



## DFES General Circular No: 101/2024

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### Australian Warning System is now live

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Western Australia has today adopted national consistency for cyclone, storm and flood warnings through the [Australian Warning System \(AWS\)](#).

The wet weather hazards join bushfire and heatwave in using the AWS colours, icons and warning levels. Warnings also feature an action statement in the headline, giving clear advice to the community about how to stay safe.

This is an exciting milestone in the *Next Generation Warnings Project* that aims to deliver more localised and targeted emergency information than ever before.

#### What is new?

Cyclone, storm and flood warnings will now feature consistent AWS colours, icons and warning levels of Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning.

	Advice	An incident is active but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. Be aware and keep up to date.
	Watch and Act	There is a possible threat to lives and homes. Take action now to protect yourself and others.
	Emergency Warning	There is a threat to lives and homes. You may be in danger and need to take immediate action.

Decision-makers need to ensure their warning levels reflect the severity of the threat as described above, and new guides and tools have been created to support this.

Warning levels can be upgraded and downgraded in the same way they are for bushfire to reflect the risk the community faces before, during and in the aftermath of a cyclone, flood and storm.

The All Clear and Take Care warning levels will no longer be used under AWS and are replaced with an Advice – Threat Is Reduced. This warning will advise the community that no further updates will be issued for that event.



Warning headlines are simplified, providing the hazard, warning level, action statement and location – giving impacted communities a clearer understanding of what they need to do.

### **What do you need to do?**

Complete the online training so you understand the AWS changes.

All staff and volunteers should complete [AWS Awareness](#) which provides an overview of the AWS and how it is applied in Western Australia.

Staff and volunteers who perform roles that assist with the management of public information during incidents should complete [Applying the AWS](#). This online scenario-based module will help you learn how to determine appropriate AWS levels and action statements for incidents.

### **Where can you find resources or more information?**

#### **Doctrine**

- Updated doctrine including SAPs, SOPs, Bushfire Talking Points and AWS Warnings Triggers will be available on the [IM Toolbox](#).

#### **Promotional resources**

- Information for the public including posters and an explainer video can be found on [Emergency WA](#) or the [DFES website](#)
- A handy toolkit including a flyer, posters, email signature and social media tiles will be on the [Intranet](#) and [Volunteer Hub](#)
- Regions can order flyers, posters and magnets (cyclone-specific) to support the change in the community.

Additionally, an awareness campaign across television, radio, print, online and social media will ensure Western Australians are aware of these important changes and will be ready to act to stay safe in an emergency.

If you have any questions or would like to request further information please contact [statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au).

**KENT ACOTT**  
**DIRECTOR MEDIA AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**