

Minutes

JOINT LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC) SHIRES OF CUBALLING AND NARROGIN

Tuesday 17 June 2025

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Murray", is written over the signature line.

Date: 19/06/2025

These minutes were confirmed at the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (Shires of Cuballing and Narrogin) meeting held on

Signed:

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which minutes were confirmed)

Acknowledgement of Noongar People

The Shires of Cuballing and 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 ngiyen 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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Please note that meetings may be recorded for minute taking purposes.

CONTENTS

Agenda Item	Page
1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	5
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES	5
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	6
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION	6
5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DECISIONS	6
6. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION	6
6.1. Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA); Local Recovery Management Plan; and Local Emergency Evacuation Plan	6
6.2. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)	6
6.3. Update of Contact Information List	9
7. GENERAL BUSINESS	9
8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING	10
9. CLOSURE OF MEETING	10

JOINT LEMC MEETING

17 June 2025

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Committee Members (Voting)

NAME	ORGANISATION
President Leigh Ballard	Shire President – Shire of Narrogin (Shared Rotating Presiding Person)
President Eliza Dowling	Shire President – Shire of Cuballing
Senior Sergeant Ryan Devine	WA Police
Gavin Stevens	DFES – A/District Officer
Jenny Menasse	WA Country Health Service
Anna Erickson	DPIRD (via teams)
Maria Lee	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services
Nicola Faithfull	Narrogin St John Ambulance
Anika Keeling	Narrogin VFRS Unit – Captain or Delegate
Fred Steer	Narrogin SES – Manager or delegate
Pip Porter	Narrogin Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Staff (Non-Voting)

Chris Paget	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Cuballing
Azhar Awang	Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Paula Raworth	Manager Community Services (via teams)
Wendy Russell	Executive Support Officer (ESO)

Invited Guests/Visitors

Apologies

Deputy President Graeme Broad	Councillor – Shire of Narrogin
Deputy President Robert Harris	Councillor – Shire of Cuballing
Anthony Mort	Cuballing Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Yvette Harrison	Department of Education
Brett Dew	Western Power
Douglas Cook	Department of Education
Vivienne Gardiner	DFES
Carla Sanders	CEO Narrogin Cottage Homes/Karinya
Tony Peplow	Water Corporation
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Snr Sgt Ryan Devine

Seconded: Ms Maria Lee

That the minutes of the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 11/0

For: President L Ballard, President E Dowling, Snr Sgt R Devine, Mr G Stevens, Ms J Menasse, Ms A Erickson, Ms M Lee, Ms N Faithfull, Ms A Keeling, Mr F Steer, Mr P Porter

Against: Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DECISIONS

Nil

6. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

6.1. Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA); Local Recovery Management Plan; and Local Emergency Evacuation Plan

Copies of the documents were tabled at the meeting.

The ESO will forward electronic copies of the documents to the committee members to review. All comments/changes should be forwarded to ESO by 1:00 pm Wednesday 25 June 2025.

6.2. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

Vivienne Gardiner – Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)

Attachment 1 – LEMC DFES District Emergency Management Advisor Report April to June 2025

Vivienne was unable to attend the meeting but has provided the attached report.

Gavin Stevens – Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)

Attachment 2 – LEMC DFES Report June 2025

Attachment 3 – Operational Circular - Leonardo AW139 helicopter

- A seasonal update, noting a busy start to the storm season with SES involvement in notable incidents such as Bluff Knoll rescues and storm responses in Wagin. The region has delivered various training courses, including road crash and structural fire training.
- An internal seasonal review highlighted key learnings from the recent fire season, with emphasis on maintaining up-to-date Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), ensuring access to well-resourced evacuation centres, and improving local emergency planning and training standards. Communication challenges in remote areas and the need for cross-border arrangements were also noted.
- Key updates included the availability of online Australia Warning System training, the launch of the new Emergency WA app, and the commencement of the regional training calendar. Planning is underway for the Pre-Season Briefings and a Brigade Group Unit (BGU) Leadership Forum in August, alongside a HAZMAT exercise scheduled for spring.
- Storm season preparedness is now a priority, with reminders for local governments to review plans, promote storm awareness, and ensure communication strategies are in place for outages.
- Special recognition was given to the Narrogin SES Unit and the Narrogin Fire leadership team for their community engagement and development efforts, with both being nominated for the 2025 WAFES Awards.

Anna Erickson – Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development

- The current focus is on preparing for the potential arrival of bird flu.

Jenny Menasse – WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

Attachment 4 – WACHS – Agency Report – 19 June 2025

- Fire safety training has been conducted at the hospital, including scenario-based exercises with the local fire brigade and familiarisation with the newly installed fire panel system.
- WACHS requests to be notified of high-risk events occurring in the region to ensure appropriate staffing levels are in place in the event of a major incident.
- The health service is currently undergoing its accreditation process.

Maria Lee – DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services

Attachment 5 – Parks and Wildlife Service – Report for LEMC June 2025.

- Still a few vacancies in the wheatbelt region.
- Clear lessons learnt during Cuballing west fires. There were multiple ignitions from agricultural activity from same landholder effecting same reserve.
- No evidence in the Wheatbelt but Polyphagous shot-hole borer (Pshot Borer) and Avian flu remain on the radar.
- End of fire season with 33 fires recorded through the Wheatbelt, 7 in the Shires of Narrogin & Cuballing with 4 of these requesting waterbombers.
- 5 burns commenced in the Wheatbelt region this autumn, none in the shire of Cuballing or Narrogin. Request from landholders to burn neighbouring reserves, DBCA has over 800 reserves in Wheatbelt and all work is prioritised.
- Shuffling of waterbomber airstrips occurring in the Wheatbelt. Narrogin waterbomber base remains – best support with re-loaders always available.

Snr Sgt Ryan Devine – WA Police

- Narrogin Police Station currently has only one (1) staff vacancy, with staffing levels otherwise stable.
- Two (2) marked police vehicles have now been fitted with Starlink satellite communication systems, enhancing operational connectivity. Starlink has also been installed at the station.
- Officers recently participated in a land search and rescue operation, utilising drone technology. The deployment provided valuable real-world experience for the drone operator.

Nicolla Faithfull – St John Ambulance

- Volunteer situation is much the same.

Pip Porter – Narrogin Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Bushfire mitigation activities are ongoing, including targeted back burning operations. These not only reduce fuel loads but also provide valuable hands-on training and engagement opportunities for volunteers.
- Several volunteers are scheduled to participate in Incident Controller training ahead of the upcoming fire season, enhancing local leadership capability.
- A planned emergency exercise will be conducted at the hay processing plant, supporting preparedness and response coordination.

President Eliza Dowling – Shire President & Chris Paget CEO - Shire of Cuballing

- Eliza has been working closely with Anika to get the emergency and recovery documents prepared.
- An extension to the AWARE grant has been approved, the final report is due by 30 June 2025.

Fred Steer – Narrogin SES

- New SES members are progressing well through ongoing training, demonstrating strong commitment and enthusiasm.
- The unit continues to foster a positive team culture, with excellent camaraderie and morale among volunteers.

Fred Steer – Main Roads WA

- Road construction projects for the current financial year are nearing completion, with operations now transitioning to maintenance activities, including culvert cleaning.
- Recruitment efforts are ongoing, with a particular focus on addressing shortages in traffic management personnel.

Anika Keeling – Narrogin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service (VFRS)

- Volunteer numbers are steadily increasing, strengthening the capacity of the Narrogin VFRS.
- Community engagement initiatives are progressing well, including school visits and successful collaboration with the SES YES Cadets program.

Azhar Awang – Shire of Narrogin

As this was Azhar Awang's final LEMC meeting, he shared the following acknowledgements and updates:

- Commended the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputies for their strong leadership, effective volunteer engagement, and commitment to ongoing training and development within the bush fire brigade.
- Praised the CEO and Shire President for their persistent efforts in advocating for a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM), a goal now set to be realised after years of work.
- Highlighted the joint emergency services facility project—a proposed shared location for VFRS, SES, BFB, and potentially DFES. He noted continued support from the CEO and Shire President and expressed hope for imminent funding and progression.
- Noted the upcoming need to review the Bush Fire Mitigation Plan, with the goal of having this completed by October, in collaboration with the incoming CESM.

Paula Raworth – Manager Community Services

No formal report

President Leigh Ballard – Shire President Shire of Narrogin

President Ballard formally thanked Azhar Awang for his outstanding service and dedication over the past 9½ years.

He acknowledged Azhar's significant contribution to the LEMC, the Shire, and the broader region, noting that his expertise, leadership, and support will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Michael Phillips – Department of Communities

Attachment 6 – Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support LEMC report – 4th quarter 2024-2025.

Michael was unable to attend the meeting but has provided the attached report.

6.3. Update of Contact Information List

Attachment 7 - 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.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the LEMC is set for Tuesday, 16 September 2025 at the Shire of Narrogin Administration Building.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:31pm.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
April to June 2025**

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held 13th March. The next meeting is the 8 May. SEMC Communiques can be found [here](#).

STATE CONSULTATION REQUESTS

Review - State Recovery Arrangements in the EM Framework – DFES

Since 2020, WA has faced an increasing number of large and complex disasters requiring higher levels of State Government support for recovery. Our current recovery practices have evolved and the recovery arrangements in the existing State Emergency Management (EM) Framework no longer reflect the needs of WA communities or our recovery capabilities. The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) asked the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to review the recovery arrangements in the EM Framework. As a result of this review, DFES has recommended comprehensive amendments to contemporise the recovery chapters in the EM Policy, Plan and Procedure.

The proposed amendments more clearly define the recovery arrangements, roles and responsibilities of State Government, and provide greater clarity for Local Government about when and how the State Government will become involved in a recovery. The amendments:

- introduce a four-tiered (R1-R4) model where State involvement in recovery increases depending on the complexity of recovery and capacity and capability of local government;
- enable the State Government to appoint a recovery coordinator for a R3 recovery, and a controller for a R4 recovery;
- establish a mechanism for the State to provide support to a local government where a recovery coordinator or controller is not appointed but the local government needs some additional support (an R2 recovery);
- clarify the role of Hazard Management Agencies to initiate and coordinate early recovery activities during the response and early recovery phase;
- require the transition of recovery coordination from Hazard Management Agency to local (or State) government to be agreed and planned, with reduced emphasis on the Impact Statement as a 'trigger for handover';
- require local and State government to engage Community members to understand community needs and priorities, and in the planning, design and governance of recovery; and
- require the de-escalation of State involvement and transition back to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements to be planned and agreed between State and local government.

The proposed amendments do not alter the roles and responsibilities of local government under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* or the arrangements for funding provided by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA).

Public consultation on the proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework is being undertaken from **3 February to 2 May 2025**.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is offering information sessions and briefings to local governments and state government agencies. To register for an event visit

<http://www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery> or contact DFES at recoverypolicy@dfes.wa.gov.au.

For further information, or to provide feedback on the proposed amendments, visit the SEMC website at www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery.

STATE ADVICE

SEMC Strategic Plan Update

Work to develop a new SEMC Strategic Plan is continuing. Draft strategic objectives have been developed in consultation with all Subcommittees and District Emergency Management Committee Chairs.

It was considered for endorsement at the SEMC March 2025 meeting, following this the Minister will require approving it before publication and distribution.

The 2024 Emergency Preparedness Report

The Emergency Preparedness Report advises the Minister for Emergency Services on emergency management and the preparedness of the State to combat emergencies.

The [2023 Emergency Preparedness Report](#) report examined key changes to the emergency management sector over the last decade with a focus on WA's consideration of a systemic approach to disaster risk reductions.

