State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Contact Officer

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1.0 Background

Many types of emergencies in Western Australia (WA) have the potential to affect animals and may cause significant suffering. Recent emergencies in Australia and overseas have highlighted that the bonds between people and animals strongly influence the resilience of individuals and communities, and decision-making in times of crisis. Post incident reviews have identified that failure to consider animals and their welfare during the response to and recover from an emergency, negatively impacted people physically, psychologically and economically.

In 2013, the National Advisory Committee for Animals in Emergencies was established with the purpose to progress a collaborative and proactive approach to integrating animals into disaster management. Subsequently the committee produced the National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters. In WA, to achieve integration of animal welfare considerations in emergencies, the State has committed to applying the National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters to the all hazards approach to emergency management. In 2018, as part of this commitment, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) assigned the role and responsibility for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

It is estimated that WA has in excess of 16 million cattle and sheep in agricultural and pastoral regions, and over 60 per cent of WA families own pets that are kept for companion, recreation or sporting purposes. WA wildlife is iconic and has a social and economic value to the community including tourism. While the responsibility for the welfare of animals remains with the person in charge of the animal, a coordinated approach to providing animal welfare support services may assist in positive outcomes for both the welfare of the animal and that of the person.

The State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (SEAWP) has been prepared by DPIRD in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), relevant Hazard Management Agencies (HMAs) and Controlling Agencies and the Animals In Emergencies Working Group under the sponsorship of the SEMC – Response and Capability Subcommittee.
2.0 Introduction

2.1 Aim

The aim of SEAWP is to outline the coordination arrangements for animal welfare considerations in the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies for hazards as listed in the Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act) and prescribed in the Emergency Management Regulations 2006 (EM Regulations). SEAWP aims to support the State’s commitment to the National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters (section 3.0).

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of SEAWP are to:

- Improve the integration of animal welfare considerations into the all hazards emergency management approach in WA;
- Define the roles and responsibilities for animal welfare in the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies for all hazards stated in section 2.1;
- Establish a basis for coordination between government agencies, non-government agencies, industries, communities and public in charge of animals; and
- Provide integration of SEAWP with:
  - State Emergency Management Plan (State EM Plan);
  - Hazard specific State Hazard Plans;
  - Operational plans for the coordination of animals in emergencies; and
  - District, Local, and site specific emergencies plans.

2.3 Scope

SEAWP is a coordination plan for animal welfare in emergencies to all hazards as stated in section 2.1 with the exception of the hazard “Animal or plant: pests or diseases”. This hazard is covered by the WestPlan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity.

SEAWP is not a response plan. Procedures to prepare for and respond to animal welfare in emergencies are to be found in relevant State, District, Local or site specific emergency and operational plans. SEAWP should be considered in conjunction with supporting emergency and operational plans.

2.3.1 Classification of Emergencies

SEAWP applies to emergencies as defined in the EM Act s3. Should an incident meet the EM Act definition of an emergency, then the SEAWP is available as part of the state emergency management framework. The HMA, in consultation with the Controlling Agency, will contact DPIRD to access the SEAWP arrangements.

2.3.2 Classification of Coordination

SEAWP applies to coordination as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary (State EM Glossary).

2.3.3 Classification of Animals

Definition of Animals

SEAWP applies to animals as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2002 (AW Act) s5(1).

Categories of Animals for SEAWP

For the purposes of SEAWP, animals have been classified into 6 categories. Table 2.1 lists the animal categories which are defined at Appendix B, and also identifies the organisation to provide emergency resource support for each category as part of the SEAWP.
### Table 2.1  Emergency Resource Support Organisation (ERSO) for Animal Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Category</th>
<th>ERS Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>DPIRD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>DPIRD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Animals</td>
<td>DPIRD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals in Zoos or Wildlife Parks</td>
<td>Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>DBCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>DPIRD</td>
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3.0 Guiding Principles

SEAWP aligns with the guiding principles outlined in the suite of documents supporting the State EM Plan (section 4.0).

SEAWP guiding principles derive from the National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters as committed to by the State.

