Nazir Afzal OBE Chair
Bureau of Meteorology	s22 National Manager Climate Services
Deloitte Australia	Andrew Colvin Partner, Financial Advisory
NSW Rural Fire Service	Rob Rogers AFSM Commissioner
	s22 Director, Community Risk

Secretariat, National Emergency Management Agency, NationalGovernance@nema.gov.au.

Attachment B

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held virtually on 20 October 2023.

Commonwealth, State and Territory emergency management portfolio ministers and the Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by their senior officials.

Seasonal Outlook

Members were provided with an update on the seasonal outlook overview from the Bureau of Meteorology.

National Preparedness

Members discussed the recent 2023–24 Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS) National Preparedness Summit, held 25–26 September 2023 at Australian Parliament House, and preliminary insights from the Summit that will support Australia's preparedness for the 2023–24 HRWS.

Governments at all levels have been briefed on the HRWS. While we are well prepared, not all risks can be eliminated. The seasonal climatic outlook presents challenges that will require close coordination and collaboration through existing mechanisms such as the Australian Government National Situation Room, the National Coordination Mechanism and the National Resource Sharing Centre.

The Australian Government continues to work in partnership with States and Territories, which are the lead for crises that occur within their jurisdictions.

Through building and supporting the development of national capabilities like the National Emergency Management Stockpile and Public Safety Mobile Broadband, the Australian Government is working with States, Territories and local governments to keep Australians safe.

Ministers discussed fatigue among workers and volunteers among emergency services, local government, the community sector and other groups, following consecutive years of extreme weather. A range of potential interventions to further support workers and volunteers were identified for further consideration.

Ministers noted the efforts of all jurisdictions to undertake fuel reduction and broader preparedness activities despite challenging conditions ahead of the 2023–24 HRWS and acknowledged the impacts of climate change on these activities.

Members noted the status of the National Aerial Firefighting fleet ahead of the HRWS and discussed options for improved capability in this area for the future.

Members noted the achievements and operational status of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System as an important capability that supports States and Territories, fire services and the community with critical risk information to make operational and safety decisions.

Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade

Members were provided with a presentation from Mr Nazir Afzal OBE, Chair of the Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade (the Review), regarding the outcomes of the Review.

Alternative Commonwealth Capability for Crisis Response

Members were provided with a presentation from the Head of the National Resilience Taskforce, Department of Home Affairs, on the Alternative Commonwealth Capability for Crisis Response.

Independent Review into Commonwealth Disaster Funding

Members noted an update on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Disaster Funding from the Independent Review lead Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

AGENDA ITEM 4.4 | 20 October 2023

Readiness of National Aerial Firefighting Fleet

RECOMMENDATION

That members

- 1) **NOTE** the status of the National Aerial Firefighting Fleet ahead of the Higher Risk Weather Season and **DISCUSS** options for improved capability in this area.

PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ TEXT

Emergency Management Ministers noted the status of the National Aerial Firefighting fleet ahead of the Higher Risk Weather Season and discussed options for improved capability in this area.

KEY ISSUES

- The purpose of this item is to provide members with a shared understanding on the status of the National Aerial Firefighting Fleet ahead of the Higher Risk Weather Season and to discuss options for enhanced capability in this area.
- A discussion is required to seek an understanding of how prepared we are for the season ahead in terms of national aerial firefighting fleet requirements to ensure Australia is in the best position practical to face the fire season.

BACKGROUND

- Under Australia's constitutional arrangements, state and territory governments have responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment within their jurisdiction. While the Australian Government works closely with state and territory governments, and provides funding support to maintain a national level of preparedness, it is necessary for state and territory governments to make relevant decisions affecting their areas of responsibility.
- All levels of governments in Australia recognise the importance of having access to a sophisticated, flexible aerial firefighting capability to respond to bushfires, protect communities and support firefighters on the ground. The aerial firefighting fleet, pilots and aircrew contracted to fight fires in Australia are employed by the commercial aircraft operators who supply the aircraft services to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) or to state and territory agencies under contractual arrangements.
- For the 2023-24 bushfire season this funding currently supports a national fleet of approximately 160 aircraft, including 6 Large Air Tankers. States and territories provide the majority of the funding for the operational use of the aircraft.
- The fleet is supplemented by additional state owned and state contracted aircraft hired to meet peak demand across Australia. In total more than 500 aircraft, provided by over 150 operators, are available for firefighting across Australia.
- The NAFC is currently finalising tenders in readiness for the 2023-24 season.
- Aircraft counts and locations vary from time to time as the fleet balance is adjusted and individual airframes are updated or replaced.

Sponsoring Minister: Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management

Contact Officer: David Long, Assistant Coordinator General, National Crisis Operations Branch, National Emergency Management Agency, s22, s22

NEMMM Oct 2023
TRIM REF: D2023/167111

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM)

Date: 23/04/2024

Location: VIRTUAL

Summary of Outcomes

1. Agenda Item – Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management and Chair of NEMMM, welcomed members and observers to the meeting.

Minister Watt acknowledged:

- Member attendance, including new members the Hon Dan Cregan MP (SA) and the Hon Brent Potter MLA (NT), congratulated the Hon Felix Ellis MP (Tas.) on his re-election and acknowledged apologies (Attachment A).
- The increasing pressure on the emergency management system due to increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters impacting large parts of Australia, and increased community expectations of government support before, during and after disaster events.
- The critical need to continue to reform emergency management and resilience systems, as highlighted in recent reviews, including through the development of whole-of-nation capabilities, to respond to the significant challenges ahead. A failure to invest in changes now will only exacerbate these issues.
- Ongoing efforts at all levels of government to work together to better prepare, respond and support recovery.

2. Agenda Item – Higher Risk Weather Season Lessons

Minister Watt acknowledged the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS), noting:

- All states and territories have been affected, with several jurisdictions enduring significant impacts.
- Work continues on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and state, territory and local agencies in issuing various weather warnings, including through the newly implemented Australian Warning System.
- The National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS) deployed for the first time - in particular, to provide temporary accommodation in Bloomfield, Far North Queensland (FNQ) in the wake of Cycle Jasper.
- The pilot of the Commonwealth Recovery Liaison Officer (CRLO), with Michelle Lees, deploying to facilitate liaison between the Australian Government and Queensland state and local governments to support recovery efforts related to Cyclone Jasper.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Members discussed the following:

- Interest in seeing CRLO deployments occur to support future disaster events.
- Equipping states and territories with information to be able to better explain Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to assist in managing community expectations.
- The need to address community concerns about the evolving role of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during disasters with a focus on unique capabilities.
- Success in pre-positioning specialist capabilities and resources ahead of disaster events.
- The National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) partnership and its continued effectiveness.
- Ongoing issues with telecommunications and energy outages during disaster events, including access to triple zero.
- Flood gauge malfunctions in the Northern Territory (NT) that resulted in planning challenges.
- The value of engaging with Land Councils early to ensure messaging is delivered to First Nations people by appropriate means during a disaster event.
- A request that national reporting on key road closures is made available to states and territories to inform supply chain decisions.
- The collaboration between states and territories demonstrated during the HRWS, with lesser impacted jurisdictions sharing resources across borders to provide impacted jurisdictions with additional support.

Minister Watt advised he would work with the NT Government and BoM to address faulty flood gauges in western Darwin that had affected the assessment of flood risk and planning for evacuations.

The Chair invited updates on FNQ Recovery planning, the telecommunications and energy sectors and the Hazard Insurance Partnership.

FNQ Recovery:

Senator the Hon. Tony Sheldon, Federal Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery, advised:

The important role of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) coordinator in supporting the Wujal Wujal community.

Water and sewerage is still a concern in affected communities. Local government has raised the potential for DRFA applications to undertake scoping studies to help expedite decisions by both the Queensland Recovery Agency and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on where to focus disaster response.

Telecommunications and Energy Sector:

Joe Buffone, Deputy Coordinator-General, NEMA, advised:

- NEMA is bringing the telecommunications and energy sectors together for an After Action Review to strengthen:
 - Resilience building within the system, forward planning for outages and increasing responsiveness in capability deployment.
 - Communication with jurisdictions on recurring issues.
- NEMA will raise the 3G to 5G transition with Australian Government partners.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Brendan Moon, Coordinator-General, NEMA, suggested that the 2024 HRWS Summit, scheduled for later in the year, could have a focus on cooperation with and preparedness of the telecommunications and energy sectors.

Hazard Insurance Partnership (HIP):

Andrew Minack, First Assistant Coordinator-General, Policy and Governance, NEMA, advised:

- The HIP has been working together for 12 months to drive greater cooperation between government and insurers to address insurance affordability and availability.
- NEMA is working with the Commonwealth Treasury Department on standard definitions and cover and with insurers on data sharing down to the household level to inform policy interventions.
- The HIP is working toward developing a priority catchment mitigation strategy and capturing existing flood risk mapping to inform risk planning.
- Understanding community attitudes toward insurance will assist in developing community awareness programs.
- The HIP will develop a mitigations knowledge database, at household and community level, to capture what households can do to reduce risk.

Minister Watt advised:

- The Resilience Building Council, supported by Australia Government funding, has developed a mobile app detailing low or no cost strategies for households to bolster resilience and lower risk.
- Two insurers have come forward proposing lowered premiums for households who action mitigation strategies outlined on the mobile app.

Resolution(s): Members:

- Nil

Action(s):

1. The NEMMM to discuss insurance and data sharing at its 6 September 2024 meeting.
2. NEMA to share the telecommunications and energy sector After Action Review report with states and territories post the HRWS Summit to be held on 18 and 19 September 2024.

3. Agenda Item – Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review)

Minister Watt introduced the item, noting the current national governance arrangements do not drive the risk reduction and resilience efforts required nationally to address increasing disaster risk.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** to review the NEMMM Terms of Reference (TORs) to ensure there is greater focus on reducing disaster risk and building resilience.
- **Agreed** Minister Watt bring forward a proposal for improving national natural disaster governance arrangements, aligned to the Glasser Review, for consideration at the next NEMMM, subject to state, territory and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) engagement through ANZEMC.
- **Agreed** to extend an invitation to relevant state, territory and Commonwealth Ministers with responsibility for disaster risk reduction and the resilience to attend the 6 September NEMMM.

Action(s):

3. NEMMM to review its TORs to ensure there is greater focus on reducing disaster risk and building resilience.
4. Minister Watt to bring forward a proposal for improving national natural disaster governance arrangements for consideration at the next NEMMM.
5. NEMA to invite relevant state, territory and Commonwealth Ministers to the September NEMMM in line with the above resolution.

4. Agenda Item – Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review)

Andrew Colvin AO APM provided a briefing on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, noting the Final Report will be delivered to the Australian Government on 30 April 2024.

Minister Watt assured members there will be further engagement with state, territory and ALGA ahead of the Commonwealth response, noting ALGA's request that consultation include member associations.

Andrew Minack (NEMA) provided members with an update on the DRFA Review. The final draft of the report is due to be completed by 30 June, with final state and territory consultations to follow. In line with the DRFA Review, two new 'off the shelf' packages are being developed to streamline recovery support in the areas of legal and welfare and mental health.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** that consultation with the states, territories and ALGA will continue on the Colvin Review recommendations and report, prior to the issuing of the Commonwealth's formal response to the Final Report.

Action(s):

6. NEMA to facilitate further consultation with the states, territories and ALGA on the Colvin Review recommendations and report prior to the issuing of the Commonwealth's formal response.

5. Agenda Item – NEMMM Priorities

Members discussed the NEMMM priorities in light of current reviews. Key points included:

- The need to consider how to best support workforces and volunteers, in both the domestic and international context, in line with Priority 5 (building capability).

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Ongoing consideration of international engagement including:
 - NEMA is continuing work with the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom on international arrangements, and progressing the arrangement with the United States Agency for International Assistance (USAID) beyond fire arrangements.
 - The National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC) provides cross-jurisdictional domestic support and operationalises the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States for fire arrangements only.
 - Arrangement exist at a state level and NEMA is seeking to enhance coordination at a national level beyond fire where Australia may require assistance.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** the NEMMM Priorities.
- **Agreed** to move to an annual review of the NEMMM Priorities to ensure they remain fit for purpose and can be amended as required.

Action(s):

7. NEMA to come back to ANZEMC and NEMMM on developments in international arrangements beyond established firefighting protocols.
8. The Chair to facilitate an annual review of the NEMMM Priorities, supported by NEMA.

6. Agenda Item – ANZEMC Work Plan and Terms of Reference

Members discussed and agreed the revised ANZEMC Work Plan and Terms of Reference (TORs), noting timeframes are ambitious due to resourcing constraints.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** the ANZEMC Work Plan.
- **Agreed** the ANZEMC Terms of Reference.

Action(s):

9. NEMA to review Work Plan deliverable timeframes for 2024 and 2025 to ensure they are achievable.

7. Agenda Item – Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Minister Watt advised members that the National Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) program continues to make significant progress.

He acknowledged states and territories need to further engage with their central agencies ahead of a commitment. Minister Watt proposed adjusting the focus from executing the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to continuing negotiations, noting his preference to work towards execution by 30 June 2024. The adjustment of focus would not affect the delivery of the PSMB program, nor the planned approach to market.

The PSMB Taskforce are aware jurisdictions have invested in elements of a PSMB at a state and territory level and have concerns around interoperability of legacy systems, current investments made, and how to integrate into a National PSMB. Technical solutions will be developed to

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

transition legacy systems and existing communication capabilities, such as Land Mobile Radio, over time.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** that progressing the PSMB capability remains a priority for the Commonwealth and jurisdictions.
- **Noted** that negotiations are ongoing on the development and agreement of a principles-based IGA.
- **Agreed** the Commonwealth approach the market to request information on options for a PSMB, including costs.
- **Agreed** to consider the PSMB IGA once the capabilities, costs and timeframes of the National PSMB are known.

Action(s):

- **Nil**

8. Agenda Item – Meeting close and other business

- The Chair thanked participants for attending and for their contributions to the discussion.
- Confirmed the next NEMMM will be held in Sydney on 6 September, coinciding with the annual Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council conference.
- Asked members to put forward any proposed agenda items for the September NEMMM to his office by 17 May.
- Advised the meeting communique would be published on the NEMA website within the next 48hrs.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Nil**

Action(s):

10. Members to put forward any proposed agenda items for the September NEMMM to Minister Watt's office by 17 May.
11. NEMA to publish the meeting communique on the NEMA website.

Attachment A

Meeting Attendees

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Murray Watt Minister for Emergency Management
Australian Capital Territory	The Hon Mick Gentleman MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services
New South Wales	Janelle Anne Saffin MP (Proxy) Deputy Government Whip, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery
Northern Territory	The Hon Brent Potter MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services
South Australia	The Hon Dan Cregan MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Tasmania	The Hon Felix Ellis MP Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Victoria	The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP Minister for Emergency Services
Western Australia	The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Emergency Services
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Karen Chappel Vice President
Apologies	
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib MP Minister for Emergency Services
Queensland	The Hon Mark Ryan MP Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Non-member Presenters	
Deloitte	Andrew Colvin Partner, Financial Advisory

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction /Agency	Observers
Commonwealth	<p>Senator the Hon Tony Sheldon Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery</p> <p>Jonathan Costello Chief of Staff Office of Senator the Hon Tony Sheldon</p> <p>s22 Advisor for Emergency Management Office of the Minister for Emergency Management</p> <p>Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>Dr Jill Charker Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>Joe Buffone Deputy Coordinator-General Emergency Management Response</p> <p>Andrew Minack First Assistant Coordinator-General Policy and Governance Branch</p> <p>Bradley Creevey Assistant Coordinator-General Public Safety Mobile Broadband Taskforce</p> <p>Jason Dymowski Assistant Secretary, Resilience and Response Branch Resilience and Crisis Management Division Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>s22 Senior Advisor Office of the Hon Mick Gentleman MLA</p> <p>Wayne Phillips Commissioner ACT Emergency Services Agency</p> <p>s22 Executive Group Manager Security and Emergency Management Division Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p> <p>Ray Johnson Acting Deputy Director-General Community Safety Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction /Agency	Observers
New South Wales	<p>s22 [REDACTED] Deputy Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jihad Dib MP</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Executive Director, Emergency Management Branch Premier's Department</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Director, Policy Emergency Management Branch Premier's Department</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Senior Associate, Policy Emergency Management Branch Premier's Department</p>
Northern Territory	<p>Gemma Bellenger Acting Deputy Director Police Fire and Emergency Services</p>
Queensland	<p>s22 [REDACTED] Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Minister for Police and Community Safety</p> <p>Shane Chelepy APM Deputy Commissioner Queensland Police Service</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Manager, Emergency Management Policy Emergency Management and Coordination Command Queensland Police Service</p>
South Australia	<p>Julia Waddington-Powell RN, MIH, MHM, GAICD Chief Executive SAFECOM</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Director, Security Emergency and Recovery Management Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED] Senior Ministerial Advisor Office of the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction /Agency	Observers
Tasmania	<p>Jeremy Smith Acting Chief Executive Officer Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management</p> <p>Todd Crawford Executive Director, Resilience and Recovery Tasmania Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
Victoria	<p>Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management Department of Justice and Community Safety</p> <p>Ken Macpherson Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MP</p> <p>s22 Adviser Office of the Attorney General, the Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC</p>
Western Australia	<p>Darren Klemm Commissioner Office of the Minister for Emergency Services</p> <p>Darren Forster Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for Emergency Services</p> <p>Melissa Pexton Deputy Commissioner Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>s22 Principal Policy Officer Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination Department of Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 Appointments Secretary Office of the Hon Stephen Dawson</p>
Australian Local Government Association	<p>s22 Director, Policy</p>
Deloitte	<p>Tayanah O'Donnell National Lead Partner, Climate Adaptation, Risk and Resilience</p> <p>Sarah Millen Partner, Deloitte Business Modelling</p>
Secretariat – National Emergency Management Agency (NationalGovernance@nema.gov.au)	<p>Amanda Coghlan Assistant Coordinator-General, National Governance and Reviews Emergency Management and Response Group (EMR)</p> <p>s22 Assistant Director, National Commonwealth Tier 1 Committees, EMR</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held virtually on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management portfolio ministers and the Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by their senior officials.

Higher Risk Weather Season Lessons

Members discussed and reflected on lessons of the current Higher Risk Weather Season, with the view to applying lessons to support rapid adaptation and continuous improvement across the emergency management continuum.

Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review)

Members discussed the Final Report on the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements and agreed to review the NEMMM Terms of Reference, to ensure there is a greater focus on reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review)

Members received a briefing from Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, which is due to be delivered to the Australian Government by 30 April 2024. The Commonwealth agreed to further consultations with states, territories and local governments prior to providing a formal response to Mr Colvin's Final Report.

NEMMM 2024 Priorities

Members agreed new national emergency management priorities focussed on: strengthening understanding of natural hazard risk, risk reduction investment and the intersection with insurance; building partnerships with planning and infrastructure portfolios to drive risk reduction more broadly; helping communities to be better prepared for disasters; improving data sharing and telecommunications; and generating greater investment in future emergency management capabilities. These priorities represent critical issues that require collective nationwide attention.

ANZEMC 2024 Work Plan

Members agreed a new Work Plan for the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC), which includes key lines of effort that are on delivering outcomes under the new NEMMM priorities.

Members also agreed new Terms of Reference for ANZEMC that introduce more effective ways for the Committee to operate, and give greater focus to reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Members agreed that progressing the PSMB capability remains a priority for the Commonwealth and jurisdictions. Members noted that the jurisdictions are currently negotiating a Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). The IGA will be a principles-based agreement between the Australian Government and the states and territories to build and access an enduring national PSMB capability.



National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM)

Date: 6/09/2024

Location: International Convention Centre, Sydney NSW

Summary of Outcomes

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management and NEMMM Chair:

- Opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country.
- Welcomed attendees and noted apologies (**Attachment A**).
- Noted the declaration of interest from Karen Chappel, trustee and director for the local government indemnity scheme.
- Reflected on the significant contribution of Senator the Hon Murray Watt to the emergency management sector in his previous role as Minister for Emergency Management and NEMMM Chair and his collaborative approach to supporting response and recovery efforts.
- Noted Australian government budget commitments included in the 2024-25 Federal budget, including: \$35 million to aerial firefighting; \$27 million to the National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS); \$3.9 billion under the joint Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA); and \$200 million for disaster risk reduction and resilience activities under the Disaster Ready Fund 2.
- Noted the Commonwealth's ongoing focus to complement and augment existing Commonwealth coordination capabilities and provide support to state and territory response functions.

2. Seasonal Outlook

Minister McAllister welcomed **s22** from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to present on the Seasonal Outlook.

s22:

- Highlighted the increased volatility of climate and weather systems due to the warming planet, with new records regularly being set.
- Advised that minor changes in weather have the potential to result in significant impacts (e.g. two weeks of hot and dry conditions could significantly alter drought and fire risk).
- Noted the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (AFAC) has altered its seasonal bushfire outlook to report on increased fire risk only, and assumes Australia's baseline fire risk to be average.
- Advised that history-based predictions for tropical cyclones are becoming less reliable due to the warming climate, with forecasters instead relying on predictive modelling.

- Noted global temperature is on track to be near or above 2023 records.
- Encouraged members to check the long-range outlook weekly.

3. Emergency Volunteering

Minister McAllister thanked Minister Jihad Dib for New South Wales' contribution to emergency volunteering and for bringing the item forward to NEMMM.

Minister Dib:

- Noted that emergency volunteering is a national issue and would benefit from a national approach or set of guiding principles to drive and coordinate national action and address common challenges.
- Provided an overview of the NSW Review of Emergency Volunteering, including key pressures faced by the sector and work underway in NSW to support volunteering.
- Welcomed members' views on the guiding principles for national action, and the proposal that NSW and the Commonwealth co-lead a program on emergency volunteering with the view to developing a draft national strategy to be brought to NEMMM for consideration toward the end of 2025.

Members discussed:

- The need for flexibility in volunteering to accommodate diverse employment patterns (e.g. those working shifts or non-traditional work hours) recognising the time pressures people face.
- The importance and value of engaging and offering appropriate volunteer opportunities to diverse cohorts such as First Nations people, migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and those with disabilities.
- The role of local governments in the volunteering sector and the importance of reflecting this in the guiding principles.
- The issues posed by training and certificates not being nationally recognised or transferable (e.g. vulnerable persons checks), and differences in regulations and requirements across states and territories.
- Complexities around volunteer incentivisation, including strong differences of opinion between volunteer groups on this matter. While caution should be given to providing money for effort, some incentivisation can provide recognition that volunteering comes at a personal cost.
- The professionalism of volunteering being both a barrier and motivator. Upskilling volunteers can be time consuming, costly and administratively burdensome, however can also provide fulfilment and professional growth.
- The value of spontaneous volunteering, including to meet capability gaps, and the value in identifying opportunities to upskill spontaneous volunteers in a flexible and accessible way.

Resolution(s) - Members:

- Agreed to NSW and the Commonwealth co-leading a program of work to support emergency volunteering, in line with Deliverable 5.1 of the ANZEMC Work Plan, to help inform the development of a draft national strategy to be brought to NEMMM for consideration in late 2025.

4. Capability Updates

Aerial Firefighting

Minister McAllister reiterated the objective of the Aerial Firefighting capability to enhance the resources available for national firefighting, as well as create a multiuse capability. Contracting is underway, with an outcome expected shortly.

Members noted the importance of access to Commonwealth assets during the upcoming fire season.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB)

Minister McAllister acknowledged members' interest in further information on the PSMB, as raised at the previous NEMMM meeting. NEMA is engaged in an approach to market, through a Request for Information (RFI), which will provide answers to questions regarding capability, costs and delivery models. Minister McAlister committed to return to the Committee to discuss the outcomes of the RFI and seek the input of members to inform future decisions.

Action(s):

- a) NEMMM Secretariat to include an update on the PSMB RFI on the agenda for the 15 November 2024 NEMMM.

5. Warning Systems

Minister McAllister noted the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Australian Warning System (AWS) and preparations for the Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS) and invited Coordinator-General Brendan Moon, NEMA, to open the item.

