

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

10 June 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE JERRAMUNGUP SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 12.03PM.

MINUTES

1. OPEN AND WELCOME

Shire President, Cr Joanne Iffla, opened the meeting at 12.03pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE (Attendance sheet *Appendix 1*)

Joanne Iffla	Jeremy Wisewould
Daniel Biddulph	Siwel Solomon
Stuart Kerr	Alex Jones (12.06pm)
Russell Palmer	Greg Williams
Danielle Wisewould	Charmaine Solomon (12.12pm)
Noel Myers (12.12pm)	Charlotte Powis (TEAMS)
Jo Spadaccini (TEAMS)	Glenda Gray (Minute Taker)

3. APOLOGIES

3.1 As per attendance *Appendix 1*

Martin Cuthbert – Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Jerramungup

Stephen Petersen – DFES

Matt Prophet – DBCA

Mark Cruickshank – Ranger, Shire of Jerramungup

John Collins - DPIRD

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the LEMC meeting held 11 March 2024 be confirmed.

Moved – Stuart Kerr

Seconded – Danielle Wisewould

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 BEN Signs – Update on instalments, BENS and Life Buoys. Recfishwest is interested in pursuing the idea. Waiting on update from Mark Cruickshank.

5.2 Bremer Airstrip Funding

Still in the clearing permit stage. Shire staff are working to progress this. Funding provisions do not cover the escalating costs.

6. MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - Any updates to contacts *Appendix 4* and WhatsApp

Members to advise Russell of any membership updates.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 SEMC – Emergency Preparedness Report [2023 Emergency Preparedness Report \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au)
- 7.2 DFES and Education Department – School closure clarification, triggers and risk rating reports – If the Fire Behaviour Index is great than 75 and the school has a specific risk rating, then the school will be closed.
- 7.3 AWS in WA – *Appendix 5*
- 7.4 Emergency WA updates and changes – The website has a new vendor so has had changes to the way it looks.

That the Correspondence be accepted.

Moved – Russell Palmer

Seconded – Stuart Kerr

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 LEMA

The LEMA is close to being finished. Russell needs assistance with ensuring the contacts are updated. Russell to work with Danielle to finalise and then forward to Charlotte at DFES for review.

9. ROUND TABLE

9.1 Jerramungup Police – Stuart Kerr

- The Bremer Bay Police Post has approval to proceed but was awaiting a signature from an authorised person.
- Had a few staff issues with sickness.
- Mostly roads policing this time of year, there have been vehicle crashes at the Boxwood turnoff.
- Police Emergency Management plans are up to date.
- Concerned about lack of support from WA Health when winter sports are played in Jerramungup. Event is supposed to stop if no ambulance. Police resource according to where the risk is.
 - Danielle noted that from St Johns perspective, if there is an incident at either a Jerramungup or Boxwood Hill home game then Gairdner attend as back up. There would be approximately a 20minute gap between ambulances being in attendance. There will be two ambulances at the Grand Final.
 - Charmaine noted that from the Shire’s perspective, they have been working with Bev Brooks who is on the Health Advisory Board. This has become political and correspondence has been sent to the Minister.

Agreed that both the LEMC and the Police can advocate for an improved Health service.

9.2 St John Ambulance – Danielle Wisewould

- St Johns currently have a temporary Community Paramedic (CP) for four weeks. He is doing everything he can to help the volunteers until a permanent CP is appointed.
- The grant application for the Bremer Sub Centre was unsuccessful. There will be a meeting on 15 June to brainstorm and decide the next step. One option being considered is a Sub Centre plan which has been used in a number of other towns in the wheatbelt region.
- Renovations at the Jerramungup Sub Centre are progressing and should be completed by early July.
- Callouts have been on and off, which is usual during winter.

9.3 Health - Nil

9.4 DPIRD - Nil

9.5 Department of Communities – Jo Spadaccini (TEAMS) *Appendix 8*

9.6 DFES DEMA – Charlotte Powis (TEAMS) *Appendix 7*

- State Emergency Management Committee are doing an audit of out-of-date LEMAs across the state.
- When the Shire of Jerramungup LEMA is complete Charlotte will check it before it goes to Council and through the approval process. The next SEMC meeting is 7 August 2024.
- Raised the issue of telecommunications at the DEMC. There are a number of concerns across the region and this has escalated to the SEMC. Next DEMC is 26 June 2024.