In summary SEAWP guiding principles:

- Protection and preservation of human life is paramount: Failure to integrate consideration of animal welfare in emergency management can put lives at risk. Inquiries prepared for past Australian emergencies have documented loss of human life as a result of responding to the welfare of animals in their charge;
- Disaster resilience requires a coordinated and cooperative approach (all hazards approach to emergency management);
- The responsibility for the welfare of animals remains with the person in charge of the animal: a coordinated government approach to providing animal welfare support services may assist a person to exercise their responsibility and improve overall management of animal welfare in emergencies.
- Animals have intrinsic value: animals are sentient and can suffer from injury, pain, hunger, thirst, fear and distress, and their welfare should be included in emergency management. Animals contribute to human health and wellbeing, both are positively influenced by improved animal welfare outcomes in emergencies;
- Animals have economic value: consideration of animal welfare into emergency management can lessen the direct and indirect economic impacts in the response and recovery from an emergency;
- SEAWP outlines the coordination of the organisations in agreement to support the SEAWP and the all hazards approach to animal welfare in emergencies: changes to the capacity and capability of organisations delivering animal welfare support services to SEAWP will need to be reviewed and updated as they occur.
4.0 Authority and Governance

4.1 Related Documents

This document is to be read in conjunction with the following suite of State Emergency Management (EM) documents:

- Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act);
- Emergency Management Regulation 2006 (EM Regulation);
- Relevant State Hazard Plans;
- State Emergency Management Glossary (State EM Glossary);
- State Emergency Management Guidelines (State EM Guidelines);
- State Emergency Management Plan (State EM Plan);
- State Emergency Management Policy (State EM Policy); and

Supporting legislation, policies or guides, relevant to this plan include:

- Animal Welfare Act 2002 (AW Act);
- Animal Welfare (Scientific Purposes) Regulations 2003;
- Animal Welfare (Commercial Poultry) Regulations 2008;
- Animal Welfare (Pig Industry) Regulations 2010;
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016;
- Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007;
- Bush Fires Act 1954;
- Cat Act 2011;
- Criminal Code section 25
- Dog Act 1976;
- Local Government Act 1995;
- Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960;
- Wildlife Conservation Act 1950;
- National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters;
- Local and District specific laws; and
- Recognised codes of practice as detailed on the [DPIRD website](http://www.dpird.wa.gov.au).

Integration with other plans:

- District, Local, and site specific emergencies plans;
- State Emergency Public Information Plan;
- State Emergency Welfare Plan and its annexures on Registration and Reunification, Reception and Disaster Information Support and Care Centre; and
- State Health Emergency Response Plan.

4.2 Authority for Plan

SEMC has assigned the role and responsibility for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies to DPIRD. The development, implementation and review of SEAWP is the responsibility of DPIRD in consultation with HMAs, Controlling Agencies and key stakeholders in accordance with State EM Policy Section 1.5.

4.3 Exercise and Review Periods

The SEAWP will be exercised annually in accordance with State EM Policy Section 4.8, State EM Plan Section 4.7 and State EM Preparedness Procedure 19. As SEAWP is a coordination plan for animal welfare for all hazards; DPIRD will aim to exercise the plan as part of a relevant hazard specific exercise undertaken by a Controlling Agency or HMA. The location, timing and format of the annual exercise will be confirmed by DPIRD in partnership with the host Controlling Agency or HMA, and in consultation with other key stakeholders.
SEAWP will be reviewed and updated by DPIRD as necessary following advice from emergency management agencies or stakeholders, a significant emergency, relevant legislation changes, and post exercise recommendations; or at least once in every five years in accordance with State EM Policy Section 1.5.

The National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters supports inclusion of animal welfare in emergency management plans for all hazards. While not a legislated requirement; State, District, Local and site specific emergency plans that integrate animal welfare considerations into existing arrangements are encouraged and can improve disaster resilience. These plans should be reviewed and exercised in line with section 4.3.

