EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

FESA plays an essential role in improving emergency management capability in Western Australia. It achieves this through providing capacity building services and advisory and support services to key stakeholders at local, regional, state and national levels.

Capacity building activities seek to improve emergency management capability through training and development, policy and planning development and review, emergency management funding support programs and mitigation initiatives.

Advisory and support activities include secretariat services for the State Emergency Management Committee and the State Mitigation Committee. FESA also participates in strategic working and reference groups at the state and national levels and undertakes research related to emergency management.

The proclamation of the Emergency Management Act 2005 on 23 December 2005 was a critical accomplishment in 2005-2006. The Act came into operation the following day. Previously, Western Australia had no emergency management legislation and, consequently, the State Government and its agencies lacked appropriate key legislative powers and protection.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

THE AWARE PROGRAM
FESA continued to engage the community in emergency management through the AWARE program (All West Australians Reducing Emergencies). AWARE aims to encourage communities to minimise the impact of local hazards through the emergency risk management process and local community emergency management training. The program has engaged local emergency management committees to assist local governments in taking ownership of emergency management for their communities.

The implementation of AWARE has seen an increase in the number of local governments participating in emergency risk management and emergency management activities. This year, the program involved 12 local governments and funded six AWARE emergency risk management projects and 15 AWARE training activities.

The total attendance at emergency management training through AWARE in 2005-2006 was:

- Emergency Management for Local Government 38
- Introduction to Recovery Management 180
- Introduction to Emergency Risk Management 148
- AWARE coordinators workshops 9

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS
The Indigenous Programs Team continued to extend its activities in 2005-2006. Networks also expanded following the implementation of the Emergency Management Act 2005. Strong relationships developed with key service providers including the Department of Indigenous Affairs, Department of Housing and Works, Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Indigenous Coordinating Centres (replacing ATSIC), Indigenous Language and Interpreter Services, Indigenous Training and Education organisations and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).
As evidenced below, the team is committed to getting out into the communities to support the development of integrated and effective emergency management arrangements.

**Implementation of the Emergency Management Act 2005**
Community consultation was facilitated throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley regions as part of the Emergency Management Act Awareness Campaign (see below). Community meetings were held in Port Hedland, Karratha, Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, and Bidyadanga. Organisations including the Aboriginal Lands Trust and the Aboriginal Legal Service were also consulted.

**Safer Country – A Community Centred Approach to Emergency Risk Management**
The *Safer Country* program was developed to enable Indigenous communities to become safer through emergency risk management. The program integrates cultural protocols and views within the framework of the Australian / New Zealand Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360.

Partnerships to undertake emergency management and emergency risk management were formed with three local governments, all with significant Indigenous populations (Halls Creek, Broome and Ngaanyatjarraku). Training commenced with these local governments and was also delivered to several communities outside these areas. Communities visited in 2005-2006 included Bidyadanga, Oombulgurri, Kiwirrkurra, Beagle Bay, Lombadina/Djarindjin, One Arm Point, Punmu, Kunawaratji, Warburton and other Ngaanyatjarra Lands communities.

**Translation of Emergency Management Arrangements and Emergency Risk Management Guidelines**
A project commenced to develop support materials to assist both local governments and Indigenous communities in working together to undertake emergency risk management and emergency management activities. The project is in partnership with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre with the support of the Kimberley Interpreter Service. A translation workshop was held in Broome in May 2006.

**INDIGENOUS AWARE PROJECTS**

**Halls Creek Local Government – Emergency Risk Management**
Halls Creek Local Government received funding from the AWARE program to undertake emergency risk management with town-based and remote Indigenous communities in its district. The local government in partnership with FESA’s Indigenous Programs Team was also successful in securing funding for interpreter support for the AWARE project.

**Ngaanyatjarra Lands – Goldfields**
FESA Goldfields/Midlands Region, in collaboration with the Indigenous Programs Team has recently commenced engaging Indigenous communities in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands (spanning the Gibson and Great Victoria Deserts) to undertake a risk analysis of the area. Visits proved timely as Warburton had been recently impacted by a severe storm causing damage to houses and power failure. The Ngaanyatjarra local government was successful in applying for AWARE funding. The immediate aim is to assist in the establishment of a local emergency management committee.

