

## FLYING MINUTE: SUBMISSION ON THE STATE HAZARD PLAN – HUMAN BIOSECURITY

*By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager, Emergency Management*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

**That State Council endorse WALGA's submission on the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity to be provided to the State Emergency Management Committee.**

**RESOLUTION 246.FM/2024**

**CARRIED**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Health is [seeking comments on a revised State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity](#) (SHP – Human Biosecurity) by 8 November.
- The SHP – Human Biosecurity sets out hazard management arrangements across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for two hazards:
  - Human epidemic; and
  - Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a biological substance that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment.
- WALGA has prepared a draft submission aligned to WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions and incorporating feedback and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The submission's recommendations focus on clarifying Local Government Roles and Responsibilities in keeping with the State Emergency Management Framework and *Local Government Act 1995*, improving links to the WA Pandemic Plan and *Public Health Act 2016*, and ensuring consideration of concurrent hazards and adequate emergency relief and support arrangements.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered the SHP – Human Biosecurity draft submission at its meeting on 25 October 2025 and agreed that it be provided to State Council for endorsement by Flying Minute.

### ATTACHMENT

- WALGA Submission on the Draft State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity
- [Draft State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity \(Draft for Consultation\)](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission is aligned to following [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#):

#### ***8.1 Emergency Management Principles***

- 1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.*
- 2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.*

3. *The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.*

### **8.2 State Emergency Management Framework**

*Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:*

1. *Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;*
2. *Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;*
3. *Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;*
4. *Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and*
5. *Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.*

### **8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding**

*Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:*

1. *Empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;*
2. *Supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;*
3. *Is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context;*
4. *develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and*
5. *Is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.*

### **8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements**

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
  - a) *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
  - b) *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
  - c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
  - d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
  - e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*

- f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
- g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The SHP – Human Biosecurity sets out the State's formal management arrangements for human biosecurity during an emergency across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Chief Executive Officer (Director General) of the Department of Health is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for Human Biosecurity. Local Governments have prescribed roles and responsibilities in prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

A summary of the proposed amendments to the draft SHP – Human Biosecurity, which is currently being consulted on is available on [Engage WA Emergency Management](#) (Engage WA), with a focus on agencies' capabilities, clarification of roles and responsibilities, incorporating elements of the [WA Government Pandemic Plan](#), and distinguishing recovery arrangements for the two hazards that are considered a human biosecurity. The current review is the first since the COVID-19 pandemic and stakeholders have been encouraged by Department of Health to consider the lessons learned. WALGA provided a submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response and input into ALGA's submission (dated 19 December 2023) to the Inquiry to review the Commonwealth Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The key considerations from the two submissions have been incorporated in WALGA's submission on the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity.

### WALGA consultation

WALGA shared the Department of Health's request for feedback with Local Governments via the Emergency Management Newsletter, Network, Emergency Management Advisory Group and Environmental Health Officers Network, with a request to provide comments directly via Engage WA and to WALGA to support the development of this submission. Feedback was received from two Local Governments.

The People and Place Policy Team considered the SHP – Human Biosecurity draft submission at its meeting on 25 October 2025 and agreed that it be provided to State Council for endorsement by Flying Minute.

## **COMMENT**

WALGA's submission provides an overview of Local Government roles and responsibilities in emergency management and WALGA's feedback and lessons learned by Local Governments on the COVID-19 pandemic. WALGA's recommendations are focussed on clarifying Local Government Roles and Responsibilities in keeping with the State Emergency Management Framework and *Local Government Act 1995*, improving links to the WA Pandemic Plan and *Public Health Act 2016*, and ensuring consideration of concurrent hazards and adequate emergency relief and support arrangements.

Specifically, WALGA's submission recommends that the SHP - Human Biosecurity should:

1. Be supported by guidance to enable Local Governments to monitor and mitigate against infectious disease, prepare and plan for human biosecurity emergencies.
2. Identify relevant links to the Public Health Act 2016, including Local Governments' role in public health planning under Part 5.
3. Incorporate WALGA's proposed amendments as detailed in Section 5 of the submission, to clarify Local Government roles and responsibilities.

4. Clarify the relationship between the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity Plan and the WA Government Pandemic Plan.
5. Include a definition of pandemic and the difference between a pandemic and a human epidemic.
6. Recognise the challenge of concurrent hazards during a human biosecurity emergency and include relevant provisions in Section 4.4.3 Response.
7. Better outline the requirement and arrangements for clear, coordinated communication and a single source of information during a human biosecurity emergency.
8. Recognise the importance of Local Government community networks to engaging community members in a human biosecurity emergency.
9. Acknowledge the varied capacity of Local Governments to implement their roles and responsibilities under the SHP and mechanisms to provide additional support, for prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and the importance of increasing capacity and capability for response and recovery to a human biosecurity emergency across all stakeholders.
10. Specify Local Government inclusion in all relevant decision-making processes and bodies at the local / regional level and WALGA, as the representative body for the Local Government sector at the State level.

#### **FLYING MINUTE OUTCOME**

Poll created: 29/10/2024 at 13:30

Poll closed: 05/11/2024 at 23:59

#### **The submission was endorsed.**

Following feedback from State Councillors during the Flying Agenda Process, changes to the submission were made as follows:

- The revised text and rationale for Appendix C3: Response Responsibilities, Department of Health and Appendix C3: Response Responsibilities, Local Government has been amended.
- The revised text and rationale for Appendix C4: Recovery Responsibilities, Local Government has been amended.

Submission on the  
Draft State Hazard Plan – Human  
Biosecurity

November 2024

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## About WALGA

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member-based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector.

Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State. WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

We advocate to all levels of Government on behalf of our Members, and provide expert advice, services and support to Local Governments. WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity.

## Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located, and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

### 1. Introduction

WALGA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft [State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity](#) (Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity) (July 2024). This submission provides an overview of Local Government roles and responsibilities in emergency management, lessons learned by Local Governments from the corona virus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and WALGA's feedback on the Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity.

WALGA's comments and recommendations on the Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity are aligned to the following WALGA [Emergency Management Advocacy Positions](#) (Attachment 1 – WALGA Emergency Management Advocacy Positions)

- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding
- 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The SHP – Human Biosecurity is the State's formal management arrangements for human biosecurity during an emergency across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for two hazards:

- Human epidemic
- Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a biological substance that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment.

Collectively, these two hazards are referred to as Human Biosecurity. The Chief Executive Officer (Director General) of the Department of Health is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for Human Biosecurity.

A targeted initial internal review of the SHP - Human Biosecurity was completed by the Department of Health and the current consultation on the Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity closes on 8 November 2024. A summary of the proposed amendments is available on [Engage WA Emergency Management](#) (Engage WA), with a focus on agencies' capabilities, clarification of roles and responsibilities, incorporating elements of the [WA Government Pandemic Plan](#), and distinguishing recovery arrangements for the two hazards that are considered a human biosecurity.

WALGA shared the Department of Health's request for feedback with Local Governments via its Emergency Management Newsletter, Network, Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group, and Environmental Health Officers Network, with a request to provide comments directly via Engage WA and to WALGA to support the development of this submission. WALGA received feedback from two Local Governments, City of Cockburn and Shire of Corrigin.

Local Governments in Western Australia play a significant role in emergency management. Both Commonwealth and State Government policy identify Local Government as a key player in community disaster resilience, preparedness and response. Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, Local Governments must prepare and maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), administer Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs), and manage community recovery. As the closest level of government to their communities Local Governments have access to specialised knowledge about the local environment and the demographic features and values of their communities.