9.7 CBFCO – Alex Jones

- One reportable incident which was started by a slashing machine on a private property.
- A couple of little fires dealt with by neighbours during stubble burning.
- Has been making sure permits are up-to-date, not burning during High Fire Danger and extending the burning season when required. Pleased with permits this year.
- Had to override the fire danger rating when required. (In the Fire Weather Zone, a High Fire Danger can be triggered by 10% of the zone having specific conditions for one hour.)

9.8 CESM – Russell Palmer *Appendix 6*

- Point Henry Bush Fire Ready Group do not want to be aligned with the Brigade or the Shire.

9.9 DBCA - Greg Williams

- Not many fires in the Fitzgerald National Park, which was good.
- Had planned to burn a corner, however this was put on hold due to conditions.
- Two minor incidents, one where a vehicle ran off the road and the other went their own way off road in the Park and needed to be rescued.
- Grading of Park roads underway, including Pabelup Drive and Point Ann roads.

9.10 VFES – Jeremy Wisewould

- VFES has been fairly quiet with three callouts.
- Anthony Armstrong will move to more of a support role until his health is sorted out after a stint in hospital.
- Volunteers have frustrations about the instructions they receive when being called out.
- DFES Comms Centre provides different messages to the St Johns Comms Centre for the same incident.
 - Russell to raise this with DFES.

9.11 Bush Fire Risk Management Coordinator – Dan Biddulph

- It was a busy autumn and seven hazard reduction burns were conducted in Bremer Bay in good conditions. A huge thank you too all the volunteers and to CBFCO Alex for his support. The community is now a safer place.
- The Bush Fire Mitigation contractor started machine slashing and mulching today.
- Areas around Gairdner school, Jerramungup and Boxwood Hill will have some minor works carried out over the next few months.
- The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan review will be finalised in the next few months.

9.12 Marine Rescue – Nil

9.13 Shire of Jerramungup – Charmaine Solomon

- The Shire's contract with Livingston Medical has been secured for another ten years.
- Livingston Medical have appointed a new Doctor.
- The Shire has approached the Minister in relation to the St John Ambulance Bremer Bay Sub Centre build.
- The Shire is now a registered RoadWise Council. Safety audits are planned for Derrick Street, Lancaster Road near the school, and the Bremer Bay skatepark area during peak times.
- Sealing of Cuiss Road into the National Park will happen in September/October. Hopefully this will encourage the State to improve Park roads as well.
- The airstrip project is still in the clearing permit stage.
- The Main Roads funding available for the flood crossing on Boxwood Ongerup Road only allows replacement of like for like.
- Point Henry Strategic Breaks will be done in September/October.
- The Shire has secured a long term rental in Bremer Bay for the Ranger. This will commence later in the year.

9.14 Shire President – Cr Joanne Iffla

- The Shire is part of the South Coast Alliance (City of Albany, Shire of Denmark, Shire of Plantagenet, Shire of Jerramungup) which meets four times per year.
- The Alliance had a report commissioned in relation to South Coast Highway. The data was damning. One road train per week rolls over on the Highway.
- The Alliance has also drafted a letter to Western Power drawing attention to their lack of service. Roundabout works in the City of Albany were held up two months due to Western Power. This letter to be circulated to LEMC and to DEMC.

Noted that Russell will send a letter from the LEMC to Anthony Armstrong wishing him well.

10. NEXT MEETING

(Appendix 2 2024/25 Meeting and Exercise Dates)

The next LEMC meeting is to be held Monday, 9 September 2024, at Jerramungup CRC.

11. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 1.10pm.

Appendix 1

ATTENDEES:		1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
NAME	ORGANISATION	11/09/2023	11/12/2023	11/03/2024	10/06/2024
Cr Joanne Iffla Chairperson	Cr Joanne Iffla, Shire President – Shire of Jerramungup	Apology	Cr Joanne Iffla	Cr Julie Leenhouders	Cr Joanne Iffla
Stuart Kerr Local Emergency Coordinator	Officer in Charge – Jerramungup Police Station	Dave Atkins	Sgt Ed Duffy Scott Smith	Stuart Kerr	Stuart Kerr
Local Recovery Coordinator	Chief Executive Officer - Shire of Jerramungup, Martin Cuthbert	Martin Cuthbert	Martin Cuthbert	Martin Cuthbert	Apology
Local Welfare Liaison Officer	Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Shire of Jerramungup, Charmaine Solomon	Apology	Apology	Charmaine Solomon	Charmaine Solomon
Russell Palmer Executive Officer	Community Emergency Services Officer - Shire of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe	Russell Palmer Via zoom (Glenda Gray – minutes)	Russell Palmer	Russell Palmer	Russell Palmer (Glenda Gray – minutes)
Shire of Jerramungup	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator	Mal Grant	Position Vacant	Daniel Biddulph	Daniel Biddulph
Shire of Jerramungup	Ranger - Shire of Jerramungup	Mark Cruickshank	Mark Cruickshank	Mark Cruickshank	Apology
Shire of Jerramungup	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Shire of Jerramungup	Alex Jones	Alex Jones	Apology	Alex Jones
DFES	DFES District Officer	Apology	Danial Pell	Stephen Petersen	Stephen Petersen Apology
Charlotte Powis	DFES District Emergency	Apology	Apology	Charlotte Powis	Charlotte Powis

DFES	Management Advisor Great Southern				Via TEAMS
DBCA	DBCA	Vince Hilder Andy Benton	Vince Hilder	Vince Hilder	Greg Williams Matt Prophet Apology
St John Ambulance	St John Ambulance - Community Paramedic	Apology	Apology	Apology	
St John Ambulance	St John Ambulance, Jerramungup	Danielle Wisewould	Danielle Wisewould	Danielle Wisewould	Danielle Wisewould
DPIRD	Research Officer - DPIRD	John Collins Via Zoom	John Collins Via TEAMS	apology	Apology
Water Corp	Operations Manager – Water Corp				
Dept of Communities			Sharon Austin via TEAMS	Sharon Austin via TEAMS	Jo Spadaccini Via TEAMS
WA Country Health Service	WA Country Health Service				
Debra Eggleston	Director of Nursing – Ravensthorpe district hospital				
Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES	Anthony Armstrong	Apology		Jeremy Wisewould & Siwel Solomon
Michael Bachelor	Bremer Bay VFES	Apology	Michael Bachelor		
Jason Willcocks	Bremer Bay Marine Rescue		Jason Willcocks		

Appendix 2

JERRAMUNGUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2024/25 MEETING & EXERCISE DATES

Period	Date	Location	Exercise
1 st Quarter	Monday 9 September 2024	Jerramungup CRC	Tentative – Evacuation Centre exercise run by Dept Communities
2 nd Quarter	Monday 9 December 2024	Bremer Bay VFES	
3 rd Quarter	Monday 10 March 2025	Jerramungup CRC	
4 th Quarter	Monday 9 June 2025	Jerramungup CRC	

NOTE:

- Meeting start time is 1200hrs, unless otherwise advised.
- Agenda Items to be received 2 weeks prior to the meeting date. (8 Talking Points as per appendix 3).

Appendix 3

Local Emergency Management Committee

Member Report Talking Points

1. What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses? (do you have enough trained and/or experienced people, resources)
2. What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy?
3. Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)
4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe?
5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations?
6. Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency
7. What community engagement activities have you carried out / have planned
8. How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience?

Appendix 5

THE AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM (AWS) IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I am writing to advise you that Western Australia will soon adopt nationally consistent warnings through the Australian Warning System (AWS). The AWS is a three-level warning framework consisting of standardised warning level names and colours, along with a clear call to action.

The AWS has been developed based on national research and community consultation. Its implementation was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements that examined the extreme bushfire season of 2019/2020 which resulted in devastating loss of life and property across the country.

Western Australia has taken a phased approach to the implementation, with AWS icons and colours applied to bushfire warnings in 2021, followed by AWS-compliant heatwave warnings implemented in 2022.