Coordinator-General Moon:

- Noted the intent of the AWS to provide a nationally consistent approach to issuing information and warnings during emergencies, covering all hazards.
- Highlighted the challenges which arose during the implementation of the AWS for tropical cyclones in November 2023, due to the complexity and intensity of events, and the request of the former NEMMM Chair for a review with agencies to consider areas for improvement.
- Noted the system requires greater flexibility to allow warnings to be contextualised at the local level.
- Highlighted the need for more training, testing and consistency of nomenclature prior to the next HRWS.
- Noted the national warnings webinar recently hosted by NEMA, which invited representatives from states and territories, local government and industry to consider opportunities for improvement.
- Advised NEMA would work with the BOM, state and territory emergency management agencies and local government to improve implementation.
- Thanked members for their support.

Members discussed:

- Their broad support for a nationally consistent approach, noting the differing stages of AWS integration with state-based emergency warning systems across jurisdictions.
- The challenges associated with changing systems and expressed appreciation for the consultation that had occurred.

6. Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS) Preparedness

Minister McAllister opened the item with an update on Commonwealth-led, national preparedness activities including the Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness Summit scheduled for 18-19 September. Minister McAllister thanked members for their engagement in jurisdictional briefings and welcomed advice from members on jurisdictional preparedness ahead of the HRWS.

Members discussed:

- Preparedness activities underway at the jurisdictional level to ensure jurisdictions are prepared for all hazards.
- Hazard reduction activities, including those being delivered in partnership with First Nations people.
- A desire for greater understanding and visibility of power and telecommunication sector preparedness.
- The importance of training for local councils and new mayors, particularly following periods of staff turnover. Mayors often times chair local disaster management groups.
- Strategies for managing community expectations around hazard reduction burning.
- Technological options for warnings not covered by the Australian Warning System, such as water-safety messages.

Deputy Coordinator-General Joe Buffone, NEMA provided an update on behalf of Commonwealth, including:

- NEMA's engagement with other Commonwealth agencies, jurisdictions, peak bodies and environmental groups in relation to the H7 and H5N1 strains of avian flu, including NEMA's role supporting and co-facilitating national exercises.
- Ongoing work to support transition to the cell broadcasting system.
- The Aerial Firefighting multiuse capability.
- Lessons from previous space weather-related exercises, noting the consequences of space weather can be similar to cyber-related events and the important of being able to operate in the absence of communications systems.

Minister McAllister acknowledged the maturation of emergency management planning and preparedness, including the sector's engagement with non-traditional stakeholders, and welcomed the opportunity to continue to partner with jurisdictions on national preparedness.

7. Insurance

Minister McAllister noted the request from members, following a discussion on insurance at the April NEMMM, for further discussion on insurance at the September meeting.

Minister McAllister invited:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

- Deputy Coordinator-General Jill Charker, NEMA to provide a briefing on the Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) and Dr Charker's recent study tour of the United States, and
- Coordinator-General Brendan Moon, NEMA, to provide a summary of the discussion on insurance at the 2 September ANZEMC meeting.

Dr Charker:

- Provided an update on the work of the HIP and key items discussed at the 29 August 2024 HIP meeting, including:
 - Data sharing between the insurance sector and government. HIP members have agreed to formal data sharing arrangements with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data will be used to develop a national picture of insurance affordability and availability, overlaid with natural hazard data, to provide a detailed picture of risk.
 - Work underway to identify high-risk catchments to inform flood-risk mitigation efforts.
 - NEMA's work to build a national library of practical actions households and policy makers across all levels of government can take to reduce their risks and build resilience against flood, cyclones and bushfires. The collection of 226 validated interventions and activities has been completed in conjunction with James Cook University and University of Queensland. The public interface for the database is currently being developed. It will be hosted on NEMA's website and released by the end of 2024.
 - The work of NEMA and states and territories to build a range of support materials to help communicate risk and encourage households and communities to take action to be more resilient against natural hazards. This work is building on a national survey NEMA conducted earlier this year. The initial focus for awareness materials will reflect consumers' motivations to act, and focus on building and renovating a home for resilience and on annual maintenance. These materials will be completed later in 2024.
- Provided an overview of observations and insights from her recent study tour of the United States:
 - There is a high degree of commonality across the insurance challenges faced by Australia and the United States, particularly issues of affordability and availability.
 - There are lessons from the US experience that provide insights on national insurance policy and where government intervention is targeted. The US National Insurance Program, established in the 1960s, is now \$20 billion in debt and has become extremely difficult to reform or draw to a close, resulting in significant fiscal risks for the US government.
 - The need to effect mid to long-term changes upstream to address the insurance challenge through risk reduction investment that reduces vulnerability and risk exposure. Critical to this is better data and building a risk picture.

Coordinator-General Brendan Moon, NEMA, provided a summary of the discussion on insurance at the 2 September ANZEMC meeting, including:

- A high-level discussion of the 29 August 2024 HIP meeting.
- A presentation by the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), including the ICA's work with states and territories to develop recovery agreements ahead of disasters through

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that clarify how the insurance sector and states will work together after an event. The MOUs cover five key areas:

- Two-way data sharing and providing access to emergency operations centres to strengthen coordination.
 - Access to community recovery centres to support engagement with impacted communities.
 - Supporting access to government emergency relief.
 - Government-led disaster coordination and clean-up.
 - Resilience campaigning, buy-back and retrofitting to shorten the timeframe between a disaster event and a decision on these issues.
- ANZEMC members having raised the importance of a stronger link between mitigation and risk reduction initiatives and insurance premiums and availability.

Members discussed:

- Concerns around managing community expectations of the capacity of governments to solve the problems related to insurance affordability and availability.
- The delicate balance between affordability and safeguarding the insurance industry.
- The difference between downward pressure on premiums and downward pressure on premium growth, noting the challenges and limitations in addressing certain factors impacting premiums such as rebuild costs and rising insurance costs globally.
- Risk reduction and mitigations efforts including state disaster mitigation plans not resulting in a reduction in insurance premiums commensurate with investment.
 - Minister McAllister noted this is an issue being explored by Treasury as well as the Federal Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the Insurance Affordability and Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Taskforce.
- Insurance unaffordability leaving households vulnerable and exposing governments to repair and rebuild costs with governments left as the insurer of last resort.
- An increase in natural hazards and the frequency and scale of natural disasters, leading to an increase in insurance claims.
- An interest in the Mitigation Measures Knowledge Database.
 - Dr Charker noted NEMA is working towards the release of a public interface later this year, with NEMA to continue discussions with jurisdictions as this progresses.

Action(s):

- b) NEMA to seek update from Treasury and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on insurance for the November NEMMM.

8. *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review)*

Minister McAllister acknowledged the shared challenges faced by communities and all levels of government resulting from the increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards, and the need to work in partnership to reorient the emergency management system to support greater resilience and preparedness.

Minister McAllister reinforced her position of support for Senator the Hon Murray Watt's commitment, as former Federal Minister for Emergency Management, to release the *Independent*

Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review) to jurisdictions ahead of its public release.

Minister McAllister provided an overview of the Glasser Review paper and invited members to provide feedback on the proposed five recommendations for agreement by NEMMM.

Minister McAllister advised that she would write to the Prime Minister and other Federal ministers to seek their views on opportunities to progress the remaining eleven recommendations, and encouraged members to consider a similar approach jurisdictionally, noting the recommendations are not confined to emergency management.

Members provided support for progressing recommendations 11, 12, 21, 25, 26 and noted a desire to consider the remaining recommendations of the Glasser Review alongside the Colvin Review to ensure strategic alignment.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** to progress recommendations 11, 12, 21, 25 and 26 of the Glasser Review.

9. Recovery Reforms

Minister McAllister invited Coordinator-General Brendan Moon, NEMA to provide an overview on the proposed Recovery Support Package and Tiered Recovery Support Model.

Coordinator-General Brendan Moon noted:

- NEMA is using lessons learnt to inform how the Commonwealth can move beyond funding arrangements to provide more effective and targeted recovery assistance for significant events.
- The speed of recovery remains an ongoing issue for all levels of government and for impacted communities.
- Both initiatives were discussed at the recent Recovery Leaders Forum and were positively received by jurisdictions.
- The proposed Recovery Support Package brings together a range of short term reform initiatives covering both Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and capability and focuses on:
 - Speeding up recovery assistance in critical areas that are common across disasters and jurisdictions. This will provide a level of assistance upfront to allow time for detailed recovery planning.
 - Suburb-level activation of the Australian Government Disaster Recovery (AGDRP) payment to ensure the payment is targeted to those most in need.
 - Capability to supplement and support state and/or territory recovery planning and to provide better coordination of Commonwealth assistance.
 - Improved communications on recovery support for individuals, AGDRP eligibility criteria and on the DRFA.
- The Tiered Recovery Support Model proposes a tiered approach for recovery support based on the scale of an event.
- The aim of the model is to harness support from across the Commonwealth in order to supplement and support, not supplant, jurisdictional recovery arrangements and leadership.

- The model builds on the successful three-month deployment of a Commonwealth Recovery Liaison Officer, Ms Michelle Lees, in January 2024 to support recovery efforts in Far North Queensland following the impact of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023.

Minister McAllister noted there would be ongoing opportunities for jurisdictions to offer input and feedback on the two initiatives, and welcomed comments.

Members:

- Signalled broad support for the two initiatives.
- Discussed the importance of timely, efficient and predictable relief and recovery payments.
- Acknowledged significant improvements made in recent years with respect to relief and recovery payments.
- Discussed the benefit of the 'off-the-shelf' packages (to support clean-up efforts, for example) noting the positive practical and community wellbeing impacts of timely action.

Minister McAllister thanked members for their feedback and noted NEMA will continue to work with jurisdictions on further development of the two initiatives.

10. Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Minister McAllister highlighted the significant work undertaken across all levels of government since the release of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, including through ANZEMC and NEMMM, to better equip Australia to prepare for and respond to natural hazards.

Minister McAllister noted the draft meeting communique had been updated at the request of South Australia, and welcomed feedback on the meeting paper.

ALGA noted the integration of recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 into the ANZEMC Work Plan, and proposed that local government capacity, capability and preparedness be included as a standing agenda item at ANZEMC and NEMMM meetings once per year to ensure continued focus in this area.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** to include local government capacity, capability and preparedness as a standing agenda item at ANZEMC and NEMMM meetings once per year.
- **Agreed** to the closure of recommendations 21.5 and 22.8.
- **Agreed** to transitioning recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 6.2, 12.6, 12.7, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.6, 14.1, 18.1, 18.2, 20.1, 21.4, 22.1, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 22.6, 22.7 and 24.2 into ongoing work programs.
- **Agreed** that recommendations 4.1, 11.1, 11.2, 15.2 and 15.3 would be captured under the NEMMM Priorities and the ANZEMC Work plan to ensure ongoing focus.

11. Meeting Close and Other Business

Minister McAllister thanked members for their contributions and sought the agreement of members to the draft meeting communique.

Resolution(s): Members:

- **Agreed** the NEMMM Communique (**Attachment B**).

Meeting Attendees

Members

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member
Attended	
Commonwealth	Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Cities
Australian Capital Territory	Mr Mick Gentleman MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Urban Renewal
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib MP Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Youth Justice
Queensland	The Hon Mark Ryan MP Minister for Police and Community Safety
South Australia	The Hon Daniel Cregan MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State
Tasmania	The Hon Felix Ellis MP Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Minister for Housing and Planning, Minister for Skills and Training
Victoria	The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services
Western Australia	The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research, Minister assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade
Australian Local Government Association	Karen Chappel AM JP (Proxy) Vice President Australian Local Government Association
Apologies	
Commonwealth	Senator Tony Sheldon Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery
Northern Territory	<i>Minister not yet appointed, as at 6 September 2024</i>
Australian Local Government Association	Councillor Linda Scott President Australian Local Government Association
Non-member presenters	
Commonwealth	Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency

Jurisdiction/Agency	Member
	<p>Jill Charker Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Joe Buffone PSM Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response (EMR) National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>s22 National Manager Climate Services Bureau of Meteorology</p>

Observers

Jurisdiction	Observer
Commonwealth	<p>s22 Adviser Office of Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister</p>
	<p>s22 Disaster Recovery Adviser Office of Senator Tony Sheldon</p>
	<p>Andrew Minack First Assistant Coordinator-General, Policy and Governance National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Amanda Coghlan Assistant Coordinator-General, National Governance and Reviews National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Garth Taylor Assistant Coordinator-General, Operational Capability National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Bradley Creevey Assistant Coordinator-General, Public Safety Mobile Broadband National Emergency Management Agency</p>
	<p>Janet Quigley First Assistant Secretary, Resilience and Crisis Management Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>
	<p>Meghan Hibbert Assistant Secretary, Resilience, Recovery and Response Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Tony Prescott Chief of Staff Office of Minister Mick Gentleman MLA</p> <p>s22 Senior Adviser Office of Minister Mick Gentleman MLA</p>

Jurisdiction	Observer
	<p>Wayne Phillips Commissioner ACT Emergency Services Agency</p>
	<p>Richard Glenn Director-General Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>
	<p>s22 Executive Group Manager, Security & Emergency Management Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>
New South Wales	<p>s22 Deputy Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jihad Dib MP</p>
	<p>s22 Policy Adviser Office of the Hon Jihad Dib MP</p>
	<p>Joanna Quilty Acting Chief Executive Officer NSW Reconstruction Authority</p>
	<p>Sam Toohey Executive Director, Emergency Management, Delivery and Coordination Premier's Department</p>
	<p>s22 Associate Director, Emergency Management Premier's Department</p>
	<p>s22 Graduate, Emergency Management Premier's Department</p>
Northern Territory	<p>Fleur O'Connor Chief Officer, Northern Territory Emergency Service Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p>
Queensland	<p>s22 Senior Policy Adviser Office of the Hon Mark Ryan MP</p>
	<p>Jimmy Scott General Manager Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p>
	<p>s22 Principal Policy Officer Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p>
South Australia	<p>Lukas Price Chief of Staff The Office of the Hon Dan Cregan MP</p>
	<p>Julia Waddington-Powell RN MIPH MHM GAICD Chief Executive South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission</p>

Jurisdiction	Observer
	<p>s22</p> <p>Director, Security, Emergency and Recovery Management, Intergovernmental and Diplomatic Relations Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p>
Tasmania	<p>Jeremy Smith AFSM Acting Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management</p>
Victoria	<p>Ken Macpherson Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MP</p>
	<p>s22</p> <p>Senior Adviser Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MP</p>
	<p>s22</p> <p>Adviser Office of the Hon Jaclyn Symes MP</p>
	<p>Rick Nugent Commissioner Emergency Management Victoria</p>
	<p>Sue Jamieson A/g Chief Executive Officer Emergency Recovery Victoria</p>
	<p>Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management Department of Justice and Community Safety</p>
	<p>s22</p> <p>Manager, Community Security and Emergency Management Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
Western Australia	<p>Darren Klemm AFSM FES Commissioner Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
	<p>Melissa Pexton Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management, Fire and Emergency Services Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
	<p>s22</p> <p>Principle Policy Adviser, Emergency Management Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
	<p>s22</p> <p>Senior Policy Officer Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
Australian Local Government Association	<p>s22</p> <p>Director, Policy Australian Local Government Association</p>

Jurisdiction	Observer
NEMMM Secretariat	s22 Director, National Tier 1 & Commonwealth Committees (NT1CC) National Emergency Management Agency
	s22 Assistant Director, NT1CC National Emergency Management Agency
	s22 Senior Policy Officer, NT1CC National Emergency Management Agency
	s22 Senior Secretariat Officer, National Tier 2 Committees National Emergency Management Agency
	s22 Policy Officer, NT1CC National Emergency Management Agency
	ICT Support

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

Friday, 6 September 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held in Sydney on Friday 6 September 2024.

Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management portfolio ministers and the Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by their senior officials.

Seasonal Outlook and Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness

Members received a briefing from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology on the seasonal outlook and discussed Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness ahead of the 2024-25 season.

Emergency Volunteering

Minister Dib provided members a briefing on the findings of the NSW Review of Emergency Volunteering. Members discussed initiatives to increase support for volunteers, including principles to guide national action. NSW and the Commonwealth will co-lead a program of work to support emergency volunteering, which will include the development of a draft national strategy to be brought to NEMMM for consideration in 2025.

Aerial Firefighting

Members discussed the Australian Government's continuing work to support aerial firefighting, including the increased funding for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the associated requirement that the national aerial firefighting fleet includes aircraft with multi-use capabilities. Members also discussed the Australian Government review of aerial firefighting, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Members noted that the Australian Government continues to work in collaboration with states and territories on implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Public Safety Mobile Broadband Strategic Review, and that responses to the recent Request for Information will inform the delivery model, solution design and costs for an enduring national Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.

Warning Systems

Members agreed to assess recent reviews of the Australian Warning System for lessons that could be applied when implementing the Australian Warning System in their jurisdiction.

Insurance Discussion

Members discussed common issues with insurance and agreed that through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee they would progress work in this area.

Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review)

Members discussed the *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements* (Glasser Review), including actions taken earlier in 2024 to address a number of the Review's recommendations. Members agreed to further actions to continue to progress necessary reforms to emergency management governance arrangements to drive the transformational changes needed to reduce Australia's disaster risk and create safer communities.

Recovery Reforms

Members considered proposed initiatives to enhance disaster recovery, including short-term practical reforms and a Tiered Recovery Support model. Members discussed the two proposals and provided their insights for continued refinement.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting discussed progress against recommendations from the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements*. Members agreed to transition to closure or to ongoing work programs 33 recommendations, noting the substantive progress made in response to the findings of the Royal Commission. Members recognised the importance of continued investment in evolving Australia's approach to disaster management and that work on the recommendations would be ongoing, including under the NEMMM Priorities and ANZEMC Work Plan.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

AGENDA ITEM 04a | 06 SEPTEMBER 2024

AERIAL FIREFIGHTING UPDATE**RECOMMENDATION**

That members:

1. **NOTE** the update on aerial firefighting.

SPONSORING MEMBER: Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management and Minister for Cities

PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ TEXT

Members acknowledged the Australian Government's continuing work to support and supplement state and territory aerial firefighting capability, including the increased funding for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the associated requirement that the national aerial firefighting fleet includes aircraft with multi-use capabilities. Members also discussed the Australian Government review of aerial firefighting, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

KEY ISSUES

- 1) The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is working with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) and the Business Grants Hub to vary the grant for the National Aerial Firefighting Program. Through this grant, the Australian Government co-funds the national aerial firefighting fleet (the Fleet).
- 2) The variation will extend the grant until 30 June 2026. Funding for the grant is being increased by approximately \$35 million over the next two financial years, to \$48 million per year over the next two years, with the additional requirement that the Fleet include multi-use aerial assets.
- 3) These multi-use capabilities will be performed by the National Large Air Tanker (National LAT) and two Type 1 rotary wing aircraft (specific aircraft types will be determined upon finalisation of the NAFC tender process). These capabilities will ensure the Fleet can respond to other types of disasters, such as floods and cyclones, in addition to bushfires.
- 4) NEMA has also been tasked with leading a comprehensive review of Australia's aerial firefighting arrangements (the Review).
- 5) Following a competitive procurement process, a consultant will be engaged to undertake the Review, which will commence in early September 2024, and is scheduled to be completed within six months. Outcomes from the Review will go towards informing a cost effective and efficient multi-use national aerial fleet.
- 6) The Review will consider feedback from stakeholders in the aerial firefighting industry, including state and territory emergency service agencies and private industry.

BACKGROUND

- 7) States and territories have, and will continue to have, primary responsibility for Australia's aerial firefighting capability.
- 8) As part of the 2024-25 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced funding for a greatly enhanced national aerial firefighting and broader emergency response capability. This is a step towards providing an efficient and effective alternative to the Australian Defence Force for aerial disaster response support.

- 9) The additional funding for NAFC and the Review address the intent of Recommendation 8.1 from the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements*.

Contact Officer: Christopher Field, First Assistant Coordinator-General, National Resilience Capability Programs, National Emergency Management Agency, s22 [REDACTED], s22 [REDACTED]

Clearance Officer: Brendan Moon, Coordinator-General, National Emergency Management Agency, s22 [REDACTED]

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

AGENDA ITEM 03 | 06 SEPTEMBER 2024

PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

RECOMMENDATION

That members:

1. **NOTE** the presentation on NSW's Review of Emergency Volunteering.
2. **AGREE** to the proposed guiding principles for national action to support emergency volunteering set out in the *Position Paper: Increased National Support for Emergency Volunteers (Attachment A)*.
3. **AGREE** to NSW and the Commonwealth co-leading a program of work to support emergency volunteering, in line with Deliverable 5.1 of the ANZEMC Work Plan.
4. **DISCUSS** the possible priority initiatives and reforms that have been identified by the NSW Review of Emergency Volunteering at **Attachment B**, to help inform the development of a draft national strategy to be brought to NEMMM for consideration in mid-2025.

SPONSORING MEMBER: The Hon Jihad Dib, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, and Minister for Youth Justice

PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ TEXT

Emergency Management Ministers agreed to principles to guide national action and initiatives to support emergency volunteers and discussed options to increase support for volunteers.

KEY ISSUES

- 1) It has been identified as a National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting Priority to *invest in building the future capabilities required across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, with people at the centre.*
- 2) To address this priority, ANZEMC has been tasked to commence a multi-year program of work to develop a nationwide approach to supporting the wellbeing of volunteers, mechanisms for incentivising this workforce and alternative and novel volunteer pathways.
- 3) For consideration by members, NSW has prepared a set of guiding principles for national action in relation to emergency volunteering in **Attachment A** and a number of potential initiatives and reforms at **Attachment B** for initial discussion to assist in the development of a draft strategy to be considered in mid-2025.
- 4) The guidelines and the proposed initiatives were informed by NSW's recent Review of Emergency Volunteering in NSW, which can be found at www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/review-of-emergency-volunteering-reports. The review considered:
 - the nature of emergency services and emergency management volunteering in NSW including a particular focus on trends in regional and remote NSW;
 - opportunities to integrate informal volunteers into the emergency management framework; and
 - how well-placed NSW is to meet projected future demand for emergency services volunteers, and additional actions that would assist to meet this demand.

- 5) The Review was published on 1 June 2024 and identified that there is a role for increased national coordination to support emergency volunteers and community capability.
- 6) The proposed guiding principles for national action to support emergency volunteering seek to ensure a coordinated and well-integrated approach at the national level and that national initiatives are co-designed with States and Territories; responsive to their needs; complement state-based efforts; and build a scalable national capability.
- 7) To serve as an initial basis for discussion, NSW has put forward a list of proposed initiatives and reforms identified in the Review as potential options to increase national support for emergency volunteering in all states and territories and/or improve community capability to respond to emergencies. These include:
 - Streamlining training, administrative and compliance requirements for volunteer organisations;
 - Development of financial incentives or support;
 - Reforms to honours and awards systems;
 - Implementation of a national standard or system for volunteer insurance; and,
 - Examination of a range of funding mechanisms to support informal volunteers.
- 8) To further develop these initiatives, and to provide an opportunity for the Commonwealth, states and territories to share their experiences, and good practices, NSW will also host a nationwide officer-level forum before the end of 2024. The forum will help inform recommendations for national action to be provided to NEMMM by mid-2025.

BACKGROUND

- 9) The 2024 ANZEMC Work Plan includes the following: “*Deliverable 5.1: In 2024, commence a multi-year program of work to develop a nationwide approach to supporting the wellbeing of volunteers (including consideration of work health and safety obligations), mechanisms for incentivising this workforce and alternative and novel volunteer pathways.*”
- 10) Three milestones are identified under this Deliverable:
 - By end-2024, ANZEMC members have shared their experiences, good practices and initiatives to support the wellbeing of volunteers and provide incentives.
 - By mid-2025, develop a strategy for developing novel pathways for emergency management volunteers beyond traditional cohorts including State Emergency Services and volunteer fire services.
 - By end-2025, options are developed to support a targeted nationwide strategy to improve incentives for volunteers and to support the wellbeing of volunteers (including consideration of work health and safety obligations). This includes consideration of potential employer incentives. The options will focus on jurisdictional approaches and consider how they can be supported by the Commonwealth, along with applicability to New Zealand.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Position Paper: Increased National Support for Emergency Volunteers

Attachment B: Proposed priority national initiatives and reforms

Contact Officer: Alison Morris, NSW Premier’s Department, s22, s22

Clearance Officer: Sam Toohey, Executive Director Emergency Management, NSW Premier’s Department, s22, s22

Position Paper: A Collaborative National Approach to Supporting Emergency Volunteers

It is well established that Australia is facing the threat of more frequent, protracted and compounding emergencies and natural disaster events. Preparing for this future disaster risk will require a whole-of-community approach, and targeted and coordinated action by all levels of government to continue building Australia's emergency response and recovery capability.

