
Capability Day Summary

31 March 2021

The black summer fires of 2019-20 and ensuing inquiries have prompted many new projects and initiatives. With this in mind, the theme was “**Discovering and understanding the latest initiatives in EM, with a particular focus on spatial data exchange to aid EM preparedness and operations**”. All known initiatives were invited to attend and present for 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. There were 18 presentations on the day - from universities, research organisations, industry, Commonwealth and state governments.

Presenters were asked to address the following questions

1. What is the Project Scope / What is trying to be solved?
2. What will be available to the EM community / decision makers at the end of your project?
3. How will the EM Sector access the results?
4. What are the main hurdles faced in completing your Project?
5. What input data / work do you need from jurisdictions?

The responses from each initiative to these questions can be found on the EMSINA website – click [here](#).

EMSINA Group Observations

- There is an increasing thirst for EM data and associated metadata across govt, industry and research sectors
- Currently, multiple requests for data are being directed to jurisdictions.
- There are clear areas of scope overlap between the 18 initiatives presented
- All initiatives have the same data access issues of licensing and standardisation of attributes
- There is a distinct lack of funding towards grassroots data (increasing core capabilities of the states, territories & local govt to create, develop, host and deliver fundamental EM data)
- The representatives for most initiatives assumed that there would be a more structured approach by the Australian Government to both coordinating initiatives and managing a single source to access national emergency management data
- A post-meeting [survey](#) of presenters and attendees showed a desire for the day to be repeated annually

Opportunities Identified

- Opportunity for an annual national forum to discover initiatives
- Opportunity for a national register of initiatives – including ones that stall or fail. The register would assist funding administrators
- Opportunity for a government agency or National body to become the leader of EM spatial data within Australia.
- Opportunity for AFAC KIRUN group to review initiatives and review their successes, weaknesses and identify future recommendations from learnings

EMSINA Group Recommendations

- Immediate national leadership and prioritisation of EM spatial initiatives.
- Increased scope of the National EM Spatial Data Catalogue (EM-LINK) so it can centrally service the ongoing data requirements of all initiatives.
- The success of all end products is directly linked to the availability of sustainable fundamental EM data. Therefore; all levels of government must agree that the creation of such EM data must take priority over the more exciting, desired and costly (or commonly termed 'shiny') visualisation end products.

Kind regards

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