

## SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

MINUTES for the Local Emergency Management Committee to be held on Thursday 23 July 2020 commencing at 3.35pm at the West Arthur CRC, Darkan.

### 1. Declaration of Opening

Chairperson, Cr Kevin King welcomed all and declared the meeting open at 3.35pm.

### 2. Record of Attendance

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nicole Wasmann   | Shire of West Arthur           |
| Kym Gibbs        | Shire of West Arthur           |
| Kevin King       | Shire of West Arthur           |
| Jessica Newman   | DPAW                           |
| Duncan South     | Chief Bushfire Control Officer |
| Tristan Gulvin   | Shire of Collie CESM           |
| Adrian South     | St John Ambulance Darkan       |
| Roger Telfer     | St John Ambulance Darkan       |
| Andy Brown       | Williams Police Sergeant       |
| Trevor Palframan | Williams Fire & Rescue         |

Via Zoom

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hayden Johnstone | St Johns Ambulance (from 3.30pm)   |
| Adam Smith       | DFES (from 3.30pm)                 |
| Neil Morrell     | Shire of West Arthur (from 3.30pm) |

4.15pm Hayden Johnstone left meeting – zoom call ended

4.15pm Adam Smith left meeting – zoom call ended

4.15pm Neil Morrell left meeting – zoom call ended

### Apologies

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Roma Boucher   | Department Communities left this region |
| Arthur Putland | St John Ambulance Darkan                |
| Eloisa Goss    | Darkan Primary School                   |
| Graeme Blake   | Department Water & Environment          |

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Minutes

Moved: Duncan South

Seconded: Adrian South

*That the minutes of the Shire of West Arthur LEMC Meeting held 15 October 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

**CARRIED**

### 4. Reports

#### 4.1 WA Police

- There has been one breach of COVID restrictions in West Arthur in the last week.
- Truck fire near Dalleyanine Rd, Arthur River – Andy thanked all those who attended particularly the local bushfire volunteers and nearby farmers. There was a delay in response from Mainroads to deploy traffic management – this is an ongoing issue.
- A three-vehicle traffic incident on Albany Highway near Beaufort Rd, Arthur River. No fatalities or major injuries. One person was trapped for approx. 6 hours, the highway was closed for approx. 10 hours, crane from Albany required to lift vehicles. Andy thanked all those involved again for a job well done.

Discussion took place regarding extended time taken for Mainroads to attend incidents, this is an ongoing issue as Mainroads staff/contractors are the only ones authorised to redirect traffic and often have to come from Perth – there is no local

response team.

#### 4.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services Adam Smith on zoom

- Radio communications training – there were some ‘deadspots’ have been rectified.
- DEMC business planning process - will be liaising with LEMCs soon.
- Finalising Arrangements for some Shires, West Arthur’s still has 12 months.
- Post exercise reports – West Arthur’s October exercise was presented at district level. Well done on that exercise.
- There will be another forum for Shire staff and elected members towards the end of August.
- COVID work ongoing and meeting fortnightly looking at scenarios and exercises specific to COVID outbreaks.
- Online course for running exercises will be coming up.
- Animal Welfare plans for emergencies in review. West Arthur does have some arrangements in place already and this maybe suffice for current needs.

#### 4.3 Department of Communities

- Exercise Report October 2019 presented.

#### 4.4 St John Ambulance

- Relatively quiet, training in person has recommenced.
- Couple of callouts in the last few weeks, nothing too serious.
- Have four new volunteers come on board.
- PPE & response capability is good.
- Hayden advised that there has been a debrief with Wagin St John and DFES with regards to the highway crashes.
- Hospitals still require notice of patients being transferred with any COVID symptoms.

#### 4.5 Shire of West Arthur

- All community facilities now re-opened with COVID safety plans in place.
- Have surveyed our Buddies, from the Buddy Service provided to our vulnerable cohort during the COVID shutdown. The majority are no longer in contact with their clients as no longer required. All agreed it was a valuable and successful program and the that their clients appreciated the support. The main concerns during the lockdown phase were access to correct and up-to-date information, access to their own Doctor and the social isolation. Some anecdotal feedback from a family was that their elderly parent’s mental health significantly deteriorated during this time and believe this was the impetus to an earlier transfer to permanent residential care.
- Advised by Williams Health that there are some people within the Shire quarantining after arrival from interstate travel.
- The new mobile tower at Mt Fisher has been turned on and has made a difference to surrounding mobile coverage.
- The school have advised they still have a COVID response plan in place. Burns have been carried out surrounding the school and some tree removal has taken place, as the school has had its bushfire risk zone upgraded.

- A new fast flow commercial standpipe has been installed in Growden Place, is locked, access via Shire office. The standpipe in Horwood Street adjacent to the Shire depot has been reduced to a 25mm community standpipe. The Quindanning Road standpipe is for firefighting purposes only. A standpipe connected to underground non potable water is available on Rees Road free of charge.

#### 4.6 Bush Fire Brigades

- Attended the truck fire on Albany Highway, there were some flare ups after the initial extinguish.
- Currently investigating collocated Emergency Services facility.
- Will be doing some defib training on the new defibs provided for all fire vehicles.

#### 4.7 Fire and Rescue, Williams

- Back to training – theory only, waiting on permission for practical in-person training.
- Attended the 3-vehicle incident – was a very positive outcome and was uplifting the coordinated approach from everyone including helicopters, police, volunteers. Impressed with the victim's positivity and strength through the six-hour extraction.
- Had an electrical fault fire on piece of farm machinery.
- Currently have eleven active members.
- Happy to assist the Darkan bushfire volunteers with servicing hydrants.

#### 4.8 DPAW

- Jessica advised that there had been 85 fires across the district last financial year (West Arthur, Collie, Harvey) 3 within West Arthur and approx. 80% of those were deliberately lit.
- 19 control burns carried out.
- Sea container for water bomber equipment at Darkan airstrip installed.
- If there is any equipment requiring servicing to contact Jessica.
- Tentative dates for water bomber training – put forward a week day date.

#### 4.9 Collie CESH

- Tristan advised two new bushfire buildings opening in Collie.
- Rural-Urban interface exercise at Worsley is planned – Darkan members welcome to attend and bring vehicles. This involves change-up in roles for people to gain insight on other roles during major fires.
- Thank you for the offers of help during the Yourdamung fire. Collie Shire staff were involved in this and was good for them to be exposed and gain some experience.
- Tristan advised for the local brigade to look into the Urban appliance when the next upgrade is required. Has a higher structural response, equipment and items than the standard Fire & Rescue appliance. There is a new urban appliance at Allinson if members would like to have a look at.

## 5 General Business

The following events and activities were noted:

- Birdy's Backyard Ultra – Marathon running event taking place at Lake Towerrinning on 7-9 August, local St Johns have been contacted, organisers have a first aid response team in place. Traffic signage, bunting etc established.
- Collocated Emergency Services Facility Proposal – a working group made up of members from local St John Ambulance, Bushfire volunteers and Shire are investigating a shared facility located in the main street; costs and Government requirements; possible funding options.

- CCTV – Shire staff are currently investigating CCTV options for the community, mainly around sporting and community facilities.

## **6 Next Meeting**

Teleconference – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 3.30pm.

## **7 Closure**

No further business, Cr Kevin King declared the meeting closed at 4.50pm.