A particular focus for this work needs to include better support for the volunteers who contribute a significant amount to Australia's emergency management capability. This includes the formal volunteers, who have an ongoing relationship with an established volunteer organisation, and the informal volunteers, who seek to assist before, during, or after an emergency but are not affiliated with any official emergency management or recovery organisations.

Emergency volunteers have been put to the test like never before in recent years and have responded with a high level of resilience and commitment.

The challenges ahead require additional effort to address the immediate demands on the volunteer workforce and barriers to volunteer recruitment and retention, as well as long-term strategies to increase emergency volunteer capability and capacity on a national scale.

There is a need for greater coordinated action across all jurisdictions to support our emergency volunteers.

We welcome that the Commonwealth, States and Territories are already exploring this issue through the ANZEMC work plan, and through the Commonwealth consideration of the capabilities that it needs to support state and territory-led crisis response and recovery efforts as an alternative to the Australian Defence Force. It is critical that national activity is co-designed with States and Territories, is coordinated across jurisdictions, complements state-based efforts, and provides a scalable national capability.

This paper proposes principles for national consideration of this issue to ensure a coordinated and well-integrated approach to better support emergency volunteering and build community capability.

Guiding principles for national action

When considering initiatives to better support emergency volunteers, it will be critical that the Commonwealth, States and Territories ensure all activity is guided by the principles discussed below.

1. *Enhances and supports State and Territory based capability:* States and Territories continue to build capability to engage with mobilised communities and informal volunteers.

New initiatives should seek to uplift and enhance existing state and territory capabilities and should not develop competing, conflicting or duplicate capabilities, attract existing volunteers or compete with existing organisations for new volunteers, nor conflict with existing policy or assigned roles and responsibilities. Noting, that each state and territory has different policies and approaches to volunteering and a national approach will require a level of consistency to ensure it can provide scalable capability support across all jurisdictions.

2. *Is integrated within and supports existing State and Territory command and control structures:* Emergency responses occur within well-established emergency management arrangements and states' and territories' legislative frameworks. Emergency volunteers need to be deployed at the request of, and coordinated by, the relevant lead agency to ensure an effective coordination of efforts.
3. *Recognises the importance of supporting and empowering local communities in areas of high disaster risk:* This is vital to building community connection and for increasing community resilience, awareness and preparedness. It is also more sustainable and cost effective than transporting people to impacted locations.
4. *Builds on existing work underway:* Initiatives should recognise and aim to enhance existing work. This could involve jurisdictions identifying opportunities to collaborate and support local community projects.
5. *Is flexible and adaptive:* Recognising the unpredictable nature of emergencies, new models should seek to be adaptable to changing conditions. This principle underscores the importance of pivoting and refining approaches as circumstances evolve ensuring responses remain relevant and effective over time.
6. *Is collaborative and community informed in design:* Initiatives should be responsive to the needs of emergency volunteering organisations and volunteers, the voices of whom can be accessed via existing consultation forums and mechanisms.
7. *Considers all phases of emergency management:* Addressing emergencies effectively requires attention to all stages of emergency management, from response and recovery to prevention and preparedness.

NSW Review: Potential priority national initiatives and reforms

- The NSW State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) recently undertook a Review of Emergency Volunteering to consider the challenges faced by the volunteering sector.
- The following proposed initiatives were identified by the Review as potential priority areas for collaborative action at the national level to increase support for emergency volunteers.
- It is proposed that ANZEMC bring forward a draft national strategy for national action to support emergency volunteering by mid-2025.
- The following initiatives are presented as a basis for initial discussions to kick off consideration of the scale and scope of what a future national strategy could involve.

Administrative burden and increased compliance requirements on volunteer Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and volunteer-based Registered Training Organisations

There has been a significant increase in the compliance activities required of RTOs since the Australian Skills Quality Authority was established in 2011. Volunteer RTOs and Volunteer-based RTOs are held to the same standards as other organisations, without an appropriate recognition of the context in which they operate. Streamlined training, administrative and compliance requirements for volunteer organisations would help address barriers to volunteering related to the administrative burden of training.

Incentives and financial support

Increased pressures associated with cost of living are emerging as barriers to volunteering, impacting engagement, recruitment and retention. The Commonwealth, in partnership with States and Territories, should examine potential incentives for employers to release staff to support crisis response activities, and/or to provide financial support to volunteers who need to take time off work to do so. This may also include consideration of opportunities for tax relief, direct remuneration, and volunteer leave entitlements. There should be further consideration to balancing incentives against the core values of volunteering and ensuring current incentives are available to all volunteering agencies, noting this is currently not the case.

Honours and award systems

The Commonwealth, in consultation with States and Territories, should review its emergency Honours and Awards to ensure that they appropriately recognise the full range of volunteering pathways available. In particular, consideration should be given to ensuring that both the National Emergency Medal and the National Medal are available to non-front-line volunteers. Broadening the eligibility criteria will better reflect the diversity of all types of volunteer contributions and pathways. Recognition for sustained, significant, or long service, should not be dependent on the type of duties performed. Consideration should also be given to how to ensure more timely recognition of emergency services volunteers following major disaster events.

Insurance

Non-Government organisations face high costs of providing insurance for informal volunteers and for many it can be difficult to understand nuances in insurance policies and how they apply during disaster activation. The Commonwealth, States and Territories, working with insurers where appropriate, should consider providing support particularly for community organisations to better facilitate informal volunteering and consider the implementation of a national standard or system for managing insurance for volunteers.

Funding for volunteer operations during a crisis

The Commonwealth, in partnership with States and Territories, should consider appropriate funding mechanisms to support all types of volunteering. Financial support to informal volunteering activities would better enable these activities to be supported in communities. Funding mechanisms to explore could include the DRFA, within the context of broader national funding reform.

Surge Capability

The Commonwealth, States and Territories should continue to facilitate the provision of capability scalable national volunteer capability that supports State and Territory volunteer workforces in large disaster events, when the scale of a disaster outstripped state and/or territory capacity. This includes ensuring that the ADF continues to be available in extreme circumstances or where specialist capabilities are required that only they can provide. The NSW Review also calls for increased investment in the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council National Resource Sharing Centre to support the coordination of resources outside of jurisdictional boundaries, noting that these are not government entities



The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM)

Meeting date: 15/11/2024

Location: Virtual

Summary of outcomes

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country.
- Welcomed attendees and introduced the new members from the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Queensland.
- Congratulated Ms Karen Chappel on her election as the Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association.
- Noted the extreme weather being experienced across the country.
- Noted that the NEMMM's 2024 Annual Report is being drafted and needs to be submitted to National Cabinet in January 2025.
- Noted that discussion on the NEMMM's schedule for 2025 would occur during Agenda Item 9.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COMMONWEALTH DISASTER FUNDING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF NATIONAL NATURAL DISASTER GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Noted this Agenda Item provides members the opportunity to discuss the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review) and the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review).
- Noted both the Colvin and Glasser Reviews call for increased focus on disaster risk-reduction and resilience.
- Noted the Colvin Review provides an opportunity for a national conversation on the future of emergency management in Australia.
- Advised that the Australian Government has not formed a position on the Colvin Review recommendations at this point in time, noting that the national consultation process being undertaken by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is being used to capture the views of key stakeholders.
- Welcomed feedback from the states and territories to inform the Australian Government's response to the Colvin Review.

Members:

- Noted broad general support for the recommendations of the Colvin Review.
- Raised the importance of role clarity in relation to the responsibilities of federal, state/territory and local governments.
- Noted the states, territories and local governments are best positioned to lead recovery efforts and directly engage with NGOs, other key stakeholders and affected communities.

National Emergency Management Agency

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Noted the capacity and capability of local governments vary significantly across jurisdictions.
- Identified potential duplication between the Glasser and Colvin Reviews and noted that there would be benefit in mapping out the different recommendations from the Reviews.
- Raised concerns regarding the tight timeframes for submitting formal state and territory responses on the Colvin Review recommendations before the end of this year.

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Thanked members for their feedback and acknowledged the demands that the Higher Risk Weather Season may place on the states and territories, noting that the Australian Government's response to the Colvin Review would not bind them in any way.

Resolution(s):

- Nil.

Action(s):

- All the states and territories, except South Australia, agreed to provide a high level response to the Colvin Review before the end of 2024.
- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – RECOVERY SUPPORT PACKAGE AND DRFA ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CHANGES

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Opened the item and invited the Coordinator-General of NEMA, Mr Brendan Moon, to brief members.

The Coordinator-General, NEMA, Mr Brendan Moon:

- Provided an overview of the Australian Government's Recovery Support Package, noting it includes a suite of practical measures that focus on improving the delivery of recovery assistance and recovery planning to produce better outcomes for disaster-affected communities, local governments, and the states and territories.
- Provided an overview of the changes to the DRFA administrative arrangements, noting they are designed to reduce the administrative burden for jurisdictions and clarify decision-making and assurance processes.

Members:

- Provided general support for the changes to the DRFA administrative arrangements, noting that implementation challenges may need to be worked through at officials' level.
- Noted there is a need to maintain flexibility in relation to DRFA Category C and D measures and funding reallocations, particularly in response to severe disasters.
- Advised it is difficult to accurately estimate DRFA costs immediately following a disaster.
- Suggested stress testing the new administrative arrangements against real scenarios.
- Noted the value of NEMA's Coordination Planning Officers being embedded within the state and territory emergency management agencies and the establishment of a Commonwealth Recovery Liaison Officer in response to Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

The Coordinator-General, NEMA, Mr Brendan Moon:

- Acknowledged feedback from members and agreed to work closely with states and territories on DRFA matters.

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Acknowledged the need to stress test the new DRFA administrative arrangements and welcomed further feedback from states and territories.

Resolution(s):

National Emergency Management Agency

- Nil.

Action(s):

- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – HAZARD INSURANCE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Noted there has been a significant body of work conducted through the Hazard Insurance Partnership to bring industry and government together, including to establish data sharing agreements with insurance partners.
- Invited the Deputy Coordinator-General of NEMA, Dr Jill Charker, to provide an update on the Hazard Insurance Partnership.

The Deputy Coordinator-General, NEMA, Dr Jill Charker:

- Provided an update on the Hazards Insurance Partnership Meeting #9 and outlined the key achievements for 2024, including:
 - the development of the National Resilience Action Library;
 - the first national attitudinal research report;
 - the delivery of the National Hazards Awareness Modules;
 - the funding for the Resilient Building Council;
 - the work on an enduring insurance dataset; and
 - the identified catchments work.

Members:

- Expressed interest in being involved in the Hazards Insurance Partnership.

Resolution(s):

- Nil.

Action(s):

- Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister proposed to include further updates on the Hazards Insurance Partnership in future meetings of the NEMMM.
- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – DISASTER READY FUND ROUND 2 OUTCOMES AND ROUND 3 UPDATE

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Provided an update on successful projects from Round 2, noting there have been some delays to release funding as a result of project re-scoping in some jurisdictions.
- Noted that the Australian Government is interested in exploring how DRF projects could help to address challenges associated with insurance access and affordability.
- Welcomed feedback from members on the draft guidelines for Round 3.

Members:

- Raised concerns about:
 - setting minimum values for projects and project caps as they believe this could disadvantage local councils, noting that low value projects can still have high impacts; and
 - the removal of historical projects as an eligible co-contribution towards funding as this would have cost implications for applicants.