To achieve full implementation, cyclone, flood and storm warnings will also adopt the new system on 15 July 2024. This means warnings for these hazards will align with bushfire and heatwave warnings and be referred to as *Advice*, *Watch and Act*, and *Emergency Warning* and feature the corresponding warning colours of yellow, orange and red.

AWS warnings will also feature an action statement to give affected communities clear advice about what action to take to stay safe. These action statements can be found on the DFES website at dfes.wa.gov.au/aws.

The AWS will bring Western Australia in line with all other Australian States and Territories, ensuring travellers and those in cross-border areas receive consistent emergency information.

An awareness campaign will be rolled out to help the community better understand the new AWS warnings. The campaign will run across television, radio, print, online, outdoor and social media. Resources will be available on the DFES website once the campaign is underway. This will be supported by community engagement in the lead-up to the 2024/2025 southern bushfire and northern cyclone seasons.

Importantly, I encourage your Local Government staff, personnel and relevant stakeholders to complete *AWS Awareness*, a self-paced e-learning module that provides an overview of the AWS and how it applies in Western Australia. The training is available by contacting the DFES Public Information Branch.

For decision-makers, additional online training will be available in coming weeks with further details to be provided on the DFES Intranet and Volunteer Hub.

Finally, some exciting new developments are planned for the State's official emergency information website, [Emergency WA \(www.emergency.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au). These include the launch of a new Emergency WA mobile application that will enable users to receive emergency information tailored to them. Translated warnings, integration with in-home and wearable smart devices and new accessibility features are also being developed. I look forward to bringing you more details regarding the rollout of these exciting new features later in the year.

For more information about the rollout of the AWS, the *AWS Awareness* course, or the Next Gen Emergency WA project please contact the DFES Public Information Branch at statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au.

The Public Information Branch can also assist with providing resources to help communicate the changes with your local communities.

Yours sincerely

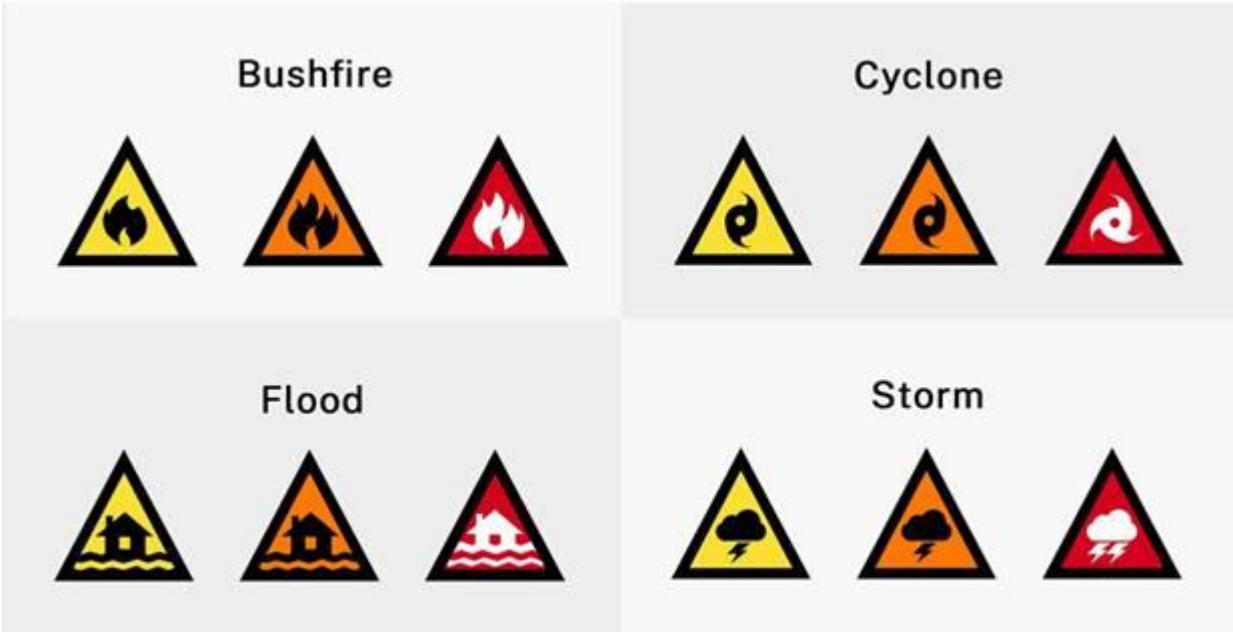


MELISSA PEXTON

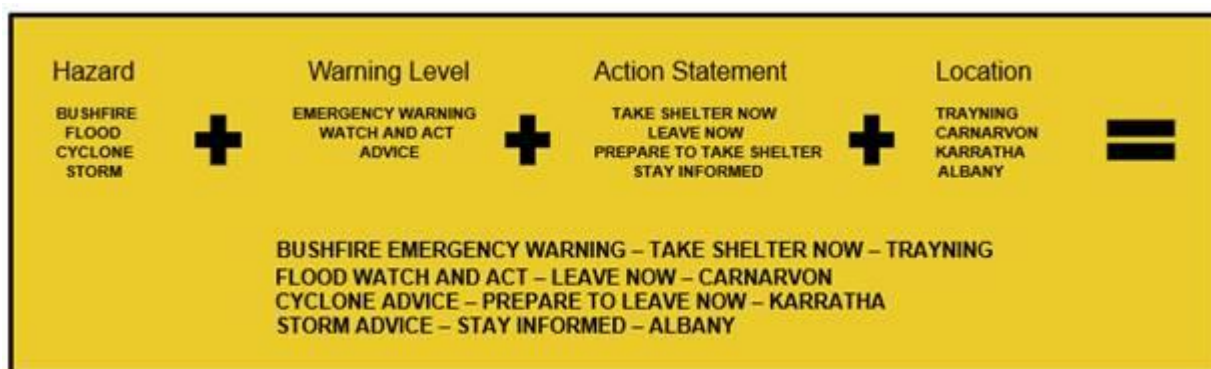
ACTING COMMISSIONER

21 May 2024

Australian Warning System Icons



Structure of an AWS warning



Appendix 6

CESM Report LEMC 10 June 2024

Very few changes since my last report

1. **What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses?** As stated in previous reports, The Shire’s resources have the capability to manage most incidents as they present. Progress has been made at DFES to improve access to initial brigade training by providing online access to these courses. Rural Fire Awareness aimed at support and seasonal workers is now available online. A new blended version (Mixture of online and face to face) of Bushfire Safety Awareness has been trialled with our brigades but at this stage there has been limited uptake from the volunteers. I will be trying again closer to the recognised fire season.

Incident Control and AIIMS training will need to be considered going forward as there are only a limited number within our volunteer ranks with the training and experience to carry out this vital role during larger protracted incidents.

One aspect of response that we are encouraging with volunteers and the community is the use of 000 for reporting ALL incidents.

2. **What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy?** Most brigades are well served by volunteers and there have been several new members enrolled.

3. **Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)** The changes to the WHS laws have highlighted the importance of maintaining official training and adherence to SOPs and protocols such as supply and wearing of PPE/PPC but all of these are currently being addressed at a Shire and BGU level.

3. **Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe?** None at this stage but will be working with Police to address this in the next few months.

4. **If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations?** Recent incidents have highlighted the need for calling 000 and have further supported the requirement for Incident controller and commander training. The importance of public information has been highlighted around the state. This needs to be a priority for incident control when dealing with larger and more threatening incidents. Issues with traffic control and road closures has again been raised at a state level. If Main Roads or Police assistance are required, this can be requested through Comcen.

5. **Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency** Depending on the type of emergency, there may be some limitations but known issues have been identified and are being worked through. I am planning to conduct a training and awareness campaign at the local High School later this year. I will also be working with the New Community Preparedness Advisor at DFEs Regional Office to look at ways we can get the community more involved in their own preparedness. Meeting is scheduled for the first week in June this year.

6. **What community engagement activities have you carried out / have planned** Nothing specific this quarter. See point 6 above.

7. **How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience?** The Shire of Jerramungup is constantly reviewing strategies and has proven to be a very resilient community in the past.

Russell Palmer

CESM Jerramungup

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
May to July 2024**

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held 8 May 2024 with the next meeting scheduled for 7 August 2024. SEMC Communiques can be found [here](#).