4.4 Organisational Roles and Responsibilities

Other organisations that have responsibilities under agreement for SEAWP, or may be able to provide animal welfare support services during an emergency, include but are not limited to:

- Australian Veterinary Association (AVA);
- Community, non-government and charity/volunteer organisations for animal welfare (including shelters, horse owner groups/clubs and similar);
- Department of Communities (DC);
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA);
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
- Local Government Authorities;
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER);
- Pastoralists and Grazier’s Association (PGA);
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals WA (RSPCA);
- Western Australian Farmers Federations (Inc.) (WA Farmers); and
- Western Australian Police Force (WA Police).

Details of roles and responsibilities for organisations in agreement under SEAWP are listed in section 8.0.
5.0 Person in Charge of Animals (AW Act)

5.1 Person in Charge (AWPIC)

The AW Act defines the AWPIC as follows

“person in charge, in relation to an animal, means —
(a) the owner of the animal;
(b) a person who has actual physical custody or control of the animal;
(c) if the person referred to in paragraph (b) is a member of staff of another person, that other person; or
(d) the owner or occupier of the place or vehicle where the animal is or was at the relevant time;”

In line with the intent of the AW Act, there is an expectation that the AWPIC has a responsibility to properly treat and provide for the welfare of animals in their charge. This is considered to include preparedness for and response to an emergency to a reasonable level.

5.1.1 AWPIC of Wildlife

Prior to being taken into care, control or supervision, there is no AWPIC for wildlife.

5.2 AWPIC Emergency Preparedness

In line with the intent of the AW Act and the National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters, the AWPIC should plan for the welfare of animals in their charge by considering first if the animals will likely be evacuated or remain on location in the event of an incident or emergency. In addition the AWPIC should consider:

- Adequate and available transportation for animal relocation and the logistical constraints of relocating in an emergency (i.e. road closures, window of safe evacuation);
- Suitable areas and adequate provisions for any animals left on a property to minimise the risk of harm (i.e. area at lowest risk of hazard impact, sufficient food and water access for prolonged absence);
- Whether animals, and their AWPIC, can be identified (i.e. companion animal microchipping, National Livestock Identification System); and
- Preparation for self-sufficient recovery needs.

Level of preparation should be that which a reasonable person, in the situation of the particular AWPIC, would be expected to be in. Information to assist AWPIC in planning for animal welfare in emergencies is available from the DPIRD website:


Local councils and communities may have additional arrangements and resources to assist, the AWPIC should check their relevant areas.

5.3 Emergency Response

The capability and capacity for the AWPIC to respond to the welfare of their animals during an emergency may be limited due to influences outside of the control of the AWPIC. Directions issued as part of the incident or emergency response by the Controlling Agency or HMA, may restrict the ability of the AWPIC to exercise their planned actions and access the impacted area.

Where the consideration of animal welfare is beyond the capability of the AWPIC, and that of any local or district arrangements implemented by the Controlling Agency, then the HMA may determine the need to access the SEAWP arrangements.
6.0 Animal Welfare in Emergencies

6.1 Preparedness

The AWPIC is responsible for ensuring they have reasonable preparedness for animals in their charge. Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) have a requirement to consider all risks, resources and responses, inclusive of animal welfare, as part of their Emergency Risk Management Processes. Controlling Agencies have responsibility for ensuring adequate preparedness for animal welfare in emergencies within their respective area of responsibility. In situations beyond the capacity of the AWPIC and local arrangements; DPIRD is responsible for a coordinated preparedness for animal welfare in emergencies to support Controlling Agencies and HMAs.

6.1.1 Planning

Preparedness arrangements are to be outlined in emergency plans, and include response and recovery procedures, location and management of resources, as well as required guidelines, templates and forms. Preparedness includes emergency response training, and general public awareness and education. The DPIRD Animal Welfare Emergency Coordination Plan (AWECP) outlines operational activities, services, policies and guidelines for coordinating animal welfare as part of an emergency response to support a Controlling Agency or HMA in line with the SEAWP arrangements.

Table 6.1 identifies key considerations for animal welfare to be captured as part of preparedness planning at all levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evacuated Animals</th>
<th>Non Evacuated Animals</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Availability of transportation support and advice</td>
<td>- Management of displaced and stray animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Suitability of evacuation centres to cater to persons with animals</td>
<td>- Assessment of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Access to information and resources for persons evacuating with animals</td>
<td>- Treatment of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Management of displaced animals</td>
<td>- Humane euthanasia and disposal of impacted animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Emergency food, water, shelter</td>
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6.1.2 Funding Arrangements

Organisations in agreement with SEAWP must maintain funding and resources to maintain their capacity and capability outlined in their plans. Funding opportunities available to enhance disaster resilience are located on the OEM website: https://www.oem.wa.gov.au/funding.

6.1.3 DPIRD State Preparation Coordination

State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator (SAWEC)

This is a permanent position within DPIRD and is responsible for the maintenance and ongoing development of the SEAWP, DPIRD AWECP and coordinating the capacity building to support these plans.

The SAWEC:
- Leads and coordinates the development and implementation of plans, policies and procedures for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies;
- Researches best practice, and supports integration and continual improvement for animal welfare in emergencies;
• Provides advice, training and support to DPIRD staff to prepare for and respond to animal welfare in emergencies including coordinating exercises of the SEAWP to test capability;
• Undertakes internal DPIRD post-incident analysis and reviews SEAWP according to section 4.3;
• Coordinates the activation of the DPIRD AWECP resources in line with SEAWP arrangements; and
• Develops, maintains and promotes effective working relationships with other organisations, stakeholders and industry groups.

The SAWEC (or appointed proxy) will lead DPIRDs response coordination according to section 6.2 and the DPIRD AWECP.

State Veterinary Emergency Coordinator (SVEC)

This is a rostered role within DPIRD and is primarily operational. The response role of the SVEC is outlined in the DPIRD AWECP.

Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE)

In order to maintain a level of preparedness for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies, the SAWEC chairs the CAWE. The purpose of the committee is to provide a forum to address the maintenance of the SEAWP and the underlying arrangements, and to assist in maintaining capacity at a State level. See Appendix C for the Terms of Reference for the CAWE.

DPIRD Emergency Support Personnel

DPIRD maintains a database of agency personnel from metropolitan and regional areas with relevant training and qualifications suitable to be activated to provide support to an emergency response. Potential roles may include but are not limited to:

• Emergency management functional roles;
• Triage assessment;
• Welfare advice; and
• Livestock euthanasia.

6.1.4 High Risk of Hazard Emergency

During periods where there is very high or extreme likelihood of a hazard emergency occurring, DPIRD will liaise with the relevant Controlling Agencies or HMAs, and the organisations in agreement under SEAWP, to share situational information and promote proactive preparation for animal welfare.

6.2 Response

Initial response actions undertaken by the AWPIC, LEMAs and Controlling Agencies, in line with their emergency plans, will contribute to positive outcomes for animal welfare in emergencies. Where the response capacity is exceeded, the Controlling Agency or HMA may request access to the SEAWP arrangements.

Table 2.1 identifies the ERSO for each animal category as part of the SEAWP. The operational activities, services, policies and guidelines for coordinating animal welfare as part of an emergency response should be documented by each ERSO for the animal categories under its responsibility.

It is recognised that the sooner response actions can be undertaken, the greater the chance of positive outcomes for animal welfare. However, the Controlling Agency or HMA have the authority to direct when and if, any response actions can be performed as part of the overall response to the emergency. DPIRD will liaise with the Controlling Agency or HMA, to coordinate the animal welfare considerations as required under the SEAWP arrangements.
6.2.1 Management of Displaced Animals (including relocated animals)

**Emergency Evacuation Centres (EECs)**

The DC is responsible for the coordination, provision and operation of EECs in collaboration with local governments. Emergency plans and LEMAs should identify in the preparation stage if animals will be accommodated in EECs and if not, what alternate options may be available.