National Emergency Management Agency

- Noted that linking projects to a reduction in insurance premiums would not necessarily benefit communities in the Northern Territory and the focus should rather be on projects that ensure community safety (e.g. cyclone shelters).
- Noted they would like to have greater visibility of effective projects in other jurisdictions

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Agreed to continue consultation with the states and territories on the draft guidelines for Round 3.

Resolution(s):

- Nil.

Action(s):

- NEMA to circulate the draft guidelines for Round 3 to the states and territories for further feedback.
- Victoria requested a minor amendment to the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 5, which was agreed by all members.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PUBLIC SAFETY MOBILE BROADBAND

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management and the NEMMM Chair:

- Invited the Deputy Coordinator-General of NEMA, Mr Joe Buffone, to provide an update on Public Safety Mobile Broadband.

The Deputy Coordinator-General, NEMA, Mr Joe Buffone:

- Provided an update covering:
 - the status of the Public Safety Mobile Broadband project; and
 - the need for the states and territories to consider the cost-benefits of investment in the Public Safety Mobile Broadband project for their jurisdiction.

Members:

- Raised concerns about:
 - the timeframes identified in the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Report;
 - the potential limited value of investing in the Public Safety Mobile Broadband project for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory; and
 - potential implications relating to the high national security and Defence presence in the Australian Capital Territory.

Resolution(s):

- Members **noted** that the market research activity recently conducted has informed the delivery model, solution design and costs for an enduring national Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.
- Members **noted** the progress made by the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Taskforce in implementing the recommendations of the 2022 the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Report Strategic Review as detailed in the Report.
- Members **noted** the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Report Taskforce's Report.

Action(s):

- Western Australia, requested that recommendation 3 for Agenda Item 6 be changed from **endorse** to **note**, which was agreed by all members and the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 6 was updated accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – COST RECOVERY MODEL FOR THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STOCKPILE

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

National Emergency Management Agency

- Provided an update on the Cost Recovery Model for the National Emergency Management Stockpile, noting that it has now been approved by the Prime Minister.

Resolution(s):

- Nil.

Action(s):

- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – HIGHER RISK WEATHER SEASON PREPAREDNESS

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Noted the preparedness initiatives undertaken by the Commonwealth in the lead up to the Higher Risk Weather Season.

Members:

- Briefed on their jurisdiction's preparedness and operational readiness for the Higher Risk Weather Season.
- Reinforced their commitment to supporting each other as needed throughout the season.

Resolution(s):

- Nil.

Action(s):

- Members agreed to share personal contact details to enable future individual engagement as required.
- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 8.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – MEETING CLOSE AND OTHER BUSINESS

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Sought endorsement of the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Framework Principles and Toolkit.
- Sought the views of members on how many meetings of the NEMMM should be held in 2025.

Members:

- Expressed their support for, and agreed to apply, the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Framework Principles and Toolkit this Higher Risk Weather Season.
- Western Australia offered to help facilitate further Disability Inclusive Emergency Management workshops in 2025.
- Raised potential issues arising from the shutdown of the 3G network.

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management:

- Committed to raise any specific issues associated with the shutdown of the 3G network with the Commonwealth Minister for Communications.

Resolution(s):

- Members **endorsed** the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Principles and Toolkit.
- Members **agreed** to three meetings of the NEMMM per year, with one to occur in-person.
- The Northern Territory offered to host an in-person meeting of the NEMMM during 2025.

Action(s):

- NEMA to liaise with the Northern Territory on an in-person meeting of the NEMMM during 2025.
- All members agreed the proposed communique text for Agenda Item 9.

National Emergency Management Agency

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING ATTENDEES

Jurisdiction	Member
Commonwealth	<p>Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Cities</p>
New South Wales	<p>The Hon Jihad Dib, MP Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Youth Justice</p>
Victoria	<p>The Hon Jaclyn Symes Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services</p>
Queensland	<p>The Hon Daniel Purdie MP Minister for Police and Emergency Services</p>
South Australia	<p>The Hon Daniel Cregan MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services</p>
Western Australia	<p>The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research, Minister assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Dr Marisa Paterson MLA Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services; Women; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Corrections; and Gaming Reform</p>
Northern Territory	<p>The Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA Chief Minister, Minister for Police, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Defence NT, Minister for Territory Coordinator</p>
Tasmania	<p>The Hon Felix Ellis MP Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Minister for Housing and Planning, Minister for Skills and Training</p>
Australian Local Government Association	<p>Karen Chappel AM JP Vice President Australian Local Government Association</p>

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Friday, 15 November 2024

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held virtually on 15 November 2024.

Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management portfolio ministers and the Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by their senior officials.

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding; Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements

Members discussed the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, released on 25 October 2024, and how they will work together to inform the Australian Government response to the recommendations. They also considered alignment with the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements.

Recovery Support Package and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Administrative Changes

Members considered the Recovery Support Package measures to enhance disaster recovery, publically announced by Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister on 25 October 2024, and changes to the DRFA administrative arrangements and discussed opportunities to support implementation of the changes.

Hazard Insurance Partnership (HIP)

Members noted the outcomes from the 12 November 2024 HIP meeting and the opportunity for regular briefings to be included on the Agenda of each meeting in 2025.

Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

Members noted the update on DRF Round Three design and consultation and discussed opportunities to further strengthen their partnership on this important disaster risk reduction and resilience initiative, including through further consultation in the coming months.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Update

Members noted the PSMB Taskforce progress report. The Australian Government continues to work in collaboration with states and territories on implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Public Safety Mobile Broadband Strategic Review, including through the recent Request for information that will inform the delivery model, solution design and costs for an enduring national Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.

National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS) Cost Model

Members received an update on the development of the NEMS Cost Model. Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister advised that upon approval by the Australian Government, the NEMS Cost Model will be distributed to members as part of an out of session paper for noting.

Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness

Members discussed preparations for the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season across each jurisdiction, along with the outcomes of the National Preparedness Program.

Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Principles and Toolkit

Members endorsed the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Principles and Toolkit and agreed for them to be used nationally. The Principles and Toolkit will help governments, emergency planners, and community and disability organisations, to develop more consistent and effective disability inclusive emergency planning. This will improve safety and wellbeing outcomes for people with disability before, during and after emergencies.



The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting

Summary of Outcomes

Date: 16/07/2025

Location: Rydges Palmerston, 15 Maluka Dr, Palmerston City, Northern Territory 0830

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Welcome and opening remarks

The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management and the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) Chair:

- Opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country.
- Welcomed attendees and noted new Members for Victoria (VIC), South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA), New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD).
- Noted apologies received from Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Western Australia (WA) and acknowledged that Tasmania (TAS) was unrepresented as the state was in caretaker for the upcoming election.
- Reflected on the significant contribution of Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister to the emergency management sector in her previous role as Minister for Emergency Management and NEMMM Chair, and her collaborative approach to supporting disaster response and recovery efforts.
- Outlined the priorities and outcomes for the Australian Government including:
 - targeted cost of living relief for Australians
 - the plan to build 1.2 million new homes before the end of this decade, alongside investment in roads, rail and essential infrastructure
 - delivering faster approvals for housing, energy and infrastructure projects
 - driving clean energy investment and job creation under the Made in Australia Plan to deliver Net-Zero by 2050, and
 - continuing to work with insurers to put downward pressure on premiums, including through the recognition of risk reduction investment at the household level, and on practical disaster management reforms that will reduce disaster risk for communities and support them to undertake climate and disaster adaptation actions.
- Identified the *Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding* (Colvin Review) was a priority for the Australian Government and advice on next steps would be provided once the Australian Government has had the opportunity to consider its response.
 - Commended the membership on the work to implement reforms informed by the *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements* (Glasser Review), including expanding the focus of the forum to include risk reduction and resilience and agreeing new strategic priorities.
 - Committed to further progressing the Glasser Review recommendations.
- Noted the expansion of NEMMM membership to include ministers with responsibility for risk reduction, recovery and/or resilience, and welcomed the Hon Janelle Saffin MP, NSW Minister for Recovery, and the Hon Ann Leahy MP, QLD Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers.
- Noted progress against NEMMM priorities:
 - Priority 1: developed the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile Minimum Viable Product and included the Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) as a standing NEMMM agenda item.
 - Priority 2: established a Post-Disaster Accommodation Time-Limited Working Group at the official level.
 - Priority 5: Work to develop a National Strategy on Emergency Volunteering being led by NSW.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Acknowledged the increasing cost of disaster response and recovery.
- Highlighted the upcoming Productivity Roundtable being led by the Treasurer (Australian Government) which would consider opportunities to increase productivity across a range of sectors.
- Noted that response and recovery is best done within communities supported by collaboration across all levels of government.

Action(s): Nil.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Status of action items from previous meetings

The Hon Kristy McBain MP:

- Noted there were nine outstanding action items from the previous meeting, of which seven were recommended for closure and work will continue on the remaining two.

Members:

- Noted the importance of the reforms outlined in the Colvin Review and that the review remained a priority for the Australian Government.

Resolution(s):

- **Agreed** to the closure of seven action items.

Action(s): Nil.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Higher Risk Weather Season 2024-25 – Response and Recovery Updates

The Hon Kristy McBain MP:

- Noted since the last NEMMM Australia has faced a challenging Higher Risk Weather Season (HRWS), from bushfires in VIC and TAS, cyclones, severe storms and flooding across WA, QLD and NSW and floods in SA, with a number of local government areas (LGAs) activated multiple times and events continuing well beyond the traditional April end of the season.
- Acknowledged there were high levels of cooperation across borders and with the Australian Government to engage and coordinate quickly, share resources and fast track support.
- Noted the challenge of increasing community expectations for rapid delivery of support.
- Highlighted key lessons emerging from this season included:
 - ongoing convergence of disaster events and the lengthening of the HRWS
 - reality of fatigue during long, compounding events, affecting both people and assets, particularly in recovery
 - continued fragility of critical infrastructure and supply chains
 - need for strong connections between all levels of governments and broader stakeholders to boost cooperation
 - increasing importance of risk reduction investment and measuring its success in strengthening community resilience and safety
 - need to identify mechanisms for national-level charities and not for profit organisations to connect into national-level arrangements both to support their work with communities on the ground and to provide an avenue for key insights to be shared, and
 - importance of strengthening support for people with disability to prepare for disasters and to access evacuation and other supports during an emergency; noting the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Toolkit as an important tool for achieving this.
- Encouraged jurisdictions to continue to focus on fostering a strategic and collaborative approach to managing disasters and building resilience.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

2

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Members:

- Acknowledged that in recent disasters jurisdictions worked well together in matters of leadership, cross-border assistance, communication to communities and pre-deployment of assets.
- Acknowledged there was good communication with the public in the response phase of a disaster, though more work needs to be done to achieve the same standard in the recovery phase.
- Discussed the importance of addressing volunteer fatigue and skill development within the career workforce to ensure a strong and diverse cohort of decision-makers in disaster management.
- Raised concerns about the growing expectation of deployment of the Australian Defence Force in disaster response and the need to consider the role of the Army Reserve and Disaster Relief Australia in disaster management.
- Highlighted the need to uplift local government capacity and capability in emergency management, highlighting the importance of partnerships and collaboration as well as consistent funding approaches
- Qld noted the establishment of the cross-border Commissioner to support streamlining of recovery efforts across state borders.
- NT noted establishment of the Cyclone Coalition with QLD and WA to pool resources and would be discussed at a chief officers meeting in Perth in August this year.

Resolution(s):

- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 3.

Action(s): Nil.**AGENDA ITEM 4 – Local Government Capacity Building**

The Hon Kristy McBain MP:

- Recognised the impact of disasters on local council operations and the level of opportunity to respond and recover is largely dependent on the size of councils.
- Invited Ms Karen Chappel, Vice President, Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), to present on local government capacity building.

