

SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

MINUTES of the Local Emergency Management Committee (incorporating Roadwise) meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 2018.

1. Declaration of Opening

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 5.08pm.

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Ray Harrington	President, Shire of West Arthur (Chair)
Nicole Wasmann	CEO, Shire of West Arthur
Bill Owen	Works Manager, Shire of West Arthur
Eloisa Goss	Principal, Darkan Primary School
Roma Boucher	Child Protection and Family Support
Duncan South	CBFCO, Shire of West Arthur
Simon Vogel	DFES
Arthur Putland	St John Ambulance
Roger Telfer	St John Ambulance
Donna Morgan	Bushfire Risk Management Officer, DFES
Matt Bradbury	Williams Police
Michael Tinley	Williams Police
Tim Hutton	Fire Operations Officer, Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA
Chris Cochrane	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Adrian South	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Trevor Palframan	Williams Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Steve Lewis	Williams Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mesha Barritt	Customer Service Officer, Shire

Apologies:

Kyle Hulls	Parks and Wildlife, DBCA
John Lane	WALGA
Peter Cupitt	Bush Fire Risk Management, Shire/DFES
Tony Baird	Western Power

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Minutes

Moved: Arthur Putland

Seconded: Trevor Palframan

That the minutes of the Shire of West Arthur LEMC Meeting held 10 October 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Reports

4.1 Police

Police are liaising with Main Roads with regards to incident response and planning for major incidents where road closures and traffic management are required with appropriate detours.

Recent burglaries were discussed.

4.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Currently waiting on the announcement regarding the rural fire service.

4.3 Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support

1. On Thursday 9th November 2017, I wrote and facilitated an annual welfare field exercise with our Collie office staff together with the Shire of Boyup Brook and our partnering agencies. There were 22 Attendees from our Collie office, Shire of Boyup Brook, Police, DBCA/P&WS, Health and our partnering agencies – Lions and SJA. Boyup Brook District HS evacuated 2 classes/ 34 students who attended at the evacuation centre and were registered along with the Principal and 2 teaching staff. The agencies participated in completing scenario cards relative to their agency and a light lunch was provided by Lions BB. A report has been prepared and tabled at the Shire of Boyup Brook LEMC meeting last week.

2. I have recently attended the following event/s:

- Water Corporation exercise on the Harris and Wellington dams, held on Thursday 18th January, which entailed the failure of both dams and the impact on surrounding areas across to the coast.
- On Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February, the Australian Vulnerability Profile (AVP) workshop on Deconstructing Disaster; to better understand what makes Australia vulnerable to disaster, to formulate ideas on how we can reduce disaster impacts and build resilience.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) through Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is leading the development of the AVP. CSIRO is collaborating with EMA to work with States and Territories, the community, private sectors and other key stakeholders to work within a set of ethical protocols. Among attendees were the Australian Department of Home Affairs, WA Office of Emergency Management and the Northern Territory Emergency Services.

3. The Department was activated for the Westbay Bushfires near Augusta on Monday 29th January. The Shire had opened 2 evacuation centres, one in Augusta and one in Margaret River. We were not able to attend at Augusta on Monday as the roads were closed and the area was affected by a Watch and Act alert, but we took over the Margaret River centre. Both centres were closed overnight and on Tuesday, only the Augusta centre was open and mainly for information for people in Augusta waiting for roads to open to return home. Augusta closed at 5pm Tuesday and we haven't had any further requests since then. A Post Activation Report is being prepared following this incident and will be forwarded to our Emergency Services Unit.

4. Our Emergency Services Unit Senior Project and Policy Officer has reviewed and drafted a new version of the State Emergency Welfare Plan (SEWP) and the final draft has been emailed to OEM prior to Christmas. The document needs to be reviewed internally, distributed to key stakeholders for their comments and this could take some months before being finalised. In the meantime, a new Local Emergency Welfare Plan (LEWP) template has also been developed to align with the State plan and this document is fast approaching a final draft following a review by

DESO's and our Unit Director. However, the LEWP can't be finalised until the SEWP is accepted and I will advise when this occurs. The information contained in the existing Local Welfare Plan will be reviewed and populated to the new LEWP document and this is a good opportunity to review potential evacuation centres. In due course, the new Local Emergency Welfare Plan will be distributed and tabled at a future LEMC meeting. Last time I was required to do this, it took about 18 months to complete and table the documents for 11 Local Governments.

5. We are due to have a welfare field exercise with the Shire of West Arthur this year, so if you have any ideas on anything you'd like to exercise or area you'd like to practice etc, please let me know. I haven't met with our District Director as yet to decide when would be most suitable for our staff to exercise, but hope to advise in the near future.

4.4 St John Ambulance

No major incidents to report. Mobile phone booster is being fitted to the ambulance to assist with communications and there may also be an opportunity to have satellite coverage. The community paramedic is leaving and waiting for appointment of the replacement.

One of Darkan's members, Roger Telfer, has recently been made an Order of St Johns.

4.5 Shire of West Arthur

Bushfire mitigation works currently in progress.

4.6 Bush Fire Brigades, Shire of West Arthur

Has been a relatively quiet season, although there have been a few suspicious fires on our western boundary.

A recent pole top fire was discussed were volunteers drove into wires resulting in damage to their vehicle. Concern regarding Western Power's response was discussed.

4.7 Fire and Rescue, Williams

Reported on recent accidents attended.

4.8 Roadwise

Nil.

4.9 WALGA

Nil.

4.10 Darkan Primary School

The School will be seeking the assistance of the local fire brigade with a burn next year.

4.11 Parks and Wildlife Service

Aviation support had been extended to 20 April. Parks and Wildlife have not started autumn burning as soil dryness is still a concern.

5. General Business

5.1 Update/Review Contact Details

No changes noted.

5.2 Post Incident Reports

Nil.

5.3 LEMC Exercise – desktop exercise to be held

Held after the meeting.

5.4 Other Business

Nil.

5 Next Meeting

Prior to the Bush Fire Advisory Meeting, likely Tuesday 9 October 2018.

6 Closure

The chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Following the meeting, the desktop exercise was held.