The DPIRD, as ERSO for Companion animals and Horses, will assist the DC and local governments as required by coordinating support services for the provision of emergency shelter options.

**Managing Stray Animals**

Escaped or released (stray) animals evading a hazard can pose a risk to people, other animals, property or themselves. Stray animals may require containment or impoundment. A number of authorised officers and inspectors have legislative powers to move and detain an animal where necessary.

- AW Act: Has provision for a General inspector to take an animal to a place, put an animal in a vehicle, or direct a person to do so.
- EM Act: Hazard management officers and authorised officers, appointed by a HMA in line with the EM Act, have additional powers to move animals for the purpose of emergency management.

The relevant ERSO at Table 2.1 will:

- Liaise with and advise local government and other organisations about suitable temporary containment and other welfare needs of animals; and
- Coordinate the identification and reunification of stray animals during, or as soon as is practicable after, an emergency with the relevant AWPIC.

6.2.2 Management of Non-displaced Animals

**Access and Assessment**

Where animals were not evacuated; timely assessment of an animal and the application of treatment, routine care, humane euthanasia and carcass disposal is critical to the positive welfare of animals impacted by the emergency. Access to impacted and restricted areas, to undertake assessment and management is at the discretion of the Controlling Agency or HMA. Where access is permitted to AWPICs, all effort should be made to undertake assessment for impacted animals in their charge, and initiate ongoing management. In an emergency, access may not be prescribed to the general public for a protracted time. DPIRD will liaise with the Controlling Agency or HMA to facilitate possible Restricted Access Permits to address animal welfare considerations. Restricted Access Permits may be issued in accordance with the EM Plan Section 5.3.3 Traffic Management During Emergencies, and the Controlling Agencies’ restricted access permit system. Considerations for restricted access and the process for application is outlined in the DPIRD AWECP

Where access permits have been coordinated by DPIRD; SEAWP arrangements will apply and the relevant ERSO will:

- Coordinate the assessment of impacted animals;
- Prioritise (triage) the welfare needs of animals; and
- Provide a welfare assessment to assist emergency management to include animal welfare considerations in ongoing response and recovery operations.

**Treatment**
In an emergency, resources available to the AWPIC may be limited. The relevant ERSO will liaise with local government and other organisations to:

- Determine the local veterinary capacity to meet animal treatment needs;
- Identify capacity gaps in animal treatment; and
- Coordinate actions to address capacity gaps, including:
  - Providing additional support for local veterinary practices;
  - Directing AWPICs to local veterinary practices;
  - Liaising with veterinary practices adjoining impacted areas to assist with animal treatment needs;
  - Facilitating contact with volunteer veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses; and
  - Establishing triage sites for assessment and treatment (including euthanasia) of animals.

**Humane Euthanasia – Transport or Perform On-site**

In an emergency; where the AWPIC is unable to arrange humane euthanasia either on-site or by transporting to a suitable premises, and where the animal has little or no chance of survival or the animal continues to suffer harm if it remains alive; DPIRD will liaise with the relevant ERSO and the Controlling Agency or HMA to expedite actions. This includes:

- Providing advice on the euthanasia of an animal or animals;
- Providing advice on the assessment of an animal or animals as fit for transport;
- Identifying suitably trained and equipped personnel to assist;
- Identifying suitable resources to assist; and
- Coordinating access permits for the purpose of transportation or on-site humane euthanasia

Wherever possible, humane euthanasia activities will take place in consultation with the AWPIC. During an emergency, it may not be possible to identify or contact the AWPIC of an animal. In this situation the AWPIC should be contacted as soon as is practical after euthanizing the animal. WA legislation provides the following powers for officers to humanely euthanize an animal:

- **AW Act s41**: Provides for an inspector to humanely destroy an animal where it is reasonably believed to be suffering so severely that destroying it would be the humane thing to do.
- **Local governments**: May humanely destroy a stray and impounded animal, if that animal is ill or injured to such an extent that treating it is not practicable and the need to destroy the animal is urgent because of the condition of the animal.
- **EM Act**: Hazard management officers and authorised officers, appointed by a HMA in line with the EM Act, have additional powers to euthanize animals for the purpose of emergency management.