WALGA works closely with all levels of government and industry groups to ensure Local Governments understand and are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities. Our role is to advocate and make representations on emergency management issues of importance to Local Governments, prepare useful resources, provide advice, and influence legislation and policy change based on Member needs.

WALGA's *Advocacy Position 8.1 Emergency Management Principles* highlights that:

- 1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.*
- 2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.*

Aligned to WALGA's *Advocacy Position 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management*, WALGA continues to advocate that the State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities.



ALGA's submission to the *Inquiry to review the Commonwealth Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic* (Attachment 3) also outlines the critical need for financial support for Local Governments during a human biosecurity emergency to appropriately maintain essential services during emergencies, such as was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2. WALGA's Recommendations**

WALGA provides the following recommendations in finalising the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity.

*That SHP Human Biosecurity should:*

- 1. Be supported by guidance to enable Local Governments to monitor and mitigate against infectious disease, prepare and plan for human biosecurity emergencies.*
- 2. Identify relevant links to the Public Health Act 2016, including Local Governments' role in public health planning under Part 5.*
- 3. Incorporate WALGA's proposed amendments as detailed in the table at Section 5 to clarify Local Government roles and responsibilities.*
- 4. Clarify the relationship between the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity Plan and the WA Government Pandemic Plan.*
- 5. Include a definition of pandemic and the difference between a pandemic and a human epidemic.*
- 6. Recognise the challenge of concurrent hazards during a human biosecurity emergency and include relevant provisions in Section 4.4.3 Response.*
- 7. Better outline the requirement and arrangements for clear, coordinated communication and a single source of information during a human biosecurity emergency.*
- 8. Recognise the importance of Local Government community networks to engaging community members in a human biosecurity emergency.*
- 9. Acknowledge the varied capacity of Local Governments to implement their roles and responsibilities under the SHP and mechanisms to provide additional support, for prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and the importance of increasing capacity and capability for response and recovery to a human biosecurity emergency across all stakeholders.*
- 10. Specify Local Government inclusion in all relevant decision-making processes and bodies at the local / regional level and WALGA, as the representative body for the Local Government sector at the State level.*

## **3. WALGA's feedback and recommendations on the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity**

### **3.1. Local Government Roles and responsibilities the SHP Human Biosecurity**

WALGA's advocacy position *8.2 State Emergency Management Framework* is that Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework. A list of recommended text changes to the SHP Human Biosecurity to clarify Local Government roles and responsibilities is provided In Appendix 1.

The SHP – Human Biosecurity is an operational document that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including Local Government across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).

#### Prevention and mitigation:

The SHP Human Biosecurity states that Local Government are responsible to monitor and undertake mitigation strategies, within their core business, for infectious diseases that may result in a human epidemic. However, there are no roles and responsibilities allocated to Local Governments in Appendix C1: Prevention.

Local Governments may monitor and undertake mitigation strategies for infectious diseases that may result in a human epidemic, for example mosquito monitoring and management. Corporate risk management and business continuity plans are not currently mandated through the *Local Government Act 1995*. Local Governments vary in their capacity and capability for risk mitigation, and many may require additional support, resources, and advice from the State Government to monitor and mitigate against infectious disease.

#### Preparedness:

In keeping with requirements under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, The SHP Human Biosecurity, states that Local Governments develop and maintain LEMAs as part of their preparedness activities.

A Local Government's LEMA is required to document information about the district's priority risks, emergency roles and responsibilities, and 'all hazards' incident response procedures. While a Local Government's LEMA may include arrangements or sub-plans for human biosecurity hazards, these are optional and not required for LEMA compliance. In addition to LEMA obligations, under Part 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016*, WA Local Governments are required to prepare a Local Public Health Plan that identifies the health needs of the Local Government district and describes how they propose to work with the Chief Health Officer (CHO) on public health initiatives, however this is not outlined in the SHP- Human Biosecurity.

