



Shire of
Narrogin
Love the life

MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC)

18 June 2024

Commencing at 4:30 pm

Via Teams and in person

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Meeting of the Committee.

Signed:

Date: 20/06/2024

These minutes were confirmed at the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on

17/9/24

Signed:

Acknowledgement of Noongar People

The Shire of Narrogin acknowledges the Noongar people as traditional custodians of this land and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them, to their culture and to their Elders past and present.

Naatj ngiyan Birdiya Gnarojin kep unna nidja Noongar Moort ngaala maya nidja boodjera baarlap djoowak karlerl koolark. Ngalak niny ngullang karnan balang Bibolman baalap borong koora wer boorda.

Electronic copies of minutes and agendas are available for download from the Shire of Narrogin website www.narrogin.wa.gov.au

Alternative formats are also available upon request, including large print, electronic format (disk or emailed), audio or Braille

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Council and Committee agendas, recommendations, minutes and resolutions are subject to confirmation by the Council or Committee and therefore, prior to relying on them, one should refer to the subsequent meeting of Council or the Committee with respect to their accuracy.

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Please note that meetings may be recorded for minute taking purposes.

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LEMC MEETING

19 March 2024

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

This meeting is being held in person and also as an electronic meeting using Teams.
The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 4:34 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

NAME	ORGANISATION
Committee Members (Voting)	
President Leigh Ballard	Shire President – Shire of Narrogin (Presiding Person)
Deputy President Graeme Broad	Councillor – Shire of Narrogin
Craig Smith	Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)
Anna Erickson	Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development
Maria Lee	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services
Pip Porter	Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades
Yvette Harrison	Department of Education Teams
Peter Erickson	Narrogin SES
Jenny Menasse	WA Country Health Service Teams
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities Teams
Staff	
Azhar Awang	Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Wendy Russell	Executive Support Officer
Paula Raworth	Manager Community Services
Anika Keeling	Consultant
Invited Guests/Visitors (Non Voting)	
Charlotte Powis	DFES District Emergency Management Advisor Teams
Karina Skipworth	Red Cross
Jennifer Pidgeon	Red Cross
Fred Steer	Main Roads WA
Apologies	
Eloisa Goss	Narrogin Primary School
Jo Spadaccini	Department of Communities
Brett Dew	Western Power
Douglas Cook	Department of Education
Dale Stewart	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Narrogin
Gavin Stevens	DFES
Mohammad Siddiqui	Main Roads WA

Absent

Scott Reeves

A/Senior Sergeant Greg Yendle

Tony Peplow

Narrogin VFRS Unit – Captain or Delegate

WA Police

Water Corporation

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr G Broad

Seconded: Anna Erickson

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 10/0

For: President Ballard, Cr G Broad, Ms A Erickson, Ms M Lee, M P Porter, Mr C Smith,
Ms Y Harrison, Mr P Erickson, Ms J Menasse, Mr M Phillips

Against: Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Council at its meeting of 22 May 2024 resolved as follows:

“That with respect to the proposal for a Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and Plans between the Shire of Cuballing and the Shire of Narrogin, Council:

1. *Agree with the recommendation of the LEMC of 19 March 2024.*
2. *Supports the formation of the Joint LEMC.*
3. *Propose to the Shire of Cuballing the amended Terms of Reference for the Joint LEMC and which includes representatives from that Shire as per attachment 2.*
4. *Subject to the Shire of Cuballing agreeing to form a Joint LEMC and the proposed Terms of Reference, they are hereby endorsed for the purposes of having them approved by the State Emergency Management Committee.*
5. *Inform the State Emergency Management Committee of the Shire’s support for a proposed Joint LEMC between the Shire of Narrogin and the Shire of Cuballing.*
6. *Write to the Shire’s of Cuballing and Wickepin advising of the above outcomes”.*

We received notification last week that the requested amendments to the AWARE Grant, specifically the removal of the Shire of Wickepin, have been approved. These changes will be presented to the State Emergency Management Committee for endorsement at their next meeting.

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

5.1. Update on the Recommendation of a Joint LEMC

Attachment 1 - Revised LEMC Terms of Reference.

For your information a copy of the recommended LEMC Terms of Reference for the Joint LEMC are attached.

5.2. Amendments to State Hazard Plans

On 8 May 2024, the SEMC approved the comprehensive review of the State Hazard Plan - HAZMAT which provides an overview of arrangements for HAZMAT emergencies in Western Australia.

The comprehensive review was completed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, distributed for broad consultation between 17 November 2023 and 12 January 2024 and endorsed by the Response Policy Subcommittee prior to submission to SEMC for approval.