Ms Karen Chappel:

- Emphasised that strong partnerships between all levels of government are crucial to effective and seamless emergency management that supports communities.
- Identified the lack of analysis of the impact of disasters on the productivity of communities.
- Recognised that climate adaptation, as a tool for preparedness and prevention, is as crucial as effective partnerships in dealing with national hazards and disasters.
- Noted the cost of natural disasters is beyond the capacity of local governments and that Commonwealth and state governments must cooperate to provide positive outcomes for local communities and people.
- Noted that there needs to be an increase in funding to \$900 million for emergency management and \$400 million for climate adaptation.
- Noted that a nationally consistent framework to streamline and standardise funding approvals could improve cash flows for local governments, reduce reimbursement timeframes, reduce administrative barriers and application processes and enable faster implementation of programs.
- Noted that a consistent approach to program funding would reduce administrative burden and delays on funds received by local government.
- Noted that funding dedicated emergency management officers in local government associations in each jurisdiction would assist in uplifting capability and capacity of local governments.
- Noted that nationally recognised training standards supported by funding and delivered on-site for councils would enhance both administrative and in-field capabilities across local government areas and borders.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

3

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Proposed including the uplift of local government capability and capacity in the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) work plan.

Members:

- Agreed that local governments need to have their capabilities and capacity uplifted but would like to see more concrete proposals before committing funds.
- Discussed adding local government capability uplift to the agenda and work plan for ANZEMC, including non-financial opportunities, and responsibilities for reporting back to NEMMM.
- Recognised that the Australian Government's response to the Colvin Review will impact the financial aspects of local government uplift.
- Discussed changes to the proposed communiqué.

Resolution(s):

- **Noted** the need to uplift the capacity and capability of local governments to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural hazards.
- **Agreed** to formally task ANZEMC to further explore opportunities for increasing local government capacity and capability, and for inclusion in the ANZEMC work plan.
- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 4.

Action(s):

- ANZEMC to consider a workforce plan, training needs and identify best practise to uplift local government capability and report back to NEMMM.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Hazards Insurance Partnership update – progressing Deliverable 1.3**The Hon Kristy McBain MP:**

- Informed members that she and the Assistant Treasurer & Minister for Financial Services, the Hon Dr Daniel Mulino MP, presented at the last meeting of the HIP and clarified:
 - the issue of insurance affordability and availability remains a top priority for the Australian Government, and
 - as governments and households spend more money to reduce risk, there is an expectation that the insurance sector will recognise that investment through reductions in premiums.
- Invited Dr Jill Charker, Deputy Coordinator-General (DCG), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide an update on the HIP including the work plan for 2025-26, challenges from the recent HRWS, and the National Insurance Dataset (NID).

Dr Jill Charker:

- Provided an update on the 12 March 2025 extraordinary meeting and 12 June 2025 HIP meeting, the NID, and outlined the key achievements for 2025 which included:
 - creating the National Resilience Action Library which went live in January 2025 and is the first central repository of mitigation actions that Australians can take to reduce their risk
 - delivering the National Hazards Awareness Modules which provide a baseline of disaster preparedness communication tools aiming to support the work of states and territories, and
 - continuing work to engage the community through ongoing funding support for the Resilient Building Council which has completed 200 pilot assessments to analyse various housing typologies and hazards. The findings will support insurers in recognising risk reduction efforts and adjusting premiums.

Members:

- Expressed a desire to share information and be more closely engaged with the HIP to create a more seamless interaction between levels of government.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

4

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Expressed concern over the escalating costs of responding to natural hazards and highlighted the growing public expectations for government-backed insurance coverage, driven by the increasing unaffordability of premiums.
- Noted that insurance premiums do not appear to be decreasing in line with risk reduction efforts.
- Noted that insurers' building and reconstruction costs are reduced because of mitigation and prevention work. Data on individual household or business mitigation works is difficult for governments to collect but will be recorded by insurance companies. Individual households and businesses need to be incentivised through a reduction of premiums to discuss such works with insurers which will increase understanding across all jurisdictional levels of government.
- The Hon Kristy McBain MP stated the HIP must demonstrate practical outcomes for consumers and justify government expenditures on risk reduction and suggested that the communiqué reflect this.

Mr Brendan Moon, Coordinator-General (CG), NEMA:

- Briefed members of the work being conducted by NEMA in investigating the core sets of data and intelligence necessary to assist jurisdictions.

Dr Jill Charker stated:

- The NID will not capture local mitigation strategies however the working group can provide a forum for jurisdictions to provide local data and intelligence on how insurers are pricing risk.
- Insurers claimed the driver for insurance premium increases included the natural hazard risk, reinsurance costs, and the rising cost of labour and materials in the process of repair or reconstruction. Insurers may claim the last two have risen thereby justifying higher premiums with no material demonstration of the value of mitigation investment. The HIP, Treasury and insurers will focus this financial year on a mechanism to increase the level of transparency for consumers.

Resolution(s):

- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 5.

Action(s):

- Include updates on the HIP in future meetings of the NEMMM.
- Continue investigating core data and intelligence to support jurisdictions in mitigation efforts aimed at reducing the cost of insurance premiums.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile

The Hon Kristy McBain MP:

- Explained that the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile (Risk Profile) Minimum Viable Product is being developed to guide government decisions on risk management. This initiative is the first national holistic quantitative view of risk in Australia, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of risk across the nation, down to the local government level.
- Welcomed Dr Jonathon Cohen from Taylor Fry to present the Risk Profile and the Minimum Viable Product.

Dr Jonathon Cohen:

- Elaborated on the methodology used to develop the Risk Profile:
 - The approach includes using readily available data, scientific research, and modelling to create a Minimum Viable Product.
 - The Risk Profile covers four hazards: bushfires, floods, cyclones, and heatwaves, and assesses impacts on people, buildings, infrastructure, agriculture, and economic output.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

5

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- Referred to the establishment of stakeholder consultation reference groups, including representatives from academia, industry and government, which provided input to ensure the Risk Profile's accuracy and relevance.
- Highlighted the quantitative approach taken in the development of the Risk Profile which is consistent with the method the insurance industry uses to measure risk.
- Explained Taylor Fry's development of a concept of average annual impact for the Risk Profile to quantify the impacts of natural hazards on people, places, and economies.
- Emphasised that the Risk Profile is designed to be modular and extensible, meaning that new scientific research, data, and models can be seamlessly integrated, allowing for future updates and expansions to include additional hazards and consequences.

Members:

- Discussed the calibration process undertaken with states and territories to ensure the Risk Profile's accuracy and granularity which involved testing the outputs of the Minimum Viable Product with state agencies to verify if the identified high-risk areas were appropriate.
- Discussed whether to expand the Risk Profile to include additional profiles coastal inundation and earthquakes but agreed to maintain the current list of hazards as these represent the most pressing concern for communities.
- Emphasised the importance of improving the understanding of flood risk throughout the country, including investing in better flood risk studies and incorporating them into the Risk Profile to provide a more accurate and detailed assessment of flood hazards.
- Expressed concern about the potential misuse of the Risk Profile data by insurers and the implications for government liability, emphasising the need for careful management of the data and its impact on infrastructure costs and community awareness.
- Expressed concern that the Risk Profile could interfere with jurisdictions attempts to mitigate risk.
 - Mr Brendan Moon stated the Risk Profile was not intended to undermine jurisdictions' ability to mitigate risks at the local level, only to provide another tool to understand and mitigate risk.
- Discussed revising the communiqué to note that the delivery of the Risk Profile and Minimum Viable Product completes the first phase of work toward NEMMM Priority 1.

Resolution(s):

- **Noted** the delivery of the Risk Profile methodology and Minimum Viable Product completes the first phase of work toward NEMMM Priority 1 to strengthen nationwide natural hazard risk.
- **Noted** the finalisation of the state and territory calibration process in June 2025.
- **Endorsed** the ongoing development of the Risk Profile and Minimum Viable Product through continued collaboration with all jurisdictions.
- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 6.

Action(s): Nil.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**AGENDA ITEM 7 – Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements – Transition of Recommendations**

The Hon Kristy McBain:

- Summarised the progress on the Royal Commission recommendations, with 76 out of 80 recommendations transitioned to implemented or ongoing work programs. The remaining recommendations are being addressed through various work plans and partnerships.

Members:

- Advised that legislative amendments required as a result of the recommendations may take more than three months due to cabinet and parliamentary processes.
- Queried whether a Commonwealth-State Final Report was possible.
 - Amanda Coghlan, Assistant Coordinator-General, Head of Secretariat, NEMA, advised that while the original intention was for the Final Report to be a Commonwealth only report, due to jurisdictions seeking extensive cabinet reporting on the recommendations, that decision will be revisited. However, publication should not be delayed instituting this change.

Resolution(s):

- **Agreed** to transition recommendations 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 12.2, 12.3, 14.2, 15.4, 17.1, 17.2, 19.3, 21.2, 22.2 to *ongoing work programs*.
- **Agreed** to transition recommendation 17.3 to *implemented*.
- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 7.

Action(s):

- NEMA will discuss with jurisdictions the possibility of a National Final Report.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – National Messaging System

The Hon Kristy McBain:

- Discussed the transition from Emergency Alert (EA) to the National Messaging System (NMS), highlighting the need for a modern warning system and a coordinated approach from jurisdictions.
- Advised the NMS will be operational by 1 October 2026, with the Commonwealth funding the first year of operation, followed by a 50-50 cost share arrangement between the Commonwealth and states based on a per capita basis.
- Invited Mr Joe Buffone, DCG, NEMA, to discuss the current state of the NMS.

Mr Joe Buffone:

- Provided details on the NMS technology, its advantages over EA, and the alignment with telecommunications companies.
- Confirmed the intent is to test the system in the first half of 2026 at the community level and engage with jurisdictions on which communities to test, and in the second half of the year at a national level.
- Confirmed that:
 - the system will include mobile devices and landlines
 - the project will focus on ensuring no gap in service during the transition from EA to the NMS
 - there are ongoing investigations into incorporating Starlink into the NMS system, and
 - the cost-sharing arrangement will be based on population.

Members:

- Raised concerns about:
 - coverage during the transition period between decommissioning EA and activating NMS, and the

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

7

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- need for extra funding to maintain the EA system before NMS is activated
- the impact on telecommunication systems due to loss of electricity following events, and
- the need for rigorous testing of the NMS before rollout, including stress testing of the system during the HRWS.
- Discussed the issue of extending coverage of the NMS to include Starlink customers.
- Emphasised the importance of an effective messaging campaign and coordination with local governments and communities.
 - Mr Joe Buffone confirmed there will be targeted messaging campaigns for the local and national testing and once the NMS goes live there will be a broader national campaign in collaboration with jurisdictions.
- Discussed the addition to the proposed communiqué of ALGA collaborating in the implementation of the NMS.

Resolution(s):

- **Agreed** that all jurisdictions work collaboratively to ensure the successful implementation of the NMS by 1 July 2026, with public facing commencing 1 October 2026.
- **Agreed** to the proposed communiqué text for Agenda Item 8.

Action(s):

- NEMA to provide detailed information on the estimated costs for states and territories for the NMS from 2027 onwards.
- NEMA will continue work on integrating the NMS with Starlink to ensure coverage in areas without traditional network access and report back to NEMMM.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Other business

The Hon Kristy McBain MP invited the Hon Jihad Dib MP, NSW Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice to provide an update on Emergency Volunteering.

The Hon Jihad Dib MP:

- Discussed the challenges faced by emergency service volunteers, including burnout and barriers to participation.
- Highlighted the need for flexible training, recognition, and incentives. The upcoming National Emergency Volunteering Event summit in August 2025 aims to address these issues and develop a national framework for volunteering.

Members:

- Shared initiatives to recognise and support volunteers, such as express lane access at airports, dedicated football rounds, and accredited training.
- Emphasised the importance of making it easier for people to volunteer and ensuring their safety and well-being.

Action(s):

- The recommendations from the National Emergency Volunteering Event summit will be circulated to all jurisdictions for feedback and implementation.

