

SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on Tuesday 9 April 2019.

1. Declaration of Opening

Shire President declared the meeting open at 5:10pm.

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Ray Harrington	President, Shire
Nicole Wasmann	Chief Executive Officer, Shire
Bill Owen	Work Manager, Shire
Kym Gibbs	Project Officer, Shire
Mesha Barritt	Customer Service Officer, Shire
Tristan Gulvin	CESM, Collie Shire
Kohdy Flynn	Ranger, Collie Shire
Eloisa Goss	Principal, Darkan Primary School
Jessica Newman	District Fire Coordinator, DBCA
Arthur Putland	St John Ambulance, Darkan
Duncan South	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Adrian South	St John Ambulance, Darkan
Mark McQueen	District Officer, DFES
Chev Segreto	Williams Police
Megan Ireland	Williams Police
Chris Cochrane	Deputy CBFCO/FCO, Duranillin BFB (from 5:19pm)
Kym Gibbs	Project Officer, Shire (until at 6:07pm)

Apologies

Donna Morgan	Bushfire Risk Management Officer, DFES
Peter Cupitt	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, DFES
Trevor Palframan	Captain, Williams VFRS

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Minutes

Moved: Eloisa Goss Second: Duncan South

That the minutes of the Shire of West Arthur LEMC Meeting held 9 October 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Reports

4.1. Williams Police

Two new officers at the Williams Police Station. No major issues since the last meeting. Williams Police are at full strength with staff, which means they will be able to provide an increase in police presence in Darkan.

4.2. Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Mark McQueen is acting for Simon Vogel as Simon is on leave for four months. DFES Narrogin now have extra staff. DFES will be seeking feedback and input for localised conditions reporting.

4.3. Department of Communities

In December 2018 I attended a DFES Cross Boundary Exercise at Pinjarra with South Metro and South West DEMC's; Shires of Waroona, Murray, Peel and several SW Local Governments. The scenario was very similar to the Waroona Complex Bushfire event and would have required evacuation centres to be opened north and south of the Shire of Waroona.

On Thursday 7th February I attended a Water Corp workshop/exercise at Harvey, featuring flooding scenarios with Logue Brook Dam located in the Shire of Harvey.

The Department was activated for the Allanson Bushfire on 20th January 2019, opening an evacuation centre at the Roche Park Recreation Centre. We didn't have any registrations and when the affected residents could return to their homes, the centre was closed. I have held a debrief with our staff from the Collie office.

Similarly, I have watched the Gelorup and Wellesley bushfire alerts and received phone calls re Gelorup, was activated for the latter, but then asked to hold off. I attended the Gelorup incident debrief at Capel on Thursday afternoon, 7th February from 4pm.

I attended the SW Emergency Management Alliance meeting on Tuesday 19th February at Dardanup.

On 19th February the Department was activated for the Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup and Nannup bushfires affecting both Shires. An evacuation centre was opened at Nannup on Wednesday 20th February and closed by 6pm, with no registrations or presentations. We were also requested to plan to open centres in Donnybrook and Bridgetown in case the fire changed direction on Wednesday afternoon and in anticipation of South West Highway being closed. An overnight shift and Thursday shift were identified but fortunately not required. In all, I attended the evac centre, 3 x community meetings and 4 Incident Support Group (ISG) meetings and an incident debrief should be organised soon and when agencies are available.

The Department was requested to provide support and deploy staff with appropriate skills to Qld to supplement their state recovery resources following their flooding event. Expressions of interest from all staff within the Department were requested and the first team of 32 staff were deployed on Sunday 24th February and a second team of 33 were deployed on Sunday 10th March.

4.4. St John Ambulance

Quiet since last meeting, Wendy Cochrane was inducted into the order of St Johns and was presented with a medallion. Two additional local volunteers are training for level two.

4.5. Shire of West Arthur

Department of Water have installed more fire hydrants in Darkan. The Shire is considering information provided by the Department of Water regarding changes to standpipes and the implications that this will have for the standpipes in Darkan.

4.6. Bush Fire Brigades

Quiet season, mainly small fires.

4.7. Fire and Rescue, Williams

Nil

4.8. Darkan Primary School

The School will liaise with local brigades regarding a burn for safety reasons on the northern side near the rail trail.

4.9. Parks and Wildlife, DBCA

Jess Newman reported on behalf of Simon Martin. Four Autumn burns planned in the Shire with the Muja block burning hopefully this year. Was there four planned for our shire.

5. General Business

5.1. Update/Review Contact Details

5.2. Post Incident Reports

Nil

5.3. AWARE Program

Identifying risk factors for the Shire's five identified major community risks. Fire, Flood, Storm, Hazmat & Biosecurity. Kym gave presentation about 5 possible hazards in the Shire. The Local Emergency Management Committee accepted the report presented.

5.4. Restricted Access Triangle Stickers

Famer unit access to incidents where there is restricted traffic. Previously the Shire issued triangle stickers for farmer units. The Shire has spoken with a CESM in the region and have been advised that not many Shires use the triangle stickers, instead they have a volunteer with the traffic management to assist with who has access. Units must have a ute with water and driver with PPE to be allowed access.

It was agreed to discontinue the triangle stickers. The incident controller would liaise with police if there was an incident that required closure of a road.

5.5. Other Business

Nil

6. Information

- 6.1. Aide memoire-Local Recovery Coordinator. (*Attachment 3*)
- 6.2. WALGA Preparing for Recovery (*Attachment 4*)
- 6.3. SEMC meeting highlights. (*Attachment 5*)
- 6.4. Emergency management update. (*Attachment 6*)

7. Next Meeting

The next LEMC meeting will be held 15 October 2019.

8. Closure

The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6:21pm.