



SHIRE OF MANJIMUP



20 March 2024

Minutes

Local Emergency Management Committee

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Minutes of Meeting held 20 March 2024

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Meeting held in the Shire of Manjimup JC Rose Room in the Shire Office building Rose Street Manjimup on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

1. Declaration of Opening the Meeting

Shire of Manjimup - Shire President, Cr Donelle Buegge assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 1.08pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work throughout the region and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance / Apologies

2.1 Attendance

Members - Voting

Cr Donelle Buegge	Shire of Manjimup - Shire President
Ben Rose	Shire of Manjimup - Chief Executive Officer
Todd Ridley	Shire of Manjimup - Community Emergency Services Manager
Remo Pessotto	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Ian Guthridge	Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development
Ross Bartley	WA Police Service - Pemberton
Justine Kelly	Warren Health Services
Jeffrey Bennett	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (proxy)

8

Members Non Voting & Invited Guests

Nicole Favero	Shire of Manjimup - Ranger & Emergency Services Admin Officer
Stephen Burch	Shire of Manjimup – Senior Ranger (Acting)
Erin Hutchins	DFES – District Emergency Management Advisor
Gail Ipsen Cutts	Shire of Manjimup – Recovery Coordinator
Mel Robertson	Water Corporation
Colin Jones	Western Power
Renee Flaxman	Department of Communities
Glenn Beringer	WA Police Service - Manjimup
Anthony Willetts	Main Roads
Patrick Dowling	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Craig Kelly	WA Police Service – Walpole
Rhys Bishop	WA Police Service – Walpole

2.2 Apologies

David Rae	St John's Ambulance Walpole (Community Paramedic SW Great Southern)
Bruce Hancock	Main Roads
Tim Foley	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Jayden Lowe	WA Police Service - Manjimup
Steve Page	WA Police Service – Walpole
Chris Sousa	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Paige Weaver	Pemberton Northcliffe Health Services

Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO arrived at 1.14pm.

3. Declaration of Financial Interest

Nil

4. LEMC – Update Terms of Reference Membership Contact List

The distribution contact list was updated by all in attendance. There are some changes to positions that will be dealt with in General Business.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday, 28 June 2023 and the Informal Notes of Meeting held Wednesday, 13 December 2023.

RECOMMENDATION/LEMC DECISION 2024/01

“That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 28 June 2023 and the Informal Notes of the Meeting held Wednesday, 13 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

Moved: Ross Bartley, Police - Pemberton

Seconded: Jeffrey Bennett, DBCA

CARRIED:8/8

6. Council's Response to Informal Notes of Meeting held Wednesday, 13 December 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Eiby, W SECONDED: Winfield,

C 29416

That Council receive the Informal Notes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Meeting held on 13 December 2023 as shown in the attached. Attachment: 9.16.2(1).

ADOPTED BY EN BLOC RESOLUTION: 9/0

7. Business Arising from Minutes

7.1 Action Task List

Action & Meeting Date	Item	Update	Status	Actioning Officer
07/23 13/12/2023	Local Emergency Management Arrangements - Review	13/12/23: LEMAs to be reviewed in 2024 20/03/24: After review, the LEMAs were endorsed at SEMC in March 2020 which takes the 5 year review date through to 2025. This will be actioned in 2025.	Completed	Todd Ridley

8. Correspondence *(copies can be available on request)*

8.1 Incoming

- Communities – LEMC Delegate Resignation of Roma Boucher received.
- Communities – LEMC Delegate Nomination of Renee Flaxman and Brooke Thomas as proxy to remain.
- Main Roads – Requesting to attend LEMC Meetings.
- Main Roads – Formal LEMC Membership Request and thank you for invite to meeting.
- Communities – LERSP – Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan – South West – Manjimup Region – Feb 2024 – Update with new name – to be tabled.

8.2 Outgoing

- Shire of Manjimup to LEMC Members – Unconfirmed Informal Notes from Meeting 13 December 2023.
- Shire of Manjimup to Main Roads - Response regarding LEMC Membership & invite to next Meeting as a guest.
- Shire of Manjimup to LEMC Members – LEMC Agenda, Minutes and Informal Notes from previous meeting and Events Matrix.

9. Events

The committee reviewed the events matrix, see *Item 9 Attachment*.

Ross Bartley, WA Police Service Pemberton, had concerns about the Tarmac Rally in Pemberton which has their Station access blocked during the event.

Gail Ipsen Cutts, Shire of Manjimup Recovery Coordinator, advised if he could bring this up at the after event review.

Donelle Buegge, Shire of Manjimup – Shire President, wanted to bring the Pemberton Mill Demolition to everyone’s awareness. There will be more trucks going through town and there may also be heightened anxiety within the community during this time.