The Hon Kristy McBain closed the meeting at 3.55 PM.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

8

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING ATTENDEES****Members**

Jurisdiction	Member
Commonwealth	The Hon Kristy McBain MP Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
New South Wales	The Hon Jihad Dib, MP Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Youth Justice
	The Hon Janelle Saffin, MP Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast
Victoria	The Hon Vicki Ward MP Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery, Minister for Equality
Queensland	The Hon Daniel Purdie MP Minister for Police and Emergency Services
	The Hon Ann Leahy MP Minister for Local Government and Water, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
South Australia	The Hon Emily Bourke MLC Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
Northern Territory	The Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA Chief Minister, Minister for Police, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Defence NT, Minister for Territory Coordinator
Australian Local Government Association	Karen Chappel AM JP Vice President Australian Local Government Association
Apologies	
Australian Capital Territory	Dr Marisa Paterson MLA Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Women, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Gaming Reform
Tasmania	<i>The Tasmanian Government assumed a caretaker role in the lead up to the election for the Tasmanian House of Assembly.</i> The Hon Felix Ellis MP Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Minister for Housing and Planning, Minister for Skills and Training

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

9

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Western Australia	The Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Racing and Gaming
Guests and Non-member Presenters	
Commonwealth	Brendan Moon AM Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency
Taylor Fry – Item 6	Sarah Wood Environmental, Social and Governance Advisor Taylor Fry
	Dr Jonathon Cohen Principal Taylor Fry
Risk Frontiers – Item 6	Dr James O’Brien Chief Geospatial Scientist Risk Frontiers

Observers

Jurisdiction	Observer
Commonwealth	Joe Buffone Deputy Coordinator-General Emergency Management and Response National Emergency Management Agency
	Jill Charker Deputy Coordinator-General Disaster Resilience and Recovery National Emergency Management Agency
	Vidoshi Jana Chief Operating Officer National Emergency Management Agency
	Chris Field DSC AM CSC Acting Deputy Coordinator-General Emergency Management and Response National Emergency Management Agency
	Andrew Minack First Assistant Coordinator-General Policy and Governance National Emergency Management Agency
	Melissa Ryan First Assistant Coordinator-General Programs National Emergency Management Agency
	Kelly Taylor Acting First Assistant Coordinator-General Programs National Emergency Management Agency

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction	Observer
	<p>s22 Senior Adviser – Emergency Management Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP</p> <p>s22 Chief of Staff to Coordinator-General National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>Jason Dymowski Acting First Assistant Secretary, Resilience and Crisis Management Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>
New Zealand	<p>Dave Gawn Chief Executive National Emergency Management Agency (NZ)</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>s22 Executive Group Manager, Security & Emergency Management Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>
New South Wales	<p>s22 Assistant Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Jihad Dib MP</p> <p>Jeremy Hillman Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Janelle Saffin</p> <p>s22 Director Policy, Emergency Management Policy and Coordination NSW Premier’s Department</p> <p>s22 Associate Director Policy, Emergency Management Branch NSW Premier’s Department</p> <p>s22 Project Officer, Ministerial & Executive Services NSW Reconstruction Authority</p>
Northern Territory	<p>Alex Bruce Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA</p> <p>Collene Bremner Acting Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Service</p> <p>Jean Doherty Deputy Chief Executive – Strategic & Corporate Services Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>Wayne Snell Chief Officer NT Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>s22 Director Strategic Services NT Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>s22 Executive Officer Office of the Commissioner NT Fire and Emergency Services</p>
Queensland	<p>Bianca Stone Chief of Staff Office of the Hon Daniel Purdie MP</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction	Observer
	<p>s22 Senior Policy Officer Office of the Hon Daniel Purdie MP</p> <p>Christopher Stream Acting Deputy Commissioner Queensland Police Service</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>s22 Director All Hazards Crisis Capability Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>s22 Acting Manager Emergency Management Policy Queensland Police Service</p>
South Australia	<p>s22 Advisor Office of the Hon Emily Bourke</p> <p>s22 Director, Security, Emergency and Recovery Management, Intergovernmental and Diplomatic Relations Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>Mark Stratton Acting Chief Executive South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission</p>
Tasmania	<p>Jeremy Smith AFSM Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Tasmania Fire Service</p> <p>s22 Executive Director, Resilience and Recovery Tasmania Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>
Victoria	<p>David Unwin Chief of Staff Office of Vicki Ward MP</p> <p>Kate Fitzgerald Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management Department of Justice and Community Safety</p> <p>Tim Wiebusch Emergency Management Commissioner Emergency Management Victoria</p> <p>Melissa Pexton Deputy Commissioner Strategy and Emergency Management Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p> <p>Jenni Rigby Chief Executive Emergency Management Victoria</p> <p>s22 Senior Advisor Office of the Hon. Minister Vicki Ward MP</p> <p>Luke Van den Hoek Deputy Director Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Jurisdiction	Observer
ALGA	<p>s22 [redacted] Director Emergency Management Australian Local Government Association</p>
Secretariat	<p>Amanda Coghlan Assistant Coordinator-General Head of Secretariat National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Acting Director Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Assistant Director, Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Assistant Director, Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Technology Strategy & Operations National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] IT Service Management Operations Department of Home Affairs</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Acting Assistant Director, Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p> <hr/> <p>s22 [redacted] Policy Officer, Strategic Government Partnerships & Committees National Emergency Management Agency</p>

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

COMMUNIQUÉ

A meeting of National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) was held in Darwin on 16 July 2025.

2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season

Members reflected on lessons from the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season, with a focus on cross-border challenges, key national insights, enhancing cooperation and identifying opportunities to continue to strengthen preparedness ahead of the next Higher Risk Weather Season.

Local Government Capacity Building

Members noted the Australian Local Government Association presentation, which reinforced existing Reviews, on the need to uplift the capacity and capability of local governments to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. Ministers agreed to task the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) to explore further opportunities for increasing local government capacity and capability for inclusion in the ANZEMC Work Plan.

Hazards Insurance Partnership Update

Members received an update on the Hazards Insurance Partnership meeting that was held on 12 June 2025. Members expressed concern about the affordability and accessibility of insurance premiums and have directed ANZEMC to undertake further work to ensure a more effective linkage between public and private risk reduction investment and reductions in insurance premiums for households. Members have an expectation that insurance premiums will reduce where risk reduction investment occurs. More information on the Hazards Insurance Partnership is available on the NEMA website.

National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile

Members noted that the delivery of the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile methodology and Minimum Viable Product completes the first phase of work toward NEMMM Priority 1, to strengthen nationwide natural hazard risk. Members recognised this will require ongoing development through continued collaboration with all jurisdictions. Members noted the finalisation of the state and territory calibration process in June 2025.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements – Transition of Recommendations

Members discussed progress against recommendations from the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and agreed to transition 16 recommendations to closure or into ongoing programs of work. This includes 11 recommendations assigned to Australian, state and territory governments and five recommendations assigned to state and territory governments.

National Messaging System

Members recognised the importance of the National Messaging System in enhancing emergency communications, and agreed all jurisdictions and the Australian Local Government Association will work collaboratively to support its implementation.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

14

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (NEMMM)

AGENDA ITEM 11 | 12 DECEMBER 2025

NATIONAL EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members:

1. **Discuss** potential actions for inclusion in the proposed national emergency volunteering strategy to address 6 strategic objectives.
2. **Note** that it is proposed to bring a national strategy to ANZEMC in early 2026 and to the first NEMMM in 2026 for consideration.

SPONSORING MINISTER: The Hon Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice

PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ TEXT

Members discussed progress on the development of a National Emergency Volunteering Strategy and discussed potential initiatives to strengthen emergency volunteering across Australia.

KEY ISSUES

- 1) The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting set a priority to *invest in building the future capabilities required across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, with people at the centre.*
- 2) To address this priority, ANZEMC was tasked to commence a multi-year program of work to develop a nationwide approach to supporting the wellbeing of volunteers, mechanisms for incentivising this workforce and alternative volunteer pathways.
- 3) NSW hosted an interjurisdictional forum to share experiences, good practices and initiatives to support the wellbeing and engagement of volunteers, and to consider the proposed initiatives that could be recommended for further consideration by Ministers.
- 4) The Forum was well attended by all States, Territories, Commonwealth and New Zealand. The Forum identified:
 - Emergency volunteering is critical to Australia's disaster resilience but faces systemic challenges.
 - Six priority areas to guide reform and actions across training, insurance, recognition, incentives, funding support, and surge capability.
 - Strong cross-jurisdictional consensus supports coordinated national implementation
- 5) There are 6 strategic objectives identified:
 - Modernise **training and compliance** systems to reduce administrative burden, improve portability of skills, and support volunteer development.
 - Safeguard emergency volunteers, including informal and spontaneous cohorts through consistent and transparent **insurance and legal protection measures** to support a safe and sustainable workforce.
 - Advance a fair and inclusive **honours and awards** recognition system that values diverse volunteer contributions across preparation, response and recovery and celebrates volunteers from all walks of life.

- Ensure a positive volunteering experience through **incentives and removing financial barriers** to encourage recruitment and retention and support employers of volunteers.
 - Consider how **disaster funding** can effectively support community-led efforts across prevention, preparation, response and recovery.
 - Shape a flexible, coordinated, and sustainable **surge capability** that enables rapid deployment of skilled volunteers across jurisdictions and includes diverse volunteer cohorts.
- 6) It is proposed that the strategic objectives will be met through a roadmap that outlines outcomes and actions, which have been drafted for consultation with stakeholders.
- 7) Ministers are asked to consider and discuss the draft outcomes and actions outlined below and provide any feedback as to whether they are adequate and appropriate for the proposed national strategy. Suggestions for additional or alternative actions would also be welcome.

Draft Outcome	Draft Actions
Training and compliance	
Streamlined training systems and processes to reduce administrative burden on volunteers.	Request AFAC to negotiate simplified reporting requirements and documentation processes for volunteer-based RTOs, and to develop volunteer RTO compliance guidelines that outline national good practice for compliance activities.
Greater transferability of skills and capabilities across jurisdictions and between emergency organisations.	Request AFAC to support the development of 'just in time' training and education programs for informal and community volunteers for use by State and Territories.
Insurance and protection	
Protection for those who volunteer and those that step up spontaneously in times of need.	Task ANZEMC to review insurance and liability coverage for volunteers, including informal volunteers within each jurisdiction and identify any gaps or best practice.
Honours and awards	
Inclusive honours, awards, and recognition that are principle based and values contribution and impact from both operational and support roles.	NSW and the Commonwealth to develop reform proposals to ensure the National Awards and Honours System is more inclusive and recognise emergency service staff and volunteers in ancillary roles for national awards and honours.
	Establish a time limited working group to identify best practice and share examples of state and territory-based recognition models for employer and community organisation and peer-nominated awards, recognitions, celebrations.
Incentives and removing financial barriers	
Ensure volunteers receive timely support, incentives, including from employers, making it easier to keep giving back.	Engage NHRA to investigate and make recommendations for reforms at all levels of Government to support volunteering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review agencies' reimbursement systems for out-of-pocket costs and identify opportunities for improvement • the potential to extend the availability of tax deductions for expenses related to volunteering, such as uniform laundering • the potential to extend paid leave provisions to support emergency volunteering • scope potential incentive schemes for businesses/industry who support their staff to volunteer
Improved understanding of the investment needed and the benefits of volunteering	Engage NHRA to undertake economic modelling to demonstrate the value of the emergency volunteer workforce, including community mobilisation.

Disaster funding	
Funding supports the coordination of individuals and community groups who help during emergencies	NEMA to develop guidance on the eligibility of extraordinary costs associated with the coordination of informal volunteers that may be reimbursed under DRFA category A and B arrangements.

BACKGROUND

- 8) The NEMMM has endorsed as priority 5: *invest in building the future capabilities required across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, with people at the centre.*
- 9) The 2024 ANZEMC Work Plan notes the following deliverable against this priority: Deliverable 5.1: *In 2024, commence a multi-year program of work to develop a nationwide approach to supporting the wellbeing of volunteers (including consideration of work health and safety obligations), mechanisms for incentivising this workforce and alternative and novel volunteer pathways.*
- 10) Two sub-outcomes are identified under this Deliverable:
 - Sub-outcome 5.1.1: The critical volunteer workforce feels valued and well supported, reducing the psychosocial impacts of this role, burnout and decisions to exist the volunteering workforce are reduced
 - Sub-outcome 5.1.2: The critical volunteer workforce is supplemented by attracting new cohorts through alternative and novel pathways, leading to a more sustainable capability with capacity for additional surge support during catastrophic natural hazard events

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Contact Officer: s22, Director, Capability Development, Emergency Management, NSW Premier’s Department, s22
s22

Clearance Officer: Sam Toohey, Executive Director Emergency Management, NSW Premier’s Department, s22, s22