

4.1 MONASH MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (HB:OM)

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- *Authorises the disestablishment of the existing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) established under ss.21(3)-(5) of the Emergency Management Act 1986, in recognition that on 1 December these provisions are repealed by s.82(2) of the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 and replaced by the provisions of s.68 of the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018.*
- *Authorises the CEO or delegated Senior Officer to facilitate the establishment of the MEMPC in accordance with the provisions of s.68 of the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (which inserts a new 'Part 6-Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees' into the Emergency Management Act 2013 on 1 December 2020).*
- *Notes that, under the MEMPC Terms of Reference provided and the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (which inserts s.59 and s.59F into the Emergency Management Act 2013 on 1 December 2020), Council's role is to establish the Committee. Once established, the Committee exists separately to Council and is not a Committee of Council.*

INTRODUCTION

Council is required to align its Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee with the reformed emergency management planning arrangements outlined in the [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 \(EMLA Act\)](#). The EMLA Act amends a number of Acts, including the Emergency Management Act 2013.

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA Act) outlines a consistent approach for MEMPCs across the state, which will see all MEMPCs reporting and accountable to the relevant Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) and not to municipal council. The Monash MEMPC will be required to prepare a new Municipal Emergency Management Plan and associated sub-plans, and have them approved and endorsed by the Eastern Metro Region REMPC.

From 1 December 2020, the legislation realigns responsibility for municipal emergency management planning from Council to the reformed, multi-agency MEMPC - the peak emergency management planning body in Monash. This realignment of responsibility highlights the intent of the reform which supports emergency management planning as an integrated, multi-agency and collaborative effort.

DISCUSSION

The current Monash MEMPC encompasses a wide representation from emergency service agencies, relief and recovery agencies, and community and business representatives. This is the intention of the legislation.

The MEMPC is tasked with developing plans and processes to mitigate the potential impacts of risks and hazards on the Monash community. The MEMPC may organise sub-committees to look at specific risks and hazards or specific processes. An example of the latter may be a Relief and Recovery Sub-Committee.

CONSULTATION

Under the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA 2018) Council is required to re-establish its Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). Council will invite the current committee representatives to participate on the Committee moving forward, and will confirm their membership in writing in line with the changes

The re-formed MEMPC will meet at least three times each year and will be chaired by the Municipal Emergency Management Officer, as delegated by the Chief Executive Officer in line with the responsibilities outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan (p.64) and s.59G of the EM Act 2013.

Membership will include representatives of State Government departments and organisations, local business, non-government organisations with a role in emergency management, and Council officers.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts the abovementioned recommendations to ensure that compliance with the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA Act) and Emergency Management Act 2013 are achieved.