



Minutes

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

18 March 2025

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

Signed: 

Date: 20/03/2025

These minutes were confirmed at the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (Shires of Cuballing and Narrogin) meeting held on17/6/25.....

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 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

DISCLAIMER

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.

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Narrogin for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff.

The Shire of Narrogin disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or limitation or approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Narrogin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Narrogin. The Shire of Narrogin warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Narrogin must obtain and should only rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Narrogin in respect of the application.

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 Relief and Support Plan (LERSP)	6
6.2. State Emergency Management Document amendments	7
6.3. All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) funding update with arrangements and plans.	7
6.4. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)	8
6.5. Update of Contact Information List	10
7. GENERAL BUSINESS	10
8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING	10
9. CLOSURE OF MEETING	10

JOINT LEMC MEETING

18 March 2025

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

This meeting was held in person and also as an electronic meeting using Teams.

The Presiding Member, President Ballard, declared the meeting open at 4:35 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Committee Members (Voting)

NAME ORGANISATION

President Leigh Ballard	Shire President – Shire of Narrogin (Shared Rotating Presiding Person)
Deputy President Graeme Broad	Councillor – Shire of Narrogin
Deputy President Robert Harris	Councillor – Shire of Cuballing
Senior Sergeant Ryan Devine	WA Police
Gavin Stevens	DFES – A/District Officer
Sara Pellant	WA Country Health Service (via teams)
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities (via teams)
Anna Erickson	DPIRD (via teams)
Graeme Keals	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services
Nicola Faithfull	Narrogin St John Ambulance
Peter Erickson	Narrogin SES – Manager or delegate (via teams)
Anthony Mort	Cuballing Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Brett Dew	Western Power (via teams)

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

Invited Guests/Visitors

Anika Keeling	
Fred Steer	Main Roads WA
Charlotte Powis	DFES (via teams)
Carla Sanders	CEO Narrogin Cottage Homes/Karinya

Apologies

President Eliza Dowling	Shire President – Shire of Cuballing
Pip Porter	Narrogin Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Maria Lee	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services
Yvette Harrison	Department of Education

Brendan Firman
Sandii Stankovic
Eloisa Goss
Clare Roser
Greg Howard (Major)

Manager Recreational Services
Narrogin Senior High School
Narrogin Primary School
WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin
Salvation Army (Narrogin)

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Graham Broad

Seconded: Cr Robert Harris

That the minutes of the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendment:

On page 8 change point 2 below the heading 'Jenny Menasse – WA Country Health Service (WACHS)' from 'Smaller sites may not be fully manned over the Christmas break but teleservices will be available.' to 'Smaller sites may not be fully manned over the Christmas break but teleservices will be available at nearby hospitals. Narrogin has medical cover for maternity presentations.'

CARRIED 13/0

For: President L Ballard, Cr G Broad, Cr R Harris, Snr Sgt R Devine, Mr G Stevens, Ms S Pellant, Ms A Erickson, Mr P Erickson, Ms N Faithfull, Mr M Phillips, Mr A Mort, Mr G Keals, Mr B Dew

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 Relief and Support Plan (LERSP)

Attachment 1: Revised – Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP)

The Department of Communities' new LERSP has undergone significant amendments to streamline the document.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Michael Phillips

Seconded: Gavin Stevens

That the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (Shires of Narrogin and Cuballing) accept the Revised – Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP) – noting that there were some phone numbers that needed to be verified.

CARRIED 13/0

For: President L Ballard, Cr G Broad, Cr R Harris, Snr Sgt R Devine, Mr G Stevens, Ms S Pellant, Ms A Erickson, Mr P Erickson, Ms N Faithfull, Mr M Phillips, Mr A Mort, Mr G Keals, Mr B Dew

Against: Nil

ACTION: ESO to follow up on phone numbers and advise the Department of Communities and Anika Keeling.

6.2. State Emergency Management Document amendments

- On 4 December 2024, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved amendments and extensions to the following documents:
 - State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support. Amendments were made following the implementation of the enhanced permanent Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) structure.
 - State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity. The review period has been extended to March 2025.
 - State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies. The review period has been extended to March 2025.
 - State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information. The review period has been extended to May 2025.
 - Impact Statement Guide. The review period has been extended to October 2025.
- Additionally, on 22 January 2025, an updated Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Guideline and model LEMA template were published on the SEMC website. These updates reflect an accessibility review and redesign of all State Emergency Management documents, carried out by the DFES State EM Policy Branch. Members of the LEMA Program Advisory Group were consulted during this process.

6.3. All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) funding update with arrangements and plans.

Anika Keeling provided an update on the progress of the AWARE project. The evacuation and recovery plans are currently in development. As previously agreed, the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) will be a joint document, while each Shire will maintain a separate Recovery and Evacuation plan.

6.4. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

Chris Paget – Shire of Cuballing

- The variation to the AWARE grant has been approved, the final report is due by 30 April 2025.

Nicolla Faithfull – St John Ambulance

- St John participated in both the 'Back to School' and the 'Welcome to Narrogin' events.
- They will be involved in a 'Farm Day' at the WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin, in conjunction with the visiting medical students and DFES on 28-29 March.