The new State Hazard Plan- HAZMAT and State Hazard Plan - Hostile Act can be viewed via the [SEMC website](#) as well as a [detailed summary of amendments](#).

5.3. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

Jennifer Pidgeon – Red Cross Australia

Jennifer gave a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Red Cross. A copy of the presentation is attached (Attachment 2).

Craig Smith – Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)

Copy of Report attached (Attachment 3).

- Volunteer numbers have remained static.
- The State Hazard Plan - fire is under review.
- Emphasis is currently on fire safety in the home with stress on the dangers posed by lithium batteries.
- DFES now preparing for the storm season.
- One day SES leadership development training was recently conducted.
- Internal exercises are planned to test emergency arrangements.

Maria Lee – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)

The DBCA Report for June 2024 is attached (Attachment 4).

- Conducted hazard reduction burns including 200 ha in the Dryandra woodland.
- Improving access to the airstrip.
- Avian flu is on the radar, not in WA yet.

Azhar Awang – Shire of Narrogin

- Still some volunteer training outstanding. Training is now online.
- Grant application has been submitted for the proposed joint facility for VBFB & SES.
- Shire mitigation works are 80% complete, the volunteers did a great job on the prescribed burn at Foxes Lair.
- Looking into funding for additional/larger water tanks around the Shire to ensure water availability in the case of fire.

Charlotte Powis – DFES – District Emergency Management Advisor

The Local Emergency Management Committee District Emergency Management Advisor Report May to July 2024 is attached (Attachment 5).

- The All-West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program is open until 1 July 2024.
- The Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development is undertaking a comprehensive review of [State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#), any questions or comments you have in relation to this Plan may be submitted via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).

Jenny Menasse – WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

The WACHS Report for June 2024 is attached (Attachment 6).

- Major incident support training.
- Volunteer recruitment strategy.
- New and emerging risks are heatwave and pandemic.

Michael Phillips – Department of Communities

The Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support LEMC background information – 4th quarter 2023-2024 Report is attached (Attachment 7).

- Bunbury storms have had a large impact this is now in the recovery stage.
- Visiting evacuation centres to ensure that they are 'up to scratch'.

Yvette Harrison – Department of Education

- School holidays approaching.
- Burst water main at the WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin.

Anna Erickson – Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development

- Review of the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies as mentioned by Charlotte.
- Bird flu is not currently in WA but staff are being sent to the Eastern States to assist.

Peter Erickson – Narrogin SES

- Change of leadership roles.
- The number of volunteers has doubled.

Fred Steer – Main Roads

- Still recruiting road maintenance and office staff.
- Looking at agreements with some Shires for Traffic Control support.

Pip Porter – Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

- Volunteers conducted a prescribed burn in Foxes Lair as part of the mitigation works for the Shire. This was a great training exercise for the volunteers.
- Still looking for more volunteers.

5.4. Update of Contact Information List

Attachment 8 - LEMC contact list (confidential – sent separately).

Committee members are requested to review the attached contact list and advise the Executive Support Officer of any changes that they are aware of.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Anika Keeling, the consultant working with the Shires of Cuballing and Narrogin on the development of the joint LEMA.

LEMC RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr G Broad

Seconded: Pip Porter

The Local Emergency Management Committee recommend that the Shire of Narrogin and the Shire of Cuballing enter into joint arrangements for the Local Emergency Management Committee and Local Emergency Management Arrangements and retain separate Local Recovery Management Plans.

CARRIED 10/0

For: President Ballard, Cr G Broad, Ms A Erickson, Ms M Lee, M P Porter, Mr C Smith,
Ms Y Harrison, Mr P Erickson, Ms J Menasse, Mr M Phillips

Against: Nil

7. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the LEMC is Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 4:30 in the Administration meeting room.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:48 pm.

Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (Shire of Cuballing and Narrogin)

Statutory context	Emergency Management Act 2005	
	Emergency Management Regulations 2006	
	State Emergency Management Directions	
	Appendix 1 – Standard conditions for establishment of Council Committees	
Council context	Appendix 1 – Standard conditions for establishment of Council Committees	
History	Established	25 October 2016
	Reviewed	23 October 2019
	Amended	23 June 2020
	Reviewed	27 October 2021
	Reviewed	25 October 2023
	Reviewed	22 May 2024

Establishment

Objectives	To prepare and continuously monitor and review the Joint Local Emergency Management arrangements for the Shire of Cuballing and the Shire of Narrogin
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Membership

Maximum membership of not more than 19, principally being the primary responders to any emergency. Others welcome to attend as Observers and to participate with the consent of the presiding person.