**FESA Geoscience Australia – Mapping Project**
FESA partnered with Geoscience Australia to undertake a joint mapping project to develop a clearer understanding of the level of vulnerability the 280 or more Indigenous communities within Western Australia have to emergency hazard risk. The development of a state-wide understanding of risk by mapping existing data, assists in strategic planning and the prioritisation and delivery of emergency management programs and activities.

The mapping tool was completed in 2005-2006 and will be used as a data base for more detailed information that is gathered by FESA, local governments and communities undertaking emergency management and emergency risk management programs.
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
To assist local governments in meeting their bush fire and emergency management responsibilities, FESA is employing seven Community Emergency Management Officers. The officers will be based in Belmont, Joondalup, Northam, Geraldton, Albany and two in Bunbury.

Over the course of their contracts, the officers will work with designated local governments to review the local Bushfire Response Plan and suggest enhancements where applicable, and identify the other emergency management arrangements and plans and suggest possible enhancements.

The task in relation to bush fire is in accordance with one of the recommendations of the Auditor General’s report Performance Examination – Responding to Major Bush Fires, of October 2004.

BUNBURY REVIEW
A major review of emergency services in Bunbury and the surrounding areas has been completed in consultation with key stakeholders, including local governments and volunteers. Stakeholders have been invited to participate in work groups to identify and address challenges associated with the implementation of the recommendations.

Bunbury and the surrounding areas are experiencing unprecedented growth, which is significantly impacting on emergency risks. The aim of the review was to identify the future strategic resourcing requirements for the region. Recommendations contained in the report consider the emerging issues and are designed to ensure that emergency services that match the risks can be provided into the future.

MINISTERIAL REVIEW
A Ministerial Review of Emergency Services in the Shires of Busselton and Augusta Margaret River was announced in October 2005.

The review was prompted because of the unprecedented economic growth and demographic change within the area in recent years. It was considered that the nature of the growth may also give rise to hazards not previously encountered in the area. It was therefore timely to evaluate the current and future capacity of existing emergency services to respond to potential hazards against this backdrop of change.

The review methodology and approach follows that of the Ministerial Review of Emergency Services in the Burrup Peninsula in 2004. It will specifically emulate the extensive stakeholder consultation that was undertaken at that time.

The terms of reference for the review are to:
- Review the current arrangements and methods used to provide emergency services in the Busselton/Leeuwin-Naturaliste area.
- Identify the natural and other community risks facing the residents and visitors in the area in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard 4360:2004 Risk Management.
- Determine future emergency service requirements and provide mitigation strategies based on an all-hazards approach.
- Develop a service delivery model and implementation plan, including timeframes.

A steering committee chaired by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services includes the Assistant Commissioner of WA Police, Shire Presidents, the Member for the South-West, the Hon Adele Farina (deputy chair), the chief executive officers of FESA and CALM and a representative of St John Ambulance.

The steering committee is supported by a project team comprised of representatives of all of the participating agencies and the Chief Executive Officer of the South-West Development Commission. The project team will conduct research and consult widely, and provide advice and reports to the steering committee. Input from emergency service volunteer groups, commercial and industrial interests and the general community is also being sought.
COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

Individuals and organisations who have made their mark in community safety in Western Australia were recognised in the FESA Community Safety Awards 2005. The awards are made by FESA to encourage and recognise practical community initiatives designed to help protect lives, property and the environment.

Awards nominations are sought from within FESA, with staff and volunteers being given the opportunity to formally acknowledge people or organisations in the community who have supported community safety programs, or undertaken their own safety initiatives. Projects must relate to community safety activities relevant to FESA’s organisational focus across all of the hazards it addresses.

From 20 nominations received in 2005, four were selected for the top award and six as highly commended winners.