Charlotte Powis – District Emergency Management Advisor (DFES)

Attachment 2 – LEMC District Emergency Management Advisor Report January – March 2025.

- Received correspondence regarding the state of the communications network. This will be discussed at the District Emergency Management Committee (DEMP) on 20 March 2025.
- Telstra has launched a dedicated 3G hotline to assist customers experiencing mobile service issues following the 3G network shutdown.
 - Telstra 3G Hotline: 1800 990 853
 - Operating Hours: Monday to Friday, 11 AM – 10 PM AWDT (WA time)
- The Disaster Ready Fund – Round 3 is now open. Project proposals must be submitted to DFES via the [online application portal](#) by 5:00pm 2 April 2025.

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

Attachment 3 – LEMC DFES Report March 2025 (Confidential – sent separately).

- DFES has transitioned to position-based roles. The attachment includes updated contact details.
- Key Points from recent debriefs relevant to LEMC:
 - Ensure Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) are up to date, exercised, and regularly reviewed.
 - Ensure Evacuation Centres are accessible, up-to-date, and properly resourced.
 - Review and exercise Local Emergency Plans to ensure their viability and relevance.
 - Communication challenges persist in remote areas.

Michael Phillips – Department of Communities

Attachment 4 – Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support LEMC report – 3rd quarter 2024-2025.

- Since October 2024, 14 evacuation centres across WA have been activated, including Lancelin just yesterday.
- Ongoing Recovery Programs:
 - Kimberley Floods Recovery Program; and
 - Bunbury Storms Recovery Program.

Snr Sgt Ryan Devine – WA Police

- There are currently two (2) vacancies at the Narrogin Station.
- Staff will participate in land search and rescue training later in the year.
- One (1) marked vehicle has been equipped with Starlink, and another will be fitted shortly.

Anna Erickson – Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development

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

Graeme Keals – DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services

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

- Several vacancies remain in the wheatbelt region.
- Narrogin has been the strongest area in the region for having trained staff available to assist with refilling DBCA water bombers.

Peter Erickson – Narrogin SES

- The SES has seen an influx of new members, creating an excellent social atmosphere. New members are enthusiastic and progressing well with their training.

Brett Dew – Western Power

- The last three (3) months have been challenging with incidents in Bruce Rock and West Arthur, as well as ongoing work on rebuilding the network.
- Recruiting qualified staff continues to be a challenge.
- A reminder to Bush Fire Volunteers: When encountering downed wires, please contact Western Power and request power be turned off. This can often be done remotely, saving time and reducing risks. Western Power will attend the site when required.

Sara Pellant – WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

- No formal report

Azhar Awang – Shire of Narrogin

- BFAC meeting was held last week followed by a BBQ to thank the volunteers. FCO's were requested to provide a 'wish list' of needs.
- MAF acquittal is underway, a meeting regarding the MAF Grant Program new guidelines will be held on 8 April 2025.
- Azhar also advised that he has tendered his resignation.

Fred Steer – Main Roads WA

- Road construction work for this financial year is nearing completion.
- Main Roads continues to assist with road closures due to fires.
- Efforts to recruit staff are ongoing.

Carla Sanders – CEO Narrogin Cottage Homes/Karinya

- Karinya has successfully completed its re-accreditation in line with the new standards.

Paula Raworth – Manager Community Services

- No formal report

6.5. Update of Contact Information List

Attachment 6 – LEMC contact list (Confidential – sent separately).

The attached document reflects the updated contact information provided during and following the meeting.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- DFES is looking at holding a HAZCHEM exercise in conjunction with the NRLC on a Sunday in August.

8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the LEMC is set for Tuesday, 17 June 2025 at 4:30 in 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 5:38 pm.



Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan

Wheatbelt Region – Narrogin District

Supporting the Shires of Brookton, Corrigin, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Narrogin, Pingelly, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickepin, Williams Local Emergency Management Committee

Prepared by Department of Communities, Emergency Relief and Support

Tabled and accepted at the Local Emergency Management Committee

12/2024

For activation of Emergency Relief and Support services for hazards defined under the WA Emergency Management arrangements call

0418 943 835

Activation summary

Alert – stage one

- The Hazard Management Agency (HMA) or Controlling Agency is responsible for placing the Department of Communities (Communities) and the relevant Local Government/s on alert.
- Communities may engage with the Local Government/s, HMA or Controlling Agency to advise of pre-emptive preparedness activities that would support an emergency response.

Activation for response – stage two

- Via the on-call number 0418 943 835, the HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for activating the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP) arrangements, to enable emergency relief and support service delivery for the response to the identified hazard.
- This LERSP can be activated at any incident level. Activation of this LERSP will concurrently activate the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support.
- The respective HMA or Controlling Agency Incident Controller is responsible for the decision to evacuate during an emergency. This includes selecting the evacuation centre(s), in consultation with Communities and the Local Government.
- Should the Local Government receive an evacuation centre activation request directly from the HMA or Controlling Agency, Communities must be informed via the on-call number 0418 943 835.
- The Local Government may be required to support the initial emergency relief and support service response and open an evacuation centre. Communities will discuss preparedness and planning arrangements with the Local Government.
- All emergency relief and support related media enquiries are to be directed to Communities' Media team by phone on 6277 5325, or by email on Media@communities.wa.gov.au.