Composition resolved by Council		
Nomination of	No.	
Council members, including ex-officio	2	Committee Chairperson to be Elected Member
Shire of Cuballing Council members	2	
Employees, including ex-officio	0	
Shire of Cuballing Employees, including ex-officio	1	
Other persons – Community at large	0	
- WA Police, OIC Narrogin	1	ex-officio – LEM Coordinator
- DFES, Narrogin Regional Officer	1	
- Narrogin Regional Hospital	1	
- Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades	1	Chief BFCO or DCBFCO
- Cuballing Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades	1	Chief BFCO or DCBFCO
- Narrogin VFRS Unit	1	
- Narrogin SES Unit	1	
- Water Corporation	1	
- Western Power, Narrogin	1	
- Dept of Communities	1	

- Dept of Primary Industry & Regional Development	1	
- Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions - Parks & Wildlife Services	1	
- Narrogin St John Ambulance Sub-centre	1	
- Dept of Education	1	
Total Membership	19	
Quorum	8	No additional criteria

Observers to be invited (non-voting) –

Organisation	Position
- Narrogin District Education Office	
- Main Roads WA, Narrogin	
- Great Southern SEMC Executive	
- Karinya Cottage Homes	
- Narrogin Home Care	
- Housing Authority	
- Salvation Army, Narrogin	
- Disability Services Commission	

Required staff attendance (non-voting) –

Primary	Secondary
Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services	Executive Manager Technical & Rural Services
Senior Ranger	
Admin Officer, Em Mgmt	Executive Support Officer, Devt & Reg Serv

Meetings Appendix 1 – Standard conditions for establishment of Council Committees
Other than Presiding Member,

Presiding Member The EM Act s.38 specifies that the Chair is determined by the local government.

Administrative Support

Senior Officer responsible	Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Initial contact person	Administration Officer, Local Emergency Management

Role and Scope of Committee

1. In accordance with Emergency Management Act s.38(2) the specified area of responsibility is the whole of the Shire of Narrogin.
2. To identify emergency risks or hazards in the community and arrange to establish, maintain and test the Local Emergency Management Arrangements established to mitigate the risks or hazards.
3. To encourage and maintain communication and joint exercises between all stakeholders.

4. To prepare and instil prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans for a variety of identified risks or hazards preventing or minimising the effects of emergency events.
5. To increase the number and relative awareness of programmes through community awareness campaigns designed to make the community more resilient.
6. To undertake the Community Emergency Risk Management process.
7. To carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the State Emergency Management Committee or prescribed in the Emergency Management Regulations 2006.
8. To prepare and submit each financial year an annual report of its activities in accordance with the requirements of the State Emergency Management Committee.
9. To prepare an annual business plan in accordance with the requirements of the State Emergency Management Committee.
10. The Local Emergency Management Committee does not have the authority or power to commit the Shire of Narrogin or the Shire of Cuballing to expenditure without the Shires endorsement.

– End of TOR

Notes

The Committee does not have any operational authority for emergency events.

Australian Red Cross

Resilience & Preparedness | Response | Recovery





Red Cross pays our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians across this country, and to Elders, past, present and emerging.

This presentation may contain the names and/or images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals who have since passed.

What is the Australian Red Cross

- Over 100-year history in Australia
- Volunteer based humanitarian organisation
- Auxiliary to government
- Based on seven key principles:
 - Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, Universality
- Nationally: 1000 staff, over 34,000 volunteers and over 19,000 members
- Key focus areas:
 - Emergencies
 - Migration
 - International humanitarian law
 - International programs
 - Community programs

ARC Emergency Services



Communities are strong, resilient and have capacity to anticipate, respond to and recover well from disasters.

- Broad definition of disaster.
- Community led approach.
- Evidence based programming.
- Collective national and international knowledge.
- National research and development capability.
- Access to local and national resources.

