

Emergency Management Planning Reform

Emergency service organisations (ESOs), government departments and other agencies involved in mitigation, response and recovery

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 for ESOs

- The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act), as amended by the EMLA Act, requires a number of agencies, departments and recovery organisations to be represented on each of the new regional and municipal emergency management planning committees (REMPCs and MEMPCs).
- Once established, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) will replace the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) on REMPCs and MEMPCs.

Changes for VICSES

- Victoria State Emergency Service's (VICSES) audit role of municipal emergency management plans will cease when the new municipal arrangements come into effect on 1 December 2020. Until then, the existing audit arrangements will continue.
- The Act (as amended by the EMLA Act) ensures that VICSES remains a key member of both REMPCs and MEMPCs, however VICSES will no longer have the formal role of providing advice about municipal planning.
- VICSES will continue to deliver Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) to participating MEMPCs and their role as subject matter experts for flood, storm, tsunami, earthquake and landslide.
- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) will work with VICSES to transition from the current municipal audit arrangements to a new [assurance framework](#) for all levels.



Changes for CFA

- The current obligations in the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (CFA Act) to plan for fire prevention at regional and municipal levels will be replaced by new arrangements which require integrated planning for all hazards. See the [Fire Prevention Planning](#) fact sheet for more information.

Changes for Victoria Police

- Victoria Police will remain a member of both REMPCs and MEMPCs.
- Once the regional level of reform is enacted, Victoria Police will no longer be the designated chair of regional response planning committees. The new regional planning committees will elect their chairperson from their membership, of which Victoria Police is included.

Changes for departments

- Departments have been consulted in developing the new State Emergency Management Plan and Ministerial guidelines.
- All departments will be represented on the new REMPCs (except the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury and Finance), which are responsible for developing regional emergency management plans.
- The Department of Health and Human Services will also be represented on each new MEMPC due to its role in emergency recovery.
- Departments will have a formal role in consulting with their portfolio agencies on the new state and regional plans. The EM sector is very broad and this is a way to leverage the existing relationships and coordinating role that departments have with their portfolio agencies.
- The new plans will bring existing mitigation, response and recovery arrangements together to increase integration with linkages to existing departmental plans and strategies relating to emergency management, where relevant, to promote an integrated approach. New plans will not override or displace existing departmental or agency responsibilities, for example DELWP's fire management functions.

Changes for other agencies involved in mitigation, response and recovery

- Subject to minimum consultation requirements in legislation, committees are empowered to determine their own procedures and design how they work.
- Committees are also empowered to invite additional members to join their committees or any working groups or subcommittees they establish.

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