The 2024 report will build on the systemic risk themes outlined in the 2023 report. Insights will be drawn from (1) incidents and emergencies; (2) state exercising; and (3) sector-based annual reporting processes (including LEMC and DEMC annual reporting).

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. Once the report is approved by the Minister, it will be circulated to all LEMCs.

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.

Australian Warning System (AWS)

Western Australia has adopted national consistency for cyclone, storm and flood warnings through the [Australian Warning System \(AWS\)](#). The wet weather hazards join bushfire and heatwave in using the AWS colours, icons and warning levels. Warnings also feature an action statement in the headline, giving clear advice to the community about how to stay safe.

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 last Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting was held on the 19th March 2025. The next Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting was held on the 25 June 2025.

A Preseason Preparedness Briefing for Great Southern Emergency Management District Local Governments and LEMC stakeholders was held online on the 20th November 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 Improvement Program

Building on the previous work of the LEMA Review, the LEMA Improvement Program is continuing to work toward a more capable and resilient community, through a local approach to emergency management.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has partnered with DFES on behalf of SEMC to deliver the improvement program. WALGA has received valuable feedback from Local Governments, which continues to inform the LEMA Improvement Program.

WALGA is facilitating a LEMA Working Group with representatives from 10 local governments who are providing advice to the project team and will co-design new templates and supporting resources.

The DEMAs meet with the WALGA and DFES LEMA Improvement Project Team monthly.

Pilot Program for LEMA Tools – Expression of Interest:

The proposed tools for LEMA approaches will be piloted with the broader Local Government sector. This will help inform the SEMC's rollout of a more fit-for-purpose LEMA model.

Expressions of interest will be advertised through WALGA communications, please also let the DEMA know if you are interested.

Initial criteria will include:

1. One local government from each band.
2. LEMAs that are overdue of due for renewal.
3. Local Governments that have not received AWARE funding for LEMA review.
4. Local Government commitment and capacity to support the pilot and progress to council endorsement.

The trial is expected to last 3-4 months. For additional information, please contact myself or Catherine Feeny (WALGA) by emailing cfeeney@walga.asn.au.

Until the reform of LEMA, local governments are advised to proceed as planned with LEMA reviews, so they maintain their obligations under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

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.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Video Modules

DFES has produced a series of videos about the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for Western Australia (DRFAWA) to help local governments and State agencies understand the basics of how the arrangements work and the different types of assistance that might be available. The 6 videos are hosted in one module on MobiliseMe.

Where to access the module?

The DRFAWA video module can be accessed directly via this link <https://dfes.mobilise-me.com/index.php/Selfregistration/DRFAWA>

This link is also included on the [Recovery Funding website](#) under Resources.

For existing users of MobiliseMe, please contact recoverycapability@dfes.wa.gov.au for the module to be assigned to your profile.

Emergency WA App- download now!

Emergency WA offers the fastest, most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia.

The Emergency WA app is now available for download through the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

The app allows users to:

- Create customised watch zones to receive relevant alerts and warnings.
- Receive tailored push notifications straight to their device.
- Access and listen live to ABC emergency broadcasts.
- Use a read aloud tool to listen to warnings.
- Upload and store documents in one place, such as their [Bushfire Plan](#).

This app sets a new standard for accessing lifesaving emergency information in Western Australia, with a number of national-first features.

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 – Round 3 – Open Now!

The DRF is the Australian Government's flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative, which will deliver up to \$200 million of Commonwealth funding annually to establish

a comprehensive set of disaster resilience and mitigation projects across Australia, in partnership with Australian state, territory and local governments. This fund is Commonwealth money, administered by the State through a Lead Agency, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

A comprehensive guideline document which outlines eligibility criteria, co-contribution requirements, assessment criteria and what the funding can be spent on is available [here](#).

As this is a highly competitive grant program, it is encouraged that you discuss your project idea and appropriate support for your project is gained, prior to application.

