

Wind and earth exhibits complete centre

The final stage of the \$2 million FESA Education and Heritage Centre (FEHC) redevelopment project has now been completed.

The new elements of 'wind' and 'earth' add the hazards of earthquake, cliff collapse, cliff rescue and land search, as well as tropical cyclones and severe

storms, to the existing 'fire' and 'water' exhibits already on display at the centre.

Executive Director Community Development Dave Caporn said it was wonderful to see the project completed as it represented FESA's strong focus on natural disaster education and increasing community resilience.

"FESA is proud to have established the first and only natural hazards public education facility in Australia," he said.

"Visitor numbers support the success of the concept, with more than 22,000 people of all ages having walked through the doors since September 2009.

"Planning for the centre dates back to 2003, with the inaugural opening of the first phase held two years ago.

"The journey has been long, but the results are clearly worthwhile, with visitors offered a comprehensive range of colourful and interactive exhibits, programs and products.

"I thank all contributors to the project, including Channel 10 and the Bureau of Meteorology, as well as FESA staff and FEHC volunteers."

Director Community Engagement Suellen Shea said the aims of the centre supported FESA's preparedness and prevention role.

"The exhibits invite families, community groups, schools and tourists to find out all they need to know about the many hazards that FESA responds to throughout WA," she said.

"They enhance the visitor experience and promote an understanding of how people are affected.

"Members of the community can make smart and safe decisions during an emergency by appreciating more fully what they need to do to prepare and minimise their own risks."

In addition to the exhibits, the centre has developed curriculum linked programs which cover fire safety, FESA's emergency responders, what to do in an emergency, and how natural disasters impact communities.

Students from more than 100 schools have visited the FEHC to participate in these programs which link into the areas of health and safety, science and geography.

Suellen added that the relevance and timing of the centre was particularly appropriate given the recent natural disasters that Australia and its close neighbours had experienced, and their increased profile in the new national curriculum.



Part of the new 'Earth' exhibit at FESA's Education and Heritage Centre.