

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

FESA KEY GOALS FOR 2007-2008

1. **Climate change and its impact on vulnerable communities through the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events is challenging emergency organisations and available resources.**
2. **Emerging energy and water strategies, combined with extreme weather events will impact on future priorities and initiatives for managing emergency events.**

FESA KEY GOALS FOR 2007-08

- Complete the FESA Futures Project – which will monitor the key issues of climate and demographic change. The project will allow FESA to identify potential impacts of changes on current and future business and develop strategies to address them. It will form the basis for ongoing strategic planning and organisational change management initiatives.
- Develop and commence the implementation of a Tsunami warning system for Western Australia, incorporating State and local level planning, risk assessment and computer modelling by Geoscience Australia, to identify highly vulnerable areas, including remote Indigenous communities.
- Continue the implementation of the operational flood warning system in the Swan and Avon River catchment areas.
- Launch the community public alert system StateAlert in the Perth Metropolitan area.
- Commence the State Level Emergency Risk Management Project.
- Continue to base allocation of local government grants for volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Service (SES) units throughout Western Australia according to need through the ongoing development of the Resource to Risk model.
- Progress adoption of the National State Emergency Service request for assistance number 132500
- Continue to invest in national and State emergency management research initiatives, including strategic partnerships with tertiary institutions and other research bodies, including the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- The FESA Futures Project will build strategic foresight within the organisation. This foresight will assist in strategic planning and adjustment of services and service delivery models to match the changing operating environment.
- The Tsunami project will provide data to support planning for community awareness and preparedness initiatives. The implementation of the improved warning system will assist the community and emergency services to prepare for potential impacts and to coordinate potential response and recovery requirements.
- Improved warning systems for flood and other emergencies support preparedness and prevention and should reduce flood related damage.
- Implementation of StateAlert will assist in provision of timely community warnings and incident related information.
- The State Level Emergency Risk Management Project will identify risks across the State and support prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning.
- Ongoing development of the resource to risk model will ensure that the allocation of Emergency Services Levy funding supports capability building according to risk.
- Adoption of the National State Emergency Service request number will improve notification times and support effective response.
- Continued participation in research will ensure that Western Australian emergency management meets best practice and support continuous improvement.
- Deployment of a State-wide dispatch system with real time tracking will improve operational coordination and response.

3. The need to improve disaster resilience of remote indigenous communities

FESA KEY GOALS FOR 2007-08

- Tsunami warning as above.
- Continuation of *Safer Country*.
- Implement a State strategy for service delivery to Remote Indigenous Communities.
- Adapt the Western Australian Emergency Management Guidelines to enable Indigenous people to access appropriate emergency management information.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- *Safer Country* training courses will help build resilience by raising awareness of emergency risks and training Indigenous communities in their management.
- The State strategy will identify the resources required to ensure that Remote Indigenous Communities are equipped to deal with the emergencies they face.
- Adapting the Western Australian Emergency Management Guidelines will improve the capacity for indigenous communities to be involved in their own emergency management planning.

4. The need to enhance mitigation strategies through effective land use, planning, development and building controls.

FESA KEY GOALS FOR 2007-08

- In liaison with the Department of Housing and Works, continue to contribute to and influence changes to the Building Code of Australia.
- Following the introduction of mandatory smoke alarm legislation, conduct a comprehensive community education and public information program.
- Conduct a Kimberley Dry Season Campaign to reduce inappropriate fire lighting in the Fitzroy Valley, targeting pastoralists, remote Indigenous communities, children and the community.
- Continue to progress development of fire management plans with community stakeholders, Indigenous and pastoral landowners in the Kimberley.
- Continue to implement the Kimberley Bushfire Planning Project to assist pastoralists with strategic hazard reduction through controlled aerial burning and other measures.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Continuous improvement to the Building Code of Australia will ensure that building standards are based on risk.
- Continued community awareness campaigns will improve the community's understanding of risks and options for addressing them.
- Development of fire management plans and strategic hazard reduction in high risk areas will assist in reducing the impact of fire on the natural environment.

5. Volunteer attraction and retention is becoming increasingly difficult due to changing demographic patterns and the population shift from inland to coastal and regional areas

FESA KEY GOAL FOR 2007-08

- Continue to support the establishment of multi-skilled units in areas where separate volunteer services are unsustainable.
- Continue initiatives to further enhance and promote recruitment, retention, recognition and reward opportunities for volunteers.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Continued development of multi hazard response units (Volunteer Fire Service and Volunteer Emergency Service) will support delivery of services in areas where volunteer numbers are reducing.
- Continued support to volunteer groups through clarification of roles and responsibilities, recruitment and recognition and reward will help to ensure that volunteer numbers remain at levels that support a sustainable level of service delivery.

6. The need to optimise the organisational capacity to harness benefits in information technology, such as the reliance on spatial information, into routine business and operational practices.

FESA KEY GOAL FOR 2007-08

- Continue to embed the use of geospatial information into operational planning through the management of the Government's Shared Land Information Platform – Emergency Management (SLIP-EM) project.

INTENDED OUTCOME

- The SLIP-EM project will assist all emergency service agencies to access reliable and accurate data to support prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

7. The shift in focus from the planning and management of localised incidents to the planning and management of catastrophic and widespread events.

FESA KEY GOALS FOR 2007-08

- Continued development and deployment of a Statewide dispatch system with real time tracking.
- Progress agreed outcomes from the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's Inquiry into Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.
- Progress agreed outcomes of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's Inquiry into Emergency Services Legislation.
- Participate on a national project to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of community safety education programs.
- Conduct comprehensive reviews of key emergency and awareness programs, including Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness, Bush Fire Ready Actions Groups and All West Australians Reducing Emergencies.
- Continue to work in collaboration with local government through the Community Emergency Management Officer (CEMO) project to enhance emergency management planning for all hazards.
- Commence a review of local management arrangements established by Local Emergency Management Committees.
- Publish a *Local Emergency Management Arrangements Guide* and *Local Recovery Planning Guide*.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Improvements to dispatch systems will ensure that appropriate and effective response occurs.
- Implementation of the Community Development Justice Standing Committee recommendations will support better preparedness and prevention planning.
- Effective community safety programs will assist in building community capacity to prepare for, prevent and cope with emergencies.
- The CEMO project will assist local governments to understand their legislative responsibilities and support them in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning.
- Local government planning will be assisted through relevant publications including the *Local Emergency Management Arrangements Guide* and *Local Recovery Planning Guide*.