Methods of euthanasia of animals must be humane. A fact sheet on the humane euthanasia of sheep and cattle is available on the DPIRD website under [Resources](#). Recommended methods for the humane euthanasia of other livestock (including horses) are set out in the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Land Transport of Livestock](#).

**Disposal**

The disposal of animals is the responsibility of the AWPIC however, DPIRD will coordinate with the relevant ERSO, and liaise with the Controlling Agency or HMA, to provide advice on the timely and appropriate disposal of animal carcasses during an emergency. Guidance on approved procedures for carcass disposal is detailed as part of the DPIRD AWECP.

6.2.3 Provision of emergency food, water and shelter for animals
Emergencies may affect the supply and quality of water, pastures and other sources of food usually available to animals. During the response phase, DPIRD will coordinate with the relevant ERSO and liaise with the Controlling Agency or HMA, for the provision of emergency food and water by:

- Identifying animals requiring access to food and water as part of the welfare assessment;
- Identifying sources of potential fodder depots, distribution centres and water points to facilitate distribution of fodder and water; and
- Coordinating donations of pet food and other resources.

During an emergency, the allocation of feed and water will aim to meet animals’ basic nutritional requirements. In situations where the minimum food requirements of an animal are unlikely to be met, consideration should be given to the sale, agistment rehoming or humane euthanasia of an impacted animal.

Shelter for animals may also be significantly impacted by an emergency. During the response phase, DPIRD will coordinate with the relevant ERSO and liaise with the Controlling Agency or HMA, for the provision of emergency shelter.

6.2.4 Supplementary resources

The Controlling Agency or HMA may request Australian Government physical assistance in accordance with the State EM Policy Section 5.10, State EM Plan section 5.6.1 and State EM Response Procedure 20.

During emergencies, additional resources and services may become available through charity / community groups, general volunteers and donations. DPIRD will coordinate with the ERSOs to best capture and utilise such resources and services as required.

6.3 Recovery

Many of the activities covered under section 6.2 will continue into the recovery phase of emergency management. During this time, DPIRD will coordinate with the ERSOs with the aim to return the responsibility for ongoing animal welfare response activities back to the local government and AWPIC.

The Controlling agency must initiate recovery activities during the response to the emergency as stated in the State EM Plan Section 6.4. Under the EM Act s36, it is the function of local government to manage recovery following an emergency. Guidelines for recovery operations are available in State EM Policy Section 6, State EM Plan Section 6 and State EM Recovery Procedure 1-4. These provide the State level procedures, policies and arrangements to manage community recovery following major emergencies. State recovery action is co-coordinated by the State Recovery Coordinator through the State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG). DPIRD will coordinate with the ERSOs to advise on animal welfare considerations as part of recovery planning.

6.3.1 Cost Recovery

Activities undertaken as part of an emergency must be done so under the direction or agreement of the Controlling Agency or HMA, and costs associated with these activities may be eligible for reimbursement. The guide Criteria for meeting costs associated with emergencies is available from the OEM website.
7.0 Awareness of Animals Welfare in Emergencies

7.1 SEAWP Training and Awareness

In addition to the requirements of section 4.3, DPIRD will engage with organisations in agreement under the SEAWP to collaborate on opportunities to raise awareness of animal welfare in emergencies with relevant stakeholders. Training requirements to undertake responsibilities under SEAWP will be outlined in the relevant emergency plans including the DPIRD AWECP.

7.2 Public Information

7.2.1 Prior to an Emergency

DPIRD maintains publications to assist in community education for animal welfare in emergencies which are available on the DPIRD website. DPIRD will collaborate with organisations in agreement under SEAWP to develop a suite of tools and information to assist in preparing for animal welfare in emergencies.

