

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

Friday, 6 September 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held in Sydney on Friday 6 September 2024.

Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management portfolio ministers and the Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association attended and were supported by their senior officials.

Seasonal Outlook and Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness

Members received a briefing from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology on the seasonal outlook and discussed Higher Risk Weather Season Preparedness ahead of the 2024-25 season.

Emergency Volunteering

Minister Dib provided members a briefing on the findings of the NSW Review of Emergency Volunteering. Members discussed initiatives to increase support for volunteers, including principles to guide national action. NSW and the Commonwealth will co-lead a program of work to support emergency volunteering, which will include the development of a draft national strategy to be brought to NEMMM for consideration in 2025.

Aerial Firefighting

Members discussed the Australian Government's continuing work to support aerial firefighting, including the increased funding for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the associated requirement that the national aerial firefighting fleet includes aircraft with multi-use capabilities. Members also discussed the Australian Government review of aerial firefighting, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Members noted that the Australian Government continues to work in collaboration with states and territories on implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Public Safety Mobile Broadband Strategic Review, and that responses to the recent Request for Information will inform the delivery model, solution design and costs for an enduring national Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.

Warning Systems

Members agreed to assess recent reviews of the Australian Warning System for lessons that could be applied when implementing the Australian Warning System in their jurisdiction.

Insurance Discussion

Members discussed common issues with insurance and agreed that through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee they would progress work in this area.

Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review)

Members discussed the *Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements* (Glasser Review), including actions taken earlier in 2024 to address a number of the Review's recommendations. Members agreed to further actions to continue to progress necessary reforms to emergency management governance arrangements to drive the transformational changes needed to reduce Australia's disaster risk and create safer communities.

Recovery Reforms

Members considered proposed initiatives to enhance disaster recovery, including short-term practical reforms and a Tiered Recovery Support model. Members discussed the two proposals and provided their insights for continued refinement.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting discussed progress against recommendations from the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements*. Members agreed to transition to closure or to ongoing work programs 33 recommendations, noting the substantive progress made in response to the findings of the Royal Commission. Members recognised the importance of continued investment in evolving Australia's approach to disaster management and that work on the recommendations would be ongoing, including under the NEMMM Priorities and ANZEMC Work Plan.