



# State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity 2024 Consultation Change Summary

The following paragraphs outline the substantive changes included in the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity 2024 consultation draft.

## Part One: Introduction

**Section 1.1.1** Human Epidemic – activation – includes consideration of conditions typical for Level 2 and Level 3 incidents as outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan (section 5.1.5). The purpose of the amendment is to more fully capture the possible complexity of activation considerations.

**Section 1.3** Organisational Roles and Responsibilities – links the Department of Health's Director General role to the chief executive officer Hazard Management Agency role.

**Section 1.5** Activities Informing the Assurance Process – adds reference to the WA Health Emergency Management Committee.

## Part Three: Preparedness

**Section 3.2** Capability Baseline – replaces existing capability baseline with new capability baseline based on impairment of agencies' business continuity plans, and on a protracted event, sustained absenteeism and multi-agency impact from the emergency including on public infrastructure and public utilities.

**Section 3.3.1** At-Risk Groups – refines various descriptions of at-risk groups.

**Section 3.4** Community Information and Education – to be tailored to target audience and where possible developed in collaboration with target communities, including schools through the Department of Education.

## Part Four: Response

**Section 4.3.2** Standby (and consequential amendments) – removes reference to Human Epidemic Coordination Centre(s) (HECCs) and replaces with reference to metropolitan and regional Public Health Units. This change is reflective of the actual experience during the COVID-19 response and assessment of the likely future structure that would be used for a human biosecurity response.

**Section 4.8** Hostile or Terrorist Act Arrangements – includes reference to hostile act and updated section to substantively align approach with State Hazard Plan HAZMAT. Consequential amendments throughout where required.

## Part Five: Recovery

**Section 5.2** Clean Up – section now applicable only to biological incident (not human epidemic).

**Sections 5.3 and 5.4** – Transition to Recovery – separate sections for biological incident and human epidemic.

## Appendix C: Response Roles and Responsibilities

**Throughout** – aligns roles and responsibilities of agencies and organisations across the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery spectrum.

**Department of Health** – additional items:

- engage and consult with peak Aboriginal health organisations
- engage with State Recovery Coordinator (during the response phase)

**Department of Fire and Emergency Services and St John Western Australia** – move site commander functions for biological substance incidents from SJWA to DFES. Subject to consultation, but the change was included in the consultation draft as it is considered this role sits more appropriately with DFES.

## Throughout

**State Health Coordinator (SHC)** – remove reference to SHC as the role is generally related to combat agency rather than hazard management agency roles.

**Superseded terms** – remove reference to State Human Epidemic Controller (SHEC), related acronym SHECMA, and State Human Epidemic Technical Advisory Group (SHETAG).

## Incorporated from WA Government Pandemic Plan

**Section 3.3** – Planning and Arrangements – added importance of flexibility in planning.

**Section 3.3.2 – 3.3.4** – Planning and Arrangements – added sections for:

- local communities
- business, industry and non-government organisations
- individuals and households

**Section 4.5** Public Warnings/Information – added importance of information sharing.

**Section 5.1** Responsibility for Recovery – the WA Government will assume responsibility for coordinating the recovery process in the event of interstate or international emergencies impacting Western Australian communities.

**Appendix C** – Response Roles and Responsibilities – Department of Health – added information relating to:

- state and national medical stockpiles
- support for national border control and quarantine measures

Please note that work in relation to the WA Government Pandemic Plan and recommendations 3 and 4 of the [Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response](https://www.wa.gov.au/publications/2020/07/review-of-western-australia-s-covid-19-management-and-response) ([www.wa.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au)) is ongoing during the consultation period for the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity.