Chief Minister Adam Giles has welcomed law enforcement and justice officials from around Australia and New Zealand for two days of talks in Darwin.

The Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM) meets twice a year and brings together Police Commissioners, Police and Justice Ministers, CEOs of Justice and Emergency Service Agencies and a representative of the Australian Local Government Association.

"It is a privilege to be chairing this important meeting. It brings together top policing officials to co-ordinate their responses to a range of justice and emergency management issues," Mr Giles said.

Among the topics on the policing agenda is a national response to new psychoactive substances (synthetic drugs), firearms laws, forensics advances and cyber crime.

"It is a chance for Police Commissioners and Ministers to learn from each other and to make sure they’re on the same page when it comes to cross-border policing issues." Mr Giles said.

The meeting will also examine national efforts to prepare for emergencies and manage their effects.

"Co-ordinating disaster plans can dramatically improve the response to the public when an emergency strikes more than one jurisdiction," Mr Giles said.

"The plans made at these meetings can save lives in a real disaster situation."

A national emergency warnings policy and streamlining of relief payments for victims of disasters will be discussed at the talks.

The meeting will also look at the lessons learned from the international emergency response to New Zealand’s Canterbury Earthquake, including the assistance offered by other jurisdictions such as the Northern Territory.

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