#### Response:

The SHP Human Biosecurity states that Local Governments are responsible, during a human biosecurity emergency, to

- provide Environmental Health Officers (EHO) to metropolitan and regional Public Health Units (where required) assist with epidemic investigations, food safety monitoring, safe waste disposal, vermin/insect control.
- provide support with other local resources as requested by the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) or metropolitan or regional Public Health Units.

Local Governments play a supporting role in emergency response to a human biosecurity event. Local Government capacity to provide environmental health officers and other resources to support response efforts varies across the State.

#### Recovery:

In keeping with requirements under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, the SHP Human Biosecurity states that, during a human biosecurity emergency, Local Government are responsible to manage community recovery, with support provided through the State Recovery Coordinator where recovery activities are beyond the capacity of the local community.

Local Governments' capacity to manage recovery is dependent on their resources, capabilities, and the scale of the event. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is planning a public consultation process on proposed changes to state-level recovery arrangements in the Emergency Management Framework to clarify roles and responsibilities and define increasing State involvement relative to the complexity of recovery and the capacity of the Local Government.

#### Recommendations:

##### *The SHP – Human Biosecurity should:*

- 1. Be supported by guidance to enable Local Governments to monitor and mitigate against infectious disease, prepare and plan for human biosecurity emergencies.*
- 2. Identify relevant links to the Public Health Act 2016, including Local Governments' role in public health planning under Part 5.*
- 3. Incorporate WALGA's proposed amendments as detailed in the table at Section 5 to clarify Local Government roles and responsibilities.*

### **3.2. Relationship to WA Pandemic Plan**

The proposed amendments to SHP – Human Biosecurity incorporate elements of the [WA Government Pandemic Plan](#), however there is no reference to the relationship between the two documents provided. Furthermore, there is currently no definition of pandemic in the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity and what differentiates a pandemic from an epidemic.

#### Recommendations:

##### *The SHP – Human Biosecurity should:*

- 4. Clarify the relationship between the Draft SHP – Human Biosecurity Plan and the WA Government Pandemic Plan.*
- 5. Include a definition of pandemic and the difference between a pandemic and a human epidemic.*

### **3.3. Concurrent emergencies**

Local Governments have highlighted that the management of concurrent emergencies presents unique challenges. For example, a Local Government reported that when managing both COVID-19 and a bushfire simultaneously, there was insufficient guidance and minimal adherence to prevention protocols, such as immunisation requirements, mask usage, limiting the number of people in buildings or fire trucks and addressing transmission

risks from external support. The SHP – Human Biosecurity should therefore outline arrangements for concurrent hazards.

**Recommendation:**

*The SHP – Human Biosecurity should:*

- 6. Recognise the challenge of concurrent hazards during a human biosecurity emergency and include relevant provisions in Section 4.4.3 Response.*

## **4. Lessons Learned from COVID-19**

### **4.1. Local Governments and COVID-19 Pandemic**

The current review of the SHP – Human Biosecurity is the first since the COVID-19 pandemic, and stakeholders have been encouraged by the Department of Health to consider the lessons learned.

Local Government played a vital role in responding to COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, Local Governments were focussed on maintaining operations and supporting their communities.

The results of WALGA's 2023 [Emergency Management Survey](#) show that Local Governments identify pandemics as a priority hazard, with 67% of Local Governments including pandemic in their Corporate Risk Register. In the past five years, 28% of Local Governments activated their Local Recovery Plan for COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, WA Local Governments performed their roles and responsibilities in accordance with the [Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan](#). Local Governments were actively involved in various efforts to manage the impact of COVID-19. These efforts included communicating State of Emergency Directions to the community, ensuring business continuity, providing health facilities for testing and vaccinations, supporting vulnerable populations, and ensuring compliance with health regulations.

Local Governments also went above and beyond their prescribed responsibilities under the Pandemic Plan, including:

- facilitating timely implementation of complex (and at times ambiguous) State of Emergency Directions and legislation relating to local government facilities, operations and workforce;
- ensuring continuity of essential and valued services to communities;
- providing facilities for COVID-19 testing and vaccination;
- supporting community members experiencing financial hardship;
- distributing pulse oximeters to vulnerable community members;
- facilitating access to communities in need of vaccination;
- providing information to inform targeted approaches to the vaccination rollout for populations at risk, and
- Local government Environmental Health Officers approving COVID Event Plans and undertaking contact register inspections and compliance checks.

Many WA Local Governments chose to freeze rate increases, freeze increases to fees and charges, and implement hardship policies. Further, some Local Governments also implemented economic stimulus measures such as the bringing forward of capital works programs. This critical work was made more challenging where Local Governments were not involved in decision making processes and bodies, and it is essential that Local Government is included in all relevant decision-making processes and bodies at the local / regional level including the Health Incident Coordination Centre (HICC) Operational Area Support Group (OASG) / Incident Support Group (ISG). WALGA, as the Local Government sector representative, should be included in State level decision making processes and bodies, such as the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC)

Drawing on the Local Government experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA provided a submissions to the [\*Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response\*](#) (March 2023) and ALGA's submission to the *Inquiry to review the Commonwealth Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic* (December 2023).

Key Issues identified included that:

- The public sector needs sufficient capacity to maintain clear communication throughout a protracted pandemic, including consistent provision of timely responses to queries.
- Public communication should be coordinated so that supporting resources are released concurrently with any State Directions.
- One central source of information should be provided with up to date and consistent messaging.
- Local Government community networks are essential to engaging community members
- Additional resources are required to support regional and remote areas where local resources and capacity are limited,
- There is an overall need to increase capacity and capability for response and recovery from a pandemic, and
- Local Governments must be involved in decision making processes and bodies.

A key area of focus for WALGA was liaison with the State Government to inform the development and implementation of the State of Emergency Directions, regulations and legislation relating to Local Government premises, operations and employees. Throughout the pandemic, WALGA supported Local Government and sought to work constructively and collaboratively with the State Government and act as a key point of contact to facilitate information flows and ensure that the sector was kept informed in an uncertain and rapidly changing environment. WALGA placed a liaison officer at the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC). WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan represented the sector as a member of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), and the State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG). These key linkages were vital, allowing for Local Government representation at the State level and informed WALGA to effectively assist the sector during the pandemic.

Recommendation:

*The SHP Human Biosecurity should:*

- 7. Better outline the requirement and arrangements for clear, coordinated communication and a single source of information during a human biosecurity emergency.*
- 8. Recognise the importance of Local Government community networks to engaging community members in a human biosecurity emergency.*
- 9. Acknowledge the varied capacity of Local Governments to implement their roles and responsibilities under the SHP and mechanisms to provide additional support, for prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and the importance of increasing capacity and capability for response and recovery to a human biosecurity emergency across all stakeholders.*
- 10. Specify Local Government inclusion in all relevant decision-making processes and bodies at the local / regional level and WALGA, as representative for the Local Government sector at the State level.*

## 5. Recommended amendments to the draft State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity

Reference in Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity	Recommended amendment/s	Rationale
<p>Section 2.1.1 Prevention Strategies, dot point 1, p.11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>environmental health programs to minimise risk of disease transmission, such as those designed to ensure provision of safe food and water, and effective sewerage systems</i></li> </ul>	<p>Revised text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“environmental health programs to minimise risk of disease transmission, such as those designed to ensure provision of safe food and water, and effective waste <b>management and</b> sewerage systems”</li> </ul>	<p>Effective waste management is a critical component of environmental health and mitigates infectious disease by preventing the spread of pathogens and reducing exposure.</p>
<p>Section 2.1.2, p.11</p> <p><i>Local governments, the Water Corporation, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions monitor and undertake mitigation strategies, within their core business, for infectious diseases that may result in a human epidemic.</i></p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments, <b>critical service providers and all State Agencies should</b> monitor and undertake mitigation strategies, within their core business, for infectious diseases that may result in a human epidemic.</li> </ul>	<p>Suggest rewording to include all State Agencies and critical services providers. Also include the word ‘should’ because it is currently not clear if all agencies actually do this in practice.</p> <p>In Western Australia, business continuity plans/corporate risk management plans are not explicitly mandated under the <i>Local Government Act</i>.</p>