STATE CONSULTATION REQUESTS

Review - State Hazard Plan Fire – DFES

The Department of Fire and Emergency (DFES) is progressing a comprehensive review of the State Hazard Plan - Fire. This strategic level plan provides an overview of arrangements for the management of fire emergencies in Western Australia.

For the initial phase of the review, DFES is seeking feedback on the existing [State Hazard Plan - Fire](#) from agencies with responsibilities within the Plan, including Local Government.

For further information and to provide feedback go to the [State Hazard Plan - Fire consultation webpage](#).

This initial phase of consultation closed on **Friday 31 May 2024**.

WALGA asked Local Governments to provide a copy of their feedback to inform WALGA comments on the Plan via [email](#) by **27 May 2024**.

Feedback received will inform DFES' development of a draft State Hazard Plan - Fire and proposed amendments which will be provided for broad consultation with emergency management stakeholders during June and July 2024. WALGA will prepare a submission on the Plan on behalf of the sector.

Review - State Recovery Arrangements in the EM Framework – DFES

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is undertaking a review of state level recovery coordination and governance arrangements provided in the State Emergency Management Framework.

The purpose of the review is to better define when and how the state government will provide recovery coordination support to local governments and communities following emergencies. This will include clarifying the role, membership, responsibilities and accountability of key state level recovery coordination positions and groups and the DFES Resilience and Recovery Portfolio.

The review will not change the role and responsibilities currently held by local government under the Emergency Management Act 2005 and State Emergency Management Framework, however it will clarify the circumstances and arrangements for state support to local governments and/or involvement of a state appointed recovery coordinator.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements are not a focus of this review.

Local Government Focus Group Sessions

As part of the review, DFES will conduct 2-3 focus group sessions in June with local government representatives that have recent disaster recovery experience. The purpose of the focus group sessions is to test the policy options and obtain preliminary feedback to inform the review.

All local governments and the emergency management sector will have the opportunity to review the proposed changes and provide feedback via a formal three-month consultation period later this year. The consultation period will include a program of webinars and engagement sessions for local government.

Following the consultation period, proposed amendments will be provided to the Community Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee for endorsement and to SEMC for approval.

For further information, please contact Simone Clarke, DFES State Recovery, at simone.clarke@dfes.wa.gov.au

Review – State Support Plan- Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development is undertaking a comprehensive review of [State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#). The purpose of the State Support Plan - Animal Welfare is to provide the community of Western Australia, including emergency services and the animal management sector, with a document that integrates arrangements for animal welfare with the State's formal management arrangements to ensure that animals are planned for and their welfare is appropriately addressed in any emergency.

The DFES State Emergency Management Policy Branch is now seeking broad stakeholder feedback on the proposed amendments and welcomes other questions or comments you have in relation to this Plan via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).

The consultation period is open now until the 12 August 2024.

WA Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan Discussion Paper

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is developing the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) to support Local Governments advance climate change adaptation and emergency management goals together.

The EM-SAP will be one of seven sector-based plans delivered to help implement the [Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy](#). An [EM-SAP Discussion Paper](#) has been released to gather input from EM stakeholders about sector-specific adaptation actions.

WALGA coordinated a targeted consultation with Local Governments to inform this pivotal SEMC initiative. WALGA held an **EM-SAP Information Webinar on 14 February** and **Interactive Workshops for Local Governments on 20, 21 and 26 February** to collaboratively explore the questions posed in the [EM-SAP Discussion Paper](#).

Broader community consultation on the discussion paper has now closed with the delivery of the final EM SAP expected in mid-2024

STATE ADVICE

Amendments to State Emergency Management documents

On 6 March 2024, the SEMC approved the comprehensive review of the State Hazard Plan – Crash Emergency which provides an overview of arrangements for the management of crash emergencies in Western Australia. The Plan can be viewed via the [SEMC website](#).

At the March meeting, the SEMC also approved an extension for the comprehensive review of:

- State Hazard Plan – Energy Supply Disruption (to August 2024)
- State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity (to December 2024).

