

Communiqué

Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

29 February 2024

A meeting of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) was held on 29 February 2024.

Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements and Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

Members discussed the Final Report on the *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements* (the Glasser Review) and draft recommendations of *Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding* (the Colvin Review). Member feedback on the Colvin Review's draft recommendations provided at, and following the meeting will assist in shaping the Final Report which is due to be provided to the Australian Government by 30 April 2024. Members agreed to revise the ANZEMC Terms of Reference to respond to the Glasser and Colvin Review findings which suggest a need to re-calibrate governance arrangements to strengthen focus on urgent challenges and the changes required to address risk reduction and resilience across the emergency management continuum.

2024 NEMMM Priorities and ANZEMC Work Plan

Members discussed the proposed 2024 NEMMM Priorities and 2024 ANZEMC Work Plan. Members agreed the need to rationalise and streamline the Priorities and Work Plan to ensure collective focus on the most critical items that require priority oversight by the Committee to strengthen Australia's resilience to and capacity to respond to and recover from catastrophic natural disasters. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will work with members to refine the Priorities and Work Plan for consideration and endorsement by the NEMMM at its first meeting in April.

National Capability Projects

Members received an update on NEMA's National Capability Projects.

The Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Taskforce, working in collaboration with states and territories, has made strong progress implementing the recommendations of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review. A principles-based Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been drafted and is well-progressed. Options for a national PSMB entity are being actively investigated and work on national requirements for the PSMB capability are being defined, informed by engagement with international PSMB programs and industry.

The Australian Government will deliver the first tranche of the cell broadcast National Messaging System (NMS) capability by December 2024. NMS will initially operate alongside the Emergency Alert (EA) system. The EA system will remain the primary system for emergency warnings over the 2024-25 High Risk Weather Season.

In consultation with states and territories, NEMA is continuing to build the National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS) capability. This has and will continue to support state and territory government emergency responses when their capabilities have been fully committed in a crisis. The NEMS capability also reduces reliance on the Australian Defence Force.

Members were briefed on NEMA's approach developing the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile's (NNHDRP) methodology. Establishing governance and a shared methodology will provide consistency of natural hazard risk terminology, facilitate improved comparisons and analysis, and ensure the Profile is aligned to insurance industry methodology and inform the risk-mapping

activities under the Hazards Insurance Partnership. ANZEMC will nominate a member to participate in, and represent the Committee at the NNHDRP's Expert Reference Group meetings.

Presentation on the use of Humanihuts in Fitzroy Crossing, WA

Commissioner Klemm, Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA, provided a presentation on the use of Humanihuts in Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region in December 2022 following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. Commissioner Klemm highlighted the flexibility of Humanihuts and the ability to customise accommodation.

Presentation on addressing cultural complexity in disaster

Scott Perry, Director, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet NT, presented a model aimed at addressing cultural complexity in disasters for the information and consideration of members in respective jurisdictions for future disasters.