

Community Development and Justice Steering Committee – 2018

Response to Follow-up questions

- 1. Some districts have more local emergency management committees (LEMCs) than local governments (Goldfields-Esperance, Pilbara, Kimberley). I understand that local governments can create one combined LEMC, but how are there more LEMC than local governments?**

As per the EM Act 2005, section 41, it is the Local Government's (LG) responsibility to ensure that LEMAs are developed for their district. While some LGs may have more than one LEMC within their boundary, this does not necessarily mean the LG has two different sets of LEMA. Conversely, LG's may have combined with their neighbours for EM purposes and have a joint LEMA with their neighbours. Therefore the numbers of LGs, compared to LEMAs and LEMCs can sometimes vary.

For example, the Wheatbelt district has 28 LG's, 27 sets of LEMA and 25 LEMCs. The very large spatial extent of the Shire of Ashburton in the Pilbara has led to three LEMCs being established within the LG district.

The origin of the complexity is probably associated the wide variety of LG types across Western Australia. Some are geographically small but have a high rate-base and great deal of on-hand resource whereas others have a very large geographic footprint but a small rate and resource base. Also some LG's encounter common, co-boundary hazards and thus collaborate on preparation and response. These variables combined in differing proportions across the State lead the LG's, for efficiency and effectiveness purposes, to make differing LEMC and LEMA decisions under the available scope of the EM Act 2005.

- 2. Some districts have more local emergency management arrangements (LEMA) than LEMC (Wheatbelt, Midwest-Gascoyne, East Metro, North Metro). Why is this the case?**

As above, while some LGs may have more than one LEMC within their boundary, this does not necessarily mean the LG has two different sets of LEMA. For instance, Wanneroo and Joondalup have a combined LEMC but have opted to have separate LEMA. As above, the decision making around this will be determined by the LG's capacity and what is common or idiosyncratic within the LG(s).