10. Members Reports

10.1 Shire of Manjimup –Shire President – Cr Donelle Buegge

- Thank you to everyone involved in the fires/incidents over the Christmas and New Year periods, it is very much appreciated.
- Had concerns regarding the Telstra presentation at the last meeting. Coverage has gotten worse, will continue to bring up. In Walpole if there are any major issues the battery backup will not last long.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

10.2 Shire of Manjimup - CEO – Ben Rose

- District Emergency Management Committee Meeting has held yesterday and asked question without notice regarding LEMC, DEMC and SEMC flow on of information?

Eric Hutchins, District Emergency Management Advisor, responded that this information is distributed through her role. Also regarding Telstra many LGs having the same issue, if all LGs

got together and put in joint submission regarding the issues to Telstra, Erin can bring up at DEMC/SEMC.

Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO, would like to voice his displeasure at the Telco.

Donelle Buegge, Shire of Manjimup – Shire President, would like to talk to this at SWALGA, maybe write a report from our LEMC to other LEMCs then send all in together.

Shire of Manjimup LEMC Administration to liaise with other Shire's and prepare a report with recommendation for the next LEMC meeting on the Telco issues that can be put forward and presented at SWALGA. Add to Task List.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

10.3 Shire of Manjimup - CESM – Todd Ridley

- Thanks to Bush Fire Brigade network, DBCA and DFES for their work during the recent fires.
- Note to Police that Wheatley Coast Road has become a hot spot for accidents with heavy haulage vehicles.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

10.4 Shire of Manjimup - Recovery Coordinator – Gail Ipsen Cutts

- Had little to do from a Recovery perspective other than two additional staff recently completing Recovery Coordinator training.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

10.5 Shire of Manjimup - CBFCO – Remo Pessotto

Report was tabled, see Item 10.5 Attachment.

10.6 Department of Biodiversity, Conservations & Attractions – Jeff Bennett

Report was tabled, see Item 10.6 Attachment.

Remo Pessotto, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, enquired on the long-term forecast?

Jeff Bennett, DBCA, responded that the forecast is for a dry and warmer autumn with no rain.

10.7 Department of Communities – Renee Flaxman

Report was tabled see Item 10.7 Attachment.

- The Department of Communities also tabled their *Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan – South West – Manjimup Region – Feb 2024* that was received in correspondence. This has been updated with the new naming and descriptions.

10.8 Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Patrick Dowling

Report was tabled, see Item 10.8 Attachment.

10.9 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Ian Guthridge

Highlight:

After detection in Feb 2023 and a year long response led by DPIRD, WA been again declared free from QFly on 11 March 2024.

Qfly is one of the most serious pests of fruit and fruiting vegetables in Australia, attacking over 300 species of fruit and vegetables and impacting a range of horticulture industries and access to valuable markets.

Lowligh:

DPIRD weather modellers don't show significant rainfall in the next month and continued dry and warm conditions to continue, this is becoming an issue to local farmers, particularly as many have lower than normal fodder reserves with fodder prices also extremely high adding to the stresses of feeding livestock.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting with email confirmation after meeting.

10.10 District Emergency Management Advisor - DFES – Erin Hutchins

Report was tabled see Item 10.10 Attachment.

10.11 St John Ambulance

Manjimup – Gary Willcox - Community Paramedic SW

No report received and not in attendance

Walpole – David Rae - Community Paramedic GS

No report received – apologies as away.

10.12 WA Country Health Service

Pemberton Northcliffe Health Service – Paige Weaver

No report received and not in attendance.

Warren Health Service – Justine Kelly

Report was tabled, see Item 11.7 Attachment.

Erin Hutchins, DEMA, enquired if winter has same protocol and impact on resources?

Justine Kelly, Warren Health Service, advised this is correct and they do not attend if sick. A lot of COVID kits are now out of date and recommends everyone checks their supplies as could produce false positives or negatives.

Remo Pessotto, CBFCA, asked about safety if police cannot attend to assist and if security is onsite?

Justine Kelly, Warren Health Service, answered no, security is an external company and a physical presence only.

10.13 WA Police

Pemberton – Ross Bartley

From 1 January 2024 to present

- Attended 7 traffic crashes - mix of injuries (although some serious – nil life threatening).
- Two recent industry heavy vehicles crashes. In both cases they were single vehicle accidents with the driver losing control.
- Planned Event: Tarmac Rally – Pemberton 22/23 March 2024.
Full road closures in Pemberton town site and surrounds.

The above report was received via email prior to meeting.

Manjimup – Glen Beringer

- Drugs a huge problem.
- Next court date is full and the one after is already half full which is unheard of.
- Mental health impacts being seen, challenging times.

- LandSAR search training being completed.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Paddy Dowling, DFES, asked regarding the predominant drug of choice?

Glen Beringer, WA Police Manjimup, advised cannabis. At vehicle check points using drug wipes, one in eight cars testing positive and these are usually targeted.

Donelle Buegge, Shire of Manjimup – Shire President, advised at last Council meeting they requested from Manjimup Police an update on the Meth situation in Manjimup and Pemberton.

Justine Kelly, Warren Health Service, asked if there is a hard-line approach, look at pursuing prosecution with consequences for action?

Gail Ipsen-Cutts, Shire of Manjimup Recovery Coordinator, asked if there is sufficient Mental Health support in the area?

Justine Kelly, Warren Health Service, advised that they are looking at getting a psych nurse in Warren area.

Mel Robertson, Water Corporation, advised regarding the drug testing and locating areas of concern, that if they receive a formal request, they can assist with water testing which can effectively bring it back to the household.

Walpole – Craig Kelly

No report received.

Craig Kelly, WA Police Walpole, had a question for Health being, are there legislative requirements for recording those who are receiving Fitpacks, distribution, ID, CCTV footage?

Justine Kelly, Warren Health Service, answered due to confidentiality and privacy they cannot record ID and if done would then create further issues of those people sourcing elsewhere.

Craig Kelly, WA Police Walpole, asked if Underhill Road Walpole is allowed to be used by Logging Trucks?

Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO, requested an email regarding Underhill Road Walpole so it can be followed up.

Craig Kelly, WA Police Walpole, asked if the Golf Cup requires a permit from the Shire and also advised regarding the Golf buggies on the Bib Track, they even removed the bollards to access?

Todd Ridley, CESM, advised regarding the permit that it is not required as it is a fit for purpose facility.

10.14 Water Corporation – Mel Robertson

- The local focus is working with our strategic teams on water security, in terms of quantity, due to the drying climate and projected reduction in rain this season. The longer term solution is highlighted on the website, <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Outages-and-works/Ongoing-Works/Warren-Blackwood-Regional-Water-Supply-Scheme>.
- Thanks to the Shire and DBCA for their support in restricting water for firefighting purposes, where practical, in January when we were experiencing issues in Bridgetown, as the scheme is connected.

- Highlighted the impact of the communication outage in Nannup on 9 February 2024. Our system thankfully continued to run but we were unable to view our assets remotely.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting with email confirmation after meeting.

Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO, raised the Northcliffe Recreation Grounds water supply that has gone dry, cannot water bowling greens and now using scheme water. No water for oval for the 100th Year Anniversary celebrations and Council need a resolution and liaising with Water Corporation for assistance. Perhaps the dam could be expanded in collaboration with Water Corporation as this is also an Evacuation area for the community.

Mel Robertson, Water Corporation, advised they received this and requested that water for the 100th Year Anniversary that they use Quinninup Dam Emergency Services access pipe and regarding the dam expansion, to send Water Corporation an email and cc this to her as well so she can follow up.

10.15 Western Power – Colin Jones

- Several fires started by tree branches coming down on wires, very lucky with the quick attendance of firefighters. These types may continue with weather.
- Communications between departments has been really good.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Todd Ridley, CESM, asked if Western Power have any inspection powers on private property poles?

Colin Jones, Western Power, advised that their inspections only go to the meter pole, land owners need to get other areas inspected themselves.

11. General Business

11.1 Main Roads – Overview on Organisation & Request for LEMC Membership.

'Traffic Management at Incidents' document was tabled see Item 11.1 Attachment.

Anthony Willetts from Main Roads gave an overview on the organisation together with the attached report 'Traffic Management at Incidents'.

- They are looking at more presence in Manjimup with resources on ground. They have three traffic management crews with one permanently located in Manjimup that are on call 24/7 for any issues by calling 138138 and they are also happy to help out other departments/agencies.
- Two variable message boards permanently in Manjimup.
- Please note, once Main Roads close a road, only Main Roads can reopen it.
- Main Roads can assist Police with Traffic Management for road closures, alcohol and drug testing stops etc.

Craig Kelly and Rhys Bishop, WA Police Walpole, left the meeting at 2.36pm.

A formal application request was received from Main Roads WA, in correspondence in, requesting membership and future representation at LEMC Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION/LEMC DECISION 2024/02

“That Council confirm and accept the application for the addition of Main Roads WA as a non-voting membership to the Local Emergency Management Committee Terms of Reference 2023-2025, representatives being Bruce Hancock and Anthony Willetts.”

Moved: Jeff Bennett, DBCA
Seconded: Ian Guthridge, DPIRD

CARRIED: 8/8

11.2 Department of Communities – Member Resignation & New Delegate Nomination.

As per correspondence in, a formal resignation was received from Department of Communities delegate Roma Boucher, together with a separate nomination for the new delegate being Renee Flaxman and the proxy to remain as is with Brooke Thomas. However, during the meeting Renee Flaxman advised that the proxy has now been changed again and it is now to be revised as Mark Schorer.

RECOMMENDATION/LEMC DECISION 2024/03

That Council confirm and accept the amendments to Appointments of the Local Emergency Management Committee Terms of Reference 2023-2025, being Renee Flaxman as delegate and Mark Schorer as proxy for Department of Communities.”

