

Emergency Management Planning Reform

State level planning

The *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (EMLA Act) was passed through Parliament in August 2018, and seeks to establish an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated framework for emergency management planning.

Changes to state level planning

- The EMLA Act amends the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) to update state level planning arrangements.
- A new integrated State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) will address mitigation, response and recovery. The SEMP will replace the existing State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) and State Emergency Relief and Recovery Plan (SERRP). These and other relevant chapters of the Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) will be replaced as implementation of the reform progresses.
- The state guidelines and SEMP will set the direction for the next levels of emergency management planning. The SEMP will continue to evolve over time as planning reform is implemented and matures at the state, regional and municipal levels.

Guidelines for preparing the State Emergency Management Plan

- The Minister for Police and Emergency Services can issue guidelines to facilitate and support the planning process.
- Guidelines for preparing the State Emergency Management Plan were released in November 2019 and will be updated in phases to provide further detail and practical guidance on the planning process for regional and municipal level planning respectively, along with a [Resource Library](#) on the EMV website.

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State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)

- The state level arrangements formally commenced on 25 September 2019, including the obligation to prepare the SEMP.
- Once approved by the State Crisis and Resilience Council (SCRC), the SEMP will take effect on a date to be determined (likely September 2020).
- The SEMP will outline emergency management arrangements for the entire State and inform other levels of planning. The Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) is responsible for preparing the SEMP.
- The SCRC is responsible for approving the SEMP. A statement of assurance will be prepared to ensure the preparer, the EMC, has complied with the Act and has regard to the guidelines.
- The SEMP is required to cover mitigation, response and recovery, and provide agency and department roles and responsibilities in relation to emergency management.
- Sub-plans to the SEMP may be needed for specific hazards or emergencies, where appropriate, to allow for more specific arrangements that vary from the SEMP or to contextualise the SEMP. These sub-plans will form part of the SEMP, meaning they need to be prepared under the same requirements of the new planning arrangements.
- The SEMP will not replace the need for more specific plans for particular industries, sectors, and emergencies. For example, specific plans that are required in the energy and water industries under industry-specific legislation. These plans prepared outside Part 6A of the Act are known as complementary plans and will continue to be prepared in accordance with their own authorising arrangements.
- For more information, refer to the [sub-plans](#) and complementary plans fact sheet.

Consultation

- Significant consultation on the state guidelines and SEMP has occurred with responder agencies, departments and relevant portfolio agencies, as per the Act (amended by the EMLA Act).
- A number of workshops in December 2019 contributed to identifying key areas of focus to include in the SEMP.

Benefits of emergency management planning (all levels)

- Benefits we expect over time include:
 - strengthening regional planning
 - integrating planning for before, during and after emergencies
 - integrating planning across the state, regional and municipal levels
 - clarifying and strengthening governance arrangements for planning
 - clarifying roles and responsibilities of agencies in an emergency
 - greater engagement with the community when planning
 - strengthening participation in planning across the sector
 - promoting continuous improvement in planning.

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