7.2.2 During an Emergency

The Controlling Agency or HMA, is responsible for the management of public information during an emergency in line with the State Emergency Public Information Plan as activated by the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator. DPIRD will coordinate with the ERSOs, and the Controlling Agency or HMA, to provide animal welfare information as appropriate.
8.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The EM Act and supporting documents outline the requirements for named agencies, including DPIRD, for the all hazards approach to emergency management. The roles and responsibilities listed in section 8.0 relate to animal welfare in emergencies only, and do not include additional roles and responsibilities an organisation may have for other areas of emergency management. Named organisations with responsibility under SEAWP do so under legislative arrangements or through formalised agreement with DPIRD.

8.1 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

8.1.1 Prevention/ Preparation

- Identify animal welfare considerations relating to emergencies;
- Chair the CAWE to address animal welfare considerations in emergencies;
- Develop and maintain policies and arrangements to promote animal welfare considerations as part of emergency management;
- Develop and maintain the DPIRD AWECP;
- Establish and maintain arrangements under SEAWP;
- Promote and support LEMAs and Controlling Agencies to include animal welfare considerations in emergency plans;
- Promote public awareness and community engagement to improve preparedness for animal welfare in emergencies; and
- Provide support to the SEMC, District Emergency Management Committees (DEMCs), and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) where appropriate.

8.1.2 Response

- Liaise with the relevant Controlling Agency or HMA to coordinate the provision of advice on the potential, impending and actual impacts to animal welfare in emergencies;
- Contribute to the public information released in the emergency in line with the State Emergency Public Information Plan;
- Provide situational reports to the CAWE on animal welfare in the emergency;
- Coordinate the response activities as per section 6.2 with the ERSOs including:
  - Supporting evacuation centres;
  - Managing stray animals;
  - Attaining Restricted Access Permits;
  - Assessing impacted animals and triage;
  - Preparing situational welfare assessments;
  - Identifying / administering treatment;
  - Performing / assisting with transportation for humane euthanasia or perform on-site;
  - Advising on / arranging for carcass disposal; and
  - Identifying / providing emergency food / water / shelter.
- Undertake the role of ERSO (Table 2.1) in accordance section 6.2 and the DPIRD AWECP;
- As per section 6.2.4 manage supplementary resources relevant to DPIRD animal categories (Table 2.1; and
- Coordinate with the ERSOs, for the reporting and future investigation of animal welfare complaints arising as consequence of the emergency.

8.1.3 Recovery

- Coordinate with the ERSOs to transition control of ongoing animal welfare response activities back to local government and the AWPC;
- Liaise with the Controlling Agency and local government to coordinate the advice on animal welfare considerations as part of the recovery plan;
- Participate in post emergency debriefs and reviews as requested;
- Undertake a review of the SEAWP effectiveness in consultation with the CAWE; and
- Review the DPIRD AWECP.

8.2 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

8.2.1 Prevention / Preparation
- Identify considerations relating wildlife welfare in emergencies;
- Member of the CAWE to address animal welfare considerations in emergencies; and
- Develop and maintain the DBCA operational plan in support of SEAWP.

8.2.2 Response
- Provide support to DPIRD as requested;
- Undertake the role of ERSO for Wildlife and Animals in Zoos and Wildlife Parks (Table 2.1) in accordance section 6.2 and the DBCA operational plan; and
- As per section 6.2.4 manage supplementary resources relevant to DBCA animal categories (Table 2.1).

8.2.3 Recovery
- Assist DPIRD to provide advice to the recovery plan;
- Participate in post emergency debriefs and reviews as requested;
- Participate as a member of the CAWE in reviewing SEAWP; and
- Review the effectiveness of the DBCA operational plan.

8.3 Department of Communities (DC)

8.3.1 Prevention / Preparation
- Document if identified EECs will accept animals in emergencies and what provisions will be made available.

8.3.2 Response
- Liaise with DPIRD to provide coordinated public information relating to EECs and emergency animal sheltering options.

8.3.3 Recovery
- Liaise with DPIRD to advise on animal welfare considerations when providing recovery services to affected persons.

8.4 Hazard Management Agencies / Controlling Agencies

8.4.1 Prevention / Preparedness
- Ensure animal welfare considerations are included in emergency plans in accordance with EM Policy;

8.4.2 Response
- Request access to the SEAWP arrangements by contacting DPIRD;
- Liaise with DPIRD to integrate animal welfare considerations into the overall response; and
- Liaise with DPIRD to include coordinated animal welfare considerations into the public information plan.

8.4.3 Recovery
- Liaise with DPIRD to include animal welfare consideration into the recovery plan; and
- Include animal welfare in post emergency debriefs and reviews.
8.5 Local Government

8.5.1 Prevention / Preparation

- Capture in the LEMA, animal welfare considerations as part of the risk assessment processes for the LEMC, and in turn, integrate as part of the emergency risk management process.
- Consider the creation of an Animal Emergency Plan as a means to capture animal welfare considerations and as an appendix to the LEMA; and
- Hold representation on the CAWE.

8.5.2 Response

- Activate the local government Animal Emergency Plan or response actions identified in the LEMA; and
- Liaise with DPIRD to provide a coordinated approach to animal welfare response actions above the capacity of the LEMA.

8.5.3 Recovery

- Liaise with DPIRD to transition the ongoing animal welfare response activities back to the control of local government and the AWPIC;
- Develop the recovery plan and liaise with DPIRD to include animal welfare consideration;
- Participate where appropriate in the review of the SEAWP; and
- Review the effectiveness of the LEMAs in relation to animal welfare.

8.6 Service Providers

In addition, a number of organisations are available to provide animal welfare services. Further detail on the role and responsibilities of these organisation is available in DPIRD AWECP and ERSO operational plans.
9.0 Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVA</td>
<td>Australian Veterinary Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AW Act</td>
<td>Animal Welfare Act 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWPIC</td>
<td>Person in Charge of Animals as per the Animal Welfare Act 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAWE</td>
<td>Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBCA</td>
<td>Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Department of Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEMC</td>
<td>District Emergency Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFES</td>
<td>Department of Fire and Emergency Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPIRD</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPIRD AWECP</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Animal Welfare in Emergencies Coordination Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEC</td>
<td>Emergency Evacuation Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EM Act</td>
<td>Emergency Management Act 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EM Regulation</td>
<td>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERSO</td>
<td>Emergency Resource Support Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMA</td>
<td>Hazard Management Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEMA</td>
<td>Local Emergency Management Arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMC</td>
<td>Local Emergency Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEM</td>
<td>Office of Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEPA</td>
<td>Office of the Environmental Protection Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGA</td>
<td>Pastoralists and Grazer’s Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA</td>
<td>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAWEC</td>
<td>State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAWEC</td>
<td>State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMC</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRCG</td>
<td>State Recovery Coordination Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State EM Glossary</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State EM Guidelines</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State EM Plan</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>State EM Policy</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State EM Procedures</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVEC</td>
<td>State Veterinary Emergency Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Farmers</td>
<td>Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Police</td>
<td>Western Australian Police Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.2 Appendix B – Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2002 s5(1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals in Zoos or Wildlife Parks</td>
<td>All animals kept in establishments licensed or managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Animal</td>
<td>Any animals other than horses kept primarily for companionship, hobbies, sport or work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling Agency</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the Emergency Management Act s3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Resource Support Organisation</td>
<td>An organisation under agreement with DPIRD who, because of their legislative function or specialised knowledge and expertise, is responsible for providing coordinated resource support for the animal categories assigned to their organisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder</td>
<td>Feed for livestock such as hay, or pre-prepared feedstuffs designed specifically for livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMA</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>Any horse or equine hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacted Area</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Has the meaning of Stock as defined in the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013 r4, excluding Horses and Companion Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Includes government agencies, non-government organisations, volunteer organisations and private sector organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (animal category)</td>
<td>Any animal not covered by another defined animal category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Area</td>
<td>Has the meaning as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triage</td>
<td>The process by which animals are sorted and prioritised according to their need for care, veterinary treatment or euthanasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>Has the meaning of fauna as defined in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 s5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.3 Appendix C – CAWE Terms of Reference

To be completed prior to the endorsement of the SEAWP