Moved: Ian Guthridge, DPIRD
Seconded: Remo Pessotto, CBFCO

CARRIED: 8/8

11.3 Warren Health Service – Item Without Notice – Nomination of New Proxies.

Justine Kelly requested without notice, that she would like to add both Claudia Tshopp and Sharon Johnson who job share the Warren CNM role as her Proxies.

Todd Ridley CESM, sought clarification from Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO, who confirmed this is possible to have two proxies and to list them as Proxy A and Proxy B.

RECOMMENDATION/LEMC DECISION 2024/04

That Council confirm and accept the nomination to Appointments of the Local Emergency Management Committee Terms of Reference 2023-2025, being Claudia Tschopp as Proxy A and Sharon Johnson as Proxy B for Warren Health Services.”

Moved: Ben Rose, Shire of Manjimup CEO
Seconded: Todd Ridley, Shire of Manjimup CESM

CARRIED: 8/8

12. Next Meeting

Next General Meeting to be held 17 July 2024.

13. Declaration of Close of Meeting

The Chair, Shire of Manjimup - Shire President, Cr Donelle Buegge, thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2.41pm.

Remo Pessotto - CBFCO
Report for LEMC Meeting held on 20 March 2024

No of Fires

45 Fires up to now, Power poles, trees and branches falling over powerlines
Lighting strikes, reignitions from early burns.

Regulation Burning Times – Period we are in

- The prohibited has been extended up to the 29 March 2024, if there is no rain to bring the ground moisture profile up, we will look at extending the prohibited again for Zone 8 at this stage

No of Permits Issued

- Nil

Weather Conditions

Its very dry no moisture at all up to date little drizzle that we had dried up within half hour later.

Brigade Business / Issues

- Nil

Brigade Deployments

- Manjimup Shire has deployed appliances and volunteer crew to help out other Shires.

Vehicle Maintenance / Issues

- Nil

Communications

- Still having problems, mobile phone signal very bad at times while having a conversation it drops out, phone have to be dial up 2-3 times to try to get through to finish off the conversation very frustrating and annoying.

General Business

- Nil



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Warren Region Update for Manjimup LEMC meeting Wednesday 20 March 2024

Prescribed Burning

Nil prescribed burning since last meeting. Planning for autumn burning is well under way.

Bushfire

The Delta PFT was activated during the Level 2 Tattenham Road Bushfire in Donnelly District during December 2023. The fire started in private property and quickly spread into adjacent Dombakup state forest. The fire was initially controlled by the Shire of Manjimup and then handed over to DBCA. The fire burnt a total of 2,600 hectares including private property, state forest and the softwood plantation. The fire was controlled with the support of local brigades, DFES, local and wider regional DBCA fire crews and machine contractors.

Donnelly District has participated in the preparation of an Impact Statement for the December 2023 Tattenham Road Fire near Northcliffe that burnt 2,600 hectares of predominantly karri regrowth and mature forest. DBCA is preparing a Fire rehabilitation plan which may take into account potential salvage and replanting of severely impacted areas of regrowth.,

Due to the ongoing and extremely dry conditions, DBCA is regularly monitoring and patrolling recent fire grounds with a particular focus on Fires 8 and 13 in the Lake Muir Nature Reserve where the risk of reignitions from smouldering organic soils remains a risk.

Walpole Airstrip

During a recent water bomber activation out of the Walpole Airstrip, water bombers were stood down due to the presence of kangaroos on the strip. This poses a serious safety hazard for pilots and aircraft. Currently there is no grant application for the regional airstrips program but it could be a project to fence off the area in the future.

Jeff Bennett
Regional Leader Fire Management
Warren Region
Manjimup

Warren Region

Locked Bag 2, Manjimup, Western Australia 6258
Phone: (08) 97 717 988 Email: warren.admin@dbca.wa.gov.au
dbca.wa.gov.au



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTING

Agency:

**Department of Communities
(Communities)**

Shire of Manjimup

Report prepared by:	Renee Flaxman	Position:	Regional Coordinator
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Date: From – January 2024 to March 2024 inclusive

Report:

ERS Capability Audit

- Department of Communities (Communities) recently engaged Nous Group to audit the capability and capacity of the Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) sector across Western Australia (WA) to ensure that it can meet the relief and recovery needs of WA people now and in the future.
- The project focused on establishing a baseline of how well equipped the State is to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and critical events in the six functional areas of ERS that Communities is responsible for.
- The findings have presented valuable insights and opportunities to increase the current emergency relief and support services to respond during an emergency event more effectively.
- A new internal capability framework is being developed to assist with bridging some of the gaps identified from the audit.

Kimberley Floods

Overarching

Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie in January 2023, from which the Fitzroy Valley experienced a 1-in-100-year flood event, Department of Communities continues to support Fitzroy Valley residents impacted by the floods under the State Emergency Management arrangements, across Social and Built Recovery Domains.

Social Domain

Department of Communities has undertaken preparedness activities to increase resilience of temporary accommodation infrastructure including:

- Ensuring that all Humanihut accommodation in Bungardi and Tarunda are at the one-in-50-year flood level.
- Working with Humanihut in the preparedness phase to strengthen evacuation procedures in Bungardi and Tarunda, and
- Supporting the transition of individuals in Phase 1 temporary accommodation into Phase 2 temporary accommodation or to return to their home.

Built Domain

- Department of Communities supports Government agency partners Main Roads WA and Department of Finance under the Built Domain.
- Department of Communities has established a housing works program to repair and rebuild flood damaged dwellings that are government-owned or managed, or on Crown reserves managed by the Aboriginal Lands Trust or other management bodies.
- Department of Communities is supporting families whose homes require either major refurbishment or rebuild with transitional accommodation ahead of the wet season.
- Transitional accommodation includes more family friendly demountable accommodation that allows more space between families and is built to the 1-in-50-year flood level.
- Each transitional accommodation unit comprises a custom-built amenity module, a bathroom/bedroom module and a deck/veranda module. As of 30 August 2023, based on community consultation the Department of Communities is providing 44 transitional accommodation units across Bungardi, DarIngunaya, Loanbun, Burawa, Galeru Gorge, Karnparmi and Yurabi Road.

ERS new permanent structure

- In late 2022 the Department of Treasury sanctioned additional funding to bolster the resource capacity of the ERS to 36 full-time equivalents (FTE).. The changes will help improve service delivery, with a focus on additional resourcing to regions within WA.
- The ERS Directorate structure is comprised of three functional streams and ERS Executive Services:
- Stream 1 is responsible for Regional Response and Coordination
 - Immediate Response
 - Metropolitan and Regional Preparedness
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Regional Training
 - Locally led Recovery
 - Special Projects
- Stream 2 is responsible for Strategy and Capability
 - Capability Mapping, Intelligence and Reporting
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Stakeholder Engagement and Specialist Practice
 - Training and Development
 - Recovery
 - National and State Level Committees
DRFA and Special Project
- Stream 3 is responsible for Business Services
 - Human Resources including the coordination of Emergency Response Teams and Surge Workforce personnel
 - Finance

- Business Support and Administration
- ERS Systems
- Procurements, Grants, and Contracting
- Logistics
- Disaster Response Hotline
- DRFA Acquittals

Local EM Information

Stream 1

- Renee Flaxman is has stepped into the role of Regional Coordinator for the South West, with Sharon Austin acting in the role of Regional Officer until the end of March.

Training

- Evacuation Centre training with staff and stakeholders is ongoing, ensuring that individuals are well equipped to assist during and after an emergency event
Communities will continue to offer and encourage sessions in the coming months.

Emergency Relief and Support Plans

- Based on feedback received, the 'State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare (Interim)' has been renamed as the 'State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support'.
- The State EM Policy Branch at DFES has updated the State EM Framework documents, including revisions to welfare references and other consequential amendments.
- Template and terminology changes to the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan – LERSP (formerly the Local Emergency Welfare Plan – LEWP) are well under way across the state with the South West plans being ready for tabling. LEMC members are encouraged to review information related to their own agencies and notify Regional Coordinator if further changes need to be made.

South West Activations

Department of Communities has opened five evacuation centres since mid-December to date:

- Shire of Dardanup - Eaton Bushfire (21st to 22nd December 2023): Evacuation Centre opened at Eaton Recreation Centre then moved to Eaton Boomers Football Club
- Shire of Collie - Coolongatta Bushfire (11th to 12th January 2024): Evacuation Centre opened at Roche Park
- Shire of Nannup – Jalbarragup Millbrook State Forest Bushfire (17th to 18th January 2024) Recreation Centre
- Shire of Harvey – Leschenault & Australind Bushfire: Evacuation Centre opened at Eaton Recreation Centre
- Shire of Capel – Harewood Bushfire (10th March to 11th March 2024): Evacuation Centre opened at South West Sports Centre.



