

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM), chaired by Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management, was held virtually on Tuesday 23 April 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.

Higher Risk Weather Season Lessons

Members discussed and reflected on lessons of the current Higher Risk Weather Season, with the view to applying lessons to support rapid adaptation and continuous improvement across the emergency management continuum.

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

Members discussed the Final Report on the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements and agreed to review the NEMMM Terms of Reference, to ensure there is a greater focus on reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review)

Members received a briefing from Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, which is due to be delivered to the Australian Government by 30 April 2024. The Commonwealth agreed to further consultations with states, territories and local governments prior to providing a formal response to Mr Colvin's Final Report.

NEMMM 2024 Priorities

Members agreed new national emergency management priorities focussed on: strengthening understanding of natural hazard risk, risk reduction investment and the intersection with insurance; building partnerships with planning and infrastructure portfolios to drive risk reduction more broadly; helping communities to be better prepared for disasters; improving data sharing and telecommunications; and generating greater investment in future emergency management capabilities. These priorities represent critical issues that require collective nation-wide attention.

ANZEMC 2024 Work Plan

Members agreed a new Work Plan for the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC), which includes key lines of effort that are focussed on delivering outcomes under the new NEMMM priorities.

Members also agreed new Terms of Reference for ANZEMC that introduce more effective ways for the Committee to operate, and give greater focus to reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Members agreed that progressing the PSMB capability remains a priority for the Commonwealth and jurisdictions. Members noted that the jurisdictions are currently negotiating a Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). The IGA will be a principles-based agreement between the Australian Government and the states and territories to build and access an enduring national PSMB capability.