Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

**GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Animal Welfare In Emergencies

Benefits and Challenges of Integrating Animal Welfare into Emergency Management for Disaster Resilience
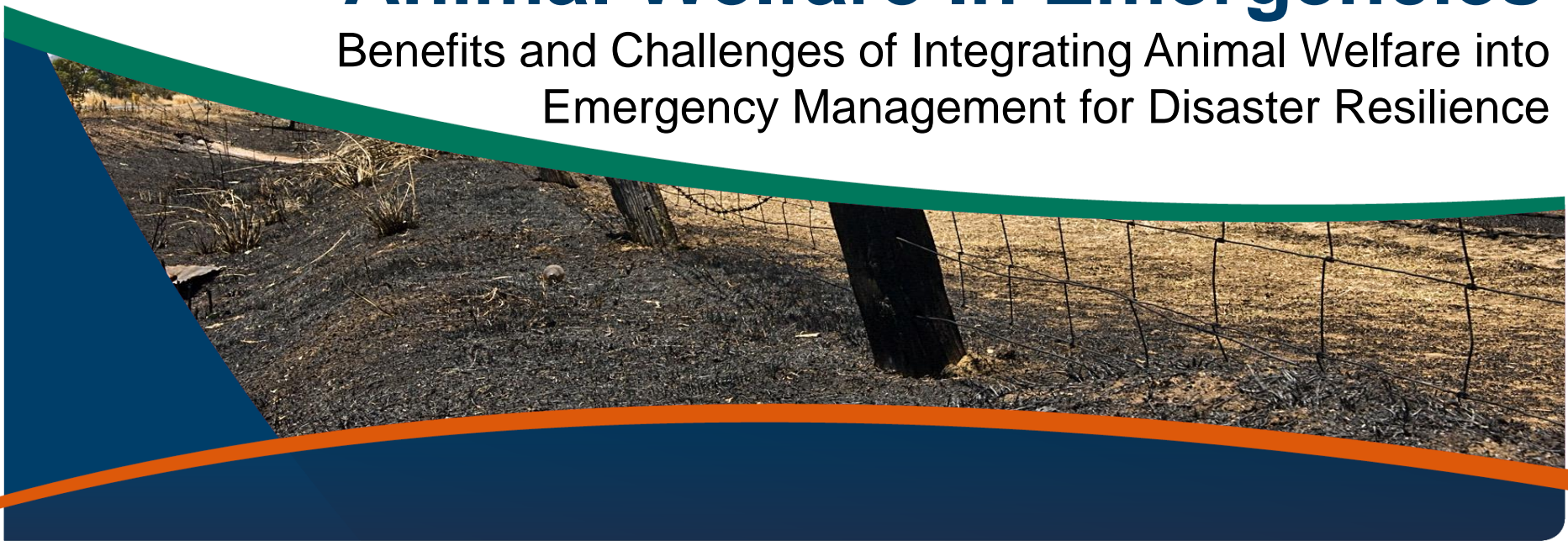
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Background

- **2009 Victorian Bushfires**
- **2011 National Strategy for Disaster Resilience**
- **National Principles for planning for animals in disasters**
- **WA fire events**
- **DPIRD assigned the role and responsibility for the coordination of animal welfare in emergencies**
- **State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator appointed**
- **State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan**
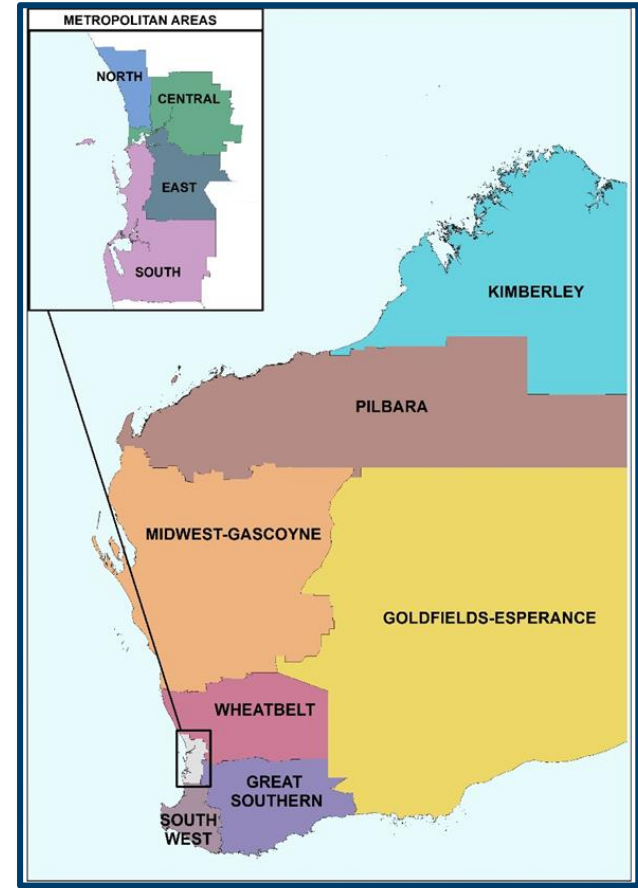
Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Background