Award Winners

- **Mr Clarrie Djanghara – Kalumburu Community**
  Preparing for Tropical Cyclone Ingrid – March 2005

- **Rae and Richard Thorp of Capel – Australian Citizens Radio Monitors WA Inc.**
  Provision of Emergency Radio Monitoring Service for South-West Mariners

- **City of Bunbury**
  Emergency Risk Management Plan – A Cornerstone in Community Safety

- **David Wirrpanda Foundation**
  Active support for the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness (JAffa) Program and preventing deliberately lit fire activity in Fitzroy Crossing

Highly Commended

- **Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation**
  Preparedness for Tropical Cyclone Ingrid – March 2005

- **Department of Education and Training**
  Emergency Risk Management Plan

- **City of Stirling**
  Residential Aged Care Emergency Plan

- **Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mine**
  Emergency Response Team – Mutual Aid and Cooperation

- **The Laminex Group**
  Community Recovery Assistance following May 2005 tornado affecting Bunbury

- **Shire of Mundaring**
  Information Technology Team – Emergency Risk Management Web-based ‘One-Stop-Shop’ and update information online.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

The Emergency Management Act 2005 was proclaimed on 23 December 2005 and came into operation on 24 December 2005.

Prior to the commencement of the Act, Western Australia had no emergency management legislation, relying upon the 1985 Cabinet Minute which approved the basis of the State Emergency Management Committee’s Policy Statement No. 7 Western Australian Emergency Management Arrangements.

The Act establishes overarching emergency management arrangements for the state’s emergency services, including local governments and support organisations. It provides a framework for managing emergencies requiring a significant and coordinated response, including the provision of necessary legislative powers and protection to prevent or mitigate, prepare for, respond to and take measures to recover from large scale incidents.
FESA, on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, is responsible for the administration of the Act and established an Implementation Project Team to facilitate its implementation through the development of regulations, policy and administrative arrangements.

The Emergency Management Regulations 2006 were published in the Government Gazette on 21 April 2006. The Regulations include provision for the appointment of members, additional to those provided in the Act, to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and details administrative requirements for the operation of the SEMC. Remaining provisions will require the formation of additional regulations and administrative arrangements developed through stakeholder consultation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
An extensive campaign to raise stakeholder awareness of the Act commenced early in 2006, with approximately 200 organisations targeted. The awareness campaign was launched at a Sunrise Seminar in March 2006 (see below).

Following the launch, the implementation project team delivered presentations to organisations in the remaining eight Emergency Management Districts throughout the state in March and April 2006. The campaign was extended to other hazard and emergency management committees, agencies, local governments, and representatives of remote Indigenous communities.

In total, awareness campaign presentations were delivered to more than 450 delegates across a broad range of emergency management organisations. On-going strong support to these organisations will be a continuing focus in 2006-2007.

Sunrise Seminar

The breakfast seminar comprised an opening address from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, presentations from key speakers, and concluded with an open forum. Subject areas included specific responsibilities under the Act, what had changed or stayed the same and the assistance available to agencies. Representatives included state emergency management committee members, contact officers from key agencies, chairs of the district emergency management committees, chairs of metropolitan local emergency management committees and chief executive officers of metropolitan local governments or their nominees.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDE
Emergency risk management is an essential part of a community’s ability to identify and work to minimise risks. In conjunction with the AWARE Program, a Western Australian Emergency Risk Management Guide was developed that addresses state issues, policies, reporting requirements and appropriate templates in accordance with the Australian New Zealand Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360. Developed by FESA and the Western Australian Local Government Association, under the direction of the State Mitigation Committee, the guide was launched by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in October 2006.

The guide will provide an ongoing support and a step-by-step reference to local governments and communities undertaking the emergency risk management process.

STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION GROUP
The State Emergency Coordination Group was activated for:
- the Bali Bombings #2 (October 2005)
- Exercise Eleusis (November 2005)
- Pandemic Influenza update (convened only, November 2005)
- the Dwellingup Bush Fires (January 2006)
- Tropical Cyclone Clare (January 2006)
• the consequences of ex-Tropical Cyclone Clare – Lake Grace flooding and flood warnings for the Avon River and Greenough River catchments (January 2006)
• Tropical Cyclone Daryl (January 2006)
• Tropical Cyclone Glenda (March 2006)

STATE AND NATIONAL EXERCISES
Emergency management assistance and support, including the provision of umpires and volunteers, was provided to five exercises:
• Mercury (October 2005)
• Eleusis (November 2005)
• Canister (April 2006)
• Wild West (May 2006)
• Western Explorer (June 2006).

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS
FESA is responsible for the management of the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (WANDRA), under which relief measures are provided on behalf of the State Government to assist the recovery of communities whose social, financial and economic well-being has been significantly affected by a natural disaster event.

During 2005-2006, eight events were proclaimed as eligible natural disasters under the provisions of the WANDRA. FESA managed the provision of assistance to individuals and families, primary producers and local governments affected by these events in partnership with the Department for Community Development and Department of Agriculture and Food. The eight events were:
• 25 Mile Rock and Borden Bushfires – December 2005
• Ledge Point Bush Fire – 1 January 2006
• Tropical Cyclone Clare and associated flooding – 7 January 2006
• Tropical Cyclone Daryl and associated flooding – 17 January 2006
• Dwellingup Bush Fire – 22 January 2006
• Neerabup National Park Bush Fire – 19-20 February 2006
• Tropical Cyclone Emma and associated flooding – 27 February 2006
• Tropical Cyclone Glenda and associated flooding – 24 March 2006

In March 2006, FESA established a dedicated WANDRA administrator position within FESA’s Emergency Management Services division. This greatly increased the ability to ensure an integrated approach to the development, reform and implementation of the WANDRA. Substantial benefits have included:
• more timely identification and proclamation of eligible events
• enhanced promotion and awareness of the WANDRA through ministerial and agency media releases for each eligible event, and direct liaison with local governments and local recovery committees.

STATE MITIGATION COMMITTEE
The State Mitigation Committee is tasked with developing and maintaining the state infrastructure required to reduce the social, economic and environmental cost of natural hazards in Western Australia. The committee advocates an inclusive approach to natural hazard mitigation, emphasising the need for all levels of government to work with the community to achieve the common goal of a safer community.

The State Mitigation Committee was endorsed as a sub-committee of the State Emergency Management Committee in March 2006 and, following this, commenced an overview role in relation to the mitigation and prevention elements of all hazards prescribed under the Emergency Management Act 2005. The State Mitigation Committee undertook to assume this role to ensure hazard management agencies lacking in the resources or expertise necessary to fulfill mitigation and prevention responsibilities would be provided with adequate assistance. The FESA Chief Executive Officer chairs the State Mitigation Committee with executive support provided by the FESA Manager Mitigation. The following outcomes were achieved in 2005-2006:
Review of Committee Composition, Role and Functions
A review workshop of the committee’s composition, role and functions was conducted in May 2006. All recommendations put forward from this review were endorsed by SEMC in June 2006.

Remote Indigenous Communities
The Integration of Emergency Mitigation Strategies into Remote Indigenous Communities Working Group resolved to promote its agenda through the State Environmental Health Coordinating Committee.

Statement of Planning Policy for Natural Hazard Mitigation
Drafted by the Land Use Planning Working Group, a Statement of Planning Policy for natural hazard mitigation was approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission. The policy applies across the state to the planning and development of all land that may be affected by natural hazards.

Spatial Information
The State Mitigation Committee’s Spatial Information Working Group continued to develop a coordinated approach to the use of spatial information in support of emergency management. The working group provides regular reports to the State Mitigation Committee and State Emergency Management Committee on the following:

- the development of the emergency management component of the state’s Shared Land Information Platform initiative
- the development of a new Emergency Services Directory covering the Wheatbelt Emergency Management District (this has been completed with the assistance of Natural Disaster Mitigation Program funding and further directories are scheduled for production in 2006-2007)
- progress of the state’s spatial data collection and maintenance activities, to ensure that available spatial information is fit-for-purpose
- the groups’ contribution to a national working group tasked with developing a coordinated approach to the use of spatial information for national emergency management, counter terrorism and critical infrastructure protection.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY – PANDEMIC INFLUENZA
As a consequence of the State Emergency Coordination Group Pandemic Influenza meeting in November 2005, in January 2006, FESA’s Emergency Management Division created the position of Manager State Emergency Management Capability to develop an overarching government perspective to pandemic influenza emergency management.

This perspective was additional to the roles and responsibilities undertaken by the Department of Health, as the hazard management agency for human epidemic in Western Australia. The focus is on developing whole-of-government contingencies that ensure agencies continue to provide important essential and routine services.

The following outcomes have been achieved since January 2006:
- In-depth interviews were held with a range of priority state agencies to scope the nature of pandemic preparedness, understand planning perspectives, issues and constraints.
- A planning forum was held on 17 March 2006 involving 30 representatives from 15 priority state government agencies to report on pandemic planning progress and identify priority whole-of-government issues. A number of priority recommendations were identified and are being progressed.
- A closed email network group was established on 8 May 2006 to improve information exchange and communication between pandemic planners in agencies across the state.
- Input was provided to the formation of the State Government Human Influenza Pandemic Plan.
NATIONAL

NATIONAL AND STATE LIAISON

Liaison between FESA and Emergency Management Australia provides an important link between Australian Government and state/territory emergency management agencies. This occurs through a number of strategies such as participation on national working groups, committees, reference groups and the provision of advice and recommendations to the Australian Government.

FESA participates in a number of initiatives supporting this liaison as is evidenced by its representation on the following national committees and working groups in 2005-2006:

- Augmented Australasian Police Ministers Council
- Australian Emergency Management Committee
- National Information Management Advisory Group
- National Response Arrangements Steering Group
- Australian Emergency Plan Working Group
- Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Committee
- Catastrophic Disasters Emergency Management Capability Working Group
- Australian Safer Communities Awards review group
- Emergency Management Sector Working Group
- National Risk Assessment Working Group
- Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) Review and Reform Working Group
- NDRA Review – Infrastructure Team
- NDRA Review – Data and Information Team/

REMOTE INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FESA provides the Western Australian representatives on the Australian Emergency Management Committee Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Committee.

In 2005-2006, this committee commissioned a consultancy to develop a National Strategy for Emergency Management in Remote Indigenous Communities. In July 2005, FESA hosted focus group meetings in Derby and Perth. In total, 80 participants attended from communities in the East and West Kimberley, the Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields and Perth metropolitan area.

The completed draft strategy was presented to the Prime Minister’s National Indigenous Council in June 2006. The Attorney General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP will nationally launch the strategy in November 2006, in Bidyadanga.

CATASTROPHIC DISASTERS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY WORKING GROUP


The Manager Policy and Planning in FESA’s Emergency Management Services Division represented Western Australia on this working group. A series of workshops was conducted in every Australian jurisdiction resulting in a survey of each jurisdiction’s capability to cope with a catastrophic disaster with and without inter-jurisdictional assistance.

The analysis of the workshop findings resulted in the report: Review of Australia’s Ability to Respond to and Recover from Catastrophic Disasters (October 2005). The report, along with a proposed implementation strategy for its 32 recommendations, was tabled with the Australian Emergency Management Committee in February 2006 and was endorsed in principle by the Augmented Australasian Police Ministers Council in April 2006.
AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS
Emergency Management Australia coordinates the Australian Safer Communities Awards annually, with assistance from each jurisdiction to manage local components of the awards. FESA manages the awards program in Western Australia. The awards recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities. All aspects of emergency management – risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness and recovery – are considered.

In 2005, the 11 awards submissions received in Western Australia were diverse and innovative and produced five winners and five high commendations at the state level. There were no WA winners at the national level.

NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
The Natural Disaster Mitigation Program was established to identify, assess and provide funding for natural emergency mitigation initiatives. As a priority, the program funds projects which contribute to a community’s ability to withstand the effects of natural disasters. FESA administers the program in Western Australia. In the 2005-2006 funding round, 18 Western Australian projects were considered to meet the NDMP eligibility criteria. Total funding of $1.157 million was approved.

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Program State Assessment Panel assessed 2006-2007 funding applications in April 2006. The 20 projects considered eligible hold a total value of $4.2 million, of which WA is seeking $1.47 million from the Australian Government.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE EMERGENCIES
Working Together to Manage Emergencies is a Commonwealth-funded initiative managed by Emergency Management Australia. Over four years, this initiative will provide $49 million in grants through two programs, the Local Grants Scheme and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. FESA’s Emergency Management Services division provides expertise, ongoing project liaison and executive support to the Western Australian State Assessment Panel.

Local Grants Scheme
The completed draft strategy was presented to the Prime Minister's National Indigenous Council in June 2006. The Attorney General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP will nationally launch the strategy in November 2006, in Bidyadanga.

National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund
In the 2005-2006 funding round, 21 projects were considered to meet the eligibility criteria under the Local Grants Scheme. Total funding of $945,480 was approved for the projects.