Stand down – stage three

- The respective HMA or Controlling Agency Incident Controller is responsible for advising Communities to stand down.
- Emergency relief and support services may continue beyond this time, at the discretion of Communities.
- The Local Government is responsible for managing the overall recovery efforts affecting their community.
- When activated by the Local Government, Communities is responsible for supporting the recovery activities through the delivery of emergency relief and support services.

Table of contents

Activation summary	1
Introduction	3
Prevention and Preparedness	5
Response	6
Recovery	10
Appendices	12

Document control

Department of Communities is responsible for the development, maintenance and annual review of this Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan. This is completed in consultation with the Local Government and Local Emergency Management Committee.

Publication date	MM YYYY
Review date	Xxx
Owner	Executive Director, Emergency Relief and Support
Custodian	Assistant Director, Regional Preparedness and Coordination

Amendments

Version	Date	Author	Description
1	Month/year	[position title – not name]	
2	Month/year	[position title – not name]	
3	Month/year	[position title – not name]	

Document contact

Contact	ERSRegions@communities.wa.gov.au
----------------	----------------------------------

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Communities acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of all the lands in Western Australia.

We recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters and sky. We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with whom we work, who we serve and protect. We also pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to their Elders past and present.

Introduction

The Department of Communities (Communities) is the support organisation responsible for providing and coordinating emergency relief and support services (previously welfare) for the 28 prescribed hazards, as specified in the emergency management legislation.

The Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP) details the operational activities for the management and coordination of emergency relief and support services under the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

This LERSP is to be read in conjunction with the LEMA and [the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support](#). This LERSP refers to a range of existing plans and documents relating to emergency relief and support services, including directions to websites and other sources where further information can be obtained.

Purpose

The purpose of this LERSP is to detail the activities for the activation and coordination of emergency relief and support services before, during and after emergencies within the Local Emergency Management Committee or Local Government boundary.

The objective of this LERSP is to outline:

- the activation, and stand-down protocols of Communities and partner agencies
- Communities' responsibilities for the preparedness, response and recovery coordination of emergency relief and support services and resources, and
- the responsibilities of partner agencies to support emergency relief and support service delivery.

Scope of activated services

Emergency relief and support services provide immediate and ongoing social supports to alleviate, as far as practicable, the effects on people impacted by an emergency. These are provided across six functional domains:

- **Emergency accommodation** - the provision of temporary shelter for impacted people evacuating from or displaced by an emergency.
- **Emergency food** – coordination of basic and essential food support for impacted people without the capacity to self-manage resulting from an emergency.
- **Emergency clothing and personal requisites** – coordination of basic and essential clothing, and personal items for emergency impacted people.
- **Emergency personal support services** – the provision of a variety of assistance for emergency impacted people. This can include early psychosocial support, practical assistance, and referral to advisory services, counselling or psychological services.
- **Registration and reunification** – the process of enabling emergency impacted people in a community to be traced and reunited with family and friends.
- **Financial assistance** – the coordination of financial assistance which, depending on the nature of an emergency, may be available to eligible impacted people affected by the event.

Levels of response

When activated, Communities utilises the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) model to support decision making and delivery of emergency relief and support services. This includes establishing a management structure designed to deliver the key functions of control, planning, operations and logistics.

Communities is responsible for determining and implementing the appropriate response operating model based on the scale of the emergency event. This approach involves conducting an assessment on the severity and specific requirements to decide the level of emergency relief and support services required.

Communities may undertake pre-emptive preparedness activities before an Australian Warning System (AWS) Alert is provided.

The potential or actual severity of the emergency events are broadly classified as:

- Level 1 – minor community and infrastructure impact, locally managed, supported by resources from the Local Government.
- Level 2 – medium complexity, locally managed, supported by resources from the region and if required State-wide resources.
- Level 3 – high complexity, centrally manage, supported by State-wide resources.

Via the Communities on-call number 0418 943 835, this LERSP can be activated at any level. Activation of the response arrangements in this LERSP, at any level will concurrently activate the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support.

Depending on the nature of the emergency, and the scale of service demand, emergency relief and support services may be provided through the following approaches:

- remotely, by establishing the Disaster Response Hotline (1800 032 965)
- providing outreach via mobile teams for identified on-ground face-to-face support, or
- static service delivery from a designated physical location such as an evacuation centre or recovery hub.

The appropriate mode of delivery will be agreed in consultation with the HMA or Controlling Agency.

Partner agencies

Communities is responsible for identifying partner agencies at local and regional levels, capable of supporting a sustainable and scalable delivery of emergency relief and support services during the response and recovery stages of an emergency. Partner agencies may include other government, industry, and social sector organisations.

Communities is responsible for the costs associated with the delivery of emergency relief and support services, where a partner agency is engaged. Communities is not responsible for self-activated agency's costs during an emergency event.

Communities and partner agencies negotiate prior to activation for the required operating resources to deliver emergency relief and support.

State-level partner agency responsibilities supporting the delivery of emergency relief and support services can be viewed in the [State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support](#), appendix B.

Exchange of information

Communities may establish exchange of information agreements with HMAs, Local Governments and partner agencies. This is completed in preparation for an emergency response and recovery to ensure:

- disclosure and exchange of personal information of impacted people affected by an emergency.
- allows relevant information to be shared between HMA's, authorised officers and agencies for the purposes of emergency management.

Media enquiries and public information

All emergency relief and support related media enquiries are to be directed to Communities' Media team by phone on 6277 5325, or by email on Media@communities.wa.gov.au

The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for the public information management function. This includes preparing and distributing timely information and instructions in the relevant language(s) to identified cultural groups living within the Local Government.

Prevention and preparedness

Prevention

Prevention is defined as the mitigation or prevention of the probability of the occurrence of, and the potential adverse effects of, an emergency.

Communities does not have any assigned responsibilities for prevention.

HMAs are assigned responsibility for prevention within emergency management legislation. Other emergency management agencies may also undertake prevention activities.

Preparedness

Preparedness is defined as the 'preparation for response to an emergency'.

- **Communities** is responsible for undertaking emergency relief and support planning and preparedness activities to ensure efficient service delivery should this LERSP be activated. This includes an understanding of partner agency capabilities to support Communities when requested.
- **Partner agencies**, with support from Communities, are responsible for developing plans in readiness for response and recovery mobilisation.
- **Support organisations** providing support to people at higher risk during emergencies are responsible for the planning provisions to cater for their specific needs throughout the emergency, such as an evacuation.

- **Hazard Management Agencies** are responsible for emergency management preparedness activities for their prescribed hazards. Local planning arrangements are provided in the LEMA.

Pre-determined evacuation centres

Communities establishes evacuation centres as an emergency shelter option, from which to coordinate emergency relief and support services. These centres remain operational until alternative arrangements can be made for persons impacted by the emergency.

Communities is responsible for working cooperatively with the HMA, Local Government and LEMC members to identify suitable facilities that can be used as evacuation centres appropriate for hazards that are high risk to the region.

Communities, with support from the Local Government is responsible for conducting an annual risk assessment and audit of each pre-determined evacuation centre. The purpose of the audit is to identify evacuation centres that are appropriate for the hazard-specific risks relevant to the region and to identify opportunities for Local Governments to upgrade facilities to mitigate risks.

Pre-determined evacuation centres can be found in appendix A

Pre-positioning of emergency equipment

Communities is responsible for the placement of equipment and supplies to support an emergency event. Generally, this placement is aligned with an evacuation centre or Communities regional office location.

Communities is responsible for conducting an annual audit on pre-positioned emergency relief and support emergency equipment and supplies. This audit ensures that there is adequate fit for purpose stock, ready to be deployed quickly and efficiently in the event of an emergency.

Pre-positioned emergency equipment can be found in appendix B

Response

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* defines response, as combating the effects of an emergency, provision of emergency assistance for casualties, reduction of further damage, and help to speed recovery.

When activated, Communities is responsible for supporting the HMA or Controlling Agency through the coordination and delivery of emergency relief and support services to the community.

The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for the overall response in an emergency.

If requested by the Local Government, Communities can support with recovery activities.

Stages of response

Communities operates a graduated response model to determine and implement the appropriate scale of emergency relief and support services. This approach involves conducting a needs assessment to determine the specific requirements and level of services required.

As mentioned, this LERSP can be activated at any level. Activation of the response arrangements in this LERSP will concurrently activate the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support.

Alert – stage one

- The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for placing Communities and the Local Government on alert.
- Communities may engage with the Local Government, HMA or Controlling Agency to advise of pre-emptive preparedness activities that would support an emergency response.

Activation for response – stage two

- Via the on-call number 0418 943 835, the HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for activating the LERSP arrangements, to enable emergency relief and support service delivery for the response for the identified hazard.
- This LERSP can be activated at any incident level. Activation of this LERSP will concurrently activate the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support.
- Formal written acknowledgement from the HMA or Controlling Agency is required to confirm Communities is being activated.
- Should the Local Government receive an evacuation centre activation request directly from the HMA or Controlling Agency, Communities must be informed via the on-call number 0418 943 835.
- The Local Government may be required to support the initial emergency relief and support service response and open an evacuation centre. Communities will discuss preparedness and planning arrangements with the Local Government.

Stand down – stage three

- The respective HMA or Controlling Agency Incident Controller is responsible for advising Communities to stand down.
- Formal written acknowledgement from the HMA or Controlling Agency is required to confirm this direction.
- Emergency relief and support services may continue beyond this time, at the discretion of Communities.

At-risk community groups

The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for directing organisations that support at-risk community groups to shelter in-place or evacuate.

Aligned with their organisation's own emergency activation plans, as a first option, support organisations are requested to evacuate to a similar facility in a safer location. Where required, Communities may be directed to support evacuated at-risk community groups.

Emergency accommodation

The respective HMA or Controlling Agency Incident Controller is responsible for the decision to evacuate during an emergency. This includes selecting the evacuation centre(s), in consultation with Communities and the Local Government.

Communities is responsible for coordinating and assessing the provision of temporary accommodation for people displaced by an emergency or evacuating from an emergency. Communities may utilise a range of emergency accommodation options to support people impacted by an emergency.