Amendment to Traffic Management during Emergencies Guideline

The SEMC Executive Officer has approved a statement of fact change to the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guideline in support of the Wooroloo Bushfire Review Recommendation 8: *DFES should consider establishment of road clearing capability to complement bushfire response, with the sole purpose of clearing roads to provide safe return of residents as soon as possible after fire.*

The latest version of the [Traffic Management During Emergencies Guideline](#) and [details of the amendment](#) are available on the SEMC website.

For any queries, please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report

The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report has now been released. This report is a snapshot in time of the level of emergency management capability and preparedness we have, as a state, to manage before, during and after emergency events. It highlights our strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement statewide, and combines the input from about 170 agencies.

[2023 Emergency Preparedness Report](#)

Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook and useful tools

The [LEMC handbook](#) provides local governments with a summary of the actions and best practice principles as required under section 38 – 40 of the Emergency Management Act 2005, State Emergency Management Policy, procedures, and guidelines.

The LEMC Handbook provides a summary of the WA emergency management arrangements, key roles, and responsibilities and best practice advice for the administration of LEMC.

The Handbook also includes sample LEMC Terms of Reference and Meeting Agenda templates, which can be downloaded from the SEMC website.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Natural disasters or terrorist acts can result in large-scale expenditure in the form of emergency and recovery assistance. To assist with this financial burden, the Australian and Western Australian governments have joint arrangements in place to provide financial assistance in certain circumstances. These arrangements are referred to as the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) and are administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the WA State Government.

Recovery from disasters is a shared responsibility between individuals, households, businesses, communities and governments. The arrangements are designed as a safety net when costs to undertake recovery activities from an eligible disaster become significant.

For assistance to be made available under the DRFAWA, the event must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. The event was one or a combination of the ten specified disasters including bushfire, earthquake, flood, storm, cyclone, storm surge, landslide, tsunami, meteorite strike, tornado; or the event was a terrorist act.
2. A coordinated, multi-agency response was required.
3. Eligible expenditure relating to emergency assistance, damage to essential public assets and/or other eligible assistance provided in relation to the event exceeds \$240,000 across the affected local government areas.

For more information go to <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding>

For any queries, please email drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au or call 1800 920 659.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 26th June 2024.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Please check the due date for your five-yearly LEMA reviews and allow a minimum of six months to complete the LEMA review process. Funding opportunities are available to assist with LEMA reviews.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements Review

The Improvement Program and implementation approach has now been finalised and endorsed by the SEMC at their December 2023 meeting. More information can be found at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-emergency-management-committee/lema-improvement-program>

Given the timeframes of the program please don't delay in preparing any LEMA that are due or nearly due for their 5-year review.

In March 2024, Simone Ruane (who coordinated WALGA's LEMA Review Project), was appointed the role of Project Lead for the LEMA Improvement Program and commenced project planning.

District Emergency and Local Emergency Management Committees Review

In May 2022 SEMC meeting, members approved a review of the roles of District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC).

The review has concluded and was tabled at the December SEMC meeting. For more information go to:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-emergency-management-committee/review-district-and-local-emergency-management-committees>

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) oversees the distribution of grant funding to support activities that reduce disaster risk and enhance WA's resilience to disasters.

Information on funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

The National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program

The National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program is established under a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Disaster Risk Reduction (2019-2024). It seeks to proactively reduce the risk and limit the impact of disasters associated with natural hazards on Western Australian communities and economies.

All-West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program.

The All-West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program for 2024-25 will open at 8 am, 20 May 2024 and close at 12 noon, 1st July 2024.

Funding:

- The 2024 round has a total allocation of \$200,000.
- Projects could apply for between \$2,500 – \$35,000 (no GST applied), including local level risk assessment projects.
- Applicants must contribute at least 25 percent of the total project cost in cash and/ or in-kind.

Eligible project types:

- Furthering the emergency risk management process
- Facilitating capability-based exercises
- Assistance in reviewing Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)
- Delivering emergency management training, events, or forums

How to apply:

- All applications must be submitted through the [online portal](#) available on the [SEMC Website](#).
- A sample application is available on [SEMC Website](#) for reference only.

Successful AWARE grant recipients from previous rounds can be found at:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-11/AWARE-recipients-2022-23.pdf>

Further information on AWARE grant programs is available at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-emergency-management-committee/apply-grant-the-all-west-australians-reducing-emergencies-aware-program>

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is an Australian Government initiative that will deliver up to \$200 million in funding over five years from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028, to fund projects that support natural disaster resilience and risk reduction.