Shire of Manjimup LEMC DFES Report – 20 March 2024

Emergency Management

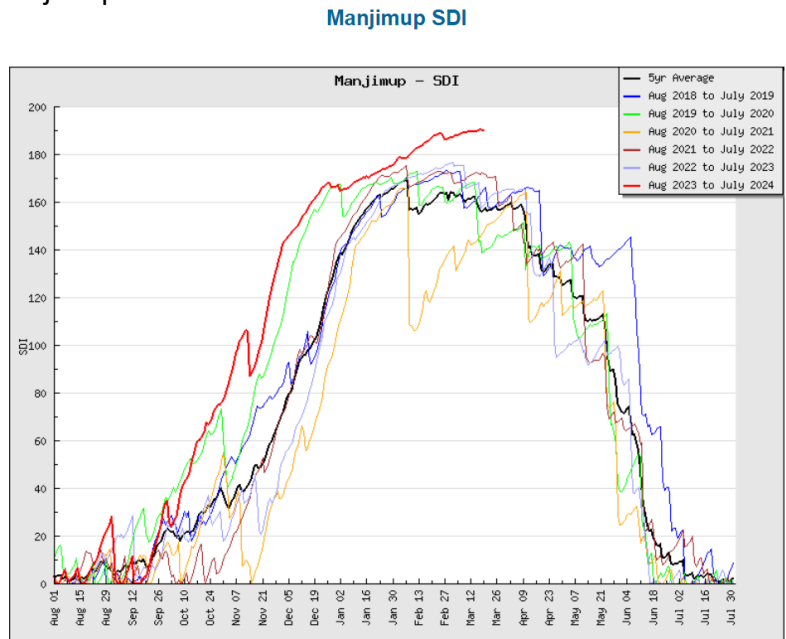
The DFES High Threat Period has been extended to Thursday 11th April 2023 due to the extremely dry conditions in the southwest of the state, cyclone potential in the northwest and recent flooding events in the east. The extension of the High Threat Period will allow for the continued availability of the State Pre-formed Level 3 Incident Management Teams and most likely the extension of aerial support assets.

The BOM autumn climate outlook has been released with the following key information –

- April to June rainfall is likely to be below median for most of the north and west, and parts of the south and east of Australia.
- April to June maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to very likely to be above median for almost all of Australia.
- April to June maximum temperatures are at least 3 times more likely than normal to be unusually high for most of the west and far north of Australia, Tasmania, south-eastern and central areas of Queensland, and the north-east half of New South Wales.
- April to June minimum temperatures are at least 3 times more likely than normal to be unusually high for much of the east coast, and northern and far south-eastern Australia.
- The long-range forecast is influenced by several factors, including record-warm oceans globally and a weakening El Niño.

This has been one of the driest summer seasons on record for the last 10 years, with Soil Dryness Indices painting a challenging situation with the above autumn climate outlook. Most local governments have taken a proactive approach to the dry conditions by extending their Prohibited Burning Periods.

SDI Graph for Manjimup





Operations

The DFES LSW Region has been kept busy with various responses to bushfires, structure fires and vehicle accidents and provided support to Kimberley, Southwest and Goldfield-Midlands regions with incidents including flood, cyclone and power outage.

DFES acknowledges the work done by local governments and their dedicated volunteers in the quick responses to local bushfire incidents in these difficult conditions and containing the fires before being able to significantly increase in size or impact on community assets.

On Friday 9th February, large areas of the Shire of Nannup lost Telecommunications following damage to critical optic fibre infrastructure. For a period exceeding 24 hours, there was a significant impact on the community's ability to communicate on what was also a day of Severe Fire Danger. This prevented the community from calling 000 services and access critical support such as telehealth appointments. It also prevented emergency services from mobilising its volunteers and hindering situational awareness.

DFES was able to work with key stakeholders and deploy mobile Star Link kits to strategic locations to allow communications to be re-established to critical services such as the Shire office, hospital, fire station etc. Fortunately, no known serious incident occurred during the outage given the high potential for bushfires or medical assistance being required.

This situation provides a timely reminder for all agencies to consider their business continuity plans and how they would maintain operational effectiveness during an extended period of communication outages.

Training and Exercises

The 2024 DFES regional training calendar has been released and is available for volunteers on EAcademy to review and register for courses on their appropriate pathways.

On the 22nd May DFES LSW and SW regions will be conducting a Severe Storm exercise based in Busselton and a HAZMAT exercise involving a large vehicle incident on the Southwest Hwy near Greenbushes. The exercises aim to provide participating agencies with the ability to test existing operating procedures and the relevant State Hazard Plans.

To help support Local Governments in the recovery space, DFES are proposing to deliver a recovery workshop to provide local governments within the South West and Lower South West Regions an opportunity to explore and develop their understanding and capabilities of recovery actions following an emergency incident.

The workshop provides an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and coordination at a local, regional and state level throughout recovery. More details of the workshop will cover the Emergency Management Framework, inclusive communities, as well as State support and funding. This event also provides an opportunity to learn from, network and build relationships with the South West EM District cohort through group discussions and recovery planning activities.

Details on the workshop will be available in the coming months with the workshop likely to be held around July/August this year.

Community Engagement



As part of the Disaster Ready Fund DFES LSW region has been successful in obtaining grant funding to secure virtual reality (VR) sets to assist with the delivery of bushfire safety and home preparedness simulations. The LSW regions currently has 12 VR sets on loan from Perth and are trialling an existing program from the University of South Australia and the Country Fire Authority so that a tailored program can be created for WA. Any agencies that wish to participate in the trial are welcome to contact the region's Community Preparedness Advisor Linda Ashton.