Expenses related to the activation of evacuation centres that are not approved by the HMA and/or Controlling Agency, will not be covered by Communities.

To ensure the safety of evacuees, staff and volunteers, Communities will not support the HMA/Controlling Agency to establish evacuation centres:

- in bushfire emergency warning areas, and will only establish evacuation centres in Bushfire Watch and Act areas, with Incident Controller confirmation it is safe
- if there are no safe access routes to the evacuation centres, and
- if there are structural and/or health concerns with the evacuation centre.

In circumstances where an evacuation centre is already established in a bushfire emergency warning area, in consultation with the Incident Controller, Communities will:

- conduct a risk assessment, and
- implement mitigation strategies.

In the event of an unusual damage claim resulting from the use of the facility as an evacuation centre, Communities will facilitate processes with the HMA/Controlling Agency to respond to the claim.

Alternate accommodation sites

In large scale state-level impact emergencies, local facilities may be inadequate to ensure the safety of all evacuees, staff, and volunteers. Communities is responsible for requesting the use of facilities from Local Governments or private owners to support impacted people from other Local Governments.

Animal welfare in emergencies

No pets or animals are allowed in an evacuation centre due to health and safety considerations, except for assistance animals, like guide and hearing dogs.

Owners or caregivers are responsible for their animals and are encouraged to make arrangements to ensure their welfare throughout all stages of an emergency.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has been assigned the role and responsibility for coordinating animal welfare services in emergencies. This is supported by the Local Government, where possible.

Further details can be found in the [State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#) or the Local Animal Welfare Plan in the LEMA (if applicable).

Emergency food

The HMA or Controlling Agency may coordinate food security during an emergency event, such as where there is limited food access due to geographical isolation.

Communities is responsible for coordinating emergency food provision to people impacted by an emergency where emergency relief and support service delivery is activated. This does not include food provision to staff from other emergency management organisations or partner agencies.

Communities cannot accept food prepared by any person or organisation without a Food Handling Certificate issued by the Local Government.

Emergency personal support services

Communities is responsible for coordinating and connecting people impacted by an emergency to personal support services.

Emergency personal support services aim to assist impacted people to cope with the psychosocial, well-being, personal and practical needs following an emergency. These services can encompass a variety of supports to community and impacted people to build capacity and to complement natural supports.

Communities may engage partner agencies to support the coordination of services personal support to impacted people and communities.

Emergency financial assistance

Communities is responsible for coordinating and connecting eligible people impacted by an emergency to financial assistance and related services.

The below categories of financial assistance may be provided on a case-by case basis to people deemed eligible.

- **Immediate financial assistance** (Category 1) – non-means tested short term assistance provided to impacted people to buy food, clothing, and personal requisites. Category 1 financial assistance is capped at a nominal amount per person, per household and is provided to impacted people based on an assessment of need.

- **Temporary accommodation assistance** (Category 2) – non-means tested assistance provided to impacted people based on an assessment of need.
- **Essential household contents** (Category 3) – means tested assistance provided to impacted people, whose contents within their primary place of residence has been directly impacted by an emergency. This assistance is to maintain a basic standard of living by contributing towards the replacement of essential household items (e.g., cooking utensils, bedding, furniture, and whitegoods). This assistance is capped at a nominal amount, per household and may be provided to impacted people who are without insurance or underinsured.
- **Essential structural repairs** (Category 4) – means tested assistance provided to impacted home owner-occupiers to undertake essential repairs to their principal residences. This assistance enables the impacted person to make their home condition safe to inhabit. This assistance is capped at a nominal amount, per household and may be provided to impacted people who are without insurance or underinsured.

Emergency clothing and personal requisites

Communities is responsible for coordinating and connecting people impacted by an emergency to clothing and personal requisites. These services can encompass a variety of supports to community and impacted people to compliment natural supports.

Communities will coordinate and provide personal requisites when:

- impacted people do not have access to their own provisions, or
- impacted people cannot fund their own provisions due to financial restraints.

Communities is not responsible for the provision of medication or coordination of donated funds, goods and services.

Registration and reunification

The registration of impacted people in an emergency enables reunification with family and friends. Enquiries about impacted people can be coordinated, intrastate, interstate or internationally. To facilitate the reunification of impacted people, Communities may activate an appropriate system to facilitate registration and reunification services.

Communities will support the HMA or Controlling Agency to ensure appropriate public messaging is provided when activated.

Recovery

Recovery is defined in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* as ‘the support of emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psycho-social and economic wellbeing’. The recovery process begins as soon as the emergency impact occurs. Recovery operates in parallel to the response phase and may continue after the response phase is complete.

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, Local Government is responsible for managing recovery following an emergency affecting their community. Local Governments

are guided by their Local Recovery Plans within their LEMA and may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator. The Local Government may seek support from Communities during recovery.

When activated by the Local Government, Communities is responsible for supporting the recovery activities through the delivery of emergency relief and support services.

Approach to recovery

Communities' recovery activities are underpinned by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery. This is delivered across the social, built, economic and natural environments.

Communities operates within a scalable recovery model to determine and implement the appropriate level of emergency relief and support services required to respond to the needs of impacted people and community.

