Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

Monday, 19 October 2026

COMMUNIQUÉ

A meeting of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) was held virtually on Monday, 19 October 2026.

Members update

Members discussed preparations for the 2026–27 Higher Risk Weather Season, including preparedness priorities strengthened within their jurisdictions. They reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration throughout the season.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) H5 Avian Influenza

Members received an update from the DAFF Chief Veterinary Officer on the preparations and planning for H5 Avian Influenza in Australia.

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework

Members noted the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework, developed by the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) Program at Monash University, and noted that jurisdictions will consider its potential application in their respective contexts.

Review of National Plans

Members noted the Australian Government Natural Hazards Plan (AUSNATHAZPLAN) as the Australian Government's plan for the preparedness, response and recovery from domestic natural hazards crises in line with the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF). Members noted that consultation on the strategic review of the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) and AUSNATHAZPLAN will continue, with updates to be finalised in early 2027.

Disaster Management Reform

Members discussed the recent updates to the proposed reforms to Australia's disaster funding arrangements and agreed to ongoing collaboration.

National Emergency Volunteering Strategy

Members endorsed in principle the National Emergency Volunteering Strategy progressing to the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), following extensive national consultation and engagement across jurisdictions and sectors. Members supported continued collaboration to implement the Strategy and agreed on the importance of a coordinated approach to strengthening emergency volunteering capability.

Tell Your Story Once

Members noted New South Wales' progress in piloting the Tell Your Story Once initiative, which aims to simplify access to support for people affected by disasters and reduce the need to provide the same information multiple times.

AusAlert

Members noted the update on AusAlert implementation and national readiness. The National Test confirmed that AusAlert is ready for safe and effective operational use by emergency management agencies, at their discretion. Members also noted progress to finalise governance arrangements, national training, and secure ongoing voice messaging capability.

Temporary Disaster Roaming

Members received an update from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts on the status of Temporary Disaster Roaming for the Higher Risk Weather Season.

National Advisory Panel to Support Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia

Members discussed disaster risk reduction and knowledge sharing at a national level and the opportunities to deliver this through the ANZEMC governance.

Resilience starts local – how to amplify best practice

Members welcomed the Australian Local Government Association's presentation, *Resilience Starts Local: How to Amplify Best Practice*, which highlighted effective local approaches to building disaster resilience. Members recognised the value of locally led initiatives and discussed opportunities to strengthen council capability, share effective approaches, and support sustainable investment. In 2027, members will consider practical options to help councils strengthen community resilience across Australia.

Hazards Insurance Partnership update

Members received an update on the ongoing work of the Hazards Insurance Partnership and the work underway to put downward pressure on insurance premiums, including the progress of the 2026–27 workplan and a briefing on the Government and Industry Insurance Forum, to increase engagement with jurisdictions on insurance matters.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) update

Members received an update on the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) program highlighting that the Australian Government is progressing options with jurisdictions to deliver a national PSMB capability.

Bureau of Meteorology update

Members received a briefing on infrastructure that supports weather forecasts and warnings from the CEO and Director of Meteorology, Dr Stuart Minchin, of the Bureau of Meteorology.

Final NEMMM Priorities and ANZEMC Work Plan for 2026–27

ANZEMC noted its final Work Plan for 2026–2027, focusing collective effort on fewer, higher-impact deliverables that support NEMMM priorities and strengthen national emergency management outcomes.

Review of the Interjurisdictional Resource Sharing Arrangements

Members noted the update to the review of the Guidelines for Interjurisdictional Assistance (Community Recovery).