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) – Round Two applications closed on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

Please contact semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au for further information on the grant programs.

2024 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 7 August 2024
- 4 December 2024
- 2 October 2024

**Compiled by: Charlotte Powis
District Emergency Management Advisor
Great Southern
Department of Fire and Emergency Services.**



Department of Communities

Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC background information – 4th quarter 2023-2024

State-wide audit evacuation centres

- Department of Communities (Communities) is conducting audits of the State's nominated evacuation centres.
- The audits are to identify hazard-specific risks relevant to the region and to identify opportunities for local governments to upgrade facilities to mitigate these risks.
- Communities would like to engage with local governments (LGs) and WALGA to discuss opportunities through the Disaster Ready Fund grants for 2025 to improve these facilities and mitigate risks in emergency events.
- Reach out to your Emergency Relief and Support Regional Coordinator or email erspartners@communities.wa.gov.au for more information.

Disaster Ready Fund

Several LGs in Western Australia (WA) submitted applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) in 2024 to support the improvement of their facilities used as evacuation centres.

Communities had the opportunity to review LGs applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provided to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for 2024 and assessed that the projects would contribute to the State's ability to provide emergency accommodation for evacuating communities. All applications were considered suitable to progress for further consideration in the DRF process.

Local EM Information

- Evacuation Centre Training will be a priority for all the regions over the next 6 months. Can all LEMC members please identify staff that require training. Ideally it would be best suited to conduct this training in a gazetted evacuation centre.
- Exercising please ensure that any exercises that occur that the department of Communities are invited. We would be happy to consider an inject to this exercise if it is appropriate.

Communities 2023/24 High Threat Season Activations

The Communities Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) Directorate would like to acknowledge and thank all of our local and state partners for the assistance and support provided over the 2023-24 season.

Since October 2023, there has been a total of 40 events supported by Communities including:

- Activation under the AUSRECEPLAN– Israel and Gaza repatriation
- Pre-planning undertaken for 3 high threat weather events, that didn't result in activation.
- 457 people were supported during events through our client management system
- 1 active and declared recovery event (under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) - Mariginiup Fire.
- just prior to Christmas 2023, there were 6 activations supported by Communities over just 2 days (20-22 December).

Our team looks forward to working with you all over the coming months as we prepare for the 2024-25 season.

Communities Recovery Activities

1. Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

- The Kimberley Floods Recovery program has moved into its second year, with a revised focus on community resilience and wellbeing with an aim of creating a way forward for the community post the floods.
- Communities maintains community recovery officers at the Fitzroy Crossing Flood Hub operated by the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, working in partnership with the Shire, DFES, DPIRD and other partner agencies to deliver the outcomes of the State Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- [Kimberley-Floods-State-Recovery-and-Resilience-plan-2023-2024.pdf \(website-files.com\)](#)
- Communities is managing the recovery needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by the flood. This is called the Social domain and is focused on safety, security, shelter, health, the psychosocial wellbeing of displaced individuals and community resilience.
- Communities also manages a component of the infrastructure and built environment Domain, with recovery activities focussed on clean-up, repair and reconstruction of buildings homes and roads.

2. Mariginiup Fires Recovery Program

- Communities is supporting the City of Wanneroo to deliver the psychosocial wellbeing and financial support elements of the recovery program.
- Communities has engaged several psychologists to support impacted resident referrals and has delivered a financial assistance package aimed at supporting the replacement of essential household items damaged in the fires.

Communities Recovery Activities

- Communities is currently supporting the City with site visits to damaged properties to commence the clean-up program to ensure residents have access to support services if required.
- [Mariginiup Bushfire Recovery Information.pdf](#)

3. Great Southern News

- New Staff will commence as the ERS Regional Coordinator for the Great Southern will commence on the 21st June 2024. The Great Southern emergency phone number is still 0403 906 639.
- **If there is an emergency, please phone the All Hazards on Call phone
0418 943 835**
- Friday 26/4/2024 activation and set up of an evacuation centre in Walpole.