The 4th May is International Fire Fighters Day, memorial services are likely to be held in Bridgetown, Busselton and Perth. The memorials are to pay respects to fallen fire fighters across all services.

Paddy Dowling
A/District Officer Nelson



DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
3rd Quarter 2023-2024

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the **State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)** was held on the 6 March 2024. SEMC Communiques can be found [here](#).

2024 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- May 2024

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 review was completed by the DFES State EM Policy Branch on behalf of the three Hazard Management Agencies for air, rail and road crash:

- Commissioner of Police (air crash and road crash)
- Arc Infrastructure Pty Ltd (Arc Infrastructure) (rail crash on Arc Infrastructure network)
- Public Transport Authority (PTA), (rail crash on PTA network).

The comprehensive review process identified support for:

- inclusion of a statement regarding arrangements for a rail crash that does not occur on the Arc Infrastructure or PTA network/s
- greater clarity regarding multiple hazards (section 4.6)
- clarity regarding funding arrangements for emergency response (section 4.10)
- updated roles and responsibilities in Appendix C, which are now provided across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

State Hazard Plans are available on the [SEMC website](#).

Statement of Fact 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 Woorloo 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.

Additions include:

- Road clearing and re-opening should be considered at the beginning of the incident.
- Intelligence sharing across stakeholders is critical to effective and timely decision making in re-opening roads.

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

Road Work Regulatory Changes - Working During a Total Fire Ban

Changes to the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*, specifically regarding conducting road work (grading and bituminising) during a total fire ban, have now come into effect.

Amended road work conditions

Amended regulations during a total fire ban when carrying out road work are as follows:

1. *Regulation 24Y:* road work remains prescribed for the purposes of section 22B(2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*; meaning business, industry and public authorities (which include local governments) can continue to conduct road work during a total fire ban without requiring an exemption.
2. *Regulation 24ZA:* road work must stop during a total fire ban where there is a catastrophic fire danger rating – with exceptions for essential services.
3. *Regulation 24ZB:* notification is still required via the online notification form which notifies DFES and the local government authority where the works are occurring during a total fire ban. If working within 3kms of DBCA managed land, notification to DBCA is also required.
4. All other conditions have been removed - regulations 24ZC to 24ZG have been removed, this means that fire mitigation requirements for road work during a total fire ban will now be based on the operator's risk assessment for their work location and the type of road work activity.

Further information

For more information or if you have any questions about road work rules during total fire bans, please visit the DFES website [here](#).

CONSULTATION REQUESTS

You can view all current consultations on the [Engage WA EM consultation homepage](#)

State EM Document Amendments

The State EM Policy Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) administers the review and consultation of the State emergency management documents in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

To maintain accuracy and currency of the documents, they are reviewed annually for statement of fact changes and must undergo a comprehensive review every 5 years.

To assist with our ongoing review of the documents please advise the State EM Policy Branch if you have identified any errors in a State EM document [here](#).

WA Emergency Management Sector Adaption Plan Discussion Paper

Climate change already poses significant risks to Western Australian communities and is testing the resilience of the emergency management sector through the increasing frequency and severity of emergencies.

The SEMC is developing the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) to accelerate climate change adaptation through the emergency management sector. It is one of seven SAPs being developed as required by the Climate Change Bill 2023.

This Discussion Paper has been developed to support the development of the EM-SAP. It is an opportunity for the emergency management sector to have their say on the EM-SAP and to shape the sector's climate change adaptation priorities.

Feedback is sought on:

- Proposed sector adaptation objectives and actions
- Reporting processes and governance structure

- Current and planned adaptation activities undertaken by your organisation.

They are also seeking nominations for:

- **Lead organisations** – organisations that can commit to delivering specific sector adaptation objectives or actions
- **Support organisations** – organisations that can support the delivery of specific sector objectives or actions

Consultation will be open from Wednesday, 13 December 2023 to COB Friday, 29 March 2024.

For further information about the project, email info@semc.wa.gov.au

Local Governments can find out how they can provide feedback by emailing em@walga.asn.au

DISTRICT NEWS

The next **District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)** will be held on Tuesday 19 March 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.

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](#).

Disaster Ready Fund

The Disaster Ready Fund will deliver up to \$200 million in funding per financial year for disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives. DRF Round Two opens **9.00 am Monday, 22 January 2024** and **closes 5.00 pm Wednesday, 20 March 2024**. Further information on the timeframes, Guidelines and application process is available [here](#).

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

WALGA offer Emergency Management training for Local Government

Local Governments have an essential role in Emergency Management due to their legislated responsibilities and links to the community. The way emergencies are managed is critical to the safety and sustainability of communities, ensuring the effective functioning of the Local Government and their staff. WALGA offer Emergency Management training courses such as;

- Emergency Management Fundamentals
- Emergency Management Foundations for Local Government
- Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders



- Community Disaster Recovery
- Recovery Coordinators Course for Local Government

All of these courses are valuable in that they build connections and networks with members of other Local Governments across the State, further enhancing information sharing and building capacity.