Your Project Proposals must be submitted to DFES via the [online application portal](#) by **5 pm (AWST) on 16 April 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

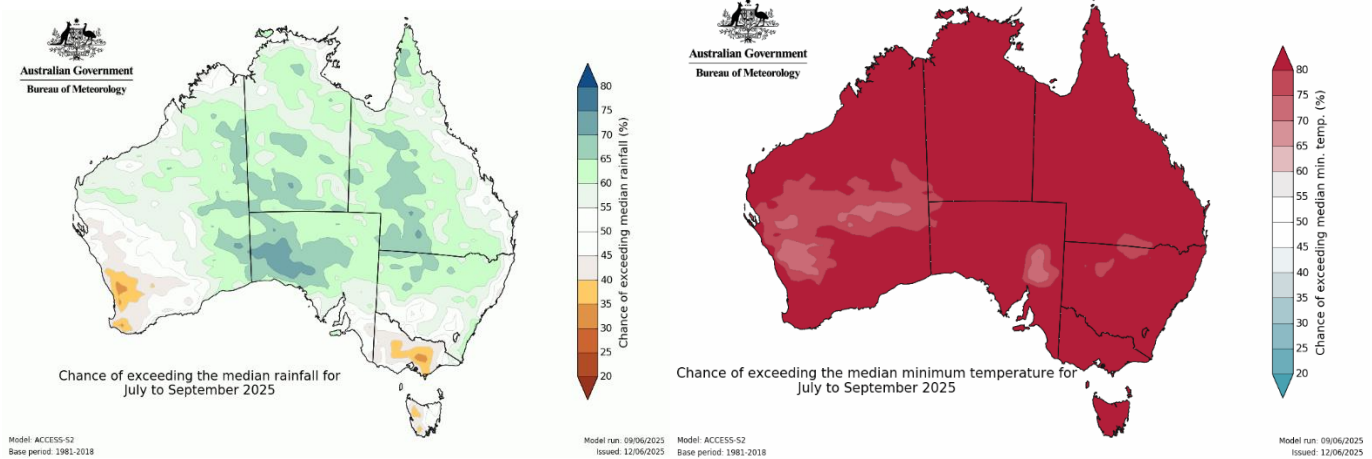
If you have any questions in relation to the DRF grant program and associated round documents, please contact the grants team at DisasterResilienceGrants@dfes.wa.gov.au



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

Local Emergency Management Committee
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
District Officer Narrogin - June 2025

Seasonal Outlook



Season Update

- **Busy Start to Storm Season** – SES Units in the UGS have been supporting rescues at Bluff Knoll and Storm response as well covered in the media at Wagin. On top of this the region has run Road Crash and Structural fire courses as well as all of our entry level courses across the region.
- **Seasonal Review** – As a regional team we also have conducted our own internal review after what was a fairly active fire season which some sound acknowledgement of good work done. As always there are some items we have taken forward to start doing as team and some we will cease. Continuing to provided continual support to communities to make them Safer through a time of crisis is of course at the front and relationships built at these LEMC meetings are key. Key points from After Action Reviews around the region the LEMC might like to consider are::
- **LEMA** - Ensuring your Local Emergency Management Arrangements are up to date and are being exercised and updated regularly. Especially the ISG and other out of hour contacts. Out of hours Welfare (food, water, etc) contacts have been identified as an area to investigate.
- **Evacuation Centres** - Ensuring Evacuation Centres are up to date, are able to be accessed and have required resources.
- **Local Emergency Planning** - Reviewing and Exercising Local Emergency Plans to ensure they are viable and still current. Pre-identified Communications plan, Incident Management training fr key staff, good understandings of recovery and other roles
- **Training Standards** - Ensuring you have training members to undertake key tasks i.e. reporting to a control point and operating in sectors
- **Communication** - Challenges around communication in remote areas and alternatives
- **Cross Border Arrangements** – Establishing Cross Border Arrangements with neighbouring Local Government Areas prior to an incident starting beyond mutual aid arrangements.



