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## Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services

Our Ref: 65-06443

Mr P.A Katsambanis MLA  
Chairman  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Katsambanis, MLA

### **INQUIRY INTO THE PROTECTION OF CROWDED PLACES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FROM TERRORIST ACTS – REQUEST FOR FURTHER COMMENT**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 October 2018 and for the opportunity to comment on the report entitled '*Near enough is not good enough: An initial report on the protection of crowded places in Western Australia*'

I understand you have also sought comment from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

My preliminary response to the comments are as follows:

#### **Comment 1 – page 14**

The Security and Emergency Committee of Cabinet (SECC) is a standing committee of Cabinet and it would be inappropriate to me to comment further on the functioning of the SECC. The SEMC is established under s.14(a) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* to provide and provides me with advice on emergency management and the preparedness of the State to combat emergencies. The SEMC functions under s.14 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* with respect to the hazards listed in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and prescribed in the *Emergency Management Regulations 2006*. The SEMC will continue to fulfil its role and continue to work with any agency improving emergency management throughout the State.

#### **Comment 8 – page 38**

Please refer to DFES' submission to the inquiry.

**Comment 10 – page 42**

This is an operational matter. Please refer to DFES' and SEMC submissions to the inquiry.

**Comment 18 – page 81**

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* formally establishes the SEMC and other bodies (such as the State Emergency Coordination Group and SEMC subcommittees) and details roles and responsibilities at a state, district and local level in relation to the four aspects of emergency management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

While current arrangements are robust and have been shown to function in times of emergency, the EM legislation undergoes ongoing review to meet community expectations of government response to emergency situations. Amendments to legislation and the subsequent timing of amendments are a matter for Cabinet and will be announced in due course.

**Comment 22 – page 89**

Emergency Risk Management (ERM) planning is defined as 'a systematic process, which contributes to the wellbeing of communities and the environment. The WA ERM process is aligned with the Australian and New Zealand International Standard Organisation (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009) Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines.

**Comment 24 – page 96**

I can advise the SEMC currently undertakes some monitoring and compliance of emergency management matters. This compliance activity centres on the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, and deals with the roles and responsibilities listed in the suite of State Emergency Management documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide preliminary comment on the report. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely

**HON FRANCIS LOGAN MLA  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES**