



# COMMUNIQUÉ

## Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management 26 October 2018

A meeting of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management was held on 26 October 2018 in Canberra, ACT. Representatives were present from all Australian jurisdictions, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Peter Dutton MP.

### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

#### Seasonal Outlook: Update on latest data and national posture

Council Members noted that there is approximately a seventy per cent (70%) chance of El Niño developing in 2018, which is about triple the normal likelihood. The current very dry conditions and seasonal outlook suggest an early start to the southern fire season which will intensify over summer. Northern Australia will also experience an above average fire risk in northern areas.

#### National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Future Mitigation and Recovery Funding Arrangements

Council Members acknowledged the growing impacts of natural disasters on Australian communities and the economy. Council Members supported the continued development of a five year National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) and noted, subject to negotiations with the States and Territories, that in principle disaster resilience funding be aligned with the Framework. Council Members also committed to strengthening recovery arrangements through the new disaster recovery funding arrangements.



### **Emergency Alert (New Zealand)**

The New Zealand Government wished to reduce the implications of fast moving threats such as tsunamis, floods, significant fires, hazardous substances spills, police lock-downs, terrorist incidents, and pest or disease outbreaks, through more effective communication with at-risk people.

Through the implementation of Emergency Mobile Alert in November 2017, New Zealand government agencies are able to target warning messages directly to people in the affected areas via mobile phones. This will increase public confidence in New Zealand's emergency warning systems and help keep people safe. This is a significant shift in the way people are warned about emergencies.

Council Members noted the successful implementation in New Zealand of Emergency Mobile Alert, which sends warnings to mobile phones in affected areas using cell broadcast technology.

### **Public Safety Mobile Broadband**

Council Members discussed the importance of all jurisdictions continuing to work together to implement a national Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability that meets the needs of jurisdictions and their public safety agencies and supports Australia's first responders to better protect the community.

### **Emergency Triple Zero Outage**

Council Members noted the release of investigation reports by the Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). DoCA has commenced working with the telecommunications sector and emergency service organisations on the implementation of recommendations, and the ACMA has agreed to a court enforceable undertaking with Telstra.

### **Catastrophic Disaster Planning**

Council Members reaffirmed their commitment to progress initiatives to enhance Australia's preparedness to respond to disasters of severe to catastrophic scale.

### **National Fire Danger Rating System**

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Research Prototype trial has demonstrated that a new national system is achievable and can provide clear community, economic and operational benefits. Council Members support efforts to continue with Phase 3 of the NFDRS program.



### **New Zealand's Ministerial Review: Better responses to natural disasters and other emergencies**

New Zealand has carried out a review into how New Zealand responds to natural disasters and other emergencies. The Minister of Civil Defence released a report on 18 January 2018 that made a number of recommendations. The Minister announced the New Zealand Government's response to the report on 30 August 2018 which outlined a multiyear program to implement emergency management system reform.

Council Members noted the Ministerial Review and related review report, and the New Zealand Government's response to the report outlining a multi-year program to implement emergency management system reform.

### **National Strategy to Fight Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime**

Council Members noted the further development of the new National Strategy to Fight Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime, with a view to bringing the final National Strategy forward to the Council of Australian Governments meeting in December 2018. The new National Strategy will support the Commonwealth, States and Territories to work together to fight transnational, serious and organised crime.

### **Digital Currencies and Assets Derived from Blockchain Technology**

Queensland noted, and all other jurisdictions supported, the development of a nationally consistent approach to the illegal use of blockchain technology in relation to criminal proceeds, and specifically, for the definition of criminal proceeds to include digital currency (e.g. bitcoin) and assets derived from blockchain technology for the purpose of criminal confiscation proceedings.

### **Information sharing through the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission**

Council Members supported the outstanding funding required for the Tranche 1 of the National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS) being paid from the Special Account.

Recognising the prevention of domestic violence as a priority for all governments, Council Members agreed to facilitate the recognition and enforcement of domestic violence orders across all jurisdictions through continued use of the Interim Order Reference Solution. Council Members agreed to consider the feasibility of using the National Criminal Intelligence System to deliver a long-term comprehensive national information sharing solution at the next Ministerial Council meeting.



### **Information Sharing in Family Dispute Matters**

Council Members agreed the relevant working groups will provide recommendations for improved information sharing between courts, and State and Territory law enforcement agencies for improved safety outcomes for joint consideration by the Council of Attorneys-General and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management.

### **Illegal Manufacture of Firearms**

Council Members endorsed a nationally consistent offence regime for the illegal manufacture of firearms to strengthen the response to illegal firearms in the community, as resolved by Ministers following the Martin Place Siege.

### **National Cooperative Scheme on Unexplained Wealth**

Council Members noted the National Cooperative Scheme on Unexplained Wealth and also noted that it will be considered at the upcoming Council of Attorneys-General meeting.

### **Nationally Consistent Legislation and Reciprocal Arrangements for Persons Banned from Casinos and Racing Venues**

Queensland and the Northern Territory noted, and all other jurisdictions supported, the development of nationally consistent legislation and reciprocal arrangements for Casino and Racing exclusion orders.

### **Nationally Consistent Legislation for Children Born to Parents under Witness Protection**

Queensland noted, and all other jurisdictions supported, the development of nationally consistent legislation for children born to parents under witness protection.

### **Police use of Remote Engine Immobilisers**

Council Members agreed to establish a national working group to explore issues related to police use of remote engine immobilisers or related technologies as a means of reducing the risks to the public and police from vehicle-related crime.

### **National Response to Tackling Child Exploitation**

Council Members agreed to support the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) in its mission to drive a collaborative national response to counter the exploitation of children.