<p>Section 3.3.2 Local Communities, para 1, p.14</p> <p><i>Local communities, in conjunction with the not-for-profit sector and relevant businesses, should develop plans to enable continued delivery of community support services, particularly those where greater needs or risks may be present during a human biosecurity emergency.</i></p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p><del>“Local communities</del> Local Governments, <del>in conjunction with,</del> the not-for-profit sector and relevant businesses, should develop plans to enable continued business operations and the delivery of community support services, particularly those where greater needs or risks may be present during a human biosecurity emergency.”</p>	<p>The term <i>Local communities</i> is broad and does not necessarily refer to a formal operating/community service entity. Community group associations are typically part of the not-for profit sector. The proposed wording acknowledges that Local Governments play a key role in delivering community services.</p>
<p>Section 4.2 Detection and Notification Channels, p.17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Notification by state/local government agencies.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Revised text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Notification by state <del>agencies and</del> local government.”</li> </ul>	<p>Clarifies the distinction between state agencies and Local Government.</p>
<p>Section 4.3.3 Response, Epidemic, p.18</p>	<p>Additional bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>liaise with other HMAs during a concurrent emergency to ensure a coordinated approach, provision of appropriate guidance, and adherence to prevention protocols across.</del></li> </ul>	<p>Feedback from Local Governments highlighted that the management of concurrent emergencies presents unique challenges and a coordinated approach guidance on prevention protocols is needed.</p>



<p>Section 4.7 Isolation, Quarantine and Closure Arrangements, p.20</p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>During a human biosecurity emergency, the State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support may be activated to assist with the provision of emergency relief support services. These services may be extended to those individuals, their household, and others who have been placed under home isolation or quarantine as part of the emergency response <b>and to the extent that is possible, include provision of psycho-social support.</b></p>	<p>Local Government feedback outlined a need for clear arrangements for the provision of relief and support for community members who may be in isolation or quarantine Including consideration to social isolation and psycho-social support.</p>
<p>Section 4.3.3 Response, Biological Emergency, p.19</p>	<p>Additional bullet point:</p> <p>The considerations will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Waste disposal”</b></li> </ul>	<p>Consideration should also be made for waste management.</p>
<p>Section 4.10 Waste Management, para 1, p. 21</p> <p><i>Where required the HMA or Controlling Agency will develop a waste management plan in conjunction with other relevant agencies.</i></p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>“Where required, the HMA or Controlling Agency will develop a waste management plan in conjunction with <b>DWER, Local Governments</b> <b>and</b> other relevant agencies.”</p>	<p>To more clearly outline the relevant agencies and the need for a coordinated approach that includes Local Government who play a central role in waste management.</p>

<p>Section 5.1 Responsibility for Recovery, para 2, p.23</p> <p><i>Where recovery activities are beyond the capacity of the local community, State support may be provided through the State Recovery Coordinator as detailed in the State EM Plan.</i></p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>“Where recovery activities are beyond the capacity of the <del>Local Community</del> <b>Local Government</b>, State support may be provided through the State Recovery Coordinator as detailed in the State EM Plan.”</p>	<p>This is referring to Local Government, not local communities.</p>
<p>Section 5.2 Clean-Up - Biological Incident or Emergency p.23</p> <p><i>The HMA will develop and implement a clean-up plan as required and specific to the biological incident or emergency</i></p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>“Where required, the HMA or Controlling Agency, in conjunction with <b>DWER, Local Governments and</b> other relevant agencies, will develop clean-up and waste management plans specific to the biological incident or emergency.”</p>	<p>To more clearly outline the relevant agencies and the need for a coordinated approach that includes Local Government who play a central role in waste management.</p>
<p>Appendix C1: Prevention Responsibility Department of Health</p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>c. Provide guidance to Local Government Environmental Health Officers <b>and other relevant staff.</b></p>	<p>Health Department guidance should not be limited to Environmental Health Officers. Community development, marketing, communication and emergency management officers may also require advice on how to mitigate against human biosecurity.</p>