To support the needs of the community during large scale recovery programs, Communities emergency relief and support services may be funded under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Communities will undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of recovery activities, including an assessment of preparedness activities for future impacts.

Cessation of recovery

Cessation of emergency relief and support services as part of a recovery program will be determined in consultation with the Local Government and may be dependent on community needs, access to other support services, impacted people and the community's resilience.

Appendices

A) Local evacuation centres

Name of centre	Capacity	Address	Contact	Comments
Shire of Brookton				
<u>Primary</u> WB Eva Pavilion	150	Brookton Highway, near Bodey Street Brookton	CEO 9642 1106, 0427 421 032	
<u>Secondary</u> Brookton Country Club	120	11207 Brookton Highway Brookton	Katrina Crute 0439 373 282	
Shire of Corrigin				
Corrigin Recreation and Events Centre	600	Larke Crescent, near Kirkwood St Corrigin	Shire 9063 2203, A/H 0427 425 727	
Corrigin Town Hall	400	21 Goyder St, near Campbell St	Shire 9063 2203, AH 0427 425 727	
Shire of Cuballing				
<u>Primary</u> Cuballing Recreation Centre (Oval)	100	Campbell St Cuballing	BH – Shire 9883 6031 AH – CEO 0427 836 031 CDO 0427 619 591	
<u>Secondary</u> Cuballing Agricultural Hall	150	191 Campbell St Cuballing	BH – Shire 9883 6031 AH – CEO 0427 836 031 CDO 0427 619 591	
Cuballing CWA Hall	60	Campbell Street Cuballing		
<u>Secondary</u> Dryandra Equestrian Centre	150	Darcy Street Cuballing	BH – Shire 9883 6031 AH – CEO 0427 836 031 CDO 0427 619 591	

<u>Primary</u> Popanyinning Hall	100	Francis St Popanyinning	BH – Cuballing Shire 9883 6031 or Popanyinning General Store 9887 5033 AH – CEO 0427 836 031 CDO – 0427 619 591 Popanyinning General Store 9887 5033	
Shire of Dumbleyung				
<u>Primary</u> Dumbleyung Town Hall	260	32 Harvey Street Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung 9863 4012 CESM – Ryan Sutherland - 0436 668 242	
<u>Secondary</u> Dumbleyung Stubbs Park Pavilion	150	70 Bahrs Road Dumbleyung	Scott Jefferis - Dumbleyung Agricultural Society 9863 4154 Shire of Dumbleyung 9863 4012 CESM – Ryan Sutherland - 0436 668 242	
<u>Primary</u> Kukerin Town Hall	240	37 – 39 Scadden St, Kukerin	Shire of Dumbleyung 9863 4012 CESM – Ryan Sutherland - 0436 668 242	
<u>Secondary</u> Kukerin Nenke Park Pavilion	150	89 Bennett St, Kukerin	John Davidson - Kukerin Agricultural Society - 0429 831 030 Shire of Dumbleyung 9863 4012 CESM – Ryan Sutherland - 0436 668 242	
Shire of Kondinin				

<u>Primary</u> Kondinin Memorial Hall	200	19 Jones Street Kondinin	Shire 9889 1006	
<u>Secondary</u> Kondinin Pavilion & Country Club	200	Gordon Street near Graham Street Kondinin	Shire 9889 1006 / CEO 0429 891 006/ Country Club Manager - Marg Pool - 0409 891 020	
<u>Secondary</u> Kondinin Primary School	120	75 Graham Street Kondinin	Principal 9889 1047	
<u>Primary</u> Karlgarin Hall	200	12 – 13 Melba Street Karlgarin	Jill Fotheringham - 9889 5054 Laurel Trestrail - 9889 5024	
<u>Secondary</u> Karlgarin Country Club	150	24 Federal Street Karlgarin	Club House 9889 5013	
<u>Primary</u> Hyden Recreation centre	150	Hyden Sports ground Brookton Highway Hyden	Hyden office 9880 5160	
<u>Secondary</u> Hyden Memorial Hall	250	80 Lynch Street near Marshall Street	Hyden office 9880 5160/Kondinin Shire 9889 1006	
<u>Secondary</u> Hyden Primary School	150	36 Naughton Street Hyden	Lauren Smart (Principal) 98805053 Carolyn Burns (Registrar) Melinda Ditchburn (Registrar)	
Shire of Kulin				
<u>Primary</u> Freebairn Recreation Centre	1500	24 Johnston Street near Kulin-Lake Grace Road Kulin	Kulin Shire - 9880 1204 Centre Manager - 9880 1000 A/H CEO Alan Leeson - 0497 801 204	

<u>Secondary</u> Kulin District High School	1000	Gordon Street near Day Street Kulin	School 9880 1264	
Shire of Lake Grace				
<u>Primary</u> Lake Grace Sports Pavilion	300	Bishop Street Lake Grace	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 DCEO - 0400 631 052 CESM - 0436 668 242	
<u>Secondary</u> Lake Grace Town & Lesser Hall	350	Cnr McMahon and Bennett Streets Lake Grace	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 DCEO - 0400 631 052 CESM - 0436 668 242	
Newdegate Indoor Recreation Centre	300	Waddell Drive Newdegate	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 DCEO - 0400 631 052 CESM - 0436 668 242	
Lake King Hall	160	Newdegate - Lake King Road Lake King	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 Anna Scheeber - 0439 937 733	
Lake King Pavilion	120	Newdegate - Lake King Road Lake King	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 Anna Scheeber - 0439 937 733	
Varley Hall	160	Thomas Street Varley	Shire of Lake Grace - 9890 2500 DCEO - 0400 631 052 CESM - 0436 668 242	
Varley Sports Pavilion	80	Carstairs Road Varley	Shire of Lake Grace 9890 2500	
Shire of Narrogin				

Primary Narrogin Regional Leisure & John Higgins community Complex	1000	Clayton Road Narrogin	Shire 9890 0900 CEO 0437 698 912 Rec Centre 9881 2651 Rec Ctr Manager Brendan Firman	
Primary Narrogin Senior High School	600	Cnr Homer and Grey Street Narrogin	School Admin 9881 9300	
Secondary Narrogin Town Hall	600	Federal Street Narrogin	Shire 9890 0900 CEO 0407 522 297	
Shire of Pingelly				
Primary Pingelly Recreation & Cultural Centre	1900	Lot 201 (4) Somerset St Pingelly	Shire 9887 1066, 0427 852 426 (Centre 9887 0092, when in use) Manager 0497 009 277	
Shire of Wagin				
Primary Wagin Recreation Centre/ Sports Pavilion	500	Ballagin Street Wagin	Shire 9861 1177 Bill Atkinson 0429 611 177	
Secondary Wagin Town Hall	100	Tavistock Street Wagin	Shire 9861 1177 Bill Atkinson 0429 611 177	
Shire of Wandering				
Secondary Wandering Community Centre	300	11 Down Street Wandering	Shire 9884 1056 CEO Alan Hart 0448 729 049	
Shire of West Arthur				

Primary Darkan Town Hall	300	Cnr Hillman Street and Butler Street	Shire office - 9736 2222 CEO – Nicole Wasmann – 97361222 hm Mobile - 0427 900 563	
Darkan Sport and Community Centre	150	Memorial Drive Darkan	CEO - Nicole Wasmann – 97361222 hm Mobile – 0427 900 563. Golf Club - Judy Wunnenberg - 9736 1161	
Duranillin Hall	150	Horley Road	Contact Shire 9736 2222 Dura Agencies 9862 9046 Hall Committee - Robyn Quill 9862 9010	
Moodiarrup Sports Complex	175	Arthur River - Boyup Brook Road Moodiarrup	Contact Shire - 9736 2222 Janette Whitaker – 9863 1056	
Arthur River Hall	250	Albany Highway	Hall Committee - Lisa Saunders 9862 6095 0427 626 078	
Arthur River Country Club Inc	100	East Arthur Road Arthur River	Hall Committee - Lisa Saunders 9862 6095 - 0427 626 078	
Shire of Wickepin				
Primary Harrismith Golf Club	100	Wickepin Harrismith Road Harrismith	Shire 9888 1005 A/Hrs Mark 0429 207 855	
Primary Wickepin Community Centre	500	Corner Johnson Street and Campbell Street Wickepin	Shire 9888 1005 A/Hrs CEO - 0429 207 855	

<u>Yealering Hall</u>	190	Wickepin Corrigin Road Yealering	Shire 9888 1005 0429 207 855 Yealering Shop - 9888 7106 Yealering Ag Parts - 9888 7095 or 0428 881 018	
Shire of Williams				
<u>Primary</u> Williams Main Hall & RSL Hall	270	9 Brooking Street Williams	CEO Geoff 9885 1005 - 0429 900 005 Britt Logie - 0428 851 357	
<u>Secondary</u> Williams Recreation Grounds Pavilion		Albany Highway Williams	CEO Geoff 9885 1005/ 0429 900005 Britt Logie - 0428 851 357	
<u>Secondary</u> Convention Centre (Earnshaw)	600	853 Williams Darkan Road Williams	CEO Geoff 9885 1005 – 0429 900 005 David Earnshaw - 0427 950 835	

B) Communities' pre-positioned equipment

Storage option	Address	Access / comments
Evacuation Centre - Narrogin Regional Leisure & John Higgins community Complex	Clayton Road Narrogin	

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
January to March 2025**

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held the 4 December 2024. The next meeting is the 13th March. 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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



1

<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 is expected to be considered for endorsement at the SEMC meeting in March 2025, following that 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

2



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Western Australian governments have joint arrangements in place to provide financial assistance in certain circumstances. These arrangements are referred to as the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) and are administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the WA State Government.

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

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

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

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

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

DISTRICT NEWS

The next Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 19th March 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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



4

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 2 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





Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION

3rd quarter 2024-2025

Local ERS contacts

Activation via Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator

M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Manager:	Mark Schorer
Regional Coordinator/s:	Michael Phillips
Regional Officer:	Jo Spadaccini

Preparedness

- ERS is continuing to monitor the risks of the high threat season, combined with ongoing preparedness activities that support the event activation process.
 - As part of ERS seasonal preparedness, we have identified new locations for the pre-positioning of ERS equipment trailers to support rapid ERS deployment and response capabilities.
 - ERS continues to review local support services, such as accommodation providers and well-being services, that can be called on to support the needs of those people impacted by an emergency
 - The team will re-commence ERS Evacuation Centre training from Quarter 4 (April) across most regions. LEMC members are asked to identify staff or partners that may benefit from this training.
- The Local Emergency Response and Support Plan LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
 - The LERSP has been revised to ensure the content is more concise, and the structure more aligned to the State Support Plan.
 - All local governments will / have been asked for feedback and inputs to the LERSP prior to being tabled at the LEMC for endorsement.
- Preparedness lessons learnt and future opportunities

Local ERS contacts

- Continued monitoring of high risk weather conditions particularly in those seasonal high tourism locations and the impact on availability of accommodation providers.
- Development of a variety of opportunities for the pre-positioning of ERS equipment across LEMC areas taking into consideration LGA or commercial options.
- Evacuation Centre Audits – with a view to supporting LGAs with DRF applications. DRF can be utilised to upgrade Evacuation centres with work such as:
 - Improvements to local evacuations centres including support to improved electrical connectivity for power sources and the purchasing of generators.
 - Upgrades to kitchens, bathrooms and ablutions to support capacity requirements.
 - Installation of NBN satellite connection devices and;
 - Cyclone rated upgrades.
- Exercising with LEMC partners more in 2025 and leading discussions around the utilisation of evacuation centres by mining companies, schools, aged care facilities.

Response

Activations Quarter 3 November to 23 January 2025

- Pilbara Storm –Tom Price | November
- Wedge Island Bushfire – Jurien Bay | November
- Mount Adams Bushfire – Port Denison | December
- Carter Road Bushfire - Northam | January
- Green Range Bushfire - Albany | January
- Donnybrook Bushfire - Capel | January
- Myrup Bushfire - Esperance | January
- Karrakup Bushfire – Serpentine Jarrahdale | January

The **State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support** (SSP ERS) was approved by the State Emergency Management Committee at their meeting on 4 December 2024 with Statement of Fact changes.

This change includes information on Plan Activation for Level 1 Incidents.

For Level 1 Incidents: “Communities may be tasked by a HMA and/or Controlling Agency to provide ERS services to people impacted by this level of event within a single government or district area”.

Aerodrome Learnings



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Report for Shire of Narrogin LEMC March 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. We are well into fire season and staff are prepared and have attended incidents throughout the Wheatbelt and state.

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)? None

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

5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations? DBCA learns from every fire season. We have had multiple requests for grain harvest bombers and the process has worked well and as planned. The reloading at the Narrogin airstrip is the most efficient in the Wheatbelt, DFES are able to source re-loaders for immediate deployment and re-loaders have gained good experience this season. Credit to the Narrogin SES.

6. Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency? Not applicable.

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? Not applicable.

Issues of interest to LEMC

- DBCA has recorded 31 bushfire incidents in the DBCA Wheatbelt Region this season to date that have required DBCA reporting. 12 of the 31 bushfires have



occurred in the DFES Upper Great Southern Region. Header fires requiring water bomber activation and lightning are the main causes of bushfires.

- Grain harvest season commenced earlier than planned. DBCA Water bombers have assisted with suppression at fires through the Wheatbelt region. Torre and his team have filled the tanks multiple times as requested.
- DBCA Wheatbelt region is preparing for autumn mitigation season. No mitigation works planned in the Shire of Narrogin or Cuballing this season.

Local ERS contacts

- The use of regional airports for in flight responses and diversions is becoming more frequent.
- The Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support can be activated by the HMA, WA Police in the case of an air crash (State Hazard Plan Crash Emergency 4.2.1).
- The welfare of the passengers is the responsibility of the Airline unless the crash is declared by the HMA to be a level 2 or 3 incident.
- Aircraft mechanical faults, diversions, extended delays, and cancellations that affect passengers remain outside of Department of Communities ERS remit.
- Further information on ERS activation, deployment responsibilities and remit within the State Hazard Plan Crash Emergency is available from the Regional Coordinator.

Recovery

Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

- During Quarter 3 and 4 of the final year of the Kimberley Floods Recovery Program, Communities' key focus remains on supporting the Return to Home Journey for impacted community members.
- In addition to the Return to Home Journey, we continue to support impacted community members with financial assistance claims and practical, personal and wellbeing supports, that have been sourced from local providers.
- ERS continues to deliver consistent messaging to impacted community members and referrals to support services.

Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- During Quarter 3 and 4 of the final year of the Bunbury Storms Recovery Program, Communities' remains focused on delivering financial assistance to allow impacted persons to replace essential household goods that were damaged during the storms.
- The Recovery Team also continues to support ongoing referrals for personal and wellbeing support services.

Western Australian Post-Disaster Cultural Outcomes Framework.

- The Framework includes a list of specific indicators that can be used to measure whether cultural outcomes are being achieved through the recovery process and can be used to support early recovery planning, as well as the evaluation of recovery programs.
- The Framework includes outcomes that are applicable across different communities, and can be adapted to the circumstances, needs and priorities of individual communities.

Recovery

- It can be used by anyone working in an Aboriginal community after a disaster, and can be implemented by local and State government, as well as non-government organisations.