Additional Updates

- **Australia Warning System Training** – Training is available online for all stakeholders
 - [AWS Awareness](#) - an overview of the AWS and how it is applied in Western Australia. Recommended for all DFES staff and personnel.
 - [Applying the AWS](#) - for decision-makers who undertake roles that assist with the management of public information.
- **Emergency WA** – Use Emergency WA as your source of Truth for Incident Information. Stay up to date with [Emergency WA](#), with the New Emergency WA App now available on IOS and Android devices. Allowing you to stay up to date with real-life live data and updates. Able to set watch zones and receive updates if an incident occurs nearby.



Download on Android

**Download the Emergency
WA App here**



Download on IOS

Preparedness

- **Training Calendar** - As we exit Bushfire Season, the DFES Narrogin Team start the Training season, with the Upper Great Southern Training Calendar now been published and is well under way.
- **Pre-Season Briefing** – Planning is under way for the 3 forums to be held around the region in Sept / Oct with details to follow. Similar to last year they will be dispersed across the region to allow maximum participation.
- **Leadership Forum** – The UGS Region will be running a BGU Leaders forum 02 August 2025 and this is an important investment in our Brigades and Units as it improves all aspects of the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.
- **Incident Management Training** – Incident Controller Level 1: we are running this 4 day course that requires significant pre-requisites for brigade leaders across the region who qualify with a sell out course planned over 2 weekends in October.
- **HAZMAT Exercise** – Brendan at the Rec Centre and I have been working on a HAZMAT exercise in spring one Sunday morning which is an important capability with eth BESS and industrial developments around Narrogin and surrounding areas
- **Emergency Planning** - We are encouraging stakeholders to review and test their local emergency response plans around Bushfire, Storms and Power/Communication Outages in preparations for the current Bushfire Season and transition into Storm Season.



Local Emergency Management Committee
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Upper Great Southern Officers Report
February to June 2025

Storm Preparedness - With the transition from Bushfire to Storm Season – Emphasis on storm awareness and ensuring LGs have storm preparedness in mind. Some key information to circulate early in the season would be the changes to the Australian Warning System Around Storm and Flood. As well as the SES line, when to call the SES for assistance. Also ensure you have a communication strategy in place in the event of power outage and communication outage.

If you need help to remove debris or make temporary emergency repairs, call your local government and/or the State Emergency Service on **132 500**
<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/storm>

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL THE SES?

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN FLOOD, STORM, CYCLONE AND TSUNAMI CALL 132 500.

SES Volunteers undertake temporary emergency measures to make your home and the situation safe.

Is anyone trapped or injured?

YES → Call Triple Zero (000)

NO →

Is your roof leaking heavily or badly damaged? | Is your house flooded or beginning to flood? | Is your house badly damaged and in need of temporary repairs that you cannot fix yourself? | Are you trapped in your house due to storm damage? | Has a large tree fallen on your house or driveway?

NO → Contact your insurance company, private contractor or repair it yourself if it is safe to do so.

YES → CALL THE SES on 132 500
Your call will be logged.
You will receive a reference number.
Your local SES will attend as soon as possible.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Additional Information Specific to the Local Area

- Congratulations to the following who were nominated for the upcoming WAFES Awards and while not finalists this time definitely very worthy nominees:
 - Narrogin SES Unit – Growing to more than 30 members, engaging in training and being very active in the community the unit are leading the way in collaboration and emergency preparedness and are to be congratulated.
 - Narrogin Fire leadership team – This includes Chief, Deputies, FCO’s VFRS Captain and leadership and other senior members who are committed to supporting not only their own area but all of those across the UGS. They are proactive in their development and have applied many lessons from past seasons and it is exciting to see them and be part of their development.

Kind regards, Gavin Stevens, A/District Officer – DONarrogin@dfes.wa.gov.au or 0427 580 481



All Hazards Rescue

24 Hours a Day, 365 Days a Year



Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Leonardo AW139



Callsign: Rescue 651, 652, 653



Twin, jet turbine engines



Range: 300-350km radius
(Airborne Taskable - can be diverted to another higher priority mission)



Speed: 167knots / 309km/h
(Airborne capable in 15 minutes)



Rapidly reconfigurable cabin,
Maximum 10 passengers, resupply
and equipment transport



Two-person, 272kg rescue hoist



Dual stretcher capability



Loud hailer / external PA system



ATPL Pilot, Aircrew Officer, Rescue
Crew Officer / Clinician, Aircrew
Clinician (+ mission crew as required)



Night Vision Imaging System / NVGs



HD Optical with Forward Looking
InfraRed (FLIR) Camera



Weather, ground, and maritime
search radar



Augmented reality / incident
mapping (fire, flood, other hazards)
Live mission video streaming



Live mission video streaming with
aircraft wifi



Multi-agency & Silvus MESH radio
systems, 4G, and Satellite comms



Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) /
all weather aircraft

Examples of ERHS Missions

- Major Trauma Incidents
- Hoist and Cliff Rescue
- Hypobaric / Diving Incidents
- Neonatal Transport
- Bushfire Medical Evacuation
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Emergency beacon/EPIRB search
- Time Urgent Hospital Transfer
- Farming / Industrial Accidents
- Flood, Cyclone, Earthquake Rescue
- Land and Water SAR
- Aircraft Accidents
- Paediatric Emergencies
- Major Burn Incidents
- Night Aerial Intelligence
- Hazard / Fire Incident Mapping
- Helicopter Hoisting to Vessels
- Emergency Services Personnel and Equipment Transport

WACHS – Agency Report – 19 June 2025

The Wheatbelt is currently being assessed under the ACHS standards this week.

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

Yes. Undertaking regular fire and code black drills.

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

Yes. WACHS has 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)?

No.

4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe?

The Narrogin Fire Brigade and the Health Service hope to schedule a fire drill during the winter months.

5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified - are any these common to other organisations?

Recent fire incidents and high-risk events have identified communication is always an issue.

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

The WACHS Operations Hub is in the process of developing a template for documenting high risk events to enable agencies to make the necessary preparations and ensure appropriate resources are available. The template is currently in draft and will be made available once endorsed.

7. What community engagement activities have you carried out/ have planned?

A Community café is planned to be held in Corrigin later in the year.

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

Community information (including aged care facilities) has been made available for COVID and heatwaves.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Report for Shire of Narrogin LEMC June 2025

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 including Regional Manager. Winter period sees a high number of staff taking 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)? No evidence in the Wheatbelt but Pshot-hole Borer and Avian flu remain on the radar.

4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe? None.

5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations? Clear lesson learnt during Cuballing west fires. Multiple ignitions from agricultural activity from same landholder effecting same reserve. All calls through Comcen, LGA manages the fire.

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?
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

- End of fire season with 33 fires recorded through the Wheatbelt, 7 in the Shires of Narrogin & Cuballing and 4 requesting waterbombers.



- 5 burns commenced in the Wheatbelt region this autumn, none in the shire of Cuballing or Narrogin. Request from landholders to burn neighbouring reserves, DBCA has over 800 reserves in Wheatbelt and all work is prioritised.
- Shuffling of waterbomber airstrips occurring in the Wheatbelt. Narrogin waterbomber base remains – best support with re-loaders always available.



Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION

4TH Quarter 2024 – 2025

Regional Emergency Relief and Support contact	
<p>Activation of Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services is via Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator (EOC) M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au</p>	
Regional Officer:	Joanne Spadaccini – 0429 102 614
Regional Coordinator:	Michael Phillips – 0455 560 041
Regional Manager:	Mark Schorer – 0429 108 226
Regional Specific Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
ERS Preparedness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As we transition between the high and lower threat season, ERS continues to monitor and prepare for event activation. • In addition, ERS will utilise this period to improve preparedness including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collating and analysing the lessons learnt from recent activations and developing procedures to streamline our practises. ○ Identifying opportunities for locations of pre-positioning of ERS equipment trailers to support an efficient and timely deployment and response capability. ○ Continued mapping across the state for local support services and partners that can support the provision of the ERS functional domains ○ Provide ERS Evacuation Centre training with local government and Communities staff, across the regions. ○ Finalise the endorsement of the refined Local Emergency Response and Support Plan (LERSP) in each of the LEMCs. The LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs). ○ Developing Exercising to test the LERSP across local government areas ○ Supporting local government LEMA exercising and providing feedback to LEMA reviews. ○ Continuing annual evacuation centre audits for each of the 380 evacuation centres in the state. 	

Response

Activations January 2025 – April 10, 2025

- Carter Road Bushfire - Northam | January
- Green Range Bushfire - Albany | January
- Donnybrook Bushfire - Capel | January
- Myrup Bushfire - Esperance | January
- Karrakup Bushfire Complex - Serpentine Jarrahdale | January
- Marble Bar Storm | January
- Northam Bushfire - Northam and Bruce Rock | January
- Arthur River Bushfire Complex | January
- Dalyup Bushfire – Esperance | February
- Tropical Cyclone Zelia – Pilbara | February
- Dunsborough Bushfire – Busselton | February
- Bindoon Bushfire – Chittering | February
- Perth Hills Storm | February
- Chesapeake Bushfire – Manjimup | March
- Ledge Point Bushfire – Lancelin | March
- Nilgen Bushfire – Lancelin | March

In addition, ERS enacted alert phase preparedness and planning to support pre-positioning of staff and resources for:

- Tropical Cyclone Sean – Pilbara | January
- Shothole Canyon Bushfire – Exmouth | March
- TL 28U Kimberley | March
- Jurien Bay Bushfire | April

Recovery

Social Recovery Reference Group

- The Emergency Relief and Support Directorate is a key member of the National Social Recovery Reference Group. This group has been established to guide and support the review process of the National Principles for Disaster Recovery to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and responsive to contemporary challenges, emerging trends, and diverse community needs in disaster recovery contexts.
- These principles are designed to serve as a guide to best practices in recovery efforts across the nation, ensuring a consistent and scalable approach to disaster recovery.

Marble Bar Recovery Program

- Communities' remains focused on supporting impacted persons of both the Marble Bar Storm and Cyclone Zelia with financial assistance to replace lost household goods and personal wellbeing support.

Recovery

Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

ERS continues to engage with stakeholders, impacted community members and local Aboriginal organisations and community leaders to address recovery concerns and provide support regarding the return to home journey process.

- ERS continue to support impacted community members with practical supports to move home:
 - Supporting with replacement of essential household items under financial assistance measures, with over \$740k provided to date.
 - Referrals to wrap around personal, practical, psychosocial and wellbeing services.
 - Engaging across staff from Recovery Program agencies and Local Government to ensure consistent messaging for impacted community members and referral pathways for support services.
 - Communicating with impacted residents and chairpersons of communities.

Since the Return to Home Journey began in September 2024, ERS have facilitated and supported moving 37 families into their long-term homes and/or other residences, with a total of 26 Temporary Accommodation Units (TAUs) vacated to date.

Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- The DFRAWA Recovery Support program for the 2024 Bunbury Storms will officially close on 30 June 2025. During this time, Communities' will continue to deliver financial assistance to support impacted persons with the replacement of essential household items damaged during the storms and with financial assistance for essential building repairs to impacted residential properties.
- Communities' will also continue to support ongoing referrals for personal and wellbeing support services including psychological support and Financial Counselling.
- To acknowledge one year since the Bunbury storms, a Bunbury Community Recovery and Resilience Connection Day was held on Saturday 5th April 2025 run by the Lions Club and supported by Communities, DFES, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Anglicare Financial Counselling Bunbury and various local and support groups.