



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management 28 June 2019

A meeting of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management was held on 28 June 2018 in Adelaide, South Australia. Representatives were present from all Australian jurisdictions, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

The meeting was chaired by the South Australian Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Hon Corey Wingard MP.

#### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

##### Enhancing Australia's and New Zealand's Disaster Preparedness

Australia and New Zealand continue to experience the impact of more frequent and intense disasters. The Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management endorsed a number of initiatives in recognition of this ongoing challenge.

Council Members endorsed the *Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework for severe to catastrophic disasters*, which provides guidance to all Australian jurisdictions in understanding, developing and enhancing capability requirements to prepare for, manage and recover from severe to catastrophic disasters.

Council Members also endorsed the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*, acknowledging the growing impacts of natural disasters on Australian communities and the economy. Council Members directed the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee to commence national action on the implementation of the Framework, including preparation of an annual National Statement of Action on disaster risk reduction, noting the Commonwealth's allocation of \$130.5 million in funding to support the work.

In response to the increasing frequency of disasters, there has been an increased volume of emergency management exercises occurring across all Australian and New Zealand agencies. The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee identified the need to improve exercise collaboration and will implement a coordinated national approach to ensure maximum benefits to all jurisdictions.



### **National Emergency Management Capability Priorities**

Council Members agreed to fund the development of the next generation National Fire Danger Rating System and trial its early adoption and implementation prior to national roll out.

Committee Members agreed to continue to prioritise the implementation of a 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.

### **Access to Electronic and Communications Data**

Council members acknowledged the challenges faced by law enforcement and national security agencies to access and obtain data. Key aspects of this challenge are the exponential increase of foreign communications companies offering their services in Australia (e.g. social media/communications platforms), data being stored in foreign jurisdictions (e.g. cloud-based storage services) and the issues posed by emerging technologies such as encryption or anonymising tools. Having access to data is vital to the detection, prevention, disruption, and investigation of serious crime and threats to national security.

Council members agreed to pursue a holistic framework to ensure Australian law enforcement and national security agencies can quickly and effectively access onshore and offshore data from both foreign and domestic communications service providers, while ensuring appropriate safeguards and protections.

### **Illegal Transfer of Firearms through Interstate Movements**

Council Members agreed New South Wales will lead a research project on improving arrangements for the transfer of registered firearms between jurisdictions.

### **Ensuring Consistent Approaches to Emerging Drug Threats and Drug Reform**

Council Members agreed to work collaboratively across jurisdictions to ensure strong and cohesive approaches to tackle illicit substances, particularly the destructive drug ice, and on broader reforms to drug policy. Council Members also agreed to consider key areas of priority action at an out of session Council meeting prior to consideration at a meeting of the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum.

### **National Criminal Intelligence System**

Council Members noted that significant progress has been made on Tranche 1 of the National Criminal Intelligence System.



### Police use of Remote Engine Immobilisers

Council Members agreed that a Remote Engine Immobiliser system, efficiently capable of providing significant safety benefits without risk, is not currently available to implement on a nationwide whole-of-fleet scale but that, as technology advances, opportunities for further work in this space may become possible.