ARC Emergency Services

- Before a disaster
 - Community resilience
 - Household preparedness
 - Organisational capacity building
 - Advocacy
- During a disaster
 - AIIMS structure
 - Register.Find.Reunite.
 - Psychosocial support (including Psychological First Aid)
- After a disaster
 - Support for recovery organisations
 - Community development (recovery)
 - Psychosocial support
 - Advocacy



Examples of Services

- **Support for Collective Trauma Events**, including memorial management (Mogumber, Albany Whale Beaching, Osmington, Hunter Valley Bus Crash, Lindt Café, Bourke Street Mall)
- **Training and development** for government, NGO, community organisations and businesses (Recovery Basics, Communicating in Recovery, Supporting the Supporter, Psychological First Aid, Evacuation Centres)
- **Preparedness and resilience workshops** for communities including children & young people (Rediplan, Supporting the Supporter, Get Ready, Get Prepared App, Youth Redi, Pillowcase, Storytime with Birdie)
- **Community Disaster Resilience Program**
- **Community outreach** as part of resilience programming and recovery programming
- **Disaster Recovery Advisors and Mentors Australia (DRAMA)**
- **Advocacy** support for community members and organisations

Current and Recent Work

- Bunbury Storm Response
- City of Wanneroo Bushfire Recovery
- Albany Whale Collective Trauma Event
- Recovery training for DoCs and Shire of Derby – West Kimberley.
- Kimberley flood response – DoCs.
- Great Southern resilience incursion - local schools, Men's Sheds, CaLD community groups (with DFES), St John's, play groups, libraries, Scouts.
- Delivery of pre-disaster training to cities of Perth, Wanneroo, Mandurah, Armadale, Albany, Shires of Quairading, Denmark, Toodyay and NEMA, Salvation Army.
- CaLD disaster preparedness program (CARAD & DFES).
- Kimberley COVID support – DoCs.



Emergency Deployment



Department of Communities

- DoCs contact us through duty phone 0408 930 811
- Partner with DoCs to determine appropriate location and type of service provision.
- LGs can request DoCs to deploy Red Cross personnel to specific locations.
- Will take on roles other than Psychological First Aid/R.F.R if required and appropriate.
- 90% of the people we put in the field are volunteers.

Other Organisations

- Before, during and after an emergency or disaster
- Contact us through duty phone 0408 930 811
- We may contact you and ask if you need assistance
- We work with you to determine the services required
- Local community and government guide our approach.
- 90% of the people we put in the field are volunteers



Our Team

- **Daryn Hardy**, Program Support Officer
- **Lauren Holmes**, State Lead Resilience and Recovery
- **Bek Martin**, Program Officer
- **Jennifer Pidgeon**, State Manager Emergency Services
- **Karina Skipworth**, State Lead Workforce and Operations
- ***Our 170 well trained, highly experienced, dedicated and awe-inspiring volunteers***





Contact Details



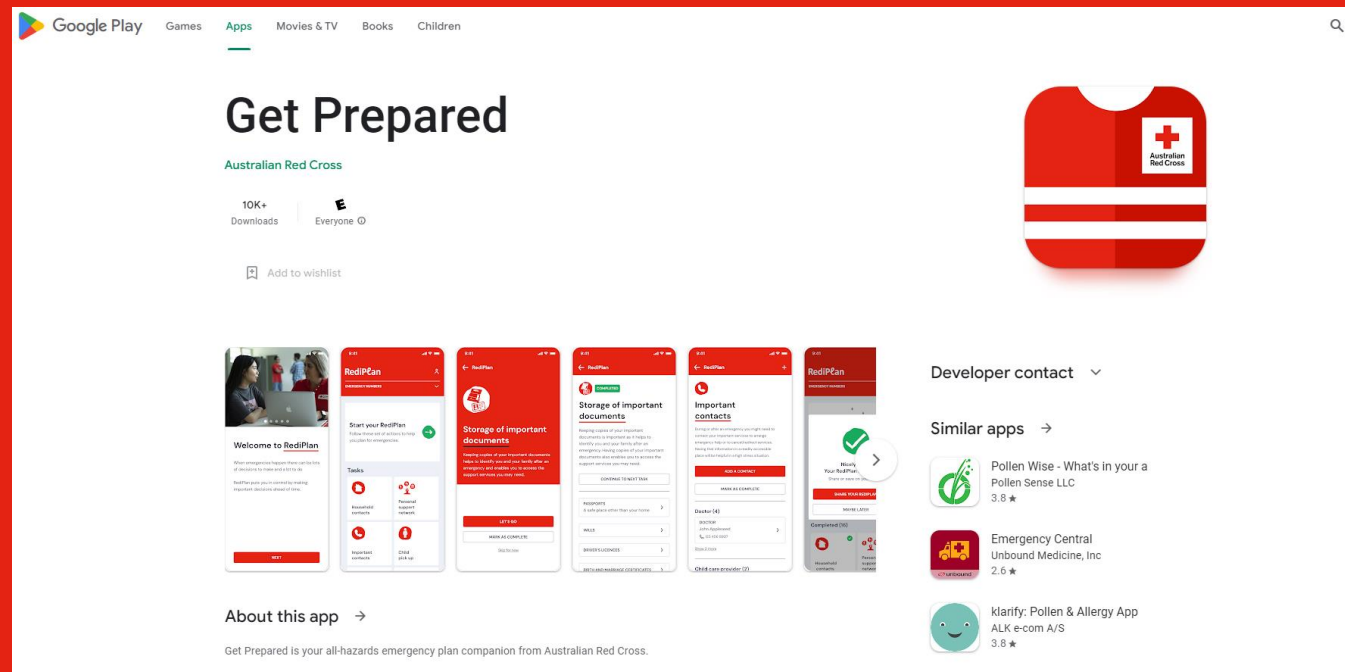
Jennifer Pidgeon, State Manager
Emergency Services