WA challenges

- Large land area
- Small population
- Diverse climatic zones
- Full range of natural disasters

WA emergency management

- State Emergency Management Committee
- District Emergency Management Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee – Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Western Australia's Emergency Management Districts
https://www.oem.wa.gov.au/about-us/the-semc/district-emergency-management-committees

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Shared Responsibility

- **Everyone has a responsibility**
- **Disaster resilient communities**
  - Proactive and 'self' motivated
  - Industry expertise
  - Government support

Prevention. Preparation. Response. Recovery

- **Person in charge of an animal**
- **Local Emergency Management Arrangements**
- **Emergency Resource Support Organisation**
- **State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan**

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Prevention and Preparation

- **Legislative requirements**
  - Acts and Regulations
  - Preventative activities
  - Capability and Capacity building
- **Evacuated or not evacuated**

- **Engagement**
  - Stakeholders
  - Community
  - Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies
- **Support planning**

Evacuated Animals		Non Evacuated Animals	
-	Availability of transportation support and advice	-	Management of displaced and stray animals
-	Suitability of evacuation centres to cater to persons with animals	-	Assessment of impacted animals
-	Access to information and resources for persons evacuating with animals	-	Treatment of impacted animals
-	Management of displaced animals	-	Humane euthanasia and disposal of impacted animals
		-	Emergency food, water, shelter
	-	Recovery requirements: short and long term	

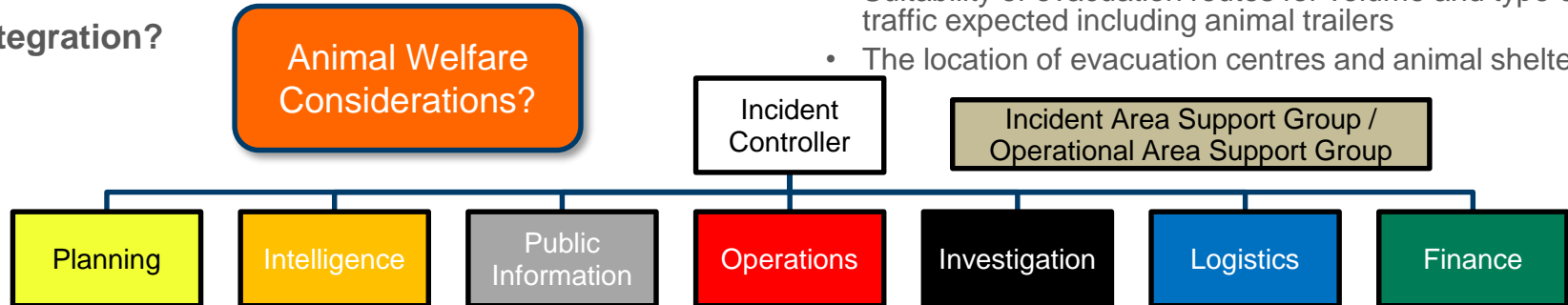# Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Response and Recovery

Hazard Management Agency

- Control of response activities
- Consistent and effective communication
- Consideration of shared responsibility

Human life and safety

- Animal welfare vs safety of the community and individuals
- Evacuation planning
  - How early to warn of evacuation to allow residents to prepare animals,
  - Suitability of evacuation routes for volume and type of traffic expected including animal trailers
  - The location of evacuation centres and animal shelters

Integration?

Animal Welfare Considerations?

Incident Controller

Incident Area Support Group / Operational Area Support Group

| Planning | Intelligence | Public Information | Operations | Investigation | Logistics | Finance |

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Response and Recovery

Animal welfare

- Hazard controlled, human life no longer at risk
- Recovery phase
- Hazard impacts vs consequence of response
- Limitations of access
- Emotive
- Generation of new impacts to human life and safety

Social and digital support

- Traditional and social media
- Inundation of voluntary support

- Benefit vs hindrance
- Engagement

Return to pre-incident condition

Review

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Into the future

SEAWP endorsement in December 2018

Integration into emergency management

Build capability and capacity

Thank you

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