Further information can be found [here](#).

SECTOR UPDATES

Emergency WA

Emergency WA has now been linked to the State Government Services WA App. Users can opt in to receive location-based notifications of bushfire warnings. Find out more [here](#).

2023 Emergency Preparedness Report

The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report has now been published and is accessible via the [SEMC website](#).

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) produces the Emergency Preparedness Report annually for the Minister for Emergency Services.

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.

This style of reporting started in 2012 following catastrophic fire emergencies in the preceding fire season. As the only state in Australia to develop such a report for ministerial engagement, it has become a key reference for emergency preparedness in WA.

2022-23 Major Incidents Report and Australia's Riskscape

The Major Incidents Report 2022-23 and Australia's Riskscape Report Showcase webinar is now available to watch online, [here](#). The webinar identifies key factors in the systemic risk landscape that shape the risk, impacts and recovery from natural disaster.

Complied by:
District Emergency Management Advisor – South West
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
As at 13 March 2024.



Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service

Warren Health Service LEMC Report 20th March 2024

COVID-19

- Warren Health Service has resumed a BAU “business as usual” approach in relation to management of Covid19 with outpatient & inpatient activity.
- Currently screening symptomatic patients via a RAT testing process.
- Inpatients with Covid continue to be nursed with full infection control precautions in place.
- Health service staff are still required to isolate from the workplace for 5 days if Covid positive & seek executive approval to return to the workplace as a close household contact.

GENERAL

- Continues to be a sustained increase in patient presentations to hospital ED & admissions remain above average for the past quarter 2023.
- Hospital staffing continues to be closely monitored and covered with support
- Hospital has acquired a third rental property in Manjimup to support the required workforce. Currently housing nursing, radiology staff & nursing students.
- Emergency procedures / drill discussion exercises have continued with a focus on fire and evacuation (code red & orange), bushfire (code yellow) and aggression management (code black) with recent ad hoc security guard engagement for external building patrols overnight.

Traffic Management at Incidents

Once an Incident has been declared an Incident Controller is appointed.

The agency managing the Incident will be determined by the nature and severity of the Incident.

In the case of a bushfire the responsibility may fall to the Local Government in which case generally the Local Governments Chief Fire Officer may be the Incident Controller (IC).

The IC in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan has significant powers to deal with the Incident in a timely manner and to minimise the loss of life or loss /damage of property.

One of these powers is to take control of other agencies assets, in this case road infrastructure.

It is often necessary to close roads to prevent people from entering the Incident Site and establish Vehicle Control Points (VCP's).

This is usually delegated to WA Police in the first instance as they can deploy resources quickly to the site. Also the extent of the VCP's in relation to the Incident may rapidly evolve and they may need to be expanded/relocated to meet the demands of the Incident.

Other resources can also undertake the function of establishing VCP's at the direction of the IC. These are Local Government, Main Roads, DFES, DBCA etc.

Depending on availability of resources initially the IC may direct these resources to provide VCP's on assets that they do not normally control.

That is Local Government resources may establish a VCP on a Main Road and visa-versa Main Roads may establish a VCP on a Local Government Rd.

Main Roads has recently reverted to inhouse Day Labour Resources.

When Main Roads are requested to attend an incident they may choose, depending on availability, to send their own staff or they may send a sub-contract Traffic Management resources.

It is important for agencies who are managing Incidents to make early direct contact with Main Roads to identify any potential or actual impact on our assets so we can best manage our response and support of the IC.

There have been a couple of recent events where an Incident affected a Main Roads asset however a request for our assistance was made very late in the day by the IC.

Due to the timing of these Incidents it meant resources were not readily available and there was a delay in responding to the Incident. This put additional strain on the people dealing with the Incident and WA Police Force (WAPOL) who were providing the VCP's.

Also when the active phase of the Incident concluded, and it moved to recovery the IC was not aware of the process for handing back the Asset to the Asset Owner.

In particular the IC must ensure the Asset is safe prior to hand back to the Asset Owner. The Asset Owner then makes their own determination if any other remedial work is required prior to the Asset Owner reopening the road.

There were also a couple of other incidents where the IC endeavoured to open a road. This is in contravention of the State Emergency Management Plan which clearly states it is the responsibility of the Asset Owner as to when and how the asset will be put back into service.

Early contact with Main Roads when Main Roads assets are or are likely to be affected will ensure a smoother management of the assets, VCP's, handback and opening of the road.

Main Roads can also assist by identifying alternate routes or detours if required for the management of traffic to avoid the incident as well as identifying timber structures such as bridges and culverts on both Main Roads and Local Government Roads.