jpidgeon@redcross.org.au



0409 749 345



Thank you.



Notes for verbal report – Narrogin LEMC 18 June 2024

Superintendent Craig Smith proxy for DFES District Officer

- Charlotte Powis is District Emergency Management Advisor (DEMA) – direct link from LEMC to DEMC to SEMC. Advice on compliance issues.
- Static number of volunteers within Region – some areas increased. Recruitment program identified to improve volunteer capacity in identified areas.
- High Threat Period (Summer bushfire season) officially over but still potential for fire in the landscape when conditions are suitable. Storm season increases risk with a number of storms already experienced in the South.
- State Operational Fleet of appliances enhanced resources over the summer period. These have now been redeployed to the north of the state for their increased fire risk.
- State Hazard Plan Fire is about to undergo a review. Input sought from stakeholders.
- Smoke Alarm change your battery campaign. 1 June was delayed from 1 April this year. Please check your smoke alarms and advise your staff for home fire safety.
- Home Fire Safety campaign. Media campaign to remind community of risks involved in homes during winter period, and actions to keep everyone safe. Please refer to information provided and seek further through DFES.
- Southern Storm Season. Take preventative measures with storms and potential for flooding.
- Training. Identifying and closing gaps in volunteer units for skill enhancement to required level of functionality. IC/IM roles a whole of agencies approach.
- SES Leaders Development program 6 July. Enhanced information for SES units to reduce community risks.
- Regional Leaders Forum 10 August.
- WAFES Conference 6 September. Statewide opportunity for gaining and sharing knowledge and experiences.
- Internal exercises 2024 to test and improve Regional operation functions.
- Support to LEMC/Agencies in testing local emergency management arrangements.
- Post summer season debriefing. Lessons learned and improved capability opportunity for future and to drive programs such as recruitment, risk management, prepared communities.

Report for Shire of Narrogin LEMC June 2024

What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses? (Do you have enough trained and/or experienced people, resources)?

Few vacant positions in the Wheatbelt region and a number of staff on extended leave. Winter is the opportunity for employees to take leave.

2. What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy? NA

3. Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)?

As a conservation agency avian flu outbreak is on the radar.

4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe? No

5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations? No

6. Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency? NA

7. What community engagement activities have you carried out / have planned?
None

8. How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience? NA

Issues of interest to LEMC

Five prescribed burns completed over the season. Dryandra Skelton block ~200 ha burnt, edged in 2023 and core burnt in 2024.

DBCA working with Shire in respect to achieving a safe turnaround base for waterbomber aircraft.

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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



2

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>



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.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



- 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

Complied by: Charlotte Powis
District Emergency Management Advisor
Great Southern
Department of Fire and Emergency Services



WACHS Representative Report

1. What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses? (Do you have enough trained and/or experienced people, resources)

Response: On the 11 June 2024 WACHS Wheatbelt staff participated in Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS) training. MIMMS is a structured course for clinicians that teaches a systematic approach to managing and responding to an incident. The course was run by the Disaster Preparedness and Management Directorate (DPMD), Department of Health. Resources from this unit are also available to be deployed if required in an emergency. All Health Services in the Southern Wheatbelt have well developed Emergency Response Procedures and Business Continuity Plans (BCP) and training is mandatory.

2. What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy?

Response: WACHS Wheatbelt has several volunteers in the region however we are in the process of developing a volunteer recruitment strategy to ensure better governance of our volunteers and increase numbers in the future.

3. Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)

Response: There is always the risk of future Pandemics and Heatwave which Health is the lead agency.

Jenny Menasse
Operations Manager Southern Wheatbelt
18 June 2024



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 Recovery Activities

- 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 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](#)