

# COMMUNIQUÉ

## National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting

29 October 2021

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) was held on 29 October 2021. Emergency management Ministers and senior officials from Australian, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) participated in the meeting.

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience chaired the meeting, which focused on the ongoing progress towards implementing the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* (the Royal Commission) and the next tranche of recommendations for prioritised implementation.

### OUTCOMES

#### Royal Commission implementation

Members noted the agreement of National Cabinet on 1 October 2021 to prioritise implementation of, and reporting on progress of the Royal Commission recommendations. The NEMMM considered updates from the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) regarding the progress made to identify further priority Royal Commission recommendations and agreed the next tranche of recommendations to be progressed to the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) for endorsement. Members noted the agreement by the ANZEMC that the interim National Recovery Framework will continue to be used as a guidance document for any national recovery efforts prior to the finalisation of the National Recovery Framework.

#### Review of governance arrangements

The NEMMM agreed to a review of governance arrangements in relation to natural disasters in line with the Royal Commission recommendations to enable more timely and informed strategic decision-making in relation to disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Members agreed to establish a working group with representatives from Australian, state and territory governments and ALGA to support the review on behalf of the NEMMM, noting that states and territories have primary responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment within their respective jurisdictions. The review will be led by an independent reviewer, to be agreed.

## Report to National Federation Reform Council on progress toward addressing Priority Actions associated with recommendations of the Royal Commission

All members endorsed the submission of the report to the NFRC on the implementation of the NFRC-tasks Priority Actions. NEMMM will continue to progress priorities tasked by the NFRC.

### Public Safety Mobile Broadband

The NEMMM noted the update from New South Wales on the proof of concept trial underway for Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) and the update from Emergency Management Australia on the proposed way forward for the PSMB. State and territory Ministers confirmed that a position regarding adequate spectrum allocation within Band 26 is required to expeditiously deliver the capability. State and territory Ministers noted if Band 26 were no longer available for public safety purposes there may be increased cost, complexity and delays to PSMB. State and territory Ministers agreed to New South Wales drafting a joint letter seeking a deferral of the planned commercial auction of Band 26 of spectrum by the Commonwealth. The letter will be co-signed by all states and territories and progressed by Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience, as chair of NEMMM to the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts and the Prime Minister.