



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 14/2023

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Australian Warning System Decision Guide Survey Now Open

Key Message

As part of the implementation of the next phase of the Australian Warning System (AWS), a proposed Decision Guide to help Incident Controllers determine warning levels has been created and is now available for review. A survey to capture feedback on the guide is open to all DFES staff.

What's been happening?

The AWS is a national approach to information and warnings and aims to provide consistent warnings to Australian communities, so people know what they need to do when they see a warning during an emergency.

The AWS is being implemented in a phased approach in Western Australia, with the first phase including changes to hazard icon styles and new nationally consistent bushfire colours occurring in September 2021. The AWS has also been implemented for heatwave (managed by Department of Health).

The next phase will include changes to warnings, icons and colours for cyclone, flood and storm. Clear action statements will also be added to all hazard warning headlines, including bushfire, bringing the four hazards in line with other Australian jurisdictions.

Workshops were conducted with DFES Operational staff in the second half of 2022 to test warning level triggers and action statements against scenarios and Bureau of Meteorology severe weather products.

These workshops helped inform the creation of the draft Decision Guide that will assist Incident Controllers in determining the appropriate AWS warning level during emergencies.

The Public Information Branch is seeking feedback on the Decision Guide before it is incorporated into Doctrine, Training and other Public Information products ahead of the full implementation of the next phase of AWS.

What do I need to do?

The Decision Guide can be found [here](#), the feedback survey can be accessed [here](#) or the QR code below and is available until 17 May 2023.





Further information

An information session about the Decision Guide and the next phase of AWS will be held on 4 May at 12pm in Cockburn ESC. Those interested in attending online are asked to register by contacting the Public Information Branch at statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au.

CRAIG WATERS AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience: Operations, namely those likely to act as Incident Controller or Public Information Officer				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
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