<p>Appendix C2: Preparedness Responsibilities, Local Government</p>	<p>Additional text:</p> <p>Ensure that effective local emergency management arrangements are prepared and maintained for its district (through the advice and assistance of the Local Emergency Management Committee).</p> <p>Ensure the preparation of a Local Public Health Plan that identifies the health needs of the local government district and describes how the Local Government proposes to work with the CHO on public health initiatives.</p>	<p>This additional text takes into consideration that preparing for human biosecurity may be considered across more than one Local Government department/ plan and that human biosecurity could be included as an optional subplan/arrangements in a Local Government LEMA.</p> <p>The Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity should make mention/stronger links to Local Governments' role in public health planning under Part 5 of the <i>Public Health Act</i> that came into effect on 4 June 2024.</p>
<p>Appendix C2: Preparedness, Department of Health</p>	<p>Additional bullet point:</p> <p>Provide guidance and support to Local Governments and other relevant agencies to fulfil any obligations they have under this State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity.</p>	<p>As per WALGA's advocacy position- <i>The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.</i></p>

<p>Appendix C3: Response Responsibilities, Department of Health</p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <p>f. Consult, communicate and provide guidance to Local Government Environmental Health Officers and other relevant staff in managing local response.</p>	<p>Not all Local Governments will have dedicated Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). Local Governments should be consulted with and included in response decision-making matters that impact their communities.</p>
<p>Appendix C3: Response Responsibilities, Local Government</p>	<p>Additional text:</p> <p>Note: It is acknowledged that not all Local Governments will have a dedicated Environmental Health Officer. When there is a response occurring (or an impending response), if a Local Government recognises particular constraints in their capability and commitment to undertake the tasks and meet the responsibilities identified in this Plan, they should advise the HMA. This will ensure the varying capabilities of individual Local Governments are recognised and appropriate assistance and training provided. Details may be found in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.</p>	<p>Acknowledges the different human resourcing capacity of WA Local Governments.</p> <p>Smaller, remote Local Governments do not necessarily have dedicated EHOs on staff or EHOs with the appropriate knowledge and skills to manage a significant human biosecurity incident. The State Government will need to provide these Local Governments targeted non-competitive funding and appropriate training to ensure they are equipped to manage a significant human biosecurity incident.</p>

<p>Appendix C4: Recovery Responsibilities, Local Government</p>	<p>Revised text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Manage the community recovery process, with support from the State Recovery Coordinator.</li> <li>b. Undertake community recovery activities, with support from the State Recovery Coordinator.</li> </ul>	<p>Aligned to p. 24 of the Draft SHP - Human Biosecurity, "State Recovery Controller will have responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the State's recovery efforts and leading the development of the WA Recovery Plan for an epidemic where this Plan's response arrangements have been activated." and to the State Emergency Management Policy.</p>
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## **Attachment 1 – WALGA Emergency Management Advocacy Positions**

### **8.1 Emergency Management Principles**

1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.
2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.
3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.

### **8.2 State Emergency Management Framework**

Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:

1. Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;
2. Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;
3. Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;
4. Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and
5. Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.

### **8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding**

Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:

1. empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;
2. supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;
3. is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context;
4. develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and
5. is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.

### 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
2. A reformed LEMA system should:
  - a) Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
  - b) Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
  - c) Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;
  - d) Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
  - e) Